



# THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

Can you believe that Christmas has come and gone; the summer holidays are over (for most of us, anyway) and the new school year is upon us? So, we start another year ... we pray it will be a good one for you and your family.

As we start a new year, Jesus remains the same! Hence, SCC remains committed to *making mature disciples of Jesus, in ever increasing number, who love God, love people and love the Bible* ... this is our heart beat and, I pray, it always will be. Over the last couple of years, we've unpacked what mature disciples look like in terms of loving God (2023) and loving people (2024). This year (2025), we'll unpack what it means to love the Bible. Loving the Bible is more than just knowing what it says ... it's about putting it into practice in our daily lives. It is to be "Hearers and Doers" as James instructs us: ***Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!*** (1:22).

This is our theme for the year as we seek to grow in our knowledge, love and application of biblical truth to all areas of our lives. Our prayer is that as you spend time in God's Word, He will grant you "so to hear, read, mark, learn, and absorb the Scriptures, that, encouraged and supported by His holy Word, you may hold firm and never let go of the joyful hope of everlasting life, given us in our Saviour, Jesus Christ" (from the Prayer Book).

While preparing for this New Year, I came across some questions from [www.crossway.org](http://www.crossway.org) that help push us in the direction of applying God's Word to our daily lives. I have included them below for you to reflect on as you pursue faith and maturity in Jesus, for you and for your family, in the year ahead:

1. *What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?*
2. *What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?*
3. *What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?*
4. *In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?*
5. *What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?*
6. *What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?*
7. *For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?*
8. *What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?*
9. *What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?*
10. *What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?*

Be assured of our prayers and support for you as you grow your love for the Word and, in doing so, grow also your love for God and for His people. Wishing you all the best in Jesus for 2025.

Yours in Him,  
Luke

## BIRTHDAYS in JAN/FEB Edition 15

- 25 January:** Debra Lumby (50)  
**25 January:** Andrew Stewart  
**26 January:** Bradley Nel (18)  
**30 January:** Antoinette Dennis  
**30 January:** Michaela Gorgulho  
**31 January:** Rebecca James  
**30 January:** Keith Nicol  
**01 February:** John Cronje  
**01 February:** Sino Mdoana  
**05 February:** Luke Giles  
**08 February:** Jackie Besselaar  
**09 February:** Tamlyn Cronje  
**09 February:** James Giles (18)  
**10 February:** Dirk Grobelaar (50)  
**18 February:** Warren Jeppe  
**28 February:** Lucy Venter  
**18 February:** Jannie Rothman

## WEDDING Anniversaries

**30 January**  
Francois & Di De Villers

**11 February**  
Mike & Melanie Schacht

**20 February**  
Jannie & Jean Rothman



### UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

- 27 January - Council Meeting
- 28 January - Community Groups start
- 08 February - Men’s Fellowship
- 10 February - Magnification Team Meeting
- 17 February - Serve Leaders Meeting
- 22 February - Kids Ministry Toolbox
- 24 February - Cape Area Council

*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” Isaiah 40: 31*



### Annual Church Breakfast

On **Sunday, 5 January**, SCC gathered at Chardonnay Deli, at Constantia Uitsig, for our annual church breakfast to kick-start the New Year. Instead of our usual church service at Bergvliet High school we enjoyed fellowship over a delicious breakfast ranging from eggs & bacon to pancakes, smothered in cream and fried banana.



### SCC Hiking Group

On **Sunday, 12 January** our SCC hiking group enjoyed their first hike of the year up Lion’s Head to watch the sun set. We had some hikers and families from TCC join us and the mountain was bustling with people enjoying the beautiful evening.



## NEWS From Our Mission Partner: Michéle Roux

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

Ephesians 3:16



### Please Pray

- Praise God for His provision of a new home. Please continue to pray that I can use it to host people and build relationships.
- I am due for a visa renewal on the 8th of February. Please pray that it goes well as I'll be completing the process on my own without the help of a visa agent.



### Being back in Chiang Mai

I have so enjoyed settling into my new house and making it feel like home. I'm really grateful for God's provision in where it's situated and that I'm able to host people more comfortably than in my previous place.

Mr SA Grab is still helping me find my way. I needed to renew the registration sticker on my scooter. Since the flooding which happened in Chiang Mai last October, the system for renewing this sticker has changed because the traffic department was affected by the floods. I did not know this and was prepared to set off on my own to tackle the task. A 'random' message one morning led to him going with me. I'm so glad he was there - because of the new system, we ended up going to three different locations to complete all the steps needed to obtain the sticker. At each new destination there were no clear guidelines of what to do, it was the security guards who told us (well Mr SA Grad) where we could complete the next step. Along the way, he also helped me apply for a special sticker that lets you cut through the military base. I'm so grateful that relationships like this have continued.

### The Centre

Other relationships that continued are ones with students at The Centre. Even though I'm only at The Centre once or twice a week now, it has been good to reconnect with students. The Centre hosted *Journey English Camp* at the end of November followed by several Christmas events in December. Some new students attended these activities, and it has been a joy to see a few of them returning to The Centre this year. Please continue to pray for students who heard the gospel for the first time over Christmas, that they will be curious to learn more and will see it lived out in the lives of the volunteers at The Centre.

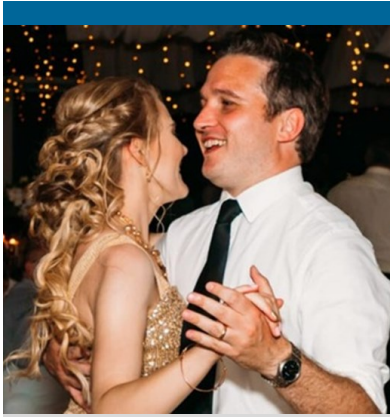
### Language Study

It has taken some time to settle into a routine of language learning and revision. The frustrating thing with language learning is that you are constantly aware of how much progress there is still to make, so you always feel like you're falling short. I constantly need to remind myself that progress will be slow, and that's okay! I have started losing my Chinese again. The other day in class my teacher asked me how we would say what we were talking about in Chinese, and my mind drew a complete blank. It was a really easy phrase; one I would've used every day and yet I could just not recall it. I was happy-sad. Happy that this hopefully means Thai is starting to take up more space in my brain, and sad that Chinese and all it represents is slipping further and further away. But it's also exciting, as that quote about neighbours reminds me. I'm in a new season of ministry, which has brought me back to this city - and language - for specific people and plans that God mapped out in eternity past. And so, I'm motivated to persevere with Thai and getting it to take up more and more space in my brain, because it means being able to engage meaningfully with these new neighbours.

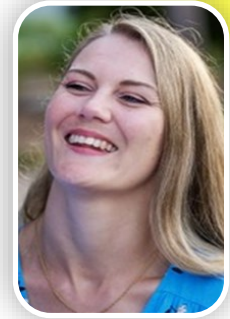
Thank you, as always, for the privilege of sharing this journey with you - no matter how slow or fast it may be. It's a joy to share all the twists and turns with you.



With love in Christ, Michéle



## GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family SPOTLIGHT on DALEEN GRIESEL



### TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I met my charming husband in 2010, while studying Theology together at the University of the Free State. We started dating in 2011 and got married in 2016.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER ?

After graduating, I have been serving in Children and Youth Ministry at various churches in South Africa and the UK.

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

I love taking walks with my husband from our house in Muizenberg to Kalk Bay. We enjoy coffee milkshakes and sitting on Kalk Bay's harbour wall , pondering life. We don't get to do it often anymore, but I also love to "Sokkie" or "Langarm" – a type of social ballroom dance with a partner, popular in Afrikaans culture. I also enjoy watching cute animal movies on YouTube.



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

I'm the Family Ministries Coordinator at SCC, which means I have the great privilege of looking after our parents, their children, and the amazing team of kids and teen ministry leaders who share the Gospel with them. I coordinate the kids' and teens' programs that facilitate this, including Sunday School, Kids Club and Youth activities.

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

God welcomed me into His family when I was a tiny baby. I was baptised just before I turned two months old, and I don't remember a time when I didn't know about God and His great love for me, shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. For some reason, we stopped going to church during the last three or four years of my primary school education. It was when I got to high school that my longing for Christ and His Church deepened. A friend invited me to Youth Group, and since then, I've been enjoying growing in my knowledge and love for Jesus.

### CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD MOVIE?

If there's no kiss in the movie, it won't get a rating higher than 5 from me! I'm a hopeless romantic, especially loving Jane Austen-type movies. Recently, I started watching movies in foreign languages because I think I've gone through all the good and "clean" love stories in English and Afrikaans.

### NAME A BAND OR MUSIC YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO?

I love golden oldies from the '60s, '70s, and '80s! My favourite Christian bands are Casting Crowns, Shane & Shane and Tenth North Avenue.

### TELL US ABOUT A GOOD BOOK YOU'VE RECENTLY READ?

I've read 'Redeeming Love' by Francine Rivers three or four times! I usually fall asleep when attempting to read a book, but this one kept me awake all the way through!

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

Bobotie! I also love pumpkin fritters and... I'm a CEREAL-killer!

### ANY PET HATES?

When people litter, are mean to animals and to other people.

### WHAT'S YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

Greek Islands



## MATTERS for Prayer

- Give thanks for the rest & refreshment enjoyed by so many over this festive season and ask God to strengthen & sustain those yet to have a break...
- Pray for the needs of our people, whether physical, emotional, relational or financial...pray for those starting the new school year and especially for those starting primary or high school this month...pray that God's love & kindness will be evident in very tangible ways, as it is expressed through the love & kindness of His people as we care for one another.
- Pray for the new theme at SCC: Loving the Bible - Being Hearers and Doers of the Word (James 1:22) ...especially that God will grow our desire for His Word and that He will write in our hearts and minds so that we don't just "hear" it but that we put it into practise.
- Pray for the kids and teens ministries as they commence for the year...for the leaders who will lead and teach....pray for fun, fellowship and friendships to be rich and especially that our young people will be taught to know Jesus and equipped to make Him known.
- Give thanks for the resources (both financial & physical) that we receive and pray for the necessary resources for 2025, to enable our ongoing ministries, partnerships and future gospel growth within our community.



*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”. 2 Corinthians 5:17*

## CHURCH Finances

We are so grateful to God for your ongoing partnership as you give regularly towards our operating expenses, Facilities Fund (Dec 2024: R33,000) 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 November 2024	1,671,453	(1,667,792)	3,661
December 2024	159,719	(162,340)	(2,621)
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>1,831,172</b>	<b>(1,830,132)</b>	<b>1,040</b>
* 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**