

THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

Can you believe that we're about to start March ... seems this year is certainly moving at an alarming pace. As we get into the busyness of it, we need to ensure that we're making time to love God and love people well. Of course, this will take many forms and find different expressions at different times. One way, however, to keep both on track, is to spend time with God in prayer and to use that time to pray for one another and for our church. We can't grow in our love for God or each other, without God's grace and help. I was recently reminded of an old article in Christian Living by Jonathan Leeman (Director of Nine Marks) where he encourages us to *"pray more fervently and consistently for our local churches."* This will certainly be one way that we can express our goal to **love people, within our church**. Here is a selection of the things he suggests you can pray for our church, SCC:

- that we would have unity amid diversity — loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel.
- that a culture of discipling will form in which making disciples is viewed as an ordinary part of our Christian life.
- that the preaching of God's Word will be biblically careful and Holy Spirit imbued.
- that a hunger for studying the Bible will form among members so they can guide and guard one another in it; and that our teachers will use the Bible to train us to do the work of ministry.
- that meaningful relationships will become normal and remaining anonymous strange.
- that our leaders will remain above reproach, kept from temptation, complacency, idols, and worldliness.
- that our songs will teach members to biblically confess, lament, and praise.
- that our prayers will be infused with biblical ambitions, honesty, and humility.
- that adult members would work to disciple teenagers and not just leave it to programming.
- that our church will grow in being distinct from the world in love and holiness, even as it engages outsiders.
- that members will share the gospel this week - and see more conversions!
- that we will be prepared for persecution, remembering to love, not curse, our persecutors.
- that hopes for political change will be outstretched by the hope of heaven.
- that giving will be faithful, as well as joyful, consistent, and sacrificial.
- that members will use their careers to take the gospel to places it's never been.
- that our members will be good and do good in their workplaces this week."

You may even think of other things to pray for ... the point is for all of us to love each other by praying more intentionally for our church, and to encourage others to do the same. Let's pause amidst the busyness of life to love and to pray.

Yours in Christ

Luke

BIRTHDAYS in MARCH Edition 9

02 March: Aimee Peters
04 March: Mitchel Venter
04 March: Brad Flynn
05 March: Ellie Peters
08 March: Alaina Besselaar
11 March: Luke Pickford
12 March: Lisa van Rooyen
13 March: Luisa Malan
14 March: Desiree Joubert
15 March: Sarah Dunn
16 March: Bex Pooler
18 March: Jake Griesel
20 March: Joel Radue
22 March: Ingrid Heyns
25 March: Jo-Ann Flynn
28 March: Lynn Morton
28 March: Kallen Flynn
31 March: Tristan van Rooyen

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3 March
 Warren & Nerissa Jeppe
11 March
 Emil & Nadia Langenegger
27 March
 Patrick & Kerryn Rehse



He
has
Risen



UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 02 March** - TWELVE23 (Young Adults Fellowship)
- 03 March** - Kids Leaders Meeting (Grade R - 6)
- 04 March** - Council Meeting
- 09 March** - Ladies Breakfast
- 09 March** - Kids Ministry Toolbox
- 16 March** - Men's Fellowship (time tba)
- 17 March** - Teen Leaders Meeting (Grade 7 - 12)
- 17 March** - Join the SCC Hiking Group (Contact Debra Lumby - 072 016 5511)
- 18 March** - Community Group Leaders Meeting
- 28 March - 1 April** - Equip (Young Adults Easter Convention)
- 29 March** - Good Friday Service & Brunch
- 31 March** - Resurrection Sunday Service

"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law". Romans 13:8

LADIES MINISTRY Events for 2024

THEME FOR YEAR:
'Choosing to Love'



Date	Event	Speaker	Theme
9 March	Breakfast	Dagi Smuts	Loving Friends
20 April	Games afternoon		Loving One Another
1 June	Afternoon Tea	Sophie De Witt	Loving Oneself
14 July	Ladies Worship Evening		Loving One Another
31 August	Afternoon Tea	Speaker tbc	Loving Family
4 December	Annual Christmas Dinner	Speaker tbc	Loving the World: Outreach



NEWS From Our Mission Partner: Grace Academy

Our first few weeks at Grace has been quite difficult. We have had to attend to many challenging circumstances directly related to the ongoing socioeconomic hardships our students, their families and the communities on the Cape Flats face daily. The harsh reality of the type of struggles our students experience can be overwhelming. We are so thankful to know that Jesus understands this sorrow as Hebrews 4: 15 - 16 reminds us, for we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathise and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted, knowing exactly how it feels to be human in every respect as we are, yet without committing any sin.

We are thankful for the many prayers and support. These prayers have made us and the students so much more aware and sensitive to how God has brought the right person to help at the right time. These last few



**Gabby & Kaycee,
2023 Graduates**

months have seen us needing the services of public servants in the community more than we would like to. That being said it has been a season of confirmation about who God is and how he is constantly with us in the mess. He has provided the right police officer, judge, social worker or counsellor at the right time when we needed them.

Our students remain steadfast and diligent with regards to their learning journeys. Dylan & I are so encouraged and humbled to do life with them as their desire and drive to keep on keeping on motivates us to persevere.

We are approaching the final leg of this first term. We've been working through the story of Joseph in our Bible study and we've landed once again on the comforting thought that despite it all God never leaves us or forsakes us. In the midst of the ongoing suffering he is still the Lord our God living among us. He is a mighty Saviour. He will take delight in us with gladness. With

His love, He will rejoice over us with joyful songs (Zeph: 3:17).



Thank you Southern Cross church for your partnership in the gospel work at Grace Learning Space. We ask for your continued prayer for this ministry especially for wisdom, strength, perseverance, deepening faith and love for God and people.

Yours in his service

Students and Board of Grace Learning Space



**Grateful students with their
stationery packs from the
men's group at SC**



Graduation 2023



GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on DALE SMITH



TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

Born and bred in Cape Town: The Smiths - I have been married to Ilhaam since 2016 and we have one son, Hudson (2 going on 4), and a dog named Joey. I have two sisters with extended families who live in Adelaide, Australia and my Father Noel, who lives nearby.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER AND WHERE YOU CURRENTLY WORK?

I am an Operations and Project Manager for a company called NB Projects. We specialize in residential and commercial renovations, new builds and offer a turnkey solution for clients.

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

Spare time seems to be fairly limited however love spending time with family and friends over a good meal. I love being outdoors and enjoy most sports whether actively taking part or spectating. I started cycling and triathlons in 2004 and this soon transitioned into long-distance road and trail running. I have been running for the last 16 years, having ticked off some of South Africa's prestigious races, although the distances seem to be getting shorter as the years pass!

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

We've been at SCC for the last 9 years and I assist with the setup on Sundays. Since the birth of Hudson I now also assist with the Bible tots. I partake in Andrew Stewart's community group on a Thursday evening.

TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

My parents were members of Bergvliet Methodist Church and I recall many Sundays spent in Sunday school listening to God's word. When I left school I found myself lured to what the wide world had to offer and disengaged from my faith. Jason Palacio and I knew each other through common friends, which was always a constant reminder for me. In 2016 Ilhaam and I decided to visit SCC and immediately felt the warmth, thus reuniting me with my faith.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK AND/OR MOVIE?

I have been slacking in the reading department for a while now but when I do, I enjoy an autobiography. Movies - I enjoy Action / War related movies - The Manchurian Candidate.

WHAT MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO?

To name one would be impossible as I enjoy a few genres of music. I mostly listen to soft alternative rock and enjoy Brandon Flowers (The Killers).

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

I've always had a thought about why I enjoy running so much and it always comes back to me liking food as much! I enjoy a good burger or steak and eating salads in summer. A hot curry in winter hits the spot. My favorite however has to be wood-fired pizza.

ANY PET HATES?

Flies and mosquitos.

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

I really enjoy travelling and on top of my list when choosing a destination is a beach, good food, and sunny weather. Kendwa Beach, north Zanzibar has the most idyllic setting.



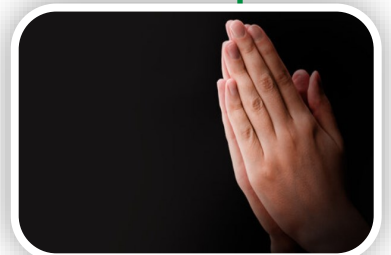
SCC HIKING Group

Come join in the fellowship and enjoy God's creation as we explore various routes around Cape Town. Elephant's Eye, Platteklip Gorge, Skeleton Gorge, Cecilia Waterfall, Newlands forest, Sea Point promenade, Boomslang cave are just some of the hikes we've enjoyed as a group. To join contact: Debra Lumby on: 072 016 5511



MATTERS for Prayer

- Give thanks for a good start to the term across our ministries, with many visitors joining us for Sunday services...pray that many of the visitors will make SCC their home church.
- Pray for the 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 wisdom for our leaders as they approve our financial budget for 2024 and for the generosity of our people to ensure ongoing support for our ministries and missions partnerships.
- Pray for the Easter events at the end of March...that the gospel will be clearly explained and people will be overwhelmed with thankfulness for the salvation God provides through Jesus.



"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends".

John 15:13

CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
January 2024	128,599	(132,515)	(3,916)

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