



## THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

Last week, the ministry team attended a conference on Church Growth. It was good to be reminded of our mandate to *make mature disciples in ever increasing number*. This is and should be our focus. As Jesus issues this mandate (Matthew 28:18-20), 'all' is a recurring phrase: *all* authority, *all* nations, *all* things (NIV = everything) & *all* the days (NIV = always).

ALL AUTHORITY belongs to Jesus. His resurrection identifies Him as the One through whom God's authority is mediated (Acts 17). Jesus humbled Himself, coming in flesh and in dying on a cross ... but God exalted Him, raising Him from the dead and placing Him at His right hand. In doing so, God declares Jesus is the One before whom every knee shall bow – *He is Lord*. This is not dependent on you recognising it or not; nor on your perception or preference ... He died, rose, and is exalted – all authority is His! You will experience His authority, one way or another – either by submitting to His lordship willingly now or incurring His judgement later.

His central instruction in the great commission is to make disciples – going, baptising and teaching are secondary to making disciples. That's what we must do ... but we must do it everywhere: ALL NATIONS! Wherever we go, wherever we are; we are to be intentional and passionate about making disciples. Not only far away, but right here at home too – with our family, our neighbours, and our colleagues; always working towards their salvation. Some will go further because we're concerned for all nations without distinction or favouritism; but this is never to the exclusion of the lost on our doorstep. *"When the preferences of the church members are greater than their passion for [making disciples], the church is dying"* (Tom Rainer).

Part of making disciples is to teach them to obey EVERYTHING (ALL THINGS) Jesus commanded. As we've seen in our recent sermon series, this is about more than laws being blindly obeyed; it's about kingdom ethics shaping our character and conduct ... with teachings that are never outdated, outmoded or superseded. We can't be selective about His teaching ... ALL means everything! This is why some don't want to be disciples – not because they don't want salvation but because they don't want to obey everything! True discipleship is always about life-transforming obedience to Jesus. But we cannot obey if we don't know. Hence, discipleship is also marked by a hunger and a thirst for the Word of God. The more we know, the more we will obey ... and want to obey!

All of which, we are mindful that Jesus is with us ALWAYS (ALL THE DAYS). We don't grow in obedience or make disciples in our own strength! The One who holds all authority will be with us ... the whole of every day until the last day. From the beginning to the end, there is never a time when Jesus isn't with His people. Matthew's gospel starts with the arrival of Jesus – *God with us*. And ends with the wonderful assurance – *God still with us!* This is our great assurance, even on those days we don't feel it, and a truth we must cling to – God's presence with us always!

It's when we remember these ALL's of the great commission that we will strive to make mature disciples in ever increasing number by daily loving God, loving people and loving the Bible. I hope and pray that you will continue to walk this journey with us.

**Yours in Christ, Luke**

### BIRTHDAYS in MAY Edition 11

- 04 May:** Ashleigh Allan
- 05 May:** Anne Potter
- 08 May:** Angela Rea
- 08 May:** Brayden van Rooyen
- 13 May:** Gabi Laporta
- 16 May:** Andrew Dunn
- 16 May:** Chip Malan
- 18 May:** Kerryn Rehse
- 19 May:** Angelique Lubbe
- 19 May:** Stephen Williamson
- 21 May:** Hannah Wyatt
- 23 May:** Caren Radue
- 24 May:** Olivia Lumby
- 26 May:** William Radue
- 27 May:** Lindsay Clift
- 28 May:** Joshua Piper
- 29 May:** Tiffany Venter
- 30 May:** Nanika Langenegger

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 May**  
Sheldon & Mandy Cairns



## UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 04 May** - TWELVE23 (Young Adults Fellowship) - speak to Hannah
- 05 May** - Kids Leaders (Grade 4 - 6) Meeting
- 06 May** - Community Group Leaders
- 09 May** - Ascension Day
- 12 May** - Mother's Day
- 19 May** - Annual Vestry meeting @ 10:45
- 25 May** - Kids Ministry Toolbox
- 31 May** - Cutting Edge Youth Rally
- 01 June** - Ladies Tea with guest speaker, Sophie De Witt

*"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them for your Father knows what you need before you ask him". **Matthew 6: 7 - 8***

*"A Godly mother loves the Lord with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Mark 12:30**). She depends on God's love and power (**Psalms 121:1-3, 27:11**), rather than her own. She prioritizes time in God's Word and in prayer, allowing the Bible to inform her words and actions throughout the day".*

*"(**Proverbs 31:26**) "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." (**Proverbs 31:31**) "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." (**Isaiah 66:13**) "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you."*

## Wishing All our Special Mother's A Happy Mother's Day

SUNDAY, 12 MAY



## NEWS From Our Mission Partner: Michele Roux



Enjoying time with my mom & sister

### Home

#### Assignment Dates

##### 28 July - 28 October 2024

I will send more details about my time back home in my next newsletter, as I'll be doing a fair bit of travelling, and it would be lovely to be able to meet while I'm in your neck of the woods.

### Please Pray

- Pray for a new series of Table Talk happening in May at The Centre. We'll be starting a Bible overview for students.
- A short-term team is coming from South Africa in July to serve at SLC and at The Centre. Please pray for them as they prepare to come.
- Please pray for financial provision for my upcoming language studies.
- Please pray for wisdom as I make plans for changes here and my time back in South Africa.
- Praise God for those He provides to journey with me through the changing seasons. What an encouragement to know His provision and grace through His people.

### Dear Friends,

There are so many kinds of seasons that we encounter: changing weather, different times that mark the year like school calendars, kaleidoscopic feelings, seasons for ministry and many more. There have been many seasons for me to reflect on over the past few months.

### Unfamiliar Seasons

Even after having been in Thailand for a year, I still haven't been able to get used to the normal rhythms of life here. It still feels out of sync with what's 'my normal'. I miss the routine of an academic year starting and ending with a calendar year, with a distinct winter and summer in June and December respectively. As I live in different seasons, there's a feeling of being unsettled and longing for what I'm used to. As I write, we are well into the smoky season, waiting for the rainy season to start and clear the pollution that's been accumulating. We still have a few months to wait though. Smokey season is gloomy and doing things outdoors becomes less and less pleasant. Even after a short ride on my scooter my throat burns, and my chest is tight. Besides being smoky season, it is also the Thai New Year this weekend, known as Songkran. Songkran is a three-day festival that marks the start of the traditional Thai New Year and is celebrated with water fights in the streets. The water fights are an escalation of a traditional water pouring ceremony where scented water is poured onto Buddha statues at temples, which symbolically represents purification or the washing away of the previous year to welcome in the New Year. The university academic year ended in March, so many students have already travelled home to visit their families for the long break before the new academic year in June. Although, some try to squash in a quick visit home and then return to Chiang Mai so they can be part of the water fights in the bigger city. It's weird celebrating the end of an academic year and a new year at this time of year. Even as strange as the timing of these seasons are, I've come to enjoy the changing of seasons, no matter what form they take because seasons have come to remind me of God's continued faithfulness. Seasons remind me of growth, and the new opportunities that God brings. So, I'm learning to embrace these new seasons, to appreciate their uniqueness and not grumble for what they're not. But even more so, to love the people for whom the seasons I'm living in are not strange.

### Joyful Seasons

Loneliness has been a season I've struggled with here in a way that I have not experienced in a long time. It was such a joy therefore to receive my mom and Abi for a week's visit at the end of March. I enjoyed sharing my life here with them, and seeing things through the eyes of a child made me appreciate the excitement and wonder of a new city again. It was a whirlwind visit, but it was lovely to chat, drink tea, tell jokes, and enjoy the tradition of a "Friday movie cinema" (even if it wasn't on a Friday, the heart of it was there). Of course, we did the two most touristy things there are to be done in Thailand: we visited elephants and rode in a tuktuk. Abi also loved her introduction to scooter life, and visits to 7-11 of all places. I am so grateful for this season we had together, even if it was very short, because it refreshed my soul and helped me to keep plodding on. As my mom and Abi left, I started planning for the rest of the year, and for other new seasons that are to come.

### Changing Seasons

Knowing now that I'll be staying in Thailand longer-term means that it would be wise to spend some time focusing on Thai language study. I will still be connected to The Centre once I start language study. While I will not teach classes, it will serve as a support network and a place where I can serve by maintaining relationships I have built so far and continuing to help with events and running Bible studies. I do not know what ministry will look like beyond language study, but I'm excited about this next step and being able to focus on language learning. Please pray with me over the next few months as changes are made, especially for the visa changes as these are an increasingly difficult issue to negotiate. With these changes there are extra financial needs and many, many details that are still unknown. I have had to remember that: "waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry within oneself the unanswered question, lifting the heart to God about it whenever it intrudes upon one's thoughts" (Elizabeth Elliot). It is a great comfort to know that God knows how all the details of the next season will unfold, and that I can trust Him with those details. Thank you for your support both through prayer and financially in the journey this far. I count it a privilege to keep you updated as different seasons ebb and flow. **With love in Christ, Michéle**



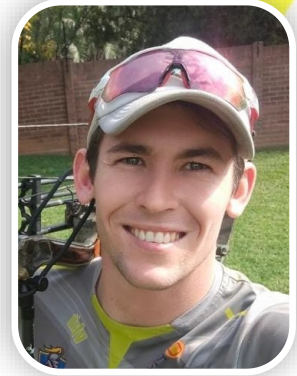
## GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family SPOTLIGHT on PETRUS COETZEE

### TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

We are 6 Coetzee's. My Dad, Johan, Mother, Liz, Younger Brother, Gerald and two pitbulls Rougar and Mila.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR PREVIOUS CAREER AND WHAT YOU ARE NOW STUDYING?

I use to run a Cricket Coaching Academy, but am now a student of Theology at George Whitfield College



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

Spare time is a rare commodity at GWC. I tend to listen to podcasts about History. When I have a couple of days rest, I love going into the mountains or isolated places. I love fishing. I love my bow and I love a lekker vuur with great company.

### WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

I am mostly involved with the Sunday evening youth group, and on occasion I teach in Teen Church. Furthermore, I also help with the Young Adults.

### TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

On the 6th of June 2022, the Lord removed my heart of stone and gave me a heart of flesh. I grew up in a cultural Christian home and fashioned a Christ of my own design. To make a long story short, my brother challenged me on my views and yet I didn't change. It was only when the Spirit of God opened my eyes, that I yielded and submitted to Christ. All glory to God for his grace!

### CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK AND/OR MOVIE?

Good books would include: Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan; The Old Man and the Sea by Ernst Hemingway; Kringe in die Bos deur Daleen Mathee; Man van Cirene deur F.A Venter. Movies: Second hand lions with Robert Duvall and Michael Cain.

### WHAT MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO?

I have a wide variety of taste, but the single greatest album ever made, is Shine On you Crazy Diamond by Pink Floyd

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FUNNIEST MOMENT?

I have had many great laughs in my short lifespan, but the first time I heard Nico Nel's joke (On a Spies and Plessis DVD) about a merchant and a camel. I think my stomach hurt for about two days.

### TELL US ABOUT AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT

I have had plenty of them unfortunately. One that always comes to mind is looking for the pen that was in my hand, whilst going on about how everyone never returns my goods.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

That's a very difficult question. If I were to be on death row. Krummelpap or Skilpaadjies (lewer en netvet- I have no idea what that is in english) would be my requests.

### ANY PET HATES?

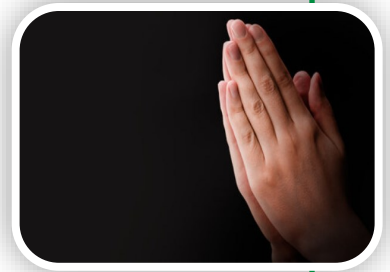
Ask the Youth of SCC... Crocs and socks should be made illegal and worthy of a steep fine.

### WHAT'S YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

I am not sure. God created too many beautiful places in South Africa, I would love to fish for Clanwilliam Yellow Fish in the Cederberg Mountains. Any place with mountains, rivers, valleys and forests. Any place wild would do!

## MATTERS for Prayer

- Pray for the upcoming Annual Vestry Meeting on 19 May...and for the election of new church wardens and council members...pray that God would raise up the right people to lead SCC going forward into the next season. Pray too for our discussions around the constitution that we can find agreement over a document that shapes how we function and operate going forward.
- Pray for the upcoming Annual Vestry meeting later this term....and for the election of new wardens and council members. Pray that God will raise up the right people to lead SCC going forward into the next season.
- Pray for our church finances and the generosity of our people to ensure ongoing support for our mission partnerships and operating expenses.
- Pray for some new opportunities that have arisen for us to grow our support for gospel work through some existing partnerships (we'll share more on Sunday, 5 May).



*“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money”. Matthew 6: vs 24*

## CHURCH Finances

We are so grateful to God for your ongoing partnership as you give regularly towards our operating expenses, mission partnerships and special projects (both at SCC & further afield). Here’s an update of our current financial situation:

|                     | Income         | Expenditure *    | Surplus / (Deficit) |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Jan to Feb 2024     | 227,715        | (270,298)        | (42,583)            |
| March 2024          | 234,576        | (158,411)        | 76,165              |
| <b>Year to date</b> | <b>462,291</b> | <b>(428,709)</b> | <b>33,582</b>       |

\* our monthly anticipated expenditure is R157,500.00

Please use the following ways to continue supporting gospel work in partnership with us.

### TWO WAYS TO GIVE:

#### Via EFT



Southern Cross Church  
072104791  
Standard Bank (025609)  
Please reference deposits  
(e.g.: offerings, buildings, missions, etc.)

#### Via SNAPSCAN



Snap here to pay