A person is seen from behind, standing on a beach and looking out at the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow and long shadows. The person is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark pants. The water is calm, reflecting the light from the sun.

THE REFRESHING

ISSUE #15 2021 | FREE MAGAZINE | NOT FOR SALE

"From glory to glory"

WARNING: READ AT OWN RISK

4 WAYS to HELP

REFILWE ORPHAN CARE

Supporting AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Refilwe, Cullinan

GIVE TO:



1
Train

@R20 pm

Train & equip staff to better care, equip and protect the children they work with. In this way they help each child to become a responsible citizen in RSA.

The community veggie garden is a large one; and requires constant maintenance and care in order to meet the nutritional needs of 200+ children every day.



2
Sustain

@R15 pm



3
Build

@R50 pm

An improved multi-purpose centre is being planned. Refilwe Orphan Care hopes to build this centre with better facilities to help feed and house children in a safety program. An afterschool centre and holiday programs will also be hosted.

Feeding, clothing; and equipping a child for school is expensive. Refilwe Orphan Care has to give 1 nutritional meal a day. With sufficient sponsorships they can help improve the welfare of an individual child.



4
Sponsor

@R100 pm

www.refilwekids.za.org



REFILWE ORPHAN CARE (061-038-NPO)
Account number: 110 454 1173
Nedbank Branch Code: 198 765
Reference: Your Cell Phone Number



Welcome to the
Light in the Darkness
ONLINE Africa Conference

with Peter Horrobin

Saturday, 13 March 2021
Time: 10:00 – 16:00 (GMT+2)

Topics:

Knowing The Light who came into the darkness.
Equipped to discern light from darkness.
Freedom from darkness and answering His call.

Ellel Ministries
Africa

ONLINE BOOKING—essential for both events at

Ellel.org/za

***GOD'S WAY
OUT OF
DEPRESSION***

***SATURDAY - 17 APRIL
09:30 – 13:00***

***A HALF DAY
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
WITH
DAVID CROSS***

DISCLAIMER WARNING: The Refreshing Magazine contains strong Christian themes and content portrayed in our pages; as well as the heavy use of citations taken from the HOLY BIBLE. By reading this magazine you do this at your own discretion, indemnifying the authors and publishers of this publication.

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Editorial

Dear Friends,
Challenging times
are exciting times!
They give a platform for
the Lord to work
miraculously in our lives.
There is no better place to
be, than with your back

against the wall, and
nowhere to turn. It is from
places like this that God
reveals His glory. It is in
this season that we need to
stand still and see the
salvation of our God.
In this issue we share
inspiring stories of God's
glory revealed... and
encouraging messages that
call you to experience His
greater glory.

Happy Reading †

Contact EAR2HEAR:
www.ear2hear.co.za (Web)
editor@ear2hear.co.za (Email)

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Letter from the Chairperson



Beloved, it is 2021 and within less than a year our world has changed radically.

Spiritually, many folk, preconditioned to close their eyes to harsh facts, have been shaken. Still, Jesus followers have continued to serve the Lord by His empowering, and this magazine is an ongoing testimony to this fact.

Matthew 24:9-11 tells us that when the persecutors begin to hurt Christians, and believers “are hated by all nations” because of Jesus’ name, that “many will be offended”, fall away and betray fellow-

believers. This will take place because of false promises of prosperity, and because of unscriptural teachings on “that blessed hope” (the Rapture) which the Bible does not promote as an escape from all suffering. Our magazine is intended to inform, encourage and comfort you, even before hardships come. May this year be one where you receive what God considers a blessing for you, embrace it, and allow it to draw you through this life into the endless one to come.

~ *Alan Foxley -
Chairperson, EAR2HEAR* †

There have been some phenomenal people who have stood by us during a challenging year. We appreciate your prayers, sacrificial giving, support, and commitment to the network.

MERCI
BEAUCOUP


Alan & Beverley Foxley
Judith Mahlangu
Nico & Janelle Haefele
Wendy Swarts
Amorie Tredoux
Ignus & Susan Tredoux
Pieter & Marinda De Klerk
Johannah Bopape
Maria Dos Santos

Monica Mojapelo
Ngwezi Family
Annetta Wheeler
Marthie Olivier
Hendrina Lategan
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Bonolo Mokwena
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Nico Klein
Marietjie Yssel
Solomon Family
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Itumleng Mokwena
Hanri Bandenhorst
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Carol Wentzel
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Basie & Jeanne Du Plessis
Maleshwane Moteme
Tobie & Ronelle Roux
Elijah & Thandiwe Nxumalo
Gert, Hestie & Van Biljon
Santa & Len Vos
Michael & Natasha Lotter
Martin Nel
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Norah Chiwaya
Julian Mamabolo
Edgar Albano
Petula Pienaar & family
Rita Rudolf
Mariette Boshoff
Trudy Wronsly
Louise Ambati
Antoinette Austin
Surette Swart

We want to extend our thanks to you and many unnamed others for your love and dedication to the LORD and to “thy neighbour” in 2020. Your commitment and sacrifice have made an amazing difference. †



A DECADE LATER

And by His grace not stopping yet!...

It has been an incredible journey moving from the bustling city of Cape Town to Chirala, India.

Leaving all you know behind to enter a strange land full of interesting cultures, religions and people is no small task. Every fibre of your person is challenged spiritually, mentally and physically. When we asked Louise if she would have undertaken this journey 10 years ago knowing the challenges? She always gives us a resounding “yes”...

You do not always realise how much you will miss the comforts of home, the security of a family and the motivation that a fixed income brings. The biggest shock to the system is after hearing the “call of God”... that not everyone in your circle shares God’s desire and vision for the nations. Some of the toughest opposition she has received at the start of her journey was from people she considered fellow brothers and sisters in the local Church.

There is very little support for missionaries outside of the community circles Louise once moved in. She made the hard choice that she couldn’t wait for people to decide what to do. God had called her, and the Lord has His schedule. She needs to obey with or without their support knowing what it may cost her...

Today, things are starting to look better. She has been assisted by a mission minded NG Church, together with

(Continued on page 12)

a few other small donors who share her vision. It is always exciting to share with you the developments taking place in God's Kingdom in India. Louise writes:...

CHARITY PROJECT: COLOURS OF DAY INDIA

We continue our feeding programme among homeless people. We have specifically concentrated in this season on the people under the bridge. We call them "Bridge People". We distribute meals to them a few times a week. Among them are children, the disabled and the elderly. These people are rejected as outcasts of society because of the superstitions of locals!

I came to visit these dear "Bridge People" and the eldest lady was busy taking a bucket shower publicly. It broke my heart that this old mother who surely brought children into this life now needs to be exposed and humiliated publicly. She is very grateful every time we come. She shows concern for the others around her. She is always asking food on someone else's behalf if they were not around. By meeting her I have made the decision again that we must do what we can to shelter the widows in this part of India.

One night I came home on my scooter. An old man was moving on his bottom (his legs don't work) with a stick in one hand to chase off dogs that might try to attack him. I couldn't do anything. He is too heavy for me to pick up and put on my scooter and if he could ride with me, he has nowhere to go. He was making his way to

town to beg. I came home and cried. I wasn't supposed to leave him. But I need some more resources to be able to help people like that. This is the stark reality in the towns and cities where we work – a hidden underworld of poverty and rejection at unprecedented levels. Louise and team believe that Jesus shows us how to bring people from the dust into the presence of Jesus. The love of God can overcome all obstacles. But love is only effective if it is demonstrated!

CALLING – EVANGELISTIC MAGAZINE

Raj Kumar (left) travelled a 12-hour return journey to baptise a new believer (right). It was dark when he got



there due to a delay with the buses, made worse by the pandemic. This man received our monthly magazine known as "Calling" and came to the knowledge that he will have to make right with God.

Immediately after he was baptised an instant breakthrough happened for him: A certain business application that has been rejected several times has now been accepted. We will continue to disciple him. Let's pray for these new believers, please.

(Continued on page 14)

THE FRUIT OF DISCIPLESHIP

On 1 January Paavani and Goldie were both baptised in the name of Jesus. Paavani has just recovered fully from extreme jaundice. Her husband found a good job in the past few months. His drinking has decreased significantly but he still doesn't believe. Let's pray that through the sanctification of this mother and child, that now have received God into their lives, the husband will also be changed.



We would like to thank everyone who supported us during the challenging year of 2020. We received financial contributions from kind hearts, which kept us going in uncertain times and lockdown. All glory to God, your reward is with the King of kings.

The team prays this prayer for all who prayed for them and supported them over the last 12 months...

Heavenly Father, thank You for making all things new! As another New Year begins, help us to live each day for You. May we continually have a new song in our hearts to sing to You, no matter what comes our way. We trust in You because we know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of us will ever take You by surprise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. My Citizens Application (instead of the long term visa which has some complications).
2. New Believers - so they will grow and be established in Jesus.
3. Partners and helpers - that will share and support the vision.
4. Chirala Leaders & Churches - for a shaking in the Church.
5. Ministry Works - for effective and life-changing work.
6. Charity Registration and for a small premises where we can function from.
7. God's favour among the locals where I work.

God bless, Louise Ambati †



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“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son”



GOD'S HEART FOR US IS REVEALED!

The Father's most expressed desire was to be a God that lived among His people. The Old Testament books of the Bible reveal to us God's intention to be among His people. At the start of the Book of Genesis, we are told that God would walk (and talk) with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). In Exodus, we saw how the presence of God was manifested through physical appearances such as the lightning and earthquakes witnessed on Mount Sinai, as well as in a still small voice. The presence of God was evident by the presence of a pillar of fire and cloud for the protection of God's people in the desert. God's presence was seen in the provision of manna from heaven, quails for meat and water from rocks. God's presence was seen by the way their clothes and shoes were not subject to the laws of science - *the laws of attrition, where everything decays over time. God's presence was seen in the protection He gave His people through their victory over savage and gruesome tribes. Eventually, a symbol of the enduring presence of God was "The Ark of the Covenant", a relic built by Moses and the people of Israel in the form of a golden wooden box with 2 rods and angelic guardians. The Ark served as a **temporary** symbol of God's presence among His people.

There was a point in Jewish history where the ark was captured by enemies. During this difficult time Eli's

(Continued on page 18)

daughter-in-law gave birth to a son. She died in childbirth. Before her death she named the boy “Ichabod” which means “Israel’s glory is gone”. Later the Ark was recovered, but the words of Eli’s belated daughter would be a prophetic reality. The symbolic presence of God, The Ark, would be lost in the explosive history of the Israeli people. **ONLY because this symbol was not ordained to be an ongoing bearer of the presence of God on earth,** it had fulfilled its temporary function... The Ark, as a symbol, had to make way for the Son of God – which would be found in the person of the Messiah!

GOD’S MANIFEST PRESENCE

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”

John 14:9 NLT

When God enters our world, He brings with Him all that is beautiful, fulfilling and most importantly-His radiating glory! It is the eternal touching the temporal; setting to order the chaos that traps us in the flesh. We read of many symbolic representations of God’s presence in the Old Testament. There are over 2000 prophecies that speak of a Messiah who would be the ultimate and eternal symbol of God’s presence and fullness in the universe. This was Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

“All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign.

Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')."

Isaiah 7:14 NLT

Jesus Christ has been the only person in history to have fulfilled all the prophetic requirements for the Jewish Messiah. He is the anointed one whom Isaiah the prophet spoke about as the "Immanuel". The expression of God's heart would be found in Jesus! He would be the bearer of God's presence and the glory of the Lord!

"For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body." Colossians 2:9 NLT

Jesus would be the forerunner to teach us how to be bearers of God's presence and glory. As a forerunner, His work overshadows everything we see that took place in the Old Testament times.

"God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that He should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation" Hebrews 2:10.

The Epistle to the Hebrews stresses that God is now **bringing His children INTO GLORY**. No longer will God's children just be spectators of the presence and glory of God (as it often happened in Old Testament times).

(Continued on page 20)

They are going to be living, experiencing, interacting, demonstrating and testifying of the glory of God. They will be bearers of God's glory, as God ordained that Jesus would make His home in our hearts. Jesus would be leading His willing people into this new dynamic, life-giving way!

IS THE GLORY TRULY FOR US?

According to scientific journals, research shows that our bodies are designed to act as “capacitors” or storage vessels for energy. DNA can store energy** and also emit*** energy! We were designed to live and exist in the presence of God – to enter INTO GLORY. When we enter the glory of God we are entering into the presence of raw power and energy. No wonder men like Moses (Exodus 34:29-30) and Stephen the martyr (Acts 6:15) had faces that shone as they encountered God - these men had been in the presence of God. At the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9), Jesus' earthly body transformed before them because the glory of God came upon Him! The Father's beloved son in whom He was well pleased!

There are testimonies of missionaries who have been told that their eyes shine. They have a small taste of the presence and glory of God that is exhibited for the world to see. The mission field is often full of dark characters with eyes that are lifeless—till Jesus enters with the bright glory of His presence in their hearts!

Our future in glory with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will see us radiating with the glory of God (Revelation 19:8, Matthew 22:30, Luke 20:36). Every fibre of our being will be reflective of the majesty and glory of God!

THE GLORY OF GOD IS HERE AND DON'T MISS IT!

Worldwide there are many incredible testimonies of the powerful presence of God's glory. These "pockets" of glory give us a window to see what God is going to do as He takes sons and daughters INTO the permanent residence of His presence and GLORY!

If you think having a Bible at the pulpit or having religious paraphernalia in the building is a sign that your Church is hosting the glory of God—then you have already missed the boat. **The Bible and other spiritual aids testify (give witness) to the Glory of God. They are NOT the glory of God!**

If you desire to go from glory to glory, you will need to discover what is keeping you from entering into the glory of God's presence in the first place—and then with this revelation, act by asking God's help to remove the obstacles keeping you from fellowship with him.

HIS GLORY CAN BE PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE!

The book of Hebrews tells us that...,

(Continued on page 22)

“By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way...” Hebrews 10:19-22 NLT

To enter into the glory of God is to enter into the life-giving way that we read of. The Holy of Holies was a sacred space in the Old Testament Temple. It was separated from the rest of the complex with a thick curtain. In the sacred space God would meet with a high priest who would intercede for the people. The glory of God would be revealed in this sacred space. When Jesus, died on the cross, He gave up His spirit and miraculously (and to the shock of the Jewish religious community) the curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple was torn in half. The divide keeping God’s glory in a sacred space was now removed. The symbolism for us as new believers is clear. God’s glory is for you and me. Jesus died to tear away all obstacles from us experiencing His glory.

It is time we stop being spectators to the GLORY and PRESENCE OF GOD. Watching from afar off, as many did in Moses’ day (Exodus 33:9-11) and like many do today. Moses, Stephen and many unnamed Kingdom workers have tasted of this glory, and we too live from glory to glory as God promised millennia ago. It is time to allow God to build within you a testimony of your own. A letter that speaks to men of God’s glory (Jesus Christ) revealed. In your spirit, God has placed a desire for you to live gloriously with Him. So what is keeping you from experiencing His glory?

We may have difficult questions at some point. We need to be brave today and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal all that prevents us from entering into His glory.

Is it possible for you to ask God to show you the obstacles that keep you from experiencing His glory?

Yes, Jeremiah instructs us to... “Call to me, and I will answer you. I will tell you great and mysterious things that you do not know...” Jeremiah 33:3 GW.

There will come a time when it will no longer be possible for men and women to freely enter INTO the GLORY of God. The age of grace will see it's end on the earth and Jesus will return to judge the world as a righteous judge in great glory and splendour. †

**(The law of thermodynamics tells us that all things in our universe are subject to the law of attrition. God is the one who created this law and is not subject to it. Naturally, this law is subject to the Creator of heaven and earth).*

**Sekhar Dmr. Capacitor like electronic structures of DNA: DNA Electronics [Internet]. Version 1. dmrsekhar. 2010 Jul 24. Available from: <https://dmrsekhar.wordpress.com/article>

***<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/6204761/>
<https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/news/articles/2016/08/researchers-discover-that-dna-naturally-fluoresces.html>

For more teachings like this, visit:

www.ear2hear.co.za

Celebrate

those

who go before...





MARIA MOJAPELO

Passed away on 09 May 2020

Maria was the sweetest lady. What she lacked in size she made up for in presence. She carried the love of Jesus in her heart for her family and her community. It is with Great sadness that we had to say goodbye to this dear person in 2020. Her funeral could only be attended by a handful of guests due to lockdown regulations.

We know that she was so beloved that the Church hall would have been packed to honour this woman of God. In the last few years of her life we were blessed as EAR2HEAR to host Home Churches in Atteridgeville in her house. Her hospitality made a deep impression on all of us. Mama Maria will be sorely missed.

(Continued on page 26)

ANNATJIE VAN DER MERWE by Gidea Lotter



Passed away on 12 March 2020

Since 1989 she was a part of our mission outreaches in Mamelodi and Lefika. **Annatjie** was a true intercessor, and prayer was an important part of her life.

She was the faithful and successful leader of the prayer ministry in

the Gezina Full Gospel Church and used to join us in the prayer days and conferences of the Health Care Fellowship, the World Mission Centre, and private prayer groups.

When I think of Annatjie, I remember a person who was always kind and friendly. She could speak to an unknown person with great kindness and confidence. Her family was very important to her and she never hesitated to pray for them and to testify about how God answered her prayers for them.

A most amazing thing was that Annatjie said at various opportunities that God told her He would come *in the time of turmoil*. She expected the coming again of Jesus, but now we know He revealed to her that He would come and fetch her *in the time of turmoil of the Covid-19 Pandemic*.

Dearest Annatjie, your death was a traumatic experience for all of us, and we miss you, and rejoice in the knowledge that you are safely Home.

ALL THE GLORY TO GOD

DORIS MOLEFE by Rosli Strydom

Passed away on October 2020

I met **Doris** about forty years ago (1989) at a camp for women, held by Cathy Schonken. I had an opportunity to talk about children's ministry and demonstrate a tool called the Wordless Book. Doris came to me and asked me to come to Wintersveldt and minister to the children because "they don't know the Lord". After some time 40 children were saved and came to her crèche on Sundays to worship. Bright Gama, a young man from Malawi, started to disciple them, taught them to pray and to testify. One boy, George, was killed on the road. After his big funeral – attended by the whole school and all the people – many were interested in the Gospel. Doris held tent meetings and 25 people were saved and delivered from alcohol and witchcraft. A few sangomas (traditional healers) were saved. The Lighthouse Ministries Church was born. Today it is still a beacon of hope in a dark area. Doris started to feed 45 hungry children but the need was

(Continued on page 28)

so great that it soon turned out to be hundreds of destitute hungry children. Bana Ba Kgosi Children's Feeding Scheme was born and it has developed into a well-organized community scheme that feeds up to 1 000 children with one meal per day. This scheme created jobs for several women and young people. Doris knew how to disciple and train these young people to be firebrands in the ministry for Jesus Christ. Some of them became worship leaders, prayer warriors, and pastors. The women are still mighty prayer warriors for their community. Doris Molefe was a true mother to her people, a spiritual leader with mighty power, and a dynamic intercessor. She was awarded an honorary Doctor's degree by the University of Natal for her dedicated unselfish service to her community.

Doris died unexpectedly of a heart attack during the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions, and we were very sad because we could not attend her funeral. BUT we look forward to the day when we will meet again, and see the glorious reward from the Master when he says to her: 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'





LEN VOS

by Gidea Lotter

Passed away on 22 November 2019

Len, as we called him, was a very special brother in Christ. He was a real gentleman: always neat and smartly dressed. He was kind, considerate and always helping with whatever he could. He was a very talented man with many skills and he loved to worship God with his musical instruments. He could play a wide variety of instruments – whether an organ, piano, accordion, keyboard, guitar, banjo, or mandolin – it made no difference to him. He never missed a church service in the Full Gospel Church where he served as a musician in the worship team. Len loved to tell stories about all his experiences as a building contractor all over South Africa and he never told the same story twice. He was a successful businessman and enjoyed making beautiful lamps, ornaments and tables with wood. Len was fluent in sign language for the deaf, because His mother was a deaf mute. A small group of prayer warriors used to

meet in their house for the past six years. We appreciate his wonderful, gentle and kind spirit and his tender love for his wife, Santa. Dear Len, we miss you.

SANTA VOS

Passed away on 3 April 2020

When I think of **Santa**, I remember the sweetest person I have ever met. She was a true prayer warrior and a mature Christian. She studied the Word diligently. Excellence was the hallmark of everything she did and planned. She was a very intelligent, well informed, and knowledgeable person and used to study various topics and then share the information in precise detail. Santa had a beautiful alto singing voice and used to minister in the worship team of the Full Gospel Church in Gezina until her health failed. She had several back operations and after these many other severe health problems. Yet, she did not lose her courage and steadfast faith in God. Even when her husband Len became ill, she kept her calm sweet disposition and always showed Len great patience and love. We visited and prayed with Santa once a week for more than six years during her ordeals. What precious times we had in the presence of God. Dearest Santa, I think of you daily, and miss you, but I know you are rejoicing in a healthy body with the saints in glory! †



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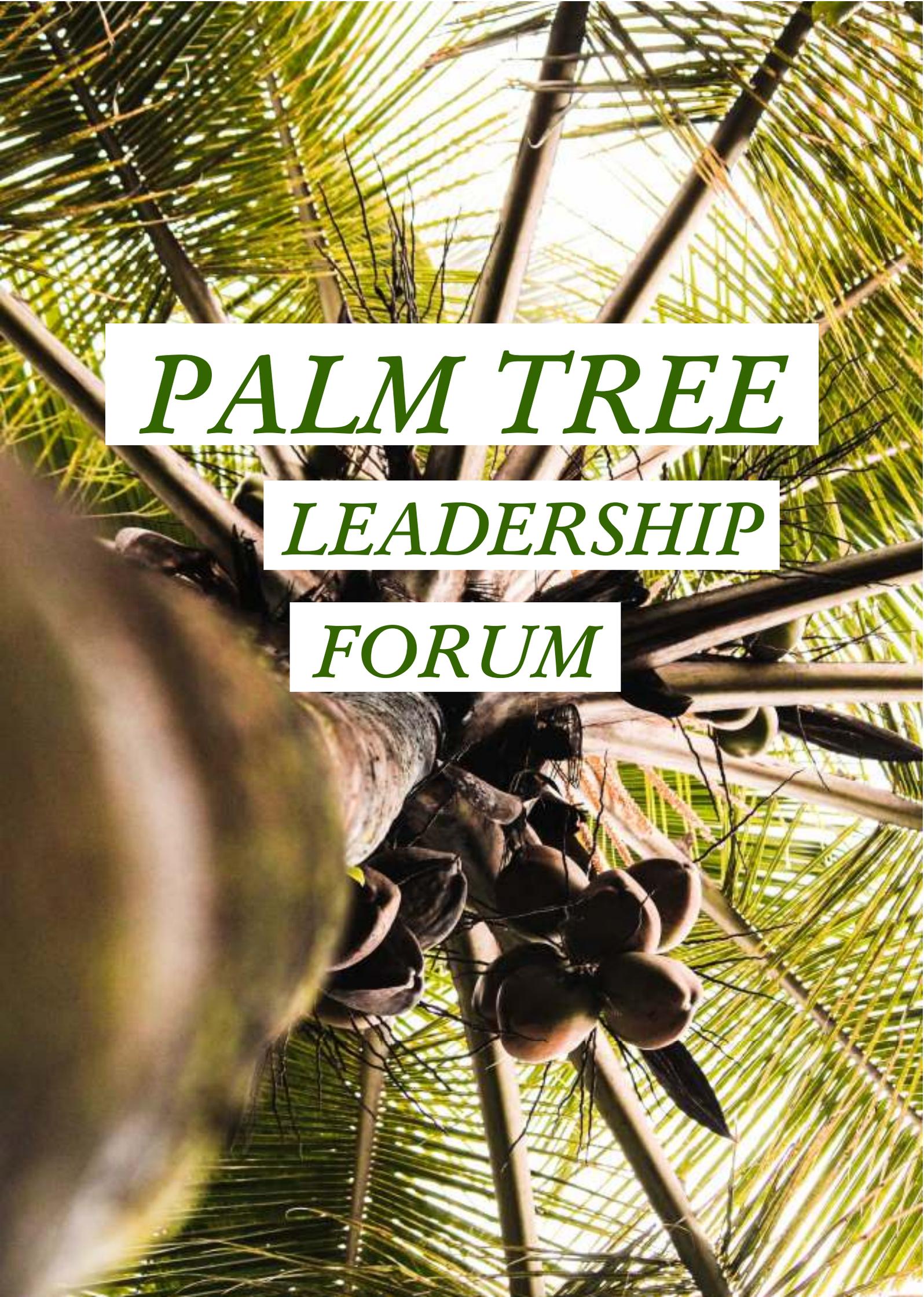
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The value of Christian unity

The message of the Gospel of the Kingdom

Register www.valuabletojesus.org.za



PALM TREE

LEADERSHIP

FORUM

While lockdown may keep us restricted from working at full capacity —this year we saw some beautiful and encouraging developments among Christian leaders as they took a brave leap as agents of love and change in their community. While many families remained isolated, afraid and alone, pastors turned to digital platforms and legal home visits to follow up on those who have been deeply affected by the pandemic.

We are so happy to see the fruit of the work being done with the leaders associated with **Palm Tree Leadership Forum (PTLF)**. Over a few short years PTLF leaders have been equipped and encouraged to rise above their circumstances to address giants in their communities.

Johannah Bopape (PTLF chairperson) started a local veggie garden to educate children on how to grow their food. (Ideal with the fresh food shortages all around the country). The children, while observing COVID-19 safety protocols, were able to work in the garden and learn some unique skills to apply at home.

Ps Adam Ndlovu (in Klipgat) and **Ps Maggy Akunde** (in Soshanguve) made special efforts to connect with the older children in their communities through social media. They encouraged them with excellent materials freely available from groups like Child Evangelism Fellowship and OM children's ministry.

Mama Rose Ntlatleng at 73 years of age is not as adept with technology, but this did not stop her from rallying the young people in her community to help her design

(Continued on page 34)

leaflets with encouraging messages of hope, the Gospel and prayer points for the community. She reproduced these leaflets in large quantities and went around to homes and schools to encourage families, students, principals and teachers.

PTLF also has a vibrant Whatsapp Group going to encourage its members to keep the faith. It is easy to lose sight of the goal ahead when distracted by the enemy's discouraging words. The prayers and encouragement truly lifted the ministry leaders and workers.

One particular sad point for **PTLF** was the loss of **Ps Danny Pandle** from Soshanguve. This dear man of God was met 2 years ago by representatives from **EAR2HEAR** at a pastor's fraternal in 2018 and through this meeting he was connected to **PTLF**. He has been such an incredible blessing to us. He was an upbeat lover of God and much loved among the community. He will be missed by all including his dear wife Mrs Susan Pandle and their children. †



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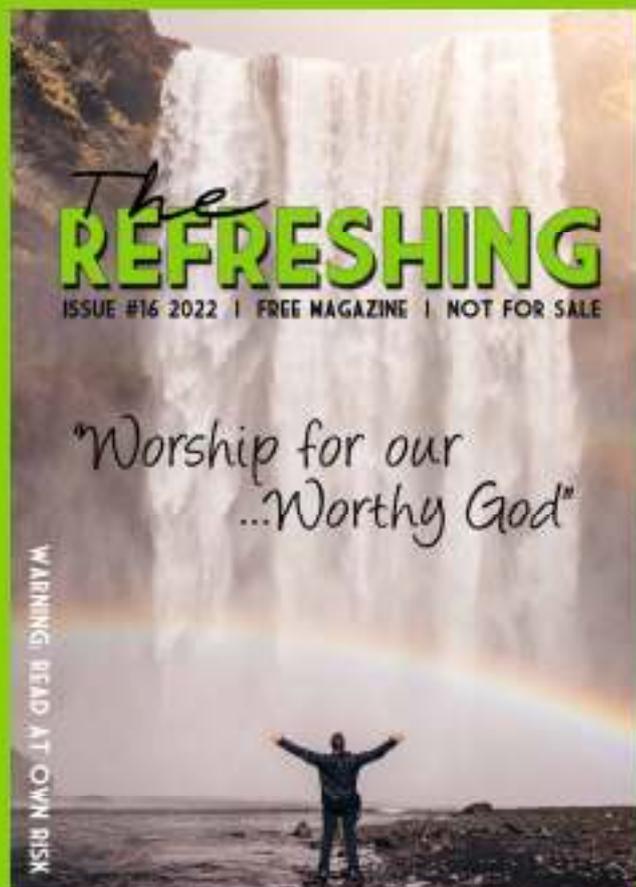
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#16 of THE REFRESHING
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may be changed, resized, truncated or rejected to
fit magazine guidelines.



Generational

Blessings

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ” Ephesians 1:3 NLT.

The Father’s heart is ever committed to helping those born of the Spirit to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. Jesus Christ is the greatest expression of the love of the Father, brought to life in the flesh. It shouldn’t surprise you that most of Jesus’ time spent on earth was taken up by blessing others. He did so with food, drink, healing, deliverance, resurrecting the dead, defending the marginalized, and helping the poor. The Father’s heart has always been one that wants to bless others. It should then follow that Jesus, who as a reflection of His Father, would also pursue ways and means to be a living embodiment of blessing! Jesus is the fulfilment of the Abrahamic promise...

“I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12: 2-3 NLT

BLESSING AND BIRTHRIGHT AND VICTIMHOOD.

Dr. Caroline Leaf is a communication pathologist and cognitive neuroscientist. She says that “Your brain is wired for love, so when you worship God you increase

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your mental health...not surprising since we are made to worship God!”

We are made to worship God through the receiving of heaven’s blessing, which is multiplied in us and then given back to others as a sacrifice to the Creator. We are designed to receive all that is good so that we can fulfill our function as worshippers of the Most High God. It is Satan’s priority to shift our focus and our affections away from God in heaven, who is the source of all blessings and love. When he succeeds in this, he robs God of His deserved worship! He robs us of a fulfilling existence.

Blessings are connected with birthright and inheritance in the culture of the people of Israel. For believers born of the Spirit of God to be blessed and be a blessing is our birthright (Galatians 3:8-14). It is part and parcel of our worship of God. We worship God by fulfilling this purpose... to be a blessing to God and His creation.

It is very difficult for some of us to take this birthright as our own. It often happens that we act as spiritual victims, constantly looking for others to lift us, to carry us, and to bless us. As a spiritual victim, it often doesn’t cross our minds that God wants to turn us into those that live by blessing and victory. The curse of the victim mindset remains a very real threat if we do not heal. We will lose out on all God wants to accomplish

through us, and so the victim spirit will keep the birthright we are meant to enjoy just out of reach. A victim spirit will deceive us to believe that our circumstances justify destructive behaviour. Remember Esau, who sold his birthright in a moment of “**victimhood**”, claiming that he was going to die unless he ate immediately. Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob in an agreement that Esau would regret till the end of his days (See Genesis 25:27-34). Hebrews 12:16-17 (NLT) says “*Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. You know that afterwards, when he wanted his father’s blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears.*”

Understanding that God wants to bless you and make you a blessing is already a giant leap towards undoing the harmful cycles of the “**victim spirit**”. That brings you one step closer to stepping into your purpose as a son and daughter of God.

DESIGNED TO MULTIPLY

Adam and Eve were blessed with the dominion of the earth. They were also instructed to be a blessing by taking care of the Garden of Eden and to multiply through procreation. This model is very central to humanity that is in right standing with God. We are to

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receive a blessing (responsibility) to be a blessing (fruitfulness). This is not only in the light of having children or caring for the earth. Your current responsibility and the fruit it must bear may be very different from the Garden of Eden, but in essence, the principle remains the same. We are designed to take that which is given to us, and then allow the Holy Spirit to multiply it in us so that the overflow will move into the lives of those in our circle of influence. The overflow is the blessing that we can give to others. Not much different from when Jesus took five loaves and two fishes. Jesus asked the Father to bless the food and the Holy Spirit came and multiplied it so the thousands could be fed (Matthew 14:13-18). If God's river of blessing stops flowing into our lives, or if we allow blockages that prevent the Lord from blessing us... we become like bitter waters (Exodus 15:22-27) and stagnant lakes. Water that is bitter and stagnant is no blessing - it rather carries the label "cursed" and it is not useable.

The Lord addresses the Israelites... and this word is as true today as it was 4000+ years ago...

"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him (WORSHIP). This is

the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NLT.

We need a multiplying mindset which comes primarily by choosing the life-giving destiny God has laid out for us. This is done “by loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him”. Most believers want to see the channels of God’s blessing open in their lives to receive from the Lord, so that they can fulfill their destiny.

GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS

Generational blessings are proactive blessings that we see flowing from the living generations into the generations that are yet to come. It is the groundwork that believers can lay together with the Holy Spirit. By faith they are declared over the coming generation. We are choosing life and blessing so that our descendants may be blessed and be a blessing to the generations that follow. One of the most amazing passages dealing with generational blessings is found in the Gospel according to Matthew. In Chapter 5, the Sermon on the Mount was given by Jesus and is known today as the “beatitudes”. For most of us, “beatitude” sounds like Jesus is addressing our attitudes... but it has nothing to do with attitude and everything to do with blessing...

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especially generational blessings of birthright.

The word beatitude comes from the Latin word “**beatitudinum**” which means: “To declare a blessing or to declare blessed”. Every one of the eight blessings Jesus promises are attached to something that we and future generations will inherit if they comply with the eight conditions that Jesus lays out. Inheritance is a generational concept, and as such we can conclude that the Beatitudes are “generational” for those alive and for those who are to come. The Beatitudes are considered some of the most profound principles that Jesus shared with those who gathered around Him. The Sermon on the Mount has touched many lives. This short sermon takes only a few minutes to read but its impact is eternal.

The Beatitudes... Matthew 5:1-12 NLT:

“One day as He saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around Him, and He began to teach them the beatitudes:

God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. God blesses those whose hearts are pure,

for they will see God. God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven.”

BEATITUDINUM – Declaring the Blessing

We have taken the scriptures out of Matthew 5:1-12, and have put together eight blessings that you can pray over your family and the families of the people in your community:

1. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations so that they will seek and hunger after Jesus!
2. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations so that they will seek comfort and hope from God and not this world.
3. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations so that they will walk humbly with their God.
4. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations so that they will seek and live by God’s truth and justice.
5. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations so that they will be kind, compassionate,

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and merciful.

6. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations so that they will desire to be like Jesus, PURE & HOLY!
7. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations so that they will be ambassadors and peacemakers of the Kingdom of God.
8. In the name of Jesus I bless my family and future generations with the boldness of the Holy Spirit so that they will stand in the day of fire and persecution and trials.

We ask this in the mighty name of King Jesus who blesses us with all spiritual blessings! †

For more teachings like this, visit:

www.ear2hear.co.za



Paul's Obstacle Course

By Annetta Wheeler

Have you experienced that when meeting a very important or famous person, you are so overwhelmed that you cannot think of anything to say or ask? I wonder how it will feel to meet Paul...

I might tell him that a great many books were written and even films were made about his life; that the letters he wrote to churches he had founded now form more than half of the books in the New Testament and are still being read and preached from! But I know that although his achievements could be boasted about, the Paul I got to know from Scripture, will answer humbly: **“I could do all of that because the Lord worked through and in me, all honour and glory unto Him!”** He might even quote Philippians 4:13.

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The Lord's plan for Paul's life

In Acts 9 we meet Saul on his way to Damascus, where he wanted to arrest people of the Way. He was a devoted Pharisee, and had witnessed the stoning of Stephen. He could have heard the testimony of Stephen, but most probably regarded the vision of Stephen as blasphemy. But suddenly a bright light shone upon him and the people with him. The men were confused; they heard the voice, but did not see anyone. Paul heard Jesus speak to him. He often related this incident when he had to defend himself before the church leaders and Roman government officials; even before the Caesars of that time. When the other men wanted to continue walking, they saw that Paul was struggling – he was blind! They took him to Damascus.

Ananias was instructed in a vision to go to Paul. He answered that he knew that this man (then still known as Saul) had letters to take Jesus' followers as prisoners to Jerusalem. The Lord gave Ananias an important revelation of what would happen in Paul's life: "*I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My Name*" (Acts 9:16.) He suffered a lot of persecution and hardships and yet Paul and Silas sang songs of praise in the prison at midnight. A list of Paul's suffering and hardships, can be found in 2 Corinthians 11:23-30. There was a lot of resistance towards him in the beginning, even from the leaders of the church. On

rare occasions, he commented on the behaviour of persons in the churches who were negative and insulting towards him. His writings were criticised, even by Peter.

He was very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and followed His instructions regardless of how people tried to influence him in a different direction. On several occasions, he planned and hoped to go in one direction, but the Holy Spirit did not allow him. He had to accept closed doors. He could look back without regrets, the Lord asked him to do certain things and he planned, organised and accomplished it with the strength the Lord gave him (Philippians 4:13). He always gave honour to God as seen in Romans 1: 5. His achievements continued and he managed to endure despite persecution and hardships

He was not a superhuman or super-Christian, and it must have required a lot of working through emotions to submit himself fully to the Holy Spirit. In Romans 7:15- 24, he confessed that he had a struggle in the flesh, *“what I do not want to do, I do and what I should do, I do not do.”*

Due to the tireless efforts of Paul and the people who travelled with him, the gospel of grace spread throughout the Mediterranean world. He had a passion for the Gentiles and in Romans 1:14-17 he wrote how he regarded himself to be compelled by his conscience to take the message of grace to them saying: *‘I am a debtor*

to spread the gospel". He spent three years in the desert, and presumably received revelations from the Lord about the great truths that he preached and wrote about. Paul wrote the letters to the churches and to his fellow workers, mostly while he was in unhealthy prisons. That became the biggest part of the New Testament.

His thoughts about his own life and his death

He knew that the time of his death was drawing near, but he did not fear. He was ready to die for Christ. 2 Timothy 4: 6-8 (NIV) he looked back on his life and wrote: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me but to everyone who loved His appearing"*. Paul would tell believers (you and me) Yes, it is for you too!

His life demonstrated the following verse: *"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1: 21). I close my Bible, but my thoughts linger on Paul and the example he was of the transfiguration mentioned in 2 Corinthians 3:18. It was indeed not an easy race, rather an obstacle race, but step by step / overcoming every hurdle and indeed much suffering as was predicted over his life, he finished the race to the glory of God. I pray as in Psalm 139: 23 *"Search me, o God, and know my heart: test me and know my anxious thoughts. See*

if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting". T.D. Jakes reminds his readers to remember that they serve the God who brings His people from glory to glory. The Lord is summoning them - and us - into new heights, new depths, new anointing, new opportunities, new strategies, new ideas, new wisdom, new blessing. He encourages us to pray that God will bring you and I to a new glory that exalts Him and raises us to a new level in His Kingdom.

Paul's prayer – Ephesians 3:15 -19 becomes my prayer; also, for the readers of this magazine. (You can put your name in where applicable to make it personal).

“I pray that out of his glorious riches He may strengthen you (...) with power through his Spirit in your (my) inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your (my heart) hearts through faith. And that you, (I) being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to comprehend with all the holy people, how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you (I ...) may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Amen”. †

*Internet notes from commentaries of the Bible: Barnes notes on the Bible, Bible studies of In touch Ministries.

**T.D. Jakes (2017) Unlock your identity. Destiny Image Publishers, Inc. pg 140.

**God does
extraordinary
things through
ordinary people!**



VALUABLE TO JESUS



Whenever there is a global crisis, the victims form part of the faceless statistics published by organisations around the world. A message such as the one presented by the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** Campaign brings the hearer a seed of Hope and Salvation to lift them from victim to victor. This seed, when it lands on fertile ground, has the power to transform, heal and assist others to become agents of healing in God's Kingdom.

In the first quarter of 2020, the Lord was able to help us equip almost 30+ leaders and ministry workers in a 2-day **VALUABLE TO JESUS** workshop in Soshanguve, Tshwane. Leaders from all over the city enjoyed an incredible two-day journey that opened their eyes to the reality that faces human society! Little did we know that the Coronavirus lockdown would come to our city, neither could we have imagined that sexual abuse would have skyrocketed during the lockdown period. Truly the workshop came at an opportune time.

Despite the long lockdown period, the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** team in Gauteng, South Africa, was able to use the time in a precious way to reconnect, pray and place the workshops onto an online platform! You can register to do the comprehensive workshop – at no cost! It is worth doing. Visit www.valuabletojesus.org.za

As lockdown regulations began to lift, many schools

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were not open to outside ministry teams. This was to safeguard the children in their care from possible second and third wave infections. While lockdown and pandemic restrictions are challenging, it did allow us to spend time on much-needed team building. We took special time to celebrate and thank our long-standing friends who have been committed and sacrificial in aid of this campaign over the years.



At the age of 90, **Rosli Strydom** (above & left) is a true example of a faithful, persevering minister in service of King Jesus. Her passionate love for Jesus led her to be one of the first pillars who volunteered for the **VALUABLE TO JESUS**

campaign since 2010. We truly appreciate her loving service!



At the age of 73, **Ronelle Roux** (Above) is still wholeheartedly involved. She has been one of the initiators since 2009 to bring the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** Campaign to Gauteng with the inspiration of her daughter Annelie, who was then involved in a ministry called “**Straatwerk**”. Very familiar with her unique disciple-making lifestyle, she soon began to inspire a team around her to get involved together. We appreciate her passionate service!

Annelize Fourie (below) is a godly example to us. She exhibits passion and love for Jesus demonstrated by

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her commitment to His message of salvation and hope. Her administration and leadership have been invaluable and there are no words that can fully express what she means to us!



At the age of 80, **Gidea Lotter** (left) has been involved in all the various aspects of the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** campaign for 10 years. Her passion is very contagious, and it doesn't take long for those around her to catch the Jesus spark that is ignited within her. She is a creative presenter, and her ability with prayer coordination makes her a valuable asset for training others through the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** workshops!



At the age of 84, **Chrissie Naudé** (Above) remains a dynamic Spirit-filled motivator and a faithful labourer, persevering in the service of King Jesus. She has helped us to bring together a key creative team in the East of Pretoria, to volunteer for the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** campaign. Even while battling some health challenges in the first half of 2020, she still stood by us. We are grateful for her amazing work!

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Guida Loubser (above, far right) is at the age of 85 a fine example of faithful support in the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** campaign. She already understood the heart of the campaign with its launch, and coordinated the creation of thousands of knitted dolls.

The celebrations ended at **Equestria Retirement Centre**. The war efforts of World War 2 were due to men and women who dedicated themselves to producing soldier rations, uniforms and other gear. The **Equestria Retirement Centre** has an amazing “war effort” going on, as the ladies produce meaningful gifts of dolls and hearts to distribute to those who hear the presentation of the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** campaign for the first time in full. At our year-end function, the volunteers were honoured for their hard work and dedication.



Above: Year end at Equestria Retirement Centre Right: The dolls made by the centre ladies.



If the **VALUABLE TO JESUS** campaign has stirred your heart—maybe it is time to join the war effort as we fight the good fight for salvation, freedom and healing!
†

Get in contact or visit for more information:
www.valuabletojesus.org.za

The Spirit of Praise

The fruit of the Spirit transforms us into living instruments of worship

The living generations are seeking authentic and intimate expressions of worship. Great strides are being made as more and more believers find themselves pushing back against commercialized expressions of worship. We believe the Holy Spirit is bringing deep conviction to those houses of Faith who have turned the Father's house "into houses of merchandise" (See John 2:16).

There is such joy in the life of those whose hearts have been turned toward our heavenly Father; whose creative imperative was to take creatures of dust and turn them into creatures that would worship and enjoy God forever. Even in our fallen state, He takes a special interest in bringing us to a place where we will be worshippers of Him in "**Spirit and Truth**" (John 4:23-24 NLT). Does this mean we throw out every Christian song and music instrument as something tainted and unusable? Do we suddenly go Acapella like some of the more stringent denominations have? Of course not. Music, like many other expressions, connects the senses of earthbound humanity with the divine. It steals their focus from the present challenges, and repositions

our natural focus to seek out King Jesus. Each generation has its unique expression. God didn't clone us when He created, us and as such we can expect expressions of worship to develop generationally. What is clear, is that the Spirit of God should be the "worship coordinator". Let Him guide you in the worship of God.

Some mystics say that the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) of light and sound that we observe and hear has divine frequencies that reach into the Spiritual realm. BUT that is a misconception. The laws that govern EMS are still subject to the laws created by God for our natural universe. Spirit is not subject to the natural universe but to the realm of the Spirit. So this begs the question of how do we worship God (as earthly beings) in Spirit and Truth?

Psalm 150 may give us a wonderful hint! The final of the Psalms opens up to us the concept of praising God through the use of instruments.

Traditionally,... according to scholars, nine instruments are employed in the orchestra called upon to praise the Lord. Some according to historians are hard to identify but give us enough of a clue. Let's consider

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Psalm 150 together:

“1 Praise God in his sanctuary; praise Him in his mighty heaven! 2 Praise Him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness! 3 Praise Him with a blast of the ram’s horn; praise Him with the lyre and harp! 4 Praise Him with the tambourine and dancing; praise Him with strings and flutes! 5 Praise Him with a clash of cymbals; praise Him with loud clanging cymbals. 6 Let everything that breathes sing praises to the LORD!”

Worship can easily fall into the trap of being human-centric. Songs and good deeds are often done to make men and women feel better about themselves. The sad reality is that these selfish, feel-good measures still do not help us! To worship the Lord God Almighty in “Spirit and in Truth” is to move the worship away from being feel-good, self-indulgence into that where the King of heaven is the centre of all our love, desire and affection. This is where Psalm 150:1-2 focuses us...

If worship begins ,it must begin with Him!

Lucifer, the overshadowing angel above God’s throne, made worship to be about himself instead of God... it set matters in motion that led to rebellion against the Lord of Glory. For this reason, “**Houses of Faith**” should steer clear of the humanism that is prevalent in the world today.

The following are the nine instruments listed in Psalm 150 namely, (1) The ram’s horn (shofar); (2) the lyre; (3)

the harp; (4) the tambourine; (5) strings; (6) flutes; (7) loud cymbals and (8) melodious cymbals and (9) breath/voices.

The number nine is common in the Bible and it signifies “divine completeness” and conveys the meaning of “finality”.

How do these musical instruments help us to worship God in “*Spirit and in Truth*”? Galatians 5:22 tells us that we see the Spirit operating in our lives by the evidence (or fruit) of His presence. In other words, how do you prove that there is a fire? Look for the smoke! In the same way- how do you know the Holy Spirit is working in you... look for evidence of His presence in your life... Interestingly the number nine features very prominently in Galatians 5:22. It lists nine fruit of the Spirit that God wants the Holy Spirit to manifest in our lives. These fruits stand as a testament to the transformation from the earthly sensual nature to a nature that imitates Jesus Christ. These fruits are listed as (1)love, (2)joy, (3)peace, (4)gentleness, (5)kindness (meekness), (6)self-control, (7)goodness, (8)faithfulness and (9)patience. When these fruits are present in our lives, they bring great glory to God. When present in the life of a believer, they can walk in the way that God has called us to. They equip us to engage the destiny that God has for us successfully.

(Continued on page 62)

“When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honored and glorified, and you show and prove yourselves to be true followers of Mine!”

John 15:8 AMP

For the New Testament believer, the link between Psalm 150 and Galatians 5:22 is far more important than we realise. When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, He told her that God is not looking for people who employ the old forms of religious worship also embraced by commercialised forms of Christianity today... Jesus said to her, *“Dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about Him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth”*, John 4:21-24

Jesus concludes and tells her that the Father is looking for those who are worshipping Him in Spirit and Truth. In other words, we see that while the ceremonial praise and worship of God was through the use of musical instruments... for the spirit-filled, New Testament believer the worship, praise and glorification of God comes through the presence of the fruit of the Spirit of

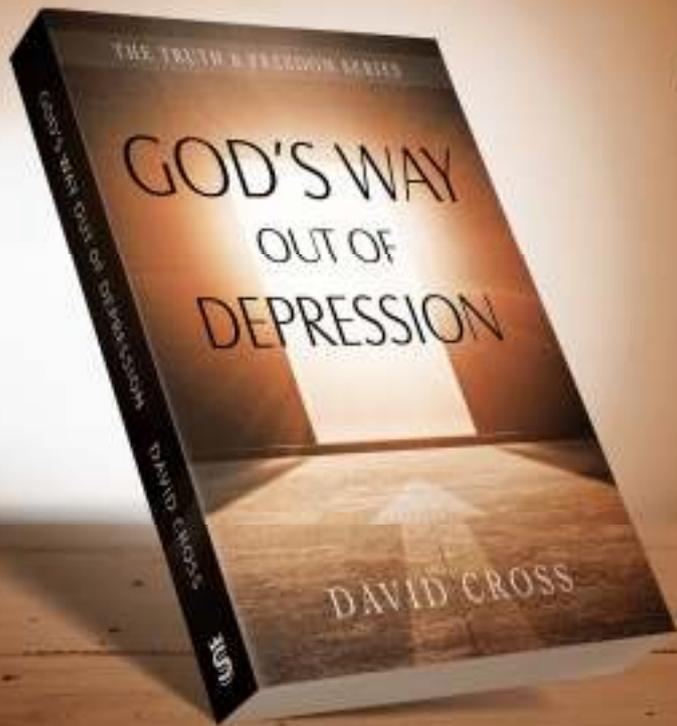
God manifested in everyday living. To love, to have joy, to be at peace, to be gentle, to be patient, to be faithful, to be kind, to show self-control...

...is the same as using the nine instruments of praise and worship to God - Bringing Him great glory and honour and praise!

Psalm 150 is symbolically important for spiritual worship. In older translations Psalm 150 verse 1 and verse 6 both start and end the Psalm with “*Hallelu Yah*”. The word Hallelu is derived from the word hal·lū which is from the verb halal which means “**SHINE OUT**”... It was probably a reference to the Assyrian “bright” and the Semitic “begin to shine/new moon”. Jesus told His disciples “*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*” Matthew 5:14 NIV.

In the Greek language, we get the word “**Halo**” which means the “*rings of light around the sun and the moon*”. pictures of the early Church, particularly artwork, depicting the believers were often accompanied by a disc of light or rings of light called a “**halo**”. This is because the early Church believers understood that when we bear the fruit of the Spirit, our lives shine out like a “**hallelujah**” to bring God great glory and praise.

(Continued on page 64)



GOD'S WAY OUT OF DEPRESSION

"...one of the best
Christian books ever
on depression!"

NOW AVAILABLE

The Spirit of Praise is appointed to help us become the true worshippers of God that the Lord intended – made for His pleasure and shining brighter from glory to glory. Proverbs 4:18 (NLT) says “*The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day*”. If we are living and walking in the Spirit, then the evidence of the fruit will be there. It cannot be hidden, rather it will grow brighter and brighter. So how do the 9 fruits of the Spirit link to the instruments mentioned in Psalm 150?

The rams horn/trumpet is also known as the shophar. Some Christians believe that blowing the shophar changes the circumstances of the situations we are facing. If the shophar is sounded over communities, cities and nations, it is strongly believed that the atmosphere is changed. The word “shophar” is Hebrew, and it is derived from the word “shaphar” which means “goodly or goodness”.

8231. shaphar Strong's Exhaustive Concordance goodly. A primitive root; to glisten, i.e. (figuratively) be (causatively, make) fair -- X goodly.

What a coincidence... one of the fruits of the Spirit is “goodness” or to “do good”. No longer do we need to blow the shophar... **WE ARE THE SHOPHAR** when His goodness flows through us, as you bear the fruit of goodness in your life. The shophar doesn't change the atmosphere... The fruit of goodness in you empowers you to change the circumstances, the communities and the nations we go to. This transformation brings glory to God and it is pure worship! It is also interesting that various Scriptures instruct for the ram's horn to be blown when God's people fail to be the channels of God's goodness that He desires from us... and so “good” is absent and evil flourishes in society. (see Jeremiah 4:21-22 and Joel 2:12-17). In situations like this, the Spirit of God will stir those who are ready, to arise as the “change agents” to be witnesses to our world of our mighty God's goodness.

We cover the full range of instruments mentioned in Psalm 150. For those who are interested, please feel free to contact us so that we may forward you the teaching.

For more teachings like this, visit:

www.ear2hear.co.za

*See [Scherman, Rabbi Nosson (2003). The Complete Artscroll Siddur (3rd ed.). Mesorah Publications, Ltd. ISBN 9780899066509].

HOPE FOR THE EARTH

*This is what the Gospel of the
Kingdom brings!*

We had a Combined Churches “Revival” prayer meeting and distributed the **EAR2HEAR** CDs at different Churches in Sebokeng Zone 6. Organised by **SONS & DAUGHTERS A-GLOW FELLOWSHIP** Combined Churches, this was done on the 21st March, just before the lockdown.

When GOD moves, we see miracles, and I must say it is the first time I have seen this. The important thing is that people who were there are still on fire... The problem for is that now I work further away from some of the people. So meetings like the one I just organized will not happen as regular as I hoped. I pray that I will work in closer proximity so we can have these more regularly. The Churches are also praying for me to come back but GOD is in control.

The box that the girl is holding is a "**Hope Box**"



developed to carry the Bible in all languages, as well as the Jesus Film, Mary Magdalene: from shame to joy, and other teachings which are also on CDs / DVDs. Communities are able to download these materials without internet connection or Data cost. Thank GOD for your prayers in this matter too.

After this ministry, we went to Klipgat with Ps Mogotsi and had a workshop where we left the Ear2Hear material at different churches. The workshop helped the Five-Fold Ministry where Ps Mogotsi is ministering.

I met people who are members of **EAR2HEAR** as well. That Hope Box is still at Klipgat, I will ask for a report on how many people they have reached out to.

Contact **Isabel Radebe @ +27 79 411 6240** if you are interested in networking with local leaders in your area.

†



Going Strong

It isn't easy feeding 200 mouths everyday during a school calendar year... but Portia Mtlala, the manager of Refilwe Orphan Care, will tell you that they have no other option. If the children do not eat, their schoolwork suffers, they do not develop physically and their overall quality of life is diminished. The future can come across as very bleak for those who are starting life in this way.

Thankfully, there are committed men and women, like those at Refilwe Orphan Care, who give their all to make a positive impact on the young lives within their care. Portia and their team are amazing every time EAR2HEAR personnel



ABOVE: Some of the amazing Refilwe Orphan Care cooks



MAIN: The amazing Refilwe Orphan Care Fieldworkers

receive updates or have meetings with them. The testimonies of God's provision and faithfulness are always wonderful. Even though government support was not coming in at times during 2020, the team pushed on for as long as possible – serving the children lovingly! They were able to close the year with a YEAR-END party for the children. With gifts donated by EAR2HEAR for the children and the hardworking team!



Refilwe Orphan Care Year End Party

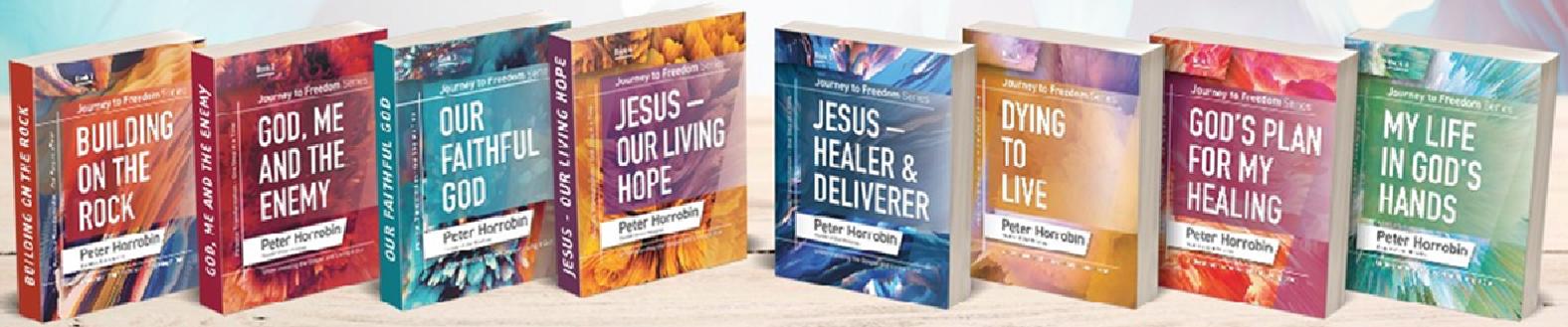
Refilwe Orphan Care needs your support in prayers and in spreading the word about the work they are doing among the children of Refilwe, Cullinan. †

Visit the website: www.refilwekids.za.org

PETER HORROBIN

Journey to Freedom 8-Part Series

"I am absolutely thrilled that such a well thought through teaching is now available"



Come into His Presence

"Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" Psalm 100:2 ESV

In lockdown we could no longer meet together every Sunday for corporate praise and worship. This was a privilege I had taken for granted for more than forty years. Thankfully, our church does provide excellent praise and worship every week online, and although we can't hear and see everybody singing together, we are able to see and hear the band and join in with them in our own home.

Although I like all forms of musical worship, from traditional hymns to modern songs, I have always felt a special excitement when the words touch me deeply in my spirit and the melody is beautiful and easy to sing along to. I believe this kind of singing in a gathering of Christian believers changes the atmosphere of the place we are in. It is as if the powers of darkness are being pushed away, as we give glory and honour to the

Lord and welcome His presence into our meeting place. A song which I first heard last summer, puts it this way. *“Holy Spirit, You are welcome here. Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere. Your glory God is what our hearts long for, to overcome by Your presence, Lord”*

Psalm 100 is all about coming into God’s presence. The first verse refers to *“all the earth”* and says everyone is to *“make a joyful noise unto the LORD”*. The rest of the psalm talks of knowing God as Creator, and that we are His people. *“Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture”*

Psalm 100 is encouraging us to take the gospel to everyone in the world. There are places like Japan, where I lived for seven years, where many people have no concept of one God who is the Creator of the world. And yet, in the western world today, there is also a world view that there is no Creator God, and many refer to ‘Mother Nature’ and believe there is some or other process whereby everything in the world came into existence by chance. Of this Spurgeon once said, *“For our part, we find it far more easy to believe that the Lord made us than that we were developed by a long chain of natural selections from floating atoms which fashioned themselves”*.

Psalm 100 also tells us the importance of thanksgiving. *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with*

praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!” This is also something we can do corporately and out loud, but it should also be done privately with an *“attitude of gratitude”* in our hearts, (as many have written in previous seeds). We can encourage each other and ourselves as we do this. Our words will be such a stark contrast to the words of discouragement, criticism, blame, anger or despair in the world around us.

Prayer: *Dear heavenly Father, You are Almighty God and yet You bring me into Your family and call me Your own. I thank You that You show me in Your word how to come into Your presence. Please remind me to come into Your presence with singing, thanksgiving and praise, wherever I am. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Written By Liz Griffin: Liz lived for 20 years as an expatriate in South Africa, Bahrain and Japan, while her husband Paul was working for an international oil company. Paul and Liz became involved with Ellel Ministries in 1991 as part of the ministry team and joined the full-time team at Ellel Grange in 1995. They teach and minister to those seeking healing in their lives and together have written two books, “Anger - How Do You Handle It” and “Hope and Healing For The Abused”. †

Find more information concerning Ellel Ministries

Visit their website: www.ellel.org



Always enough!

By Xenia Swanepoel

As Christians, we are known to speak about our faith and trust in God. However, when crunch time confronts us, we are forced to look in the “mirror of intimacy” with God and reflect on what trusting God truly looks like. Circumstances forced on us, like COVID-19 and worldwide lockdown regulations, sometimes serve as the best mirror to reflect on our blind spots and places of true surrender to God.

South Africa was no different from the rest of the world when hard lock-down reached our nation. The difference is that a large portion of our people are homeless, jobless or paid a day wage only, with no

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scope to live off savings. This placed enormous pressure on the already-strained families to provide for their children. The government relocated all the homeless to various lock-down camps for temporary shelter. So we focussed on feeding families situated in apartment blocks, that were subject to joblessness & day wages.

We decided to place our faith in Jesus and trust Him when He tells us He is our ultimate provider. We started feeding 200 families per outreach. We handed out one hamper per family, this translated into feeding between 500 – 700 people per 200 parcels. The astonishing thing was, that because we needed to capture data to comply with regulations, we realised that with every outreach more than 200 parcels were handed out. We saw God's multiplication of food regularly. Because of this, we started reaching 1000's of people instead of the few hundreds that we were used to.

Shortly into this journey, I was invited by foreign interest groups to a meeting as they wanted to aid refugee camps. For practical and legal reasons I referred them to the organisations that could work in the areas that they wanted to aid, but somewhere we had a divine misunderstanding and before I knew it, 1000 bags of 12.5kg of maize meal were coming to our ministry. This was only communicated to us after the donors had walked out the door. I had a little panic attack, because where would we go with 12.5 tons of

food. We have no place to store or logistically manage it.

That evening I prayed, and asked God what am I supposed to do with that amount of food? I heard the Holy Spirit tell me to match it with grocery hampers. I was sure I misheard what He said. The next morning, I heard the same thing. I then asked God to give me a mandate, because there is no point in handing out that much food without a greater mandate. He told me that He wanted to break open something of Sonship in the area, displacing the orphan mindset and He wanted to do it by capturing the attention of His sons and daughters through provision for their physical needs. Two weeks later, we witnessed how God brought together such a day of profound significance. Only He could do this.

By Tuesday, we only had enough money in the bank to match about 200 food parcels. I rearranged the budgets and the items on the lists and God opened incredible opportunities for us. I placed orders without knowing if we would be able to pay for the items on the list. But the very next day, the funding and donations started coming in. We worked on an estimate, that if the maize meal and the groceries were all part of our budget, it would've been a R350,000 project. God provided in so many ways. This is not what it cost the ministry, yet we handed out more food than what this budget showed

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we could. Only God could have multiplied the number of hampers that we normally hand out with our “**Relieve Hunger Project**”. Two hundred and nine (209) additional hampers were handed out, which were not planned or budgeted for.

The best of all is that almost all the people that came through the feeding lines, were prayed for individually. Many, many people encountered and accepted Jesus. I was called by one of the prayer teams, as they felt a lady would not be able to stand in the queue for food distribution. I could see that she had a prosthetic eye. I asked her what was wrong. All that she said was that she had metal in her foot and that she had chronic pain. She didn't have any feeling in the limbs, except for the constant pain. I asked her to demonstrate what she could do. She took her foot from her slipper but could not bend it at all. She couldn't even wiggle her toes. I told her that I believed that God wants to touch her, and that we wanted to pray for her. As we prayed, life came back to her limbs. The surprise on her face was beautiful to see as she started moving her toes. As she





started bending her ankle after telling us and demonstrating that she couldn't move it; and now she could. The raw emotion on her face was unreal! About an hour later she found me in one of the queues, between the masses. She leapt towards me, walking normally. She threw herself in my arms, crying, just repeating "thank you" over and over again.

Pastor David came to ask if we could help a guy with food without him standing in line. He was extremely ill. As I walked over, Michael was bent over and sweat was pouring from him. Ps David and I prayed for him and immediately he stood up straight and the sweat stopped. He said he was feeling better and I noticed that he didn't have an arm in the sleeve, so I asked about that. Right at that moment, Heidi walked

past and they also prayed for him. Michael told us that his arm just stopped working two weeks ago and they couldn't figure out why. We started praying. I heard the Holy Spirit telling me that he needed to forgive

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someone. I spoke to him about her and as he let the unforgiveness go, we commanded the arm to come back to life. The incredulous look of pure joy on his face when he realised that he could use his arm again was indescribable... He placed his arm back into the sleeve and took hold of his food hamper.

It's within extreme circumstances that we see God's light burning the brightest. He helps us through the darkness of this life, and helps undo the lies that the enemy wants us to believe about God. In the last year, we have seen more people fed by God's provision in times where everything looked like doom and gloom. God provided in ways I couldn't imagine and none of the provision that came in was government-funded. All of our donations came through individuals responding to what God placed in their hearts and where we didn't



have enough, God multiplied to make sure His children were fed ...and through His provision encounter His goodness. **With God, there is always enough!** †

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Don't take sides...

*“Three are even better,
for a triple-braided cord is not easily
broken.”*

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT) is often quoted to highlight the importance of unity in relationships. The unity found in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit brings to light this special relationship that they have. In this blessed union, we see the greatest manifestation of glory, beauty, love, respect, trust, power and holiness. Our God is like a triple-braided cord – powerful and unbreakable. It is this unity that sets the tone for every relationship found on earth.

Satan has worked hard to disrupt Unity within God’s Kingdom. While Unity between God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit can never be undone, Satan knows that mankind struggles to develop whole and healthy relationships. As the weak link, Satan targets us, to rob us of the glory of God. From the earliest of times, Satan (once known as Lucifer) has been a troublesome creature. His fall from heaven, and subsequent disgrace has made him a very bitter enemy of God.

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While Satan may not be able to attack God directly (how can you attack our awesome, all-powerful creator), he does make a point of undermining God through stirring division among God's creation. The division he has caused is the fruit of his wickedness, and wherever Satan operates, a division will naturally follow.

The name Satan is Hebrew and it means “*adversary, one who plots against another, to show hate, to oppose*”. He has been the plotting enemy, opposing God where he can. Satan drew away one-third of the angels to his cause. He also drew away Adam and Eve from God. Throughout history and Biblical record, we are made aware of the divisive workings of this fallen angel. Division remains Satan's powerful ally and tool against us. Even after the victorious work of the cross and the birth of the Church of Jesus, believers remain susceptible to division. It is our responsibility to guard our hearts (Proverbs 4:23) otherwise Satan himself (1 Peter 5:8) can draw us into his web of clever tricks to divide us in the Body of Christ and devour us. These dividing tactics keep the glory of God out of many assemblies of believers. If we are to see the glory, then we must allow God to position us to be receptive to the glory. We do this by asking the Holy Spirit to help us move out of the divisive influence of Satan.

DON'T TAKE SIDES! This is probably the simplest advice that can position you for glory. When Satan stirs

contention and division among believers, he does it by getting them to split themselves concerning the issues at hand. “**Take a side**” is what you are told. It could be on any issue... ranging from politics to theological beliefs. It is a natural instinct for us to take action and support those who we feel are righteous in their cause. There is always only one side that God is interested in - that is His side. This is because while we have a very horizontal view of the problems or challenges facing us, God’s perspective is so much different...

He is omnipotent – He is everywhere, so He sees circumstances from ALL SIDES. From above, below and horizontally. His opinion and judgement on any issue is the only one that counts. If we fall for the divisive tricks of Satan, it is because we only want to see one perspective, and that is the one that makes the flesh feel most satisfied. When we feel we are willing to feed the flesh more than we feed the Spirit, we should not be surprised that we are vulnerable to the dividing works of the enemy. If however, we want to nurture our spirit more than do currently, we have to choose how we align ourselves. The more we align our opinions, feelings and views of situations with that of the Lord’s, the greater the nurture of our inner man will be .

When Satan is allowed to whip up pride in our hearts, it is not surprising that we rebel against taking God’s side. And so we air our opinions, allowing internal (or

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external) politics to sweep us up into a frenzied defence of the viewpoint that seems most right to us. When we have such narrow views it is irrelevant “**who we hurt**” or “**who we offend**”, as long as we get our point across, that is all that matters. Little do we understand that Satan is the strategist behind this dividing conspiracy.

The Father looks on in sadness at the divisive turmoil that we get engulfed in... and because of His righteous standards, the Lord has no choice but to withhold His presence and blessing over those parties who allow their fleshly nature to get caught up in the quarrel. No wonder in the letter to Jude 1:19 (NLT) we are told that “*These people are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God’s Spirit in them.*”.

Those Christians who follow their **natural instincts** (their flesh) to take sides, will find themselves in a dangerous place. We give a foothold for Satan to blind us and wound us because we are exposed. We are left without protection as the Spirit of God withdraws from our fleshly divisions and quarrels. God’s Spirit will not contend with us if we pursue divisive choices or behaviour.

If you allow Satan to use you as an instrument of his divisive plans, the Bible makes it clear that you are spiritually immature, and walk only after the desires of the flesh. Paul saw one such case in the Corinthian Church when he had to challenge their divisiveness on

who was the better Christian leader to follow... “**Paul or Apollos**”? We read in 1 Corinthians 3:2-4 TPT, where Paul speaks about this division strategy saying...

“because you are immature infants in Christ, I had to nurse you and feed you with “milk,” not with the solid food of more advanced teachings because you weren’t ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready to be fed solid food, for you are living your lives dominated by the mind-set of the flesh. Ask yourselves: Is there jealousy among you? Do you compare yourselves with others? Do you quarrel like children and end up taking sides? If so, this proves that you are living your lives centred on yourselves, dominated by the mind-set of the flesh, and behaving like unbelievers. For when you divide yourselves up in groups—a “Paul group” and an “Apollos group”—you’re acting like people without the Spirit’s influence”.

Again it is stressed to us that if we are allowing Satan to divide us, it is because the Holy Spirit is no longer in charge of our spiritual nurture. Had in this case, the believers not taken sides with Paul or Apollos, they would have seen that both men were working on God’s side. The choice of favourites in the Church became a strategy of division by Satan to trip up the Church in the city of Corinth. †

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“The **purpose** of
prayer is
fellowship,
and the **product** of
prayer is
alignment with
the **plans & timing**
of **God.**”

— Kingsley Opuwari Manuel

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