



THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

I am writing this month's letter from Gauteng while attending our denomination's annual Synod.

To be part of REACH-SA is to be part of a fellowship of like-minded churches who have committed to work together in gospel partnership. While SCC is an autonomous (self-governing) church with our own constitution and leadership structures; as part of REACH-SA, we share a common Constitution (with Articles & Canons governing our association & practices) and a commitment to denominational leadership (those consecrated as Bishops and other elected members of the National Executive). As part of that constitution, clergy and representatives of each local church gather annually for Synod.

We gather to transact the business of the denomination at a national level, to strategize for gospel growth together, and to provide opportunity for prayer and fellowship amongst our clergy and local church representatives.

Synod opens with a communion service for guests, delegates and clergy. At that service, we were called to remember what is of first importance (1 Corinthians 15:3). That is, that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised to life on the third day. These two truths, verified both by biblical testimony and apostolic witness, are the very foundation of all we have heard and believed as Christians. Without these, everything we have and do is in vain. But because we have these unchangeable foundations, we are able to and we must *be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)*. The cross shapes our commitment to Jesus, our conduct in life and our service to and for Jesus. While especially applicable to gospel workers, it is no less true or applicable for every believer as they labour for the Lord in their respective sections of His vineyard and in their spheres of influence.

Maybe you need to hear these truths for the first time ... coming to understand the good news of what Jesus did for you at the cross to bring you forgiveness and salvation (and I'm very happy to chat further with you if you'd like to know more). But, probably, you just need to be reminded of them afresh ... ensuring we don't take Jesus or the cross for granted but live every day in its shadow. Whichever one is applicable, my prayer is that *you* will be grounded in these truths and so remain steadfast in Christ and continue labouring for Him wherever opportunity for service to Him presents itself – *your home, your work place or our local community*.

Please also keep the Bishops, our denomination and SCC in your prayers as together we all strive to reach South Africa with the gospel of Jesus - *who died for our sins and was raised to life on the third day* - as of first importance. And may God help us to that end.

**Yours in Him,
Luke**

BIRTHDAYS in SEPTEMBER Edition 13

- 1 September:** Gavin Blyth
- 1 September:** Matty Pooler
- 5 September:** James Pickford
- 6 September:** Kath Malan
- 10 September:** Bianca Barnes
- 12 September:** Scott Gill
- 14 September:** Anna Pooler
- 15 September:** Mike Schacht
- 16 September:** Melanie Schacht
- 17 September:** Leila Cronje
- 26 September:** Elijah Rea
- 27 September:** Sean Pickford
- 27 September:** Petrus Coetzee
- 28 September:** Emilie Langenegger

WEDDING Anniversaries

- 10 September**
Jake & Daleen Griesel





UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 02 September** - Council Meeting
- 07 September** - Cutting Edge Youth Rally
- 09 September** - Magnification Meeting
- 14 September** - Ladies Afternoon Tea with St Lukes' ladies
- 28 September** - Men's Fellowship (tbc)
- 28 September** - TWELVE23 (Young Adult's Fellowship)
- 30 September** - Community Group Leaders
- 02 September** - Council Meeting

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3 vs 23



2024 REACH Women's Conference

"A great reminder that Jesus will return, as much as He has already done for us, He is coming back for us and we can live in certain HOPE for that coming day. A great encouragement to live for Christ and being with so many Christ-loving women, encouraging one another by showing up, worshipping and serving together and continuously praying for each other. Is your first thought in the morning "Jesus might come back today?"

Kyla-Rei Mulligan

"What a privilege it was to sit in a room filled with fellow sisters in Christ from all different backgrounds and walks of life praising our Lord Jesus Christ. Goosebump stuff! Alison Eloff worked through two passages with us from Thessalonians—The return of our Lord Jesus and its significance. That understanding and having Gods perspective reminds us that the best is yet to come"

Ilhaam Smith

SCC Hiking Group

"Several of the regular SCC Hiking Group members were able to participate in a recent hike through the fields of Postberg in the West Coast National Park", near Langebaan ". The flowers were in full bloom and the group got to enjoy God's creation. If you would like to know more about the hiking group or be added to their WhatsApp group, please contact **Debra Lumby - 072 016 5511**



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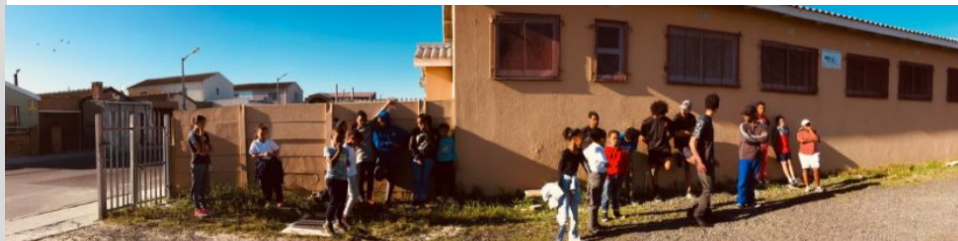
NEWS From Our Mission Partner: Grace Academy

"Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?"

James 2:14-17 (The Message)

It's more nuanced than we think

"They're lazy". "Why are they so short-sighted?" "They just want SASA". These are some of the phrases you may have heard or read about the multitude of youths who drop out of high school before finishing Grade 12. Research emerging from Stellenbosch University, Stats SA and Deutsche Welle, among others, suggests that the issues are multi-layered and far more nuanced than we think.



Here are some facts:

In South Africa, more than 50% of students leave school before finishing Grade 12. This means that over half of every 10 students who start school don't make it to the final year. Research demonstrates that youth over 16 and those in Further Education and Training Phases (Gr. 10-12) are most at risk of dropping out. "The completion rates of African and coloured youths were at 51.6 and 52.5%, respectively, whereas for Indian and white youths, the rates were 81.9 and 81.1%, respectively." Something is seriously wrong!

So, what are the reasons for this high dropout rate in South Africa?

The factors include, but are not limited to financial difficulties, family issues, and lack of support. Drug and alcohol abuse as well as teenage pregnancy has also been cited as reasons that teenagers drop out of school

Why should we be concerned?

From a socio-economic perspective, our youth's opportunities for higher education and better jobs are severely limited, often trapping them in a cycle of unemployment and poverty. Sadly, this has become a generational reality for many in South Africa. These teens are also more likely to engage in risky behaviour- such as risky sexual behaviour, using and selling drugs and abusing alcohol. This is according to a survey of teens aged 16 - 18 yrs.

Our Interventions:

Having worked in MP since 2019 we have begun to experience and understand the inner workings and mindsets of the community. What we've learned from our students has been corroborated by research evidence. Our teens want a safe space. They want to feel like they belong and are supported by their peers and teachers. In addition, participating in sports or extracurricular activities reduces the likelihood of them leaving school.

Our intervention is to provide a safe space of belonging. We do this by taking a 3 pronged approach. Education | Soul Care | Life Design

Education:

The target group of youth us aged 15 – 19, who have opted out of school for various reasons. We assist them in completing High School, finishing with an NQF4 qualification; the General Education Diploma. This is an online American qualification that encourages students to work independently and engage critically with the content.

Soul Care:

We strive to provide spiritual support, basic coping skills, trauma care and access to social worker services.

Life Design:

We help our students discover their strengths and productively apply them so that they design futures that they are genuinely excited about.



Change is slow because the challenges are enormous. We're so thankful for the financial, material and prayer support. Please continue to hold our students in your heart, minds and prayers.

GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family SPOTLIGHT on JACQUIE BESSELAAR

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I am originally from Zimbabwe and have been married to a Durbanite, Roald, for 30 years now. We have two daughters, Carmen and Alaina who are working and in their 20s.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER ?

I qualified as a teacher of French and Maths at UCT and taught in Zim for a while but moved out of that when I moved back to South Africa due to no Afrikaans! I went into Admin and Bookkeeping initially but for the past 11 years, I have had the privilege of working at U-turn as Office Manager at our HQ and Exec Support to the CEO. It has been an amazing time and I love all that I get to do and see and the people I meet in our mission to give the homeless a pathway out of homelessness



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

I love baking, walking/pilates, visiting friends and family and traveling when we are able.

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

I help with tea and communion service.

TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

As a teenager of 15 at a church in Harare where I had been going as a child and young adult. We had a youth rally where I committed my life to the Lord which came after a number of years of being dropped at Sunday School by my folks! I give thanks to this day to the school friend who persisted in inviting me to youth each week and often organising a lift for me to make sure I came.

WHAT MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO?

I love soft Pop music generally and love voices like Lauren Daigle.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD MOVIE?

I love rewatching good old classic movie adaptations (such as the Jane Austen "Pride and Prejudice" and I love a romcom movie called "Music and Lyrics" (Hugh Grant of course!)

WHAT IS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT?

I'm not sure!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

Fresh caught fish or a good steak are the best.

ANY PET HATES?

Dirty dishes left in the sink!

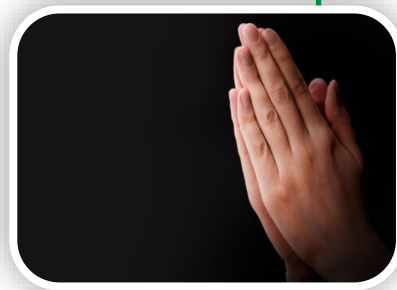
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

I would love to go back to France on holiday and to visit other countries such as Greece and Italy for the first time.



MATTERS for Prayer

- Give thanks for the recent REACH-SA Synod....continue to pray for our denomination and especially, our Presiding Bishop Siegfried Ngubane.
- Pray that SCC will be committed to making mature disciples of Jesus in ever increasing number who love God, who love people and who love the Bible...and that our adult members will work to discipline teenagers and children, and not just leave their discipleship to programming...pray especially for those teens finishing up Confirmation classes as they embark on the next stage of their faith journey.
- Continue to pray for Michelle Roux while on Home Assignment to rest, to reconnect with family, friends and partner churches and to raise the necessary financial support to return to Thailand.
- Pray for the resources at SCC to enable ongoing ministries, partnerships and future gospel growth within our community.



“But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgement will be revealed” Romans 2: vs 5

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 June 2024 | 909,822 | (879,470) | 30,352 |
| July 2024 | 196,612 | (156,417) | 40,195 |
| Year to date | 1,106,434 | (1,035,887) | 70,547 |

* our monthly anticipated expenditure is R157,500.00

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

Via EFT



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

Via SNAPSCAN



Snap here to pay