



THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

Frankly, I'm not quite sure how we got here ... but it's December! Christmas decorations are up in the shops and malls ... *and maybe even in your home already*. Arrangements are underway for where you and the family will be celebrating Christmas Day and who will bring what food to share with the extended family or friends. Lists have been made in the hope we'll get everything we're dreaming of and wishing for ... *and the children have made their wish lists too*. Some have made plans to travel over this season, to familiar places or to somewhere new ... others are just hoping for some down time at home, without too much on the chore list. Whatever your plans and hopes, it's undeniable that the Christmas season is upon us.

My hope and prayer, though, is that amidst this time, you won't forget the 'reason for the season'. It's not fundamentally about presents or parties, about food or fellowship, or even about family or friends (as good as all those things are) ... it's about a person. It's a time to remember the coming of one person who forever changed our past, our present and our future. It's about the coming of a baby who divided calendars and brought about the largest global institution on the planet. It's a season that forces us to ask, "What Child is this?"

This Christmas season at SCC, we're going to wrestle with the identity of Jesus, the one born that first Christmas morning. Matthew reminds us (1:18-23) that this Child is the fulfilment of centuries of promises that God made to Israel and the world – *He is the Christ* ... this Child is none other than God Himself come to earth in flesh to be with us – *He is Immanuel* ... and this Child is the One who will save people from their sins and bring them eternal life – *He is Jesus*.

We hope that you and your family will be able to join the SCC family as we remember and celebrate Jesus this Christmas ... but, even if you can't be with us, we hope and pray that you will remember WHO this Child is who forever changed the world, bringing salvation and blessing to every nation – this Child who grew up walking in obedience to His Father ... who lived to die as a sacrifice to take away our sin and its consequences ... who was raised from the dead to conquer the grave ... who ascended to the right hand of the Father where He rules over the world ... who will come again to judge the living and the dead. Let's not forget WHO this child is – *He is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Lord and Saviour of the world*. May you and your family have a blessed Christmas in which this Jesus is at the centre.

Yours in Christ,
Luke

Ps. Just a quick note to say thanks to Melanie for all her work every month in preparing the SCC Times for us ... her efforts are so appreciated. The next SCC Times will only come out in the middle of January.

BIRTHDAYS in DECEMBER & JANUARY

2 December: Eunice Rea
10 December: David Venter
10 December: Katleah Pickford
15 December: Jean Rothman
15 December: Luke Pooler
17 December: Amy Blyth
19 December: Paul Joubert
19 December: Samuel Cairns
22 December: Daniel Malan
31 December: Diane De Villiers
31 December: Colby van Rooyen
4 January: Dale Smith
7 January: Nadia Langenegger
8 January: Wendy Blyth
8 January: James van Rooyen
10 January: Kade Flynn
12 January: Hudson Smith

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1 December
Paul & Anne Potter
3 December
Des & Jenny Inglesby
4 December
Roald & Jacqui Besselaar
Claude & Antoinette Dennis
11 December
John & Tamlyn Cronje
Andy & Sarah Dunn
Lisa & James van Rooyen
13 December
Llyod & Shirley Nel
14 December
Luke & Niki Giles
Andrew & Justine Stewart
16 December
Keith & Viola Nicol
17 December
William & Caren Radue
21 December
Gavin & Wendy Blyth
7 January
Brad & Jo-Ann Flynn



UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 4 December** - Council Meeting
- 6 December** - Ladies Christmas Dinner - 1 Sun Valley Close, Constantia
- 10 December @ 09:30** - Sunday Service...series on Philippians finishes
- 10 December @ 18:00** - Family picnic and carol service @ Dutch Reformed church
- 15 - 20 December** - Crossword Youth Camp 2023
- 24 December @16:30** - Christmas Service at Bergvliet High school
(No morning service on the 24th)
- 31 December** - No church service
- 7 January** - Church Brunch @ Little Stream restaurant in Constantia - 10 to 12
- 14 January** - Sunday service at Bergvliet High school
- 19 January @ 17:00** - Kids club
- 21 January @17:00** - Youth group
- 24 January** - Central Church Prayer Meeting
- 29 January** - Community Groups meeting

*“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the Government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” **Isaiah 9:6***

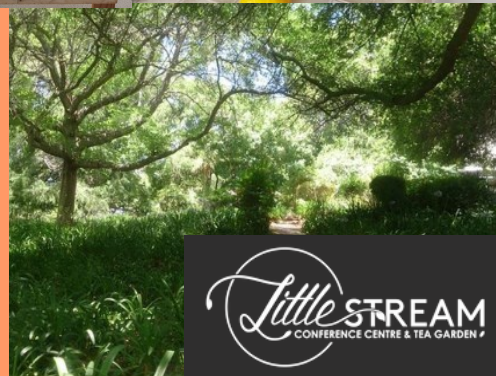
YOUTH Fundraiser for Cross Word

On **Sunday, 19 November** the Youth made pancakes to raise funds for the Cross Word Youth camp. The fundraiser was a huge success and they flipped 170 pancakes raising a whopping R8,563.



CHURCH Brunch at Little Stream Restaurant

SCC will host a breakfast on **Sunday, 7 January** for its congregation from **10 - 12**. Please sign up by Sunday, 17 December, so we know how many people will be attending the breakfast.



*"Oh, taste and see
that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man
who takes refuge in
Him!"*

Psalm 34:8

Thanksgiving:

- The successful applications of Titus and Rasford to GWC
- Michael's Ordination
- The special visit of friends from South Africa
- The many great training opportunities that we have been able to take advantage of while in Zambia.

Please Pray:

- Successful visa applications for Titus and Rasford to go to South Africa to study
- the one-to-one discipleship ministry we are involved in
- the negotiations regarding the 2024 contract for the Church venue at Golden Peacock
- the 'safe' arrival and repair of our mission vehicle
- The Mbewe family and Africa Christian University in their time of grief.

NEWS From Our Mission Partners: MICHAEL AND RENEE WATSON

Dear Friends,

On Saturday, 18 November a significant event occurred as Michael was ordained as a presbyter in the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Paul Kayumba, rector of Christ Church Lusaka is a dear brother in the Lord and Michael's 'boss'. He presented Michael to the bishop to be admitted to the order of presbyter in the REACH denomination. Michael was exhorted and encouraged to preach the Word of God faithfully as Martin handed him a beautiful CSB Bible. This momentous occasion signifies a new chapter in his spiritual journey and emphasizes his dedication and commitment to serving others. The highlight of this special event was the arrival of our beloved visitors from South Africa. They came specifically to attend Michael's ordination and we are so grateful that they travelled all the way from South Africa to support and encourage us. Their arrival brought so much joy and excitement to us, strengthening the ties that bind us together.



Facilitation Relational Learning

Renee returned from Nairobi, Kenya on November 8th after a week-long intensive training module as part of the Entrust program. In this module, she learned how to facilitate relational learning. It was a truly life-changing experience that equipped her with valuable skills and tools to better serve in her ministry roles.



Abraham's Tough Journey

The best thing about our visitors being here at this time was the encouragement they provided during our time of sorrow. They arrived the day after we received the sad news that our 'new' vehicle, which is being transported from Tanzania to Zambia, was involved in an accident. Unfortunately, Abe (or Abraham, as we fondly named our new mission vehicle) was involved in an accident with a motorcycle while being transported through Tanzania.



This accident caused significant damage to the vehicle. However, the most important thing is that the injuries sustained by the men involved were not life-threatening.

The Lord is Good - He gives and takes away...

On the 19th of November, two very significant events took place. One event caused great sadness while the other was cause for celebration. At 14:40 Mwansa Mbewe (the son of Conrad Mbewe) went to be with the Lord after a very sudden and unexpected stroke. He was only 32 years old, on fire for the Lord and very active in ministry. His passing is a great loss for his family and for Africa Christian University and all who were working with him. On the same day a beautiful little girl was born to the Mulenga family whom we have been closely working with at Christ Church Lusaka. This little girl is the first girl in this family of four boys and the best part of the story is that her name is 'Renée'! She has been named after Renee and that is a very precious gift from God to encourage her. Pray for little Renée, that she will grow up to know Jesus and that many will come to Christ through her.





GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on JAKE GRIESEL

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I grew up in a happy Christian home first in Durban and then on a sheep farm in the rural southern Free State (albeit schooled in Bloemfontein), as the youngest of three children (two older sisters). I am blissfully married to Daleen, we met as classmates studying theology together at the University of the Free State.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER AND WHERE YOU CURRENTLY WORK?

I spent the entire decade of my 20s studying theology, culminating with a PhD in historical theology at the University of Cambridge in 2019. Directly thereafter Daleen and I returned to South Africa for me to take up a position at George Whitefield College (REACH-SA's theological college in Muizenberg), where I now serve as Lecturer in Church History and Anglican Studies. My main roles are teaching, postgraduate supervision, and research.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

The outdoors (one of the things I enjoy most about living in Cape Town), reading (mostly theology and history), watching sport (especially football). I've been an ardent Real Madrid fan since childhood, (rugby, and tennis), and keeping an eye on current affairs and geopolitics.

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

I preach occasionally to fill in for Luke when needed (and as my work schedule allows), I'm on the roster for setup on Sundays, and currently attend the Thursday community group hosted by Andy and Sarah Dunn and led by Roald Besselaar.

TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

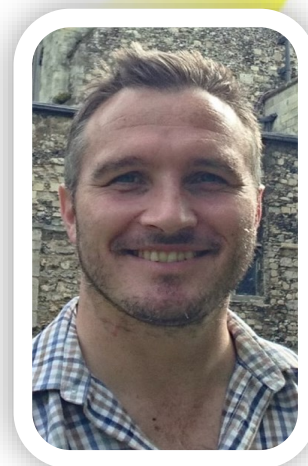
I grew up in a Christian home and had been exposed to the Gospel from childhood, but became rebellious and hardened against the faith in my teenage years. The Lord used a potentially fatal car accident in my first year at university (2008) to, as it were, slap me awake to the reality of my mortality and my desperate need of Christ, and for the first time in my life I believed not merely that Christ died and rose again in the abstract, but that he did so for me. The rubber hit the road in more than one sense: through that accident the Gospel seeds that had been sown into my life from early childhood germinated and permanently changed the trajectory of my life and my eternal estate.

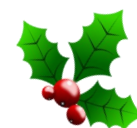
CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK AND MOVIE?

There are loads of great books I could recommend, but to recommend something edifying and easily accessible, I would recommend two classics: the Heidelberg Catechism and Augustine's Confessions, both of which are freely available online. For a much more weighty read, John Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion (also freely available online) has been one of the most influential books in my personal theological development.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE DISH?

I am favourably disposed to anyone who offers me rich beef lasagna, wood-fired pizza, or spare ribs, and doubly so if this is followed with crème brûlée for dessert.





ANY PET HATES?

I have a high appreciation for that precious but all-too-rare virtue of punctuality, the lack of which often requires me to exhibit that noble fruit of the Spirit known as patience (Gal. 5:22-23), which of course is conducive to my sanctification. My generally calm and temperate disposition is also put to the test when someone drives on the road in an unaccountable manner, which requires me to exhibit a related fruit of the Spirit, namely self-control.

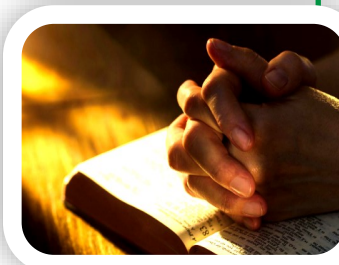
WHAT IS YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

The Mediterranean, especially the Greek islands. I've been very privileged to go before, and if I had the means or opportunity to do so again, I would have no objections.

"The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary". God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus" Luke 1:30 - 31

MATTERS for Prayer

- Please pray for our preparation for the upcoming Christmas season as we plan various events to grow our church but also to reach the lost in our wider community ... Kids Club Party (08/12) and Carols (10/12).
- 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.



"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests." Luke 2:14

CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
2023 January to September	1,099,045	(1,012,662)	86,383
2023 October	115,586	(133,482)	(17,896)
2023 Year to date	1,214,631	(1,146,144)	68,487

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