

THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

We returned from the good times of camp to the grey storms of the foul weather – floods, mudslides, destroyed infrastructure and people trapped in scary circumstances. Many of us can't understand these weather conditions – *they remain a mystery*.

Indeed, much of life is a mystery ... as King Nebuchadnezzar realised. Daniel 2 tells us he has had a recurring dream that troubles him (2:1). He insisted his wise men interpret it but refused to tell them the content of the dream (2:5) ... and threatens their lives if they can't!

The wise men think this is unreasonable: *no one on earth can do what the king asks (2:10)*! Even Daniel agrees – the king is unreasonable, demanding the impossible (2:27).

Nevertheless, Daniel asks God to intervene and reveal the mystery (2:18). And God did (2:19). He revealed the dream and made its interpretation known. So, Daniel was able to explain both to the king ... but not before saying: *"No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries"* (2:27-28). Notice Daniel's point: there is no hope of making sense of the mystery without God's intervention. Daniel needs God's revelation to make sense of the mystery; the king needs God's revelation to make sense of the dream; and we need God's revelation to make sense of the world.

Our world is a confusing place; full of mystery, full of contradictions – life & death; good & bad; love & hate; the beauty of creation marred by drought & storms, earthquakes & tsunamis. Good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people. *How can we make sense of it?* Because **there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries**. He is the source of all wisdom and truth.

God makes mysteries known – He speaks to us; He reveals Himself to us, so we can understand the world in which we live. God makes mysteries known through the revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus is the interpretive key who reveals mysteries – explains the state of the world, the solution to our issues and the hope of our future. If we want to make sense of the world, we need Jesus and to listen to what He says.

Without Jesus, this world will remain a mystery. That's why believers are constantly encouraged to *fix our eyes on Jesus* – He gives us wisdom and truth, perspective, and hope amidst the mysteries of our world. It's why we hold out Jesus to unbelieving family & friends – so they too can understand the mysteries and join us praising God for *giving wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning (2:21)*.

May you know the wisdom that God reveals to us, in and through Jesus.

Yours in Christ, Luke

October 2023

Edition: 6

BIRTHDAYS in OCTOBER

1 October: Anna Lumby
1 October: Lloyd Nel
1 October: Grace Mulligan
3 October: Mandy Cairns
5 October: Paula Snyman
12 October: Dominic Malan
13 October: Phoebe Cairns
17 October: Werner Nel
23 October: Joseph Stewart
26 October: Matt Malan
27 October: Benjamin Stewart
28 October: Ursula Morris
29 October: Mikayla Nel

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5 October: Dave & Debbie Lumby
9 October: Dominic & Luisa Malan





UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 11 October** - Church Prayer meeting at 19:45 (venue to be confirmed)
- 16 October** - Service Leaders' meeting at 19:45 - 14 Airlie Place, Constantia
- 21 October** - Kids Ministry online training (speak to Daleen for details)
- 23 October** - Church council meeting at 19:45 - 14 Airlie Place, Constantia
- 25 October** - Men's Breakfast at 07:45 (venue tbc)
- Sunday Afternoons** - Join the SCC Hiking group - Contact Debra Lumby - 072 016 5511



"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs". 1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 5

SCC Church Camp - 22 to 24 September



*Food,
Fun &
Fellowship...*



***"He is the one we proclaim,
admonishing and teaching
everyone with all wisdom, so
that we may present everyone
fully mature in Christ. To this
end I strenuously contend with
all the energy Christ so
powerfully works in me."***

Colossians 1:28-29

Give Thanks:

- ⇒ For the start of the membership classes at CCL.
- ⇒ The growth in the children's ministry.
- ⇒ Paul Ngoma who has started helping with the children's ministry.
- ⇒ For the funding to train our Kids Ministry Team

Please Pray:

- ⇒ Approval and funding for the students who are applying to GWC.
- ⇒ Pray for funds to enable us to employ an apprentice at CCL.
- ⇒ Pray that we would not grow weary or disheartened when faced with many challenges.

NEWS from our Mission Partner: MICHAEL & RENEE WATSON



Dear Friends,

Greetings from a windy Lusaka, Zambia! Our mango tree is heavy with blossoms and this builds expectation for the harvest of delicious mangoes lying ahead. The dry and dusty atmosphere, although unpleasant at times, makes for spectacular sunsets.



Membership Classes are Underway

This month we finally started the membership classes at Christ Church Lusaka. As a new church, Christ Church Lusaka had attendants but didn't have any official membership and consequently no council

or wardens to make decisions for the church. Without members, no council can be elected and without membership classes, no one could become members.

Doc. Paul Kayumba was able to take some leave to work on a program for these classes and on the 13th of August membership classes were started. The classes take place for about 45 minutes after Sunday worship services, and we have been excited to see how many have attended these meetings. We hope to see a growth in the church as the attendants take ownership of their church and start building together.



Ministry Updates

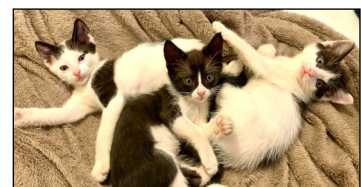
In anticipation for us being away for about two weeks in September, Michael has been taking on more preaching opportunities back-to-back. The church is currently doing a series through the book of Acts and it has been so appropriate for the church in its current stage of growth and new beginnings.



The children's ministry is also growing, and we are noticing more and more children bringing their friends along. We are super grateful to Martin Morrison for arranging funding for our Kid's Ministry workers to get trained through the UK-based ministry called Growing Young Disciples. Mr. Paul Ngoma, one of our trainees, has been signed up for a 3-year online program in Kid's ministry which starts end of September. He is now assisting with the children's ministry on Sundays and will in the future take over that role from me. He has a gift with children's work, and we can't wait to see what the Lord is going to do through him.

Home News

Our three little kittens are growing so fast. They are now playing and eating and keeping us so busy. They are adorable! We are finding it very difficult to think of rehoming any of them. How do you decide which one of the beautiful kittens to keep and which to send off to someone else? Hopefully they (including mommy Lucy) will be neutered and spayed next week, so we won't need to worry about further growth in the family.

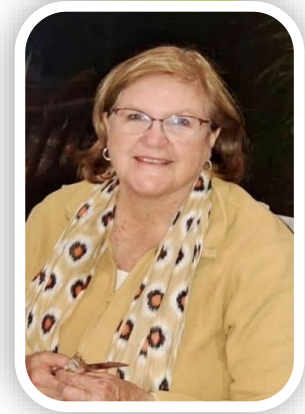


GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on SARAH DUNN from our Sunday School Ministry

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I've been married to Andy for 40 years, shock, and horror, can that really be true! We were blessed with our pigeon pair, Kieron and Jo-Anne who are both married. We have 3 grandchildren from Jo-Anne and Brad, Myla-Rose(10) Kade (5) and Kallen (18 months). They are such a joy to have in our lives. I'm so aware that many grandparents have to travel across the world to see their grandchildren so I'm so grateful to the Lord that we are able to be so involved in their lives almost daily.



NOW THAT YOU AND ANDY ARE RETIRED, TELL US WHAT YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Is Andy really retired is the question....watch this space! He is in the process of doing his drone pilot license and is praying about what next. God only knows!

DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

I've always loved sewing, in fact my mum taught me to sew and I made my first dress when I was 10 years old. I make anything from clothing, upholstery, cushions, mending for my family (my worst!) but my passion is quilting. I love to read and 23 years ago started a Christian book club and we still meeting monthly. I also love being in the outdoors and I walk with friends at least 3 times a week in the vineyards at Groot Constantia.

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

Andy and I were part of the original small group who were asked to leave TCC and start a church plant in Constantia in 2009. I've probably been involved in every area at church! When you are part of the beginning of a church plant you suddenly are bestowed with every spiritual gift known to a church!! On any particular Sunday I used to be on "welcome", then I would do in the worship singing, then rush out to do Sunday School and charge back to sing the last hymn before going to serve the tea and coffee at service end!! Now things have quieted down quite a bit but I am still involved in Sunday School, we host our community group and I help with organizing events at SCC like the camp.



TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

I came to know the Lord at a Scripture Union camp when I was 13 years old. I came from a difficult family background and the first thing I noticed about the camp leaders was how warm and loving they were. I had never experienced such a calm, loving environment and such kindness. I wanted to know the reason for what made them so different! I soon found out that it was knowing Jesus! I gave my life to the Lord there although I was not at all sure what I was doing but God gave me a lifetime friend on that camp and her family took me to church and to youth club and slowly I began to grow in my faith. I got involved in the singing group, the youth, and attended Bible study. God used all these things to water the seed He had planted in my heart and by God's grace 51 years this month I am still standing for Jesus!

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK FOR PEOPLE TO READ?

Christian novels are my thing and at the moment my favorite author is Tessa Afshar. I’ve read 7 of her books in a row! She writes around a biblical character and uses her knowledge to weave a plausible story around the character. I also recommend any books by Francine Rivers and Lyn Austin.

WITH ANDY BEING A PILOT, I’M SURE YOU DID LOTS OF TRAVELLING OVER THE YEARS. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

For many years Andy flew for SAA and we were given 4 business class tickets a year to travel to any destination that SAA flew to (spoilt , I know!). I also used to go on his trips with him which was very cool and I made sure that everyone sitting around me knew that the handsome Captain was MY husband!! Those trips were pretty exhausting because we only had two local nights at the destination and then we were on our way back home. I think my favorite destination SAA flew to was London. It was also our children’s favorite because we came home with lots of goodies for them from Hamely’s! Being a pilots wife had it’d perks but it is not an easy life. There is no routine in your life and lots of adjusting to do with all the coming and goings. Now that season has come to an end and I am so thankful to God for giving Andy as many landings as He did take off’s.

MATTERS for Prayer

- Give thanks for our recent church camp...praying that the seeds of friendship and fellowship will grow and blossom and that SCC will grow together in unity and love.
- Please pray for our planning day on **8 October** when the Church Council and Ministry Leaders will gather to plan for 2024 and beyond...pray for wisdom so they know how best we can grow together in our love for God, our love for people and our love for the word.
- Pray for REACH-SA and the recent appointment of Siegfried Ngubane, as our new Presiding Bishop...for the handover period and transition from Bishop Glenn Lyons.
- Pray for our students and scholars who will soon be heading into their exam period...especially those writing matric finals: **Ingrid H & Josh G.**



“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer”. **Romans 12:12**

CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
2023 January to July	869,273	(752,894)	116,378
2023 August	92,081	(125,138)	(33,057)
2023 Year to date	961,354	(878,032)	83,322

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