



# THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

**June 2023  
Edition: 3**

Pondering Esther's story on Sundays, made me think of Daniel's story:

*... Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.  
And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand ...*

**Daniel 1:1-2** Israel faces a crisis of epic proportion! The powerful, Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar has surrounded Jerusalem, with the threat of destruction. In order to survive, Israel agrees to hand over their king, a number of their royals and young nobles (including Daniel), and much of the Temple treasure. It seems Nebuchadnezzar holds all the cards and Israel has lost them – humiliated and ridiculed as they face Babylon seemingly alone. No doubt, they were tempted to think God is not present or powerful – *otherwise how could this happen?* We might relate to such a temptation! As we face a crisis, endure sickness, cope with stress, or an economic struggle; maybe we also question God's presence and power, question His love and goodness – maybe, we too are tempted to feel abandoned?

So, it's important to notice 4 small words in v2 that anchor the chapter (and book): *"and the Lord gave!"* The writer wants us to know that when catastrophe struck Judah, it was God and not Nebuchadnezzar who is ultimately moving the wheel of history. God gave Israel to Babylon ... Babylon didn't take it. He drives this point home by repeating this phrase: God gave favour and compassion to a Babylonian official (v9) and God gave knowledge and understanding to Daniel and his friends so they could thrive and take up the place. He had determined for them in the Babylonian courts (v17). *God gave!*

We must realise that God is in control. Everything that happened is according to His plans. Israel may not have fully understood that at the time, but it doesn't change the fact – God is in control. *"While on the level of human observation, Nebuchadnezzar's military prowess wins the day, the Bible takes us behind the scenes and shows us that God is in control – He is sovereign and directs the world ... both on the battlefield and in Daniel's classroom. God is in control to further His purposes in history!"*

That is our comfort today – God is in control. He rules over all things – pandemics, injustices, hardships and, even, our sufferings – directing them in accordance with His good purposes. Even though we may not fully understand why certain things come to pass (whether on a global, regional or personal level), even though we may not like what's happening (especially at a personal level); we can be sure that God is in control – He has neither abandoned nor forsaken us but is working to accomplish His good purposes (see Ephesians 1). So we do not lose heart and we are not discouraged – God is with us and working for our good and His glory.

**Yours together in Christ, Luke**

## BIRTHDAYS in JUNE

**1 June:** Shirley Nel  
**2 June:** Ross Pickford  
**2 June:** Oliver Venter  
**2 June:** James Malan  
**6 June:** Sophie Mulligan  
**9 June:** Tom Malan  
**9 June:** Mia Snyman  
**10 June:** Vanessa Pickford  
**11 June:** Ilhaam Smith  
**11 June:** Kayleigh Cronje  
**13 June:** Kyla-Rei Mulligan  
**13 June:** Jaiden Radue  
**15 June:** Myla-Rose Flynn  
**19 June:** Viola Nicol  
**25 June:** Zara Snyman  
**27 June:** Francois De Villiers  
**28 June:** Dion Williamson  
**30 June:** Paul Potter





## UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

**3 June** - Men's Breakfast - **7:45am, 131 Milner Road, Newlands**

**5 June** - Church Council Meeting

**10 June** - Ladies Tea & Cake - **3:00pm, 3 Thorn Street, Newlands**

*(All ladies welcome, whatever your age)*

**11 June** - Welcome Team Meeting after church

**19 June** - Community Group Leaders Meeting - **7:45pm, 14 Airlie Place, Constantia**

**25 June** - Last Sunday of the term



*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" Psalm 121 vs 1 - 2*

## CONFIRMATION Service on 7 May



On **Sunday 7 May 2023**, Southern Cross Church (SCC) had the great joy of hosting a Confirmation Service where six of our young people affirmed their faith in Jesus as Lord.

Having confirmed the promises made for them or by them at their baptism and having affirmed their own faith by upholding orthodox belief as expressed in the Apostle's Creed, Bishop Alan Noble confirmed them accordingly. Several of these teens are already active in ministry within the church and we are excited about the future role all of them will play.



**Bottom photo from left:**

Daniel Grobbelaar, Anna Lumby, Ellie Peters, Luke Pooler, Bradley Nel, Rev. Luke Giles, Bishop Alan Noble

This special occasion was witnessed by their church, their families and a great number of friends who came in their droves to support and encourage them. We give God all the glory for this group of teens, and we pray that the work He has begun in them will be brought, by His grace, to completion.



## NEWS from our Mission Partners: GRACE ACADEMY

Dear Friends,

We are immensely grateful for your support of this ministry of mercy. Your acts of kindness, financial aid and prayers have been a great source of encouragement for us.

This past term has been a mixed bag of amazing and challenging experiences! We're proud of the progress our students are making; academically and in terms of personal growth. We've been blessed to have the Cross Links Gap Team with us every Monday. It's been a mutually encouraging time of growth and learning. Thanks to Caren Falconer, we now have art classes every Tuesday. The students are loving it! Gabby, Kaycee and Liam are preparing to write Social Studies at the end of the month.



This year we've taken on 5 new students, taking us to 11 in total. What's really amazing is the way our seniors stepped up to the plate without us prompting them. They've taken the newbies under their wings and shown them the ropes. The arrival of the new students also showed us the need to improve our onboarding process. By applying design thinking principles the students are co-designing our new onboarding process. What an exciting process to be a part of. There's lots more to share but that's it for now!

Feel free to reach out to us on **Instagram (gracecafeape)** or **whatsapp (074 558 9410 or 074 738 6967)**.

Better yet, come visit us!  
All the best, Dylan Groep

### Prayer Points:

- Matthew who mourns the passing of his father.
- Gabby, Kaycee and Liam as they prepare for their exams.
- Thanksgiving for sponsorship of 2 student's exam fees.
- Pray for new students as they adapt to the learning environment.





## GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

### SPOTLIGHT on **TAMLYN CRONJE** from our Sunday School



#### TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I'm married to John. We met at Constantia Assemblies Church in 2001. We have 3 beautiful girls, Kayleigh 15 years, Layla 12 years and Paige 10 years old. Kayleigh and Paige are passionate about dancing. They do ballet, modern and acrobatics. Layla does ballet, but is passionate about reading (reads a book a week) and animals, and has the desire to be a vet one day. John and I enjoy exercising and living a healthy lifestyle as far as possible.

#### WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

I was born in Cape Town, but grew up in Johannesburg. My family moved back to Cape Town when I was going into matric. This was probably one of the hardest things I've ever had to do.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHRISTIAN WALK WITH THE LORD

I grew up in a Christian home and have been a Christian most of my life. I grew up going to Sunday School and Friday night youth, was the highlight of my high school years. I have always been involved in church life, teaching Sunday School, helping with Holiday Club programs and even beach missions to Durban.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER

After school I studied Theology, majoring in counselling at Cornerstone Christian College and then I studied Psychology through Unisa.

I worked with special needs children at St Joseph's Marist's College until I had children. 6 years ago I started facilitating children at Sweet Valley that needed help in class and scribing for exams. I am currently facilitating a Grade 3 girl at Kirstenhof Primary school.



#### WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

We have been at SCC for about 7 years. We love being a part of a small community. I do the admin for the church, putting the roster together and I teach the Grade 4-6 children, which I love doing. I also help with the Friday Kid's Club program.

#### WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME TO RELAX?

I love doing anything creative, such as drawing, painting and home decor, but don't get much time to do this. I also like reading and going for walks on the beach.



## MATTERS for Prayer



- The newly elected church council members.  
Please pray for guidance and wisdom for the church leaders as they oversee and manage the affairs of SCC.
- SCC Constantiaberg currently meets for Sunday services in Bergvliet High School. The school was scheduled to do renovations during June and July this year on both the main school hall and sports hall. We were told we had to find a temporary meeting place over this time. Our prayers were answered and we thank God that the circumstances have changed. We are able to continue using the main hall during June and July and no longer need to find an alternative venue.

*"We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God,  
for those who are called according to His purpose " Romans 8 vs 28*

## CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Full Year 2022	1,154,497	901,068	253,429
Year to date - March 2023	462,439	437,722	24,717

**Bank Details:** Southern Cross Church   Standard Bank   Blue Route (02 56 09)   Acc no: 072 104 791

