



THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

I love the church ... God's people gathered around His Word in corporate worship. That's something you'd expect me to say – *I'm the pastor!* But, frankly, it's easy for me to say because it's true – I do love the church ... *probably why I am a pastor!* So it saddens me that in our relative, subjective and individualistic world, the church seems to have been side-lined ... no longer the centre of life, of community, or of society ... even though God says it's at the centre of the cosmos. In Ephesians 3v10-11, we read: His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Through the church, God reveals His wisdom. That is, the multi-faceted splendour of His wisdom (*manifold* = word used of Joseph's amazing multi-coloured coat). God's intent is that the wonder of His wisdom will be made known through the church! We assume that he should have said 'through the cross' ... but that's not what it says! It's through the **church** that God's wisdom is made known. *And made known to the heavenly realms.* God is using the church on earth to reveal His wisdom in the heavens ... *the stage is on earth; the audience is in the heavens.* Something is unfolding in the church that heavenly beings are watching to understand God's wisdom.

Because, **through the church, God reveals His gospel.** Through us, the heavens see what God achieved in Jesus ... *which, of course, puts Jesus and the cross at the centre of the church.* Jesus takes broken, fallen sinners, separated from God and makes them whole, forgiven and reconciled ... He takes people who were once excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world (Eph 2v12) and makes them heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus (Eph 3v6) ... He takes people who are diverse and different but unites them into the one, beautiful people of God! *And we see all this through the church – WOW!*

If the church is the focal point of the heavenly realm – revealing God's manifold wisdom and magnificent gospel – surely it must take centre stage for us too? Surely, we must be a testimony to God's praise ... ensuring His workmanship is written all over us, revealing that only a good and gracious God could produce this! Surely, we must reflect the unity of God's people ... being a place where everyone is welcome and included regardless of ethnicity, education or economics. And, surely, we must be servants of gospel proclamation ... proclaiming both God's manifold wisdom and the glorious mystery of the gospel to a world in desperate need of both!

I hope you have a big view of God's church, of our church ... *and I hope you love it too.*

Yours in Him, Luke

BIRTHDAYS in OCTOBER # Edition 14

- 1 October:** Anna Lumby
- 1 October:** Lloyd Nel
- 1 October:** Grace Mulligan
- 3 October:** Mandy Cairns
- 5 October:** Paula Snyman
- 12 October:** Dominic Malan
- 13 October:** Phoebe Cairns
- 17 October:** Werner Nel
- 23 October:** Joseph Stewart
- 26 October:** Matt Malan
- 27 October:** Benjamin Stewart
- 28 October:** Ursula Morris
- 29 October:** Mikayla Nel

WEDDING Anniversaries

- 5 October:** Dave & Debbie Lumby
- 9 October:** Dominic & Luisa Malan





UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 05 October - Boys Social (14:00 - 16:00)
- 06 October - Confirmation Service at 09:30
- 09 October - Prayer Meeting at 19:45
- 12 October - Kids Ministry Toolbox
- 12 October - TWELVE23 Picnic
- 13 October - Crossword Youth Camp - Fund Raiser
- 14 October - Leadership Strategy Session
- 14 October - Council Meeting
- 19 October - Men’s Breakfast at 08:00

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”. Ephesians 4 vs 32



2024 REACH Men’s Convention

"As a first time attendee at the Men's Conference, I was amazed at God's prescience in all who attended. It was the first time that I ever heard 600 plus men sing praises straight from the heart. To have the fellowship I had that day, with all God's men of Cape Town, will forever be in my memory. God willing, I will attend the next one that comes around." **Brian Simpson**

“Once again, it was a privilege to attend the Men’s Convention. Jomo Mchunu, the Rector of Christ Church Hillcrest, encouraged us from the book of Hebrews, to pay attention while running the race, so as to not to drift away. We need to persevere! Choosing an elective was challenging, as they were all so relevant to a man’s Christian walk with God . It was a great time to catch up with old friends ”. **Mike Schacht**



SCC Baptism

On **Sunday, 15 September**, Southern Cross Church (SCC) had the great joy of hosting a Baptism Service, where three of our young people publicly confessed their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. This special occasion was witnessed by their church, families and friends who came to support and encourage them.

Photo from left: Rev Luke Giles, James Burger, Sarah Lumby, Kayleigh Cronje





NEWS From Our Mission Partners:

Michael & Renee Watson

“You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.”

Psalm 32:7



PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The successful surgery and good recovery for Renee.
- Our backup solar power system that has been such a blessing to us and others that we could help.
- The Explore Facilitator’s Training that was completed successfully this past month.
- The apprentice training program, that helps us train leaders for Christ Church Lusaka..
- For Paul Ngoma, our apprentice, who has been such a help and is thriving in the program.

PRAY FOR:

- Zambia: for rain and for the people who are suffering right now.
- Caleb to come home soon.
- The apprenticeship program to grow.
- The preaching series on the Penitential Psalms.
- God would raise up partners in the Gospel to provide what is lacking in our support.

They say when it rains it pours and boy have we experienced all of that in the last two months. Just when we thought it couldn’t get worse, it got worse! It has been a true test of faith and endurance.

Surgeries and Emergencies

If ever I need a surgery I am never doing it here in Zambia!” These were my very adamant and somewhat ignorant words to Michael. I had just returned from the hospital while visiting a missionary friend who had just had surgery. I was deeply concerned for her wellbeing – the nursing care was absent and dismissive! Although the hospital was new and clean, it was clinical and cold and didn’t provide food or comfort to the patient. Her cries of pain fell on deaf ears. I mentally compared it to the hospitals in South Africa and determined in my heart that if we ever needed surgery, we were flying to South Africa for it. We certainly would not have surgery in Zambia! I had no idea what was lying in wait for us just hours later.

Excruciating Pain!

That evening while visiting Caleb, I started experiencing cramps and pain in my abdomen. I was laying on the ground with my knees bent trying to find a comfortable position. Everything hurt. While driving home, Michael asked me what’s for dinner. I told him I couldn’t even think about dinner because I was so nauseous. We hardly made it home before I had to be sick. We didn’t sleep much that night. I was in so much pain and kept running to the bathroom to throw up. I thought it could be something I ate, so I took a charcoal tablet, but it didn’t stay down for more than 15 minutes. Every sip of water I took came up a few minutes later. As the morning broke I told Michael that I would need to go to the doctor because I felt dehydrated and in so much pain. At this stage the pain had moved to my lower abdomen and it felt like my intestines had twisted up into a knot.

Never say never...

Michael took me to the Coptic Hospital which came recommended by other missionaries. Once the doctor had examined me he diagnosed me with acute appendicitis and emergency surgery was needed right away. Our first question was if we would be able to fly to South Africa for the surgery? His reply was not what I wanted to hear. My nightmare had become a reality. I was going to have surgery in Zambia!

It’s wasn’t so bad after all

After a quick and successful surgery and a few days stay in hospital I can definitely say that I have changed my mind. My room was beautiful, the doctors were great and the after-surgery care was excellent. I would be happy to have future medical emergencies taken care of by this hospital.

If only it would rain in Zambia!

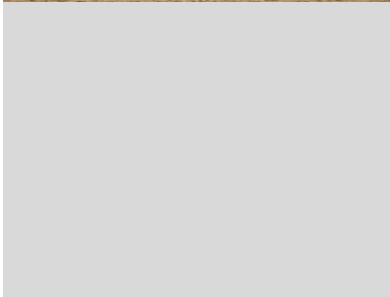
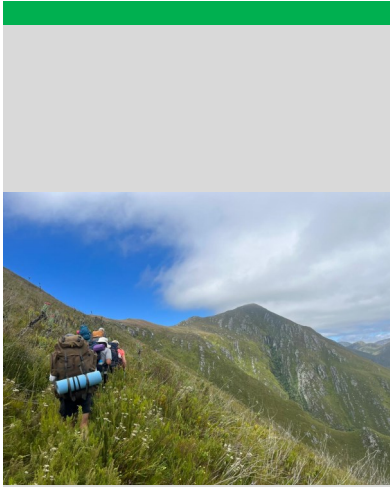
Zambia is facing a severe drought. This has affected the production of maize harshly and made the staple diet of ‘shima’ exorbitantly expensive. People are really struggling to afford to feed their families. Here in Lusaka, we sometimes go days without electricity! Officially, we have been promised by the power company that we will be provided with three hours of electricity per day. However, sometimes we only get electricity for five minutes a day! God has blessed us above and beyond our expectations. Through some of our generous supporters, God has provided a powerful solar system for us! Thank you so much for those who responded to the need we described in our last newsletter. Our expectations were small, but your response was huge! We are so grateful to God for you.

Update on Caleb

Caleb is still not home with us, but we feel like we’ve made a little progress. We discovered that our case worker was on medical leave for a couple of months and the social workers who’ve been communicating with us were in fact, not our case workers. They were just lending a helping hand while our case worker was unavailable. They guided us to get our file and paperwork ready so that when our case worker returns, things could move smoothly in the right direction. In the meantime, we are still visiting him daily and enjoying every minute with him. He is growing fast. Two little teeth have made their appearance with minimal trouble. Caleb is a curious little boy who wants to explore everything. He can crawl like a pro and often pulls himself up to stand against things. The co-ordination is not all there yet, but he is so eager to walk. His vocabulary of sounds is growing and the other day he called me mamma for the first time.

We need more support

We have just met with the SIM-South Africa treasurer to discuss our support levels for this past financial year (October 2023-September 2024). It is with much gratitude to God that we must say thank you to all who are supporting us so faithfully. Thank you for your partnership. The truth is, that we need more support. our current support only covers 67% of our budget needs. Please pray that God will provide our needs.



GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family SPOTLIGHT on ASHLEIGH ALLAN

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I come from a family that values the outdoors and never forgets the egg sandwiches! My parents are from Kwa-Zulu Natal, but they raised us in Johannesburg. I moved to Cape Town in January 2022, and my extended family is spread across the globe.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER ?

I trade in the market for Prescient Investment Management. Basically moving a lot of money in investments that we have models backing the decisions for. I do not give people investment advice though.

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

Definitely prioritise going outdoors and exploring- whether hiking, running, camping, swimming etc. I'm also interested in people's experiences. You are also often likely to find me dabbling with a paintbrush and pens, or other crafty things. So if anyone wants to rope me in - you bet I will say 'yes!'

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

I help out with the Grade R-3s at Kids Church, and I attend a lovely Bible study group on Wednesdays. I really like the community.

TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

I became a born again Christian in 2007. A good friend of mine at the time kept raving about the church she was going to, so naturally I had to investigate. It was pretty much from the first service that my heart was opened to the love, compassion, provision, counsel, and wisdom of our Father. Everything started to make sense - the world just did not make sense without Jesus in it.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK?

'Shantaram' by Gregory David Roberts.

WHAT MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO?

Ed Sheeran always! I also love soundtracks.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

A beautiful blue parrot called "Blueberry".

WHAT IS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT?

Falling after (successfully) pulling off an arabesque position on a bicycle this year.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

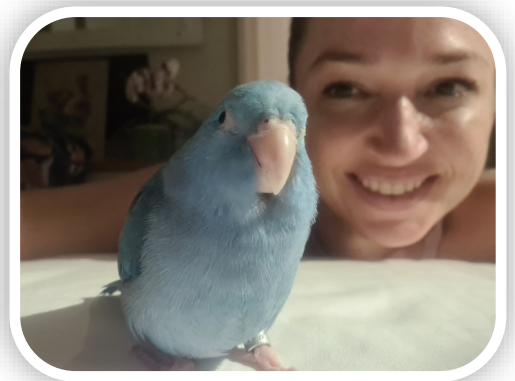
Anything Italian

ANY PET HATES?

It irks me to see people throwing litter out of a car window.

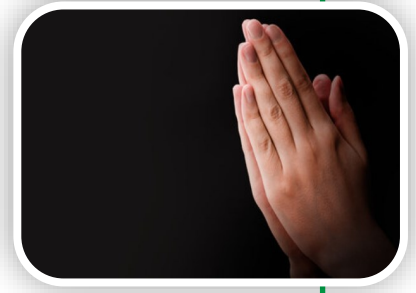
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

Road tripping and hiking around South America, but I would never turn down another opportunity to visit Italy.



MATTERS for Prayer

- 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 church will grow in being distinct from the world in love and holiness, even as it engages outsiders.
- Pray for those teens being confirmed this month (6 October) - that their public profession of faith will be followed by faithfulness and obedience to Jesus as King.
- Pray for our partnership with St Luke’s Church, Mitchell’s Plain and our ongoing financial support for their minister, Emmanuel Mupfure.
- Pray for our church leadership as they gather this month to strategize for both our short term plans and our long term growth and development.....pray also for wisdom for the Church Council as they consider how this will shape both our financial and facility needs going forward.



“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming”

1 Peter: vs 13

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 July 2024	1,106,434	(1,035,887)	70,547
August 2024	146,171	(161,444)	(15,273)
Year to date	1,252,605	(1,197,331)	55,274

* 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