

THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family

Welcome back to another year at SCC. I trust you had a good break and are refreshed and ready for the year ahead. Our theme for 2024 continues to develop our church's core focus areas of loving God, loving people and loving the bible. This year, we're focussing on what it means to **love people, within our church and within our community**. We want to love each other with a love rooted in the Father's love shown in Jesus (John 3:16) and that follows Jesus' example of selfless, sacrificial service towards His disciples, ultimately demonstrated at the cross (John 13).

Our theme verse is John 13v35: **'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'** A verse *"simple enough for a toddler to memorise and appreciate, yet profound enough that the most mature believers are repeatedly embarrassed at how poorly they comprehend it and put it into practice"* (Don Carson). Our challenge is to appreciate & memorise it, and to comprehend & practice it as we love one another.

Over and above our regular activities, we have committed to several goals for 2024:

- to grow the ministry team: we've appointed Hannah Wyatt as Church Intern (part time) to work in Kids Ministry and have accepted Petrus Coetzee as a GWC Student to work among our teens. Others have agreed to take on more responsibility: William Rea will help with pastoral care when staff are away; Alison Simpson will join the team as an Apprentice (part-time) to help with visitation & special events; and Ross Pickford has agreed to serve as Music Director, overseeing our music ministry and loving our musicians, existing & new!
- to start a new fellowship group (TWELVE23) for our matrics and students so they have somewhere to gather but also to provide them with people from SCC who will love them and walk with them through this stage of life ... contact Luke for more details!
- to host a marriage enrichment course later in the year to help husbands & wives love each other with a Christ honouring love.
- to finalise the calendar for the whole of 2024 with various events and activities ... and share it with you as soon as it's finalised, so you can plan accordingly.
- to plan special fellowship events around key days in the Church Calendar – Good Friday and Ascension Day in the first semester and the Reformation in the second.
- to run a membership class to help people integrate easier ... as well as outreach events to attract more people to our church.
- to promote two books for us to read as a church to be better equipped to love others in the church and in the world.
- to appoint champions for each of our partners to ensure they are regularly profiled and prayed for at our services.
- to partner with St Luke's Church in Mitchell's Plain, to love them better in Christ and help them to thrive as a beacon of light in their community.
- to partner with social upliftment organisations to use our resources and gifts to love those who have less than us.
- and, to find suitable facilities for future ministry growth going forward.

In all of these, we need your partnership. You can partner us by participating in the life of the church ... by praying for us & for these plans ... and by supporting SCC with your time, talents & treasures ... in other words, *by loving not just with words but with action and in truth*. Please join us as in 2024, we love one another! **Yours in Christ, Luke**

FEBRUARY 2024

Edition: 8

BIRTHDAYS in FEBRUARY

Belated Birthday wishes to Leigh Mulligan for the 15th of January

- 25 January:** Debra Lumby
- 25 January:** Andrew Stewart
- 26 January:** Bradley Nel
- 26 January:** Daniel Grobbelaar
- 30 January:** Antoinette Dennis
- 30 January:** Keith Nicol
- 1 February:** John Cronje
- 1 February:** Sino Mdongana
- 5 February:** Luke Giles
- 8 February:** Jacquie Besselaar
- 9 February:** Tamlyn Cronje
- 9 February:** James Giles
- 10 February:** Dirk Grobbelaar
- 18 February:** Warren Jeppe
- 18 February:** Jannie Rothman
- 28 February:** Lucy Venter

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 29 January**
Neil & Lynn Morton
- 30 January**
Francois & Di De Villiers
- 11 February**
Mike & Melanie Schacht
- 20 February**
Jannie & Jean Rothman

14 FEBRUARY
Happy Valentine's Day



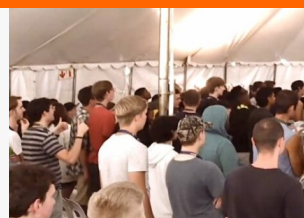
UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 29 January** - Kids and Youth Leaders Meeting
- 3 February** - Men's Breakfast
- 3 February** - TWELVE23 (Young Adults Fellowship)
- 4 February** - Join the SCC Hiking Group (contact Debra Lumby - 072 016 5511)
- 10 February** - Presiding Bishop's Consecration
- 10 February** - Join the SCC Hiking Group - DISA Hike (contact Debra Lumby)
- 12 February** - Magnification Meeting
- 23 February** - Cutting Edge Youth Rally
- 25 February** - Join the SCC Hiking Group (contact Debra Lumby)
- 26 February** - Service Leaders Meeting

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love". 1 John 4: 7 - 8

CROSS WORD YOUTH Camp 2023

This year the Cross Word Youth camps were split into two different camps. The Grade 7 - 9 camp took place at Villiersdorp and the Grade 10 - 12 camp at a new site in Tulbagh. We spent a great time in God's Word getting to grips with what God says to us through it and how we are to respond. We also spent time getting to know one another, eating food, playing soccer and board games and just hanging out by the pool. Cross Word is a life-changing camp and we want YOU to be a part of it! So jump onboard for **December 2024**



NEWS From Our Mission Partner: Michèle Roux

To join a WhatsApp update group where more regular updates and prayer requests are shared, please use this QR Code. This WhatsApp group is an Admin only group. Only Admin can send messages in the group.



Finances:

After an adjusted budget being set by the SIM SA office, and taking current financial support into account, I'm required to raise an additional R9,000/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. Would you please prayerfully consider if you are able to contribute to this shortfall in anyway.

Please Pray:

- Thank God for the opportunity I had to visit C and the help I had in sorting out my stuff.
- Thank God for the work He is doing in OmKoi. Pray for many more people to come to know Jesus in those villages.
- Please pray particularly for these students who came to Table Talk: P, F, M, O and I. Pray that I'd have opportunities to follow up with each of them.
- Please pray for God's continued provision financially.

Dear Friends

In my last newsletter I wrote about two trips that I would be taking during November and December, and that I'd be receiving some visitors before heading off. It's a joy to share with you updates on these happenings and how 2023 ended.

China - I spent two and half weeks in China at the beginning of November. I felt great comfort in returning to what's familiar and seeing places and streets I recognised. Although, as the saying goes it was *same-same, but different!* Many buildings had been remodelled, new ones had popped up, and streets looked greener with trees that had been allowed to grow. I suppose change was to be expected since it had been nearly four years since I'd last been there. The real joy, though, was the people. Being able to meet with old team members, local friends, and some students was such a blessing. I was also able to visit some of the projects people are involved in that I never had the chance to see when I was there because of my work schedule. A highlight was visiting my Chinese teacher's family. The children have grown so much, and it was great fun teaching them new card games. My first visit was for lunch. I arrived at noon and got home at 11pm. We decided that for my next visit I'd just stay the night!



OmKoi - More blessings were enjoyed as I was able to join an outreach to OmKoi, an area about three hours southwest of Chiang Mai for the first week of December. The area belongs to hill-tribe communities, mostly Karen people. We visited two villages and helped run outreach events for children in each area. In the second village, we had the privilege of visiting the home of the first family to trust in Jesus in that village. They invited us to pray for them as they destroyed the amulets attached to their house. Each house in the village attaches these amulets to protect their homes against evil spirits. Their newfound joy and freedom were celebrated, and we prayed that they would be the first fruits of a great harvest in that village. The trip added some interesting food experiences to my list. At 03:00 one morning we were woken by the sounds of a massive pig being slaughtered and chopped up – we had a lekker Christmas feast later that day. I didn't know there were so many different ways to eat pork. I was also able to sample mole and rat meat – neither taste like chicken! The real joy of the trip was the people. The Karen are open, warm-hearted people, and they were so hospitable. It was exciting to see what God is doing in these villages.



December was full of Christmas end-of-year activities.

It's interesting celebrating Christmas in a country that doesn't have the history of traditions we're used to – this is not even taking the Christian meaning into account. The magic of the season is lost, and it takes a lot more effort to celebrate meaningfully. In Thailand, Christmas seems to mean gift exchanges. I can't tell you how many I attended. The rules changed from one party to the next, but generally you would be obliged to buy a gift to the value of about R150. Each person had a chance to choose a gift, and in some cases steal one from someone else if they didn't like what was unwrapped. The Christmas season also felt weird because life carries on as usual for most – it's not a public holiday, and churches don't have a Christmas day service. We were able to use Christmas as an opportunity to host special events at The Centre and explain to students the real meaning behind the celebrations. The biggest highlight was hosting a three-week Table Talk series, which was a discussion group series introducing Jesus. Praise God for the students who came, engaged, and asked questions. Pray for opportunities to follow up with students individually, but also with more Bible study series in the future.

As life continues in mundane routines, it's often difficult for me to see how God is moving. Therefore, I'm always encouraged as I stop and share with you stories of what has been happening, because I'm reminded again of how much there is to rejoice in. Thank you for your partnership that made all these blessings possible during 2023.

With love in Christ, Michèle

GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on **DEBRA LUMBY**, our Church Treasurer

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

We're Team Lumby. Dave and I plus our 3 girls. Anna (matric), Sarah (grade 10) and Olivia (grade 7).



TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER AND WHERE YOU CURRENTLY WORK?

I'm a chartered accountant whose last corporate role was with Credit Suisse in London. I left when Anna was born and we moved back to South Africa. Since then I've been mom, with various different positions on the side. Currently my additional roles are Treasurer for SCC and Sweet Valley Primary School, where I am a member of the Governing Body, and I contract to Oakridge Consulting.



WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME, ANY HOBBIES OR INTERESTS?

I love the sea! I grew up in Natal (where the sea is warm) so I spent many hours on the beach. In introducing my kids to the sea in Cape Town I realised, very quickly, that you need a wetsuit! So as they got wetsuits / boogie boards and now surfboards, so did I. I have recently tried my hand at fishing, but definitely needed help with baiting my hook, so not sure you can call me a fisherman! My other love is the mountain (as Capetonians refer to it)! As a kid I spent many holidays hiking in the Drakensberg and so Cape Town is perfect as we've got both the sea and the mountain on our doorstep. My love for these has translated into weekly trail runs, fairly regular dips in Dalebrook and now SCC's own Sunday hike group!

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

We've been at SCC for over 10 years. When we started we had 3 kids under 6, so I was encouraged to get involved with kids work and then for my own sanity, to join a Bible study. The Bible study has been vital to building relationships and growing as a Christian. Along the way I've helped with kids club, Sunday school and hosting youth. What's been great is to now see Anna, Sarah and Olivia getting involved in SCC with their music! Word also got out that I am an accountant and so am currently Treasurer, and as mentioned, I love the mountain, and so help organise SCC's Sunday hikes.

TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

My parents and grandparents were instrumental in my Christian walk as I don't remember a time when Christianity wasn't a part of my life. They always reflected the eternal hope that they have and so in my teens I made that hope my own.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK AND/OR MOVIE?

As much as I enjoy movies I am really a reader at heart. Unfortunately though, I can't recommend a specific book as I tend not to remember titles, and have been known to re-read a book and wonder why it all seems so familiar. It's the same with music. You do not want me on either your "Noot vir Noot" or Karaoke team! But I love music, provided it has a good beat (proof that I grew up in the 80's)



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

Thai noodles and the Tempo chocolate bar, (which has been discontinued). I keep trying to find a Tempo in some small cafe in some village off the beaten track, but as my family now warn me, it will be well past its sell by date if ever I do discover one.

ANY PET HATES?

Spiders and sour sweets

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

Anywhere where the sea is warm and the sun is shining.



MATTERS for Prayer

- Give thanks for the rest enjoyed over the holiday period and for keeping us all safe on our travels.
- Please 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 especially for the Dutch Reformed Church as they meet to decide on our future partnership.
- Pray for all our ministry departments and Community Groups as they recommence at the start of the year, especially for the new matrices and Student fellowship, TWELVE 23.



"Above all, love one another deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins".

1 Peter 4:8

CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
2023 January to November	1,344,626	(1,293,576)	51,050
2023 December	143,206	(142,861)	345
2023 Year to date	- 1,487,832	(1,436,437)	51,395

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