

# THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

I hope you've been able to stay warm in this cold and wet winter.

As we continue in Daniel, we remember that he and his friends were removed from Israel by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. With the threat of destruction, Israel handed over their king, several of their royals, some young nobles, and the temple treasure. Nebuchadnezzar takes the people to serve in his royal palace and he trains them to be good Babylonians. Daniel and his friends, although remaining faithful to God, thrive in their new context. There is no-one equal to them in all Babylon in the king's service.

But they are still strangers in a foreign place, the horror of the exile still haunts them. Chapter 1 is, essentially, the start of something terrible – the promises of God have seemingly failed; the place of God is besieged; and the people of God are in exile. Even the faithful serve a foreign king – it all seems hopeless! *What will become of God's promises and His people?*

The rest of the book reveals the answers. But to make sure we keep reading, the author throws us a bone ... a glimmer of light in the darkness:

*And Daniel remained there until the first year of king Cyrus - Daniel 1:21*

It's not immediately obvious to us because we don't know our ancient history. But, if we did, we would know King Cyrus is *not* Babylonian. He is the Persian king who destroyed the Babylonian empire (about 50 years later), granting God's people the freedom to return to Israel and rebuild Jerusalem. *This chapter does not end with captivity but with freedom and hope!*

The Babylonian Empire came, and it went ... but Daniel remained. He outlasts Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar. In the end, it is God and His people who endure; Daniel and His God who stand triumphant. Verses 1 and 2 paint a bleak picture and unpromising future – like many of the events in our country and some of the circumstances in your life and mine. But they are not the whole story – the chapter is not yet complete! There is still a verse 21 to come. We need to know that and remember how it all ends! God and His faithful people endure; they stand victorious at the end. Not least, because God provided an even greater King, Jesus, who sets His people free and leads them home for all eternity. Remember this amid trying times and difficult circumstances - *the chapter is not over!* Verse 21 is still to come ... when God and His faithful people stand in victory.

So, do not lose hope, do not give up; persevere to the end – when, with God, we too will triumph over our enemies, and stand victorious for all eternity. Keep standing, keep remaining faithful to God and may He help us to endure to that end!

**Yours together in Christ , Luke**

**August 2023**  
**Edition: 5**

## BIRTHDAYS in AUGUST

**7 August:** Bruce Heyns  
**7 August:** Kerry Malan  
**12 August:** Charleen Grobelaar  
**14 August:** Lindsay Heyns  
**17 August:** Milla Morris  
**20 August:** Janine Heyns  
**28 August:** Alison Simpson  
**28 August:** Ailsa Williamson





## UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

**12 August** - Arise Adoption Conference (@ Tokai Community Church)

**15 August** - Grief Share course begins (see advert for more details)

**19 August** - Women's Convention (@ St James Church, Kenilworth)

**21 August** - Church Prayer Meeting at 19:45 (venue to be confirmed)

**August** - Ladies Event - (Date, time and venue to be confirmed)

**Sunday Afternoons** - Join the SCC Hiking Group - Contact Debra Lumby - 072 016 5511

**22 - 24 September** - Church Camp @ Rocklands Centre in Simons Town

We are so excited to be going away as a church family for good food, great fun and warm fellowship as we spend time together in and around God's Word ... and we're so hoping that you will join us.

From **Friday, 22 September 2023** (anytime from 16:30, supper at 19:00).

To **Sunday, 24 September 2023** (finishing after we've enjoyed lunch together).

For more info, please contact Luke (Tel. 084 440 0199) or Kerry (Tel. 084 515 5961).

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea".*

*Psalm 46 vs 1*



Grief Share is a **13 week course** that helps you move through the process of grief. It is a safe haven for hearts that have been shattered by loss.

This course will be starting on the **15th of August at 7.30pm in Andy Pitter's home in Constantia**. There is a cost of **R250** to cover the course material. If you would like to know more about the course please contact Andy on: 083 629 9214.

Kindly note that space is limited.

*Everything on earth  
has its own time  
and its own season.  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

### Please Pray:

- ⇒ for the Oasis English Camp that the Centre is hosting from 28 - 30 July. Please pray that more students will sign up.
- ⇒ for the Team from Missouri, which is made up of retirees. Pray for good health and energy during their time here, that the students will be able to connect well with them and for many gospel opportunities.
- ⇒ for perseverance in my Thai language studies.
- ⇒ for students A and M in particular. M is working on a video project that needs to explain spirit houses. Pray that this will give us opportunities to have some meaningful conversations as we discuss what we all believe.

## NEWS from our Mission Partner: MICHELLE ROUX

Dear Friends,



As I reflect on the past few months, I'm struck again by the many different seasons that characterise life. Some seasons are fun, but some bring change that can take my heart a little longer to adjust to.

One of the things that I struggled with living in C, in the Northern hemisphere, was that seasons were all deurmekaar. Summer

and winter were upside down, but here in Thailand weather seasons have become even more confusing. Mostly because seasons are not distinguished by a contrast of hot and cold – Thailand just has “hot”, “hotter”, and “very hot”.

### Friendships

Friendships also happen in seasons, but here in Chiang Mai this season seems to change a lot more quickly than in other places I've lived. I think the reason for this may be that a lot of people come here for short-term stints, staying anywhere between three weeks and six months. I have started getting to know people at church a little better and am grateful for friendships that are beginning to develop there. A wonderful surprise in God's provision of a friend, has come in Salie. Salie and I taught at the same university in C, and together with some other lovely ladies, she was a great source of encouragement and fellowship. Salie has moved to Chiang Mai, but to a town about two hours away, so while we can't see each other often, a weekend visit once a month is possible and something to look forward to.

### Language

Soon after the rain incident a new season of language learning started. I did a four-week Thai Level 1 intensive course. I had class two hours a day from Monday to Thursday, which may not sound that bad, but it was absolutely exhausting! I reached saturation level long before the end of the four weeks. It was just too much information to process and retain in such a short amount of time. Suddenly, Chinese words started resurfacing that had been long forgotten, and Chinese and Thai sounds got mixed up. I'm still grateful that I had the opportunity to do the course though. While I still need to do a lot more revision of the material to get the full benefit of it, it helped give my Thai learning a good kick-start. I'm now doing one-on-one classes with a Thai tutor twice a week.

God has been gracious and provided seasons of rest over the past few months - some rather unexpected, but still a chance to catch my breath and take stock of things. I had Covid, which wasn't serious, but enough to put me in bed for a week. I also enjoyed a week of leave.

Some of the strange things in Thailand have started becoming more familiar, and I'm grateful to be able to share this journey with you! Thank you for your partnership and prayers that make my time here possible.

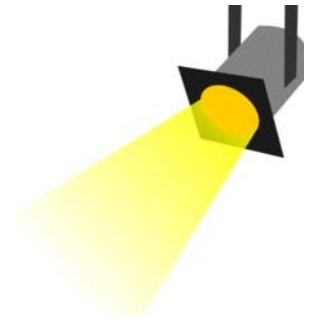
**With love in Christ, Michèle**





## GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

### SPOTLIGHT on **LEIGH MULLIGAN** from our Youth Group Ministry



It's my joy and my privilege to be involved at SCC in various ways, and I hope to serve and edify Gods people, specifically His flock at SCC for many years to come.



#### TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I am married to a strong, beautiful Christian woman, Kyla-Rei, and we have three daughters, Grace Mae (age 10), Sophie June (age 7), and Carah April (age 3). We are firm believers in the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" and surround ourselves with help from our mothers, and even a great grandmother and brother who help out regularly. We have worshipped at SCC for the past 12 years, and previously attended (and met) at St James Church. Thanks to God's grace, we enjoy a mostly peaceful household, along with 2 dogs thrown in the mix.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER

This question may seem simple to answer but, in my case, it has a number of layers! I am an engineer by trade, but have chosen to embark on a rather interesting journey of being a commercial property broker. My goals in the property world are ambitious and I thoroughly enjoy the business, because it allows me to engage with so many people.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

I have too many hobbies to list them in detail and my busy lifestyle does not allow me to really get far with any of them. (Classic car restoration, steelwork, woodwork, the list goes on!). If I had to choose, I would have a grand idea of spending every Saturday afternoon in a woodworking & steel-forming workshop, building bespoke furniture, while having sport playing on the TV in the background and a braai with family and friends.

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

I'm involved and serving in a couple of ways. Firstly, I'm a member of SCC, and call SCC my home church. I commit most of my available time and energy to building and encouraging my brothers and sisters in Christ. I serve on the SCC church council. With the help of Kerry Rehse, we run youth on a Sunday evening. I sometimes lead Sunday morning services. I lead a Friday evening Family Community Group for parents with young children.

#### TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

I have a traditional story of being brought up in a Christian home. My parents were both devout Christians who lived the gospel. I said the prayer and gave my life to Jesus at a very young age, with probably very limited understanding of the true weight of what I was doing. However, I don't doubt that it was a genuine response to a call, with a saving knowledge and understanding of what the Lord Jesus did for me personally.

I honestly can't give you an age, but I'm convinced it was before my 7<sup>th</sup> birthday. Over my teen years, I have recommitted myself a number of times to His allegiance, and even once or twice have done so, in my young adulthood. I would often have to review my life, to determine whether I was living a life worthy of the gospel, and would "recommit". I have since stopped "recommitting" myself, and instead when I fall, I simply confess to the Lord, acknowledging my shortcomings before him, repenting and permanently changing my behaviour, by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom I am fully convinced is doing a great work in me. Now I'm here.... fully and finally committed, and convinced... and grateful.

### CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK FOR PEOPLE TO READ?

Favourite book of all time, for now, is Mere Christianity by CS Lewis. Since it is our "Q& A" month coming up, I recommend reading this book, because it answers so many questions, about how we relate to God and his Creation.

TIP: It is a challenging read, and I suggest not reading ahead, until you process the page, you're on.

### NAME A BAND OR SINGER YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO?

No comment- there cannot be only one and there isn't enough space on this page to list them all.

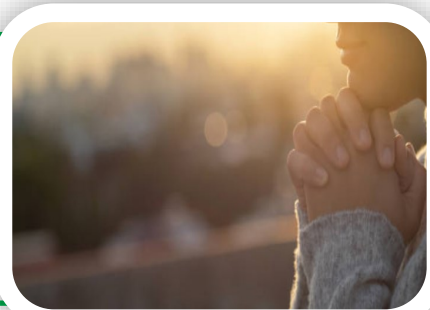
### WHAT FOOD DO YOU ENJOY?

Medium rare fillet steak chargrilled to perfection with green pepper corn sauce. No need for the sides, but it should be enjoyed with a glass of Shiraz.

If this is what you're having for dinner, feel free to invite me and my family to join you!

## MATTERS for Prayer

- Give thanks for the appointment of Daleen Griesel as our new Family Ministries Co-ordinator. Pray that God would help her to settle in quickly and build meaningful relationships with our kids & teens and their parents.
- Pray for the upcoming Church Camp (22 - 24 Sep) for a good response in attendance and for those organizing the programme and activities.



*"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint".*

**Isaiah 40 vs 31**

## CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Full Year 2022	1,154,497	901,068	253,429
Year to date - May 2023	736,669	644,820	91,849

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