



[www.eccc.org.za](http://www.eccc.org.za)

**Minister**

Rev. Grant Peers  
021-6746819  
083-6816803  
grant@eccc.org.za

**Secretary**

Gloria Laubscher  
021-6710862

**Treasurer**

Bryan Wehrli  
021-6715474

October 2017

# The Challenge

East Claremont Congregational Church Newsletter

*A gospel community on mission*

## From the editor

Dear Friends

We live in fast paced world and daily demands become overwhelming. We long for time just to stop and 'smell the roses' - as we've often heard said.

When you're overcome with anxiety, stress, and loss, more than ever, you need to turn to God. He is your ever-present help in times of trouble.

Philippians 4: 6-7 states : *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

God promises to give us peace beyond our ability to understand. He also promises to create beauty from the ashes of our lives as we discover that hope comes from loss and joy springs from times of brokenness and suffering. (Isaiah 61:1-4)

The Bible, in fact, is filled with incredible promises from God:

**John 14:27**

*"I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."* (NLT)

**Psalms 4:8**

*"I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe."* (NLT)

Life can be challenging and complicated, and we are much too vulnerable in our human condition to escape the inevitable battles with stress. Yet for Christians, stress can have a positive side too. It may be the first indicator that we have stopped depending upon God daily for strength. We can let stress be a reminder that our lives have drifted away from God, a warning that we need to turn back and cling to the Rock of our Salvation.

Love Linda

## **From the study:**

### **Celebrating 500 years of Reformation**

This year on the 31st October we celebrate 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther was not a world-renowned name in 1517, but his act would prove to be a decisive catalyst in bringing reformation to the church.

The Reformation was a protest against the Roman Catholic Church of the time who were not seeing the gospel clearly. Martin Luther confronted the corrupt and confused practice of selling indulgences to absolve sin. An indulgence was a certificate that you could purchase which would guarantee the purchaser (or the person for whom it was being purchased) that a certain amount of time in purgatory would be cancelled. The practice was offensive because it denied the free grace of God to forgive sin, but even more so, the particular special indulgence that was being sold at that time was to raise money to build St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Luther's "95 theses" were 95 questions or statements that he put forward. By nailing them to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church he was inviting public debate. In fact, it was probably far less dramatic than a "nailing them defiantly to the door" - he probably hung them on a nail matter-of-factly to announce an ensuing academic debate. The two main tenants of the 95 theses were that the Bible was the only rule for faith and life (not the Pope or church edicts), and that salvation was not attained by any work and could not be purchased, but came only through the free grace of God by faith in Christ. Although these ideas were not new, Luther stated them in a way that quickly gained popularity and brought him into direct conflict with the Catholic Church and the Pope.

In the four years following the publishing of his 95 theses, Luther was summoned to two church diets (assemblies) to defend his position. His writings were condemned by the Pope, he was found to be an heretic and finally he was excommunicated from the Catholic Church after refusing to recant. His now famous words, "Here I stand. God help me. I can do no other", show his humility and deep conviction.

Luther would be forced into hiding, but in the next ten years he would produce a German translation of the Bible. This is debatably his greatest achievement. Up until that time all people relied on the priest, monk or friar to tell you what the Latin Bible said, but now people had the freedom to read, hear and interpret the Bible for themselves in their own language.

Martin Luther is one of the most influential figures in Western history. The Protestant church broke from the Catholic Church because Luther (and other reformers like Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, John Knox, and William Tyndale) stood firm against the false gospel being taught by the Catholic Church. This is not to say that he got everything right (his anti-Semitic views being one example) but he certainly shaped the core of what is today the Protestant church (all churches that are not Catholic, Eastern Orthodox or Coptic).

Today we should give thanks to God for the conviction and determination of people like Luther. They recovered what has become known today in evangelical circles as the "Five Solas":

1. **Sola Scriptura** (“Scripture alone”): The Bible alone is our highest authority.
2. **Sola Fide** (“faith alone”): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
3. **Sola Gratia** (“grace alone”): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. **Solus Christus** (“Christ alone”): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Saviour, and King.
5. **Soli Deo Gloria** (“to the glory of God alone”): We live for the glory of God alone.

Although the context of 2017 is very different from the context of 1517, we still need these guiding principles to protect us from straying into a false gospel of “earning salvation by works”, or of looking to any other person or document as **the** authority in our Christian lives.



## Minister’s memo

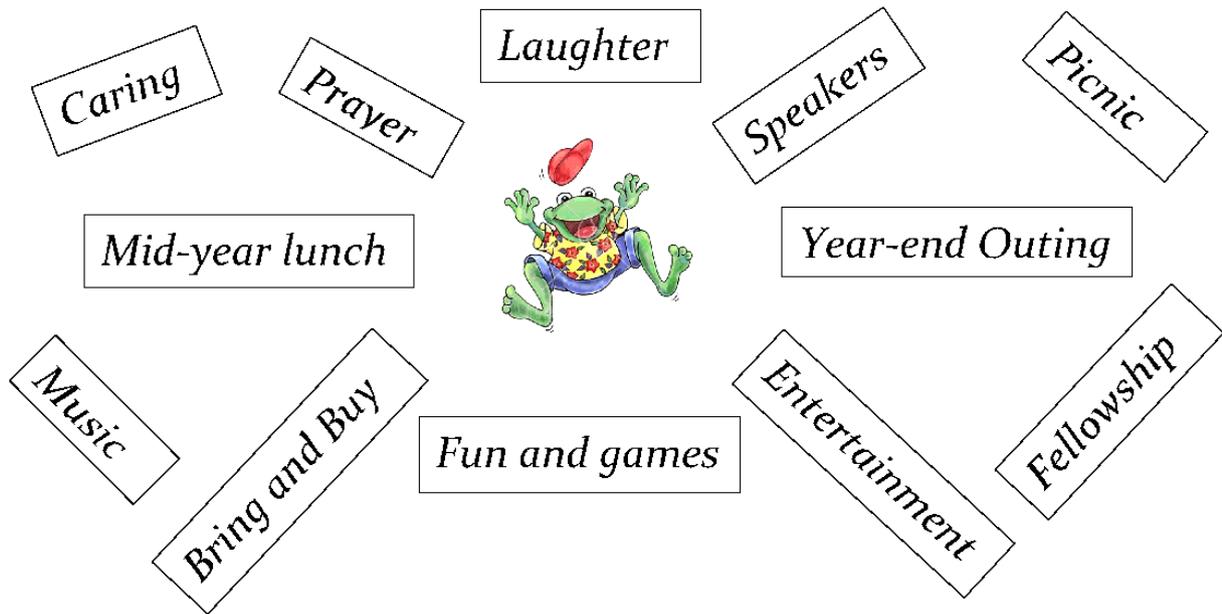


Please would you remember the following people in your prayers:

- Those facing cancer: Maureen Ditchfield, Fred Ross, Peter Scott and each of their families
- Gill Greer who had two falls at home and has been battling high blood pressure
- Those whom we visit with communion: Sue Herringer
- Ron Wilson who has now moved in Huis Luckhoff. He has been diagnosed with dementia
- The family of Jean Samuelson after her passing
- Shirreen and the Attfield family after the passing of Malcolm Attfield
- Alex Jones – after a period in hospital is recovering at home
- Marco – was retrenched and needs a new job



# SOCIAL MORNING



Join us at our monthly get-togethers from January to November (refer to the Church Calendar for dates and times or contact Anne Sniders on (021) 671-8732)



## LIBRARY

Please note that our church library is available to any church member who would like to borrow books. It will usually be open from 8.30am to 9.00a.m. before the service on the 2nd Sunday of the month, and then for half an hour after the service. It is no longer a book club and there is no charge.

Thank you, Barbie Anderson



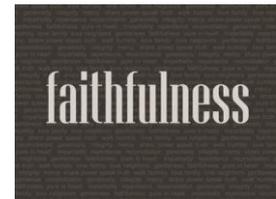
## FLOWER ROSTER

This is an appeal for members of the congregation to fill a spot on the flower roster found on the board at the back of the Church. November and December are completely empty! Arrangements need not be elaborate or expensive – God made all flowers – not just those hot house ‘lovelies’ purchased at your local supermarket. A posy of daisies, or whatever is in season, from your garden would really brighten up the front of the Church.



## Psalm 117

Praise the Lord, all you nations.  
Praise Him, all the people of the earth.  
For His unfailing love for us is powerful,  
The Lord's faithfulness endures forever.



### ***Courage is fear prayed for.***

Everyone feels afraid many times during life. However, **when the Bible instructs us to "fear not," it doesn't mean not to feel afraid; rather, it means to decide to press on even in the face of fear.**

Several times, the Israelites were instructed to "be strong and courageous." For example, in Deuteronomy 31:6, Moses commanded Israel: **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."** Even in the face of fear, we too must "be strong and courageous."

Indeed, we are encouraged in 1 Corinthians 16:13 to *be men of courage; be strong*. So, next time you feel afraid, overcome your feelings through prayer so that you can "be strong and courageous."

***"Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words."***

That advice, originally given by St. Francis of Assisi, is applicable today, because **how you behave tells the world what you believe. How you treat others, how you spend your money, how you maintain your house, car, and other possessions and even how you drive all speak loudly about what you believe.**

The world is hungry for something real; they're searching for answers to life. But the **world's not reading the Bible; they're reading Christians.** And they will recognize true Christians *by their fruit*, not their mouth, not their bumper sticker, not their cross earrings, but their fruit--their actions (Matthew 7:20).

Clearly, how you behave tells the world what you believe.  
In other words, **your life is a sermon.**

Therefore, it is very understandable that James instructs: *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like* (James 1:22-24).

**Faith involves more than hearing and believing; faith demands action. Therefore, the best way to preach the Gospel is to live the Gospel, because how you live boldly declares what you believe.**

## Is God Really All-Good?

Lee Strobel



“Good is a notoriously tricky word,” Peter Kreeft began, “because even in human affairs there’s such a wide range of meaning. But the difference, once again, between us and God is certainly greater than the difference between us and animals, and since good varies enormously between us and animals, it must vary even more enormously between us and God.”

I like to refer to Kreeft as “the un-philosopher.” Not that he isn’t a philosopher; in fact, he’s a first-rate philosophical thinker, with a doctorate from Fordham University, postgraduate study at Yale University, and thirty-eight years of experience as a philosophy professor at Villanova University and (since 1965) Boston College. He has taught such courses as metaphysics, ethics, mysticism, sexuality, and Oriental, Greek, medieval, and contemporary philosophy, earning such honours as the Woodrow Wilson and Yale-Sterling fellowships.

“Granted,” I said. “But if I sat there and did nothing while my child got run over by a truck, I wouldn’t be good in any sense of the word. I’d be an evil father if I did that. And God does the equivalent of that. He sits by and refuses to perform miracles to take us out of dangers even greater than being hit by a truck. So why isn’t he bad?”

Kreeft nodded. “It looks like he is,” he said. “But the fact that God deliberately allows certain things, which if we allowed them would turn us into monsters, doesn’t necessarily count against God.”

I couldn’t see his reasoning. “You’ll have to explain why that is,” I said.

“Okay, let me give you an analogy in human relationships,” he replied. “If I said to my brother, who’s about my age, ‘I could bail you out of a problem but I won’t,’ I would probably be irresponsible and perhaps wicked. But we do that with our children all the time. We don’t do their homework for them. We don’t put a bubble around them and protect them from every hurt.

“I remember when one of my daughters was about four or five years old and she was trying to thread a needle in Brownies. It was very difficult for her. Every time she tried, she hit herself in the finger and a couple of times she bled. I was watching her, but she didn’t see me. She just kept trying and trying.

“My first instinct was to go and do it for her, since I saw a drop of blood. But wisely I held back, because I said to myself, ‘She can do it.’ After about five minutes, she finally did it. I came out of hiding and she said, “Daddy, daddy — look what I did! Look at what I did!”

She was so proud she had threaded the needle that she had forgotten all about the pain.

“That time the pain was a good thing for her. I was wise enough to have foreseen it was good for her. Now, certainly God is much wiser than I was with my daughter. So it’s at least possible that God is wise enough to foresee that we need some pain for reasons which we may not understand but which he foresees as being necessary to some eventual good. Therefore, he’s not being evil by allowing that pain to exist.

“Dentists, athletic trainers, teachers, parents — they all know that sometimes to be good is not to be kind. Certainly there are times when God allows suffering and deprives us of the lesser good of pleasure in order to help us toward the greater good of moral and spiritual education. Even the ancient Greeks believed the gods taught wisdom through suffering. Aeschylus wrote: ‘Day by day, hour by hour

Pain drips upon the heart

As, against our will, and even in our own despite

Comes Wisdom from the awful grace of God.’

“We know that moral character gets formed through hardship, through overcoming obstacles, through enduring despite difficulties. Courage, for example, would be impossible in a world without pain. The apostle Paul testified to this refining quality of suffering when he wrote that ‘suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.’

“Let’s face it: we learn from the mistakes we make and the suffering they bring. The universe is a soul-making machine, and part of that process is learning, maturing, and growing through difficult and challenging and painful experiences. The point of our lives in this world isn’t comfort, but training and preparation for eternity. Scripture tells us that even Jesus ‘learned obedience through suffering’ — and if that was true for him, why wouldn’t it be even more true for us?”

Kreeft let the question hang in the air for a moment while his mental gears whirred. Then he continued. “Suppose we didn’t have any suffering at all,” he added. “Suppose we had drugs for every pain, free entertainment, free love — everything but pain. No Shakespeare, no Beethoven, no Boston Red Sox, no death — no meaning. Impossibly spoiled little brats — that’s what we’d become.

“It’s like that old Twilight Zone television show where a gang of bank robbers gets shot and one of them wakes up walking on fluffy clouds at the golden gate of a celestial city. A kindly white robed man offers him everything he wants. But soon he’s bored with the gold, since everything’s free, and with the beautiful girls, who only laugh when he tries to hurt them, since he has a sadistic streak.

“So he summons the St. Peter figure. ‘There must be some mistake.’ ‘No, we make no mistakes here.’ ‘Can’t you send me back to earth?’ ‘Of course not, you’re dead.’ ‘Well,

then, I must belong with my friends in the Other Place. Send me there.' 'Oh, no, we can't do that. Rules, you know.' 'What is this place, anyway?' 'This is the place where you get everything you want.' 'But I thought I was supposed to like heaven.' 'Heaven? Who said anything about heaven? Heaven is the Other Place.' The point is that a world without suffering appears more like hell than heaven."

That seemed hyperbolic. "Do you really believe that?" I asked.

"Yes, I do. In fact, if you don't, then pretend you're God and try to create a better world in your imagination. Try to create utopia. But you have to think through the consequences of everything you try to improve. Every time you use force to prevent evil, you take away freedom. To prevent all evil, you must remove all freedom and reduce people to puppets, which means they would then lack the ability to freely choose love.

"You may end up creating a world of precision that an engineer might like — *maybe*. But one thing's for sure: you'll lose the kind of world that a Father would want."



**Donations needed for the Maranatha Chatsworth Food Kitchen Project** – Rice, lentils, dried beans, soya mince, sunflower oil, pocket potatoes, onions, pepper, stock cubes.  
Contact **Jaqui Sterrenberg**

**Bread tags for wheelchairs** – Please don't forget to collect these and put in the glass jar in the foyer of the church. The tags are sold to a recycling company and every 270 kg collected pays for a wheelchair. Sasko and Kwikloc, the tag manufacturers, have also pledged to donate two wheelchairs for every one wheelchair that is "bought" with the tags.  
Contact **Jaqui Sterrenberg**

**Old style rectangular canvas camp cots** (with the fixed plywood base on a fold up metal tube frame). Any donations of these are welcome. Any available mattresses would also be a bonus. Please phone 021 785 4049 between 9:00 and 13:00 weekdays and ask for **JP**.

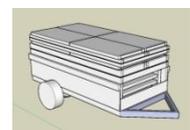
**Bless-a-Baby** – on-going collection of baby clothes for young unmarried mothers unable to provide warm clothing for their baby to leave the hospital in. Contact Rory or Linda Attwood

**HIRING OF CHURCH TRAILER**

R50 per day (Donation)

Contact : Peter Anderson

Telephone : 021671-4688      Cell : (083) 422 3490



God can tell me that He loves me, by :  
 A soft gentle breeze;  
 Warmth of the sun on my face;  
 Rustling of leaves;  
 Clouds in the sky;  
 Sparkle of sun on the water;  
 A flower;  
 A smile from a stranger;  
 Warm, fluffy slippers;  
 Cushions at my back;  
 The aroma of freshly ground coffee;  
 But mostly by the warm feeling that touches my heart and floods my soul –  
 His Love  
 Wendy Mallett



1 Chronicles 5 : 20

“They cried out to Him (the Lord), during the battle. He answered their prayers because they trusted Him.”

We can cry out to God at all times especially during the battles we face. Perhaps you are facing a battle in some area, call upon the Lord. As you trust Him, He will bring the victory into your situation. Expect answered prayer as you place your trust and confidence in Him.



Prayer : Lord, today I bring my requests and petitions to You. You know the battles that are raging in my Life, and You are the one who stops the storm and stills the wind. So I trust You,

J. Sterrenberg

#### THE HANDY CORNER

GENT'S HAIRSTYLIST - Rosemary Hacha - 021 761 0934/084 846 2824  
 LADIES' & GENTS' HAIR STYLIST - Yvonne Legg - 021 671 5908  
 BUYING & SELLING OF MOTOR CARS, BAKKIES & LDV's - Ron Wilson - 084 608 8925  
 SELLING OR BUYING A HOME? Diane Hosty - 082 775 2777. (Referrals paid)  
 ELECTRICIAN/HANDYMAN - Clyde Oliphant - 021 697 5626/072 643 4949  
 ELDERLY/HOUSE/PETS-SITTING - Janine Alger - 021 683 0598/082 789 1720  
 ALTERATIONS / KNITTING - Connie Meyer - 021 6715908  
 MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS, RESPRAYS & REBUILDS - WORKSHOP IN PAARDEN EILAND -  
 Eddie Sterrenberg 083 2901301  
 UPDATE YOUR WILL, ETC - Gail Bergmann - Tel: 021674506/Fax: 0216711225  
 E-mail : [gbergmann@telkomsa.net](mailto:gbergmann@telkomsa.net)

*Any member who wishes to have their name placed on the above list,  
 please let the Editor know before the 20th of the month.*



## Thoughts for the month

Are we feeling burdened by all the 'junk' we carry around every day?  
 If we are completely honest, we all have some kind of 'junk' in our life.  
 Hebrews 12:1 says : “ *'Lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares.'*

Picture a big ship being worked on in dry dock. Beneath the waterline is all the 'junk' it has picked up during its voyages. Nobody can see it, but an experienced captain can feel it because his ship lacks the 'oomph' it once had. The effort required to remove the 'junk' is back-breaking and time-consuming, but there's no other way to do it. Finally, after months of hard work the dry dock is flooded with water, the gates open, and the big vessel heads out to sea.

Writing to the believers at Corinth, Paul says, *'Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves'* (2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV).

Let's be honest; it's easier to examine your neighbour than to examine yourself, or to talk about what you once accomplished rather than what you're accomplishing now. Are you slowing down? Are you losing spiritual momentum? You'll find the answer under the waterline where only God and you can see. Carelessness, a critical spirit, compromise, conformity to the world, and coldness of heart: that's the 'junk' that builds up and slows you down. These are the subtle sins you must deal with in order to be everything God called you to be and enjoy the blessings He has in store for you

The Flower roster is on the notice board at the back of the Church. Please note the dates and arrange a swap if you cannot provide flowers on your day.

**Do we have a record of your**

**Birthday or wedding anniversary?**

**Even if you are not a member**

**of the church but you attend**

**regularly, drop us an email at**

**lmattwood2@gmail.com**

**and we'll ensure you get**

**your birthday wish.**

### Flower Roster

01 October

08

15

22

29

N. Case

L. Attwood

A. Snyders



Congratulations for Birthdays go to the following folk in October :

- 01 Janine Beckett
- 02 Robert van Niekerk
- 06 Mike Hosty
- 08 Debbie Bassingthwaite
- 14 Nick le Mesurier
- 16 Daphne Schwormstedt
- 25 Adrian Swanepoel
- 27 Clyde Oliphant., Freddie du Toit



Wedding Anniversary in October :

- 08 Paddy and Noeline Case

Blessings to all on their special days.

### **Dear "flower arrangers"**

*Thank you very much for serving the Lord in this way with your beautiful arrangements provided every week - they are much enjoyed and appreciated by all!*

*The flowers are usually taken by Grant to someone in need, so if they could be left as a donation in the church on the Sunday, they will provide a further blessing during the week.*

*Thank you and God Bless you all*



# Church directory



Description	Person/s responsible	Tel. No.	Cell. No.
Church Office		021 674 6819	
Minister	Rev G Peers	021 683 9680	083 681 6803
Regional Representative			
Secretary	G Laubscher	H: 021 671 0862 W: 021 671 7067	
Min Secretary (church)	B Fouche	021 671 2483	082 4571427
Min Secretary (deacons)			
Treasurer & Tithing	B Wehrl	021 671 5474	
Children's Church Superintendent	K Begg	H: 021 685 2293	082 7719172
Youth Pastor			
Challenge Editor	L. Attwood	021 686 8578	
Social Morning & Craft class	A Snyders	021 671 8732	
Mission awareness / Outreach	J Sterrenberg	021 558 8265	083 461 8147
Pastoral care	P & B Anderson	021 671 4688	083 422 3490
Flowers	Coral Shortt		082 956 6559
Teas / Hiring of hall	G Greer	021 671 1664	
Library	B Anderson	021 671 4688	082 438 9877
Worship Groups	Mike Begg	021 685 2293	082 928 7620
Community Groups	Che Matthews	021 671 6231	082 779 5235
Birthdays & anniversaries	M van Rensburg	021 671 2809	082 673 1826
Love Loaves	W Kalis	021 762 7215	082 575 7169
Cleaning Dept	C Meyer	021 671 5908	
Property Steward	T Adriaanse P Goliath	021 797 4634 021 703 2106	083 9833650 083 3276912
Memorial plaques	R van Rensburg	021 671 2809	082 6623513
Garden	R de Villiers	021 671 5658	084 9833753
Counselling	Pat Scott	021 7133 121	0795051562
Prayer Ministry	Linda Harrower	021 671 1303	
Organ	B Anderson Joy Ross	021 671 4688 021 696 6105	082 438 9877 082 536 7103

## ECCC banking details

(for direct deposits):

Account name: East Claremont Congregational Church

Bank: First National Bank

Account number: 50170468844

Clearing Code (Branch code): 201509

Account type: Current account



Did you know.... You can download the transcript of Grant's sermon each week from the church website ([www.eccc.org.za](http://www.eccc.org.za)). You'll also find the Community Group questions for the coming week there.

You can also **download the latest copy of the Challenge** from the website. Remember the colour copy of the Challenge is much more attractive than the black and white version. To have your own personal pdf copy emailed to you, just send a request by email to the editor, who will put you on the mailing list!

*Faith*  
*makes all things Possible*  
*not Easy*

## What is Faith?

Faith is something that God has planted within each one of us. Our faith was meant to be active. This means that our faith should be operational. We were never meant to be passive Christians. Faith is a journey that our hearts have to take. Faith is not some strange value. It is something alive within us that propels us into what God has for us.

1 Timothy 1:19 ***Cling tightly to your faith in Christ.***

We need to understand this vital aspect of faith. The Bible gives us a definition.

Hebrews 11:1 ***What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (NKJV)***

It is that confident assurance within us that allows us to trust God and to be expectant of Him.

### **Faith should be active:**

Faith is something that has been placed within us. It is as if God has carefully planted, within each one of us, this deposit of faith.

Romans 12:3 ***God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.***

Somewhere deep within us we have this special quality. This ability to trust in God. Our faith was meant to be active. It was not meant to be passive or complacent. It involves action. Our faith needs to be alive, dynamic, functioning, operational and working.

James 2:20 ***faith without works is dead.***

James 2:26 ***As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.***

### **Our faith gets tested:**

This is perhaps the difficult part. Not only does God give us a measure of faith, He then proceeds to allow that faith to be tested.

1 Peter 1:7 ***These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests gold and purifies it—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold; so if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day of his return.***

***The great personalities of the Bible experienced this testing of their faith. We only have to think of people like Noah and Abraham to see this principle in action.***

Romans 4:9 ***Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness.***

### **Keys to breakthrough: Draw near to God:**

This is last and vital key. We need to draw near to God. We need to take the time and make this the priority of our lives.

Psalm 73:28 ***But it is good for me to draw near to God.***

James 4:8 ***Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.***

In this way we can break through the ceiling that may have developed in our lives and enjoy and renewed relationship with our Heavenly Father.

K. Begg



## **WHAT IT MEANS TO FEAR GOD**

To fear God means to take him at his word, knowing that he will follow through on all his promises. A person who fears the Lord is one whose decisions are guided by God.

There are more than a dozen verses in the Bible that make very clear the advantage of being one whose life is guided by the fear of the Lord.

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord (Psalm 112:1).

Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life (Proverbs 22:4).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10).

He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life (Proverbs 14:26-27).

It's no wonder Proverbs 31:30 gives us this nugget of wisdom: Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

If you want the fear of God to guide your life, then base your actions on questions like "What does God think about this?", "Would God approve of this?", or "Would I do this if Jesus were right here watching me?".

If you want your life to be blessed, let it be ruled by the fear of God.

The fear of  
the LORD  
is the beginning  
of wisdom;  
all those who  
practice it have  
a good understanding.  
His praise  
endures forever.  
- Psalm 111:10

## FOR CHILDREN : A LITTLE MIRACLE IN A CHARITY SHOP



This may be a children's story, yet there is a message behind it.

All children are precious and need hope and encouragement. Children have a very special place in Jesus' heart. He even said that we must be like little children. Remember too, that we are Gods' children. Children have been given to us to love, nurture and protect. Especially in these days, we need to protect the children of South Africa, and keep them safe. Often they are innocent pawns given over for abuse, which appears to be the common behaviour of some people.

We also need to teach our children about Jesus at an early age – to give them a good grounding for life. What would we be like if we did not have Jesus in our lives. They need to know from a young age of the excitement, joy, hope and love that can lie ahead for them.

Maybe after hearing a story of a piggybank – your son or daughter will want one – a good way to start teaching children about saving! A blessing for parents!

I am a piggy bank. I don't remember where my previous home was. I was obviously no longer needed or wanted. It left a hollow feeling in my little tummy. That Friday morning, I was sitting where I had been put – on the shelf, in the corner furthest away from the front door.

I was feeling a little glum! And then it happened – I looked up – and there she was in the doorway. Oldish, plump, windblown curly hair (it was windy and rainy outside). She looked so gentle. We looked at each other across the room ... I held my breath ...she walked towards me, her kind eyes smiling at me. She picked me up gently, as if I was very precious, and smiled. I thought my heart would burst. She put me in the basket she was carrying and said "You are coming home with me."

Oh joy of joys! I had a new Mom and I was going to a forever home. As I sat in the basket, I sang softly "I am going to a forever home, I am going to a forever home." (I couldn't sing out loud because people don't understand pig language).

After walking around for a little while, my new Mom paid for me, and I was put in a clean packet in a shopping bag. I think she paid a lot of money for me – a whole twenty Rand – and I was rather grubby!!!

When we got home – Home!!! – I was taken out of the packet and put on the coffee table. The gentle lady with the kind, smiling eyes told me how special I was (even with the grubby marks). I heard her talking on the 'phone, telling someone she had fallen in love with a cute piggy bank. She meant ME! She loved ME! She loved ME and thought I was special.

The next day, I was told I was going to be disinfected and washed! I was not happy! Pigs don't get washed! But Mom explained to me all about pig hygiene, especially when living in a flat. I felt so nice and clean after the wash and had no more grubby marks. A little miracle happened in the charity shop that day. I found a forever home with a gentle lady with kind smiling eyes. I want to say – don't ever give up. Miracles do happen, not only in Charity shops. Someone can come and choose you to go to a forever home. I am so happy! Oh Mom.

Wendy Mallett

# October 2017

## The month at a glance



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						01 The Minister - Communion
02	03	04	05 Craft Class @ 1.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	06	07 TLC @ ECCC	08 The Minister
09	10	11	12 Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	13	14	15 Mr Anthony Ryan
16	17 Leaders Form @ 7.30p.m.	18	19 Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	20	21	22 Mr Anthony Ryan Prayer & Worship Meeting @ 6.00 p.m.
23	24	25	26 Social Morning at 10 a.m. Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	27 Schools break up	28	29 a.m. Mr Anthony Ryan

### What's happening each week:

**Sunday - 9:15**

Morning Family Service with Children's Church

### Community groups

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Morning and evening

(Community groups and Youth groups take a break during the school holidays)

### Prayer meeting in Church Lounge

Thursday - 19:00

### Friday – Junior Youth

### Friday – Senior Youth

19:30-22:00

