



THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

The Rugby World Cup is over, the champion has been crowned! With that, bragging rights and “prestige” for their supporters ... at least until the next world cup. Because, as we know, champions come, and champions go ... as do kings and kingdoms. Daniel reminds us of this in Ch 2.

Wicked King Nebuchadnezzar has had a recurring and troubling dream (2:1). The dream is about a large statue – *an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance* (2:31). The statue is made of different metals – gold, silver, bronze & iron – and its feet were a mix of iron and clay. In the dream, a rock was cut out of the land, not with human hands (2:34), that smashed the statue into small, broken pieces that were blown away by the wind (2:35). In its place, the rock became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth (2:35).

Daniel explained that the dream is about kings and kingdoms. Nebuchadnezzar is the great and mighty king who currently has dominion and power. While that will be true for his lifetime, it won't be true of Babylon forever – new kings and new kingdoms will rise up and take sovereignty away from them. As we look back over history, we see the rise of the Medo-Persian Empire; the ancient Greeks and, even, the mighty Roman Empire. None of them lasted ... and that's the point!

The dream is not so much about the course of history, but the fact that history is under the control of God. Kings and kingdoms come and go because God raises them up and removes them – it's worth remembering this in the midst of our present and global, turbulent and tempestuous political times! As He does so, God will ultimately set up a kingdom *that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever* (2:44). Worldly kingdoms will come to an end but God's Kingdom will endure for eternity. History will reach its final climax when God consummates His Kingdom through His appointed King, Jesus Christ – the Rock *that became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth* (see also 1 Pet 2:8). Through Jesus, God establishes His eternal and indestructible Kingdom.

During these strange and unusual times, these “unprecedented” times, we must remember that they too will not last. They have arisen, but they will fade. This season and this ‘kingdom’ will pass! Only what is invested in God's Kingdom will last. We must invest our time, talents and treasures in establishing His Kingdom, and so securing an eternal inheritance.

Our hope for rest, ultimately, in which kingdom our citizenship lies with: if it's in this world, it'll end the same way as every kingdom of the world – dashed and destroyed ... but if it's in God's kingdom, we'll endure for eternity with Jesus. Where's your citizenship ... to whose kingdom do you belong?

Let's together, prayerfully and faithfully, continue belonging to and building into God's eternal Kingdom.

Yours in Christ, Luke

NOVEMBER 2023

BIRTHDAYS in NOVEMBER

15 November: Erin O'Carroll
21 November: Juliet Lubbe
23 November: Madeleine Odendaal
24 November: Adaya Morris
25 November: Mandy Theron
26 November: Sheldon Cairns
29 November: Niki Giles
29 November: Sarah Lumby

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

4 November
 Chip & Cath Malan

12 November
 Dale & Ilhaam Smith

18 November
 Ross & Vanessa Pickford
 Brian & Werna Nel

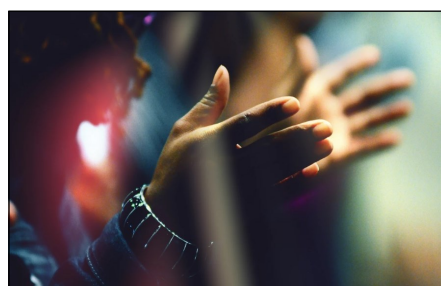
28 November
 Bruce & Janine Heyns

30 November
 Simon & Bex Pooler



UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 6 November** - Magnification Team meeting
- 13 November** - Cape Area Council (REACH-SA)
- 19 November** - Youth Fund raiser for Cross Word Youth Camp
- 20 November** - Community Group Leaders meeting
- 6 December** - Ladies' Christmas dinner
- 9 December** - Men's Christmas function
- 15 - 20 December** - Crossword Youth Camp (REACH-SA)



“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”. Joshua 1 vs 9

SCC Sunday School News

The Sunday School kids aged **1 to 5 years old** were taught by Will Radue a few weeks ago. He taught them from **Mark 4: 35 - 41** about “Jesus calming the storm”. He brought his rubber duck boat with him as a prop, which the kids absolutely loved!!

*Fun...
Friends...
Laughter...*



*"I am he who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will
carry you. I will sustain you
and I will rescue you".*

Isaiah 46:4

Finances:

After a finance meeting with the SIM SA office, I became aware that for the new financial year (which starts in October for our budgets), I'm required to raise an additional R4,500/month.

This is due to a drop in support that took place during COVID; but also the increase in the exchange rate with the US Dollar, which is used between SIM offices to manage our finances.

Please Pray:

- ⇒ Thank God for the opportunity I have to visit C. Please also pray that I'll be granted a tourist visa.
- ⇒ Thank God for people like Keng and Apple who are so generous with their time and in sharing their insights into Thai culture so that we can serve the students better.
- ⇒ Please pray for the students mentioned above: P, F, Po, and A.
- ⇒ Please pray for God's continued provision financially.
- ⇒ Please pray for good health as I travel in November and December.

NEWS From Our Mission Partner: MICHELE ROUX

Dear Friends,

A lot seems to have happened over the past quarter, and it's exciting to share it with you. Sometimes I forget just how much has happened, so when I sit to write and share it with you, I'm encouraged all over again by how God is at work.

Oasis English Camp

At the end of July, I helped run the Oasis English Camp that was hosted by The Centre. It was a great experience working with the team that came, who were such a blessing to the students in their willingness to serve. In helping the team prepare for their time at The Centre I worked with Keng, one of our Thai staff members, to help the team think through the activities and life stories that would be shared to make sure they were appropriate. It was such a joy working with the team as we shared and tweaked ideas. Going through this process also made me aware of some of the things that are helpful to know when interacting cross-culturally with the students – like trying to find simple words to explain things for example – and how to share these insights with teams that visit. We thank God that many of the students who joined us for the camp have started coming to our weekly events or have started taking classes.



Students

One of the students who came to camp was P. This was the second event that she had joined, and she was still very shy. Since the camp though, P has joined some of regular events, even bringing some of her friends along too. Please pray that as she keeps coming, she would notice more and more of a difference in us that makes her curious about the gospel. Two other students who I've been able to connect with over the past two months are F & Po. They are both new students that I took on. It turns out that they're dating, and after a rainy day which caused Po to come early and wait for his class, they've started coming to The Centre together. They are at The Centre nearly every day and are such a delight to have around. Po's English has improved so much, they bring ingredients to cook Thai snacks for us to sample, and they are so willing to serve and help clean up after events. It really has been a joy getting to know them better.



The Joy of Anticipating Visitors

The excitement of travel news continues – but not my travels. Rather, I have the joy of anticipating some visitors! My mom and Abi will be visiting over the Easter holidays next year from the 23rd to the 30th of March. While this seems like a long way away, I remember that it's already October, and that March will be here in the blink of an eye at the rate time's been flying.

GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on **BRIAN SIMPSON** from our **SOUND DESK**



TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

After moving around a fair amount, my family settled in Oudtshoorn. I am the oldest of four brothers and the other three still live in Oudtshoorn with their families. The extended family were scattered throughout the country but each year, during the Christmas school holidays, there would be a gathering at a beach house where many memories were made. Sadly, the family numbers have dwindled over the years, but there is still contact with cousins.

Our family is very small. The love of my life and best friend, Alison (whom I married 35 years ago), two rescue dogs (Kayla and Riley) and a parrot (Beautiful). I was truly blessed to have married into such a fantastic family.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER AND WHERE YOU CURRENTLY WORK?

This is a bit of a winding road but, looking back now, it was all part of God's amazing plan. After turning down going to teacher's training college after school (being an introvert), I did my two years compulsory military service in Grahamstown infantry battalion. I did not enjoy the year after that, working for Customs and Excise and decided to join the army on a permanent basis. They were not recruiting at that stage and I ended up joining the Navy permanent force. My now brother in law and I volunteered for the Submarine service and after qualifying as a submariner, spent almost three years as part of the onboard crew. Then, the wheels came off after my legs locked on one of the vertical ladders, there was no way that I could stay on board and was relocated to the submarine workshop. I was diagnosed with a back condition being ankylosing spondylitis that has resulted in the curvature of my spine. After five years in the workshop and qualifying as a military artisan, I went into training at Wingfield and left the Navy in 2000 (15 years). I qualified as a fitter and worked at the college for a while and am now at a private training facility teaching refrigeration related subjects. Sometimes, I think that God has a good sense of humour, after turning down teacher's training college, coming full circle; I have ended up in training anyway.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Unfortunately I somehow don't seem to have much spare time. There are always training issues that have to be sorted out for work. I do enjoy woodworking; presentation design and practicing website design (still a learning curve with some programs).

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

I prepare and sometimes run the presentations for the visuals on Sunday mornings, load the sermons to YouTube and have done a little work on the church website.

TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

I'll try and keep this brief. I come from a family where my mom was a Christian but what I remember from my dad, not so much, he died when we were quite young. I consider myself as a young Christian if I compare myself to those who have been in the faith for a long time. In hindsight I see that when the going got tough, God was there and always looked after me. Whether in contacts in the army or a leaking torpedo tube seal at 300m, he was always there, but I had no relationship with Him. After the sad passing of Alison's Mom and Dad within six months of one another, our lives were shattered. Alison's Mom often spoke about Christianity and the Christian life, and this was how she lived. Events that transpired at the time and God working through the pastors at Emmanuel Church and TCC coupled with the grief share leaders, Alison and I became Christians approximately 7 years ago.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK AND MOVIE?

I don't often read books (can't seem to find the time). Two movies that I did enjoy were submarine related – "U571" and "The Hunt for Red October" I currently enjoy a variety of TV series such as Law and Order, Blue Bloods and Master Chef.

WHAT IS YOUR FUNNIEST MOMENT?

There are so many, but there is one that often comes up in conversation. Luke will appreciate this one. We went bass fishing at Lake Pleasant many years ago and one morning went out on two boats, one motorised and the other oar driven. I was on the oared one with Alison's Mom and Alison on the other with her Stepdad. All was going well until the oars decided to hop out of the oarlocks; needless to say, I ended up on my back in the bottom of the boat with the oars drifting off into the distance. The "NSRI" Alison and her Stepdad saved the day with much hilarity.



WITH ALISON HAVING RECENTLY RETIRED, HAVE YOU GOT PLANS TO TRAVEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

There are plans for an Australian trip, to see Alison's sister and family next year. Alison and I have a deep passion for African wildlife, so any destination that has wildlife is an attraction for us.

MATTERS for Prayer

- Give thanks for the recent consecration of Bishop Peter Makapela as the Cape Area Bishop for REACH-SA.....pray too for the impending consecration and installation of Siegfried Ngubane as our new Presiding Bishop.
- Please pray for our preparation for the coming Christmas season as we plan various family events to grow our church but also to reach the lost in our wider community.
- Pray for ongoing discussions about a long term venue for SCC and the necessary funding for us to continue with our ministry plans and growth going forward.
- Pray for students and scholars as they prepare for and write their end of year exams.



"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" Philipians 1 vs 21

CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
2023 January to August	960,604	(878,032)	82,572
2023 September	138,441	(122,306)	16,136
2023 Year to date	1,099,045	(1,000,338)	98,707

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