

DECEMBER 2023

CONTACT

Be the Difference
PROJECT FIVE LOAVES

Song in my Heart

Sabbath and I
MIRACLE IN UKRAINE

THEOLOGICAL TALK
Evangelism DeLuxe

When I Study
EG White

KIDS CORNER

CALLED TO DIE

ABL Leadership Camp



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NORTHERN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA



EDITORIAL

WRITE YOUR STORY

We live in a time like never before, and while our world is hovering on the edge, we must play our part. Yes, we are authors of our stories - stories that will be read one day. May the Creator be with you as your story unfolds, and may the goodness of the Lord, reflected through you, fill Heaven with wonder. May your story be awe-inspiring!

Contact is giving a glimpse of news in our area. Be excited with us as hope is offered through a warm meal, an encouraging word, and prayer. Read about what the staff is up to early on Wednesday mornings, and join us!

Are you fascinated by stories of angels and miracles? Then don't miss the Book Review, as Story Catcher is a book that changes lives.

Amazing things are happening with the distribution of our Book of the Year. The Great Controversy Project 2.0 has been extended to 2025, and you will see how our literature evangelists are setting the pace.

Youth queueing to be baptised and camp meetings throughout our Conference touch lives. A series of training camps for young leaders by Abundant Life ended with a tour of our local history. Now, you can sharpen your knowledge in your reading chair.

Also, visit our regular articles on health, how people celebrate the Sabbath, and a dissection of our most beloved songs. How to study Ellen White and a theological conversation for everyone.

Our Kid's Corner is brimming with inspiration, stories, things to do and interesting facts. Parents and churches, please be so kind as to print copies of pp 49- 61 so our children can have their own magazine.

Have you missed out on a camp meeting or an exciting event? Visit our YouTube channel for recordings and our social media pages to stay updated on things to come. All the links are at the bottom of this page - follow us.

Greetings in Christ
The Editor

ABOUT US

Contact Magazine is the official magazine of the Northern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in South Africa.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team or the Northern Conference

[The Northern Conference Weekly Bulletin is a weekly publication with news and resources for churches and members. Click here to join us.](#)

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Do you have news or a special event to share? Please contact us at contact@nc.adventist.org



DECEMBER 2023

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I WOULD BE LIKE JESUS

REFLECTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT

Ps Rambelani Peter Maligudu

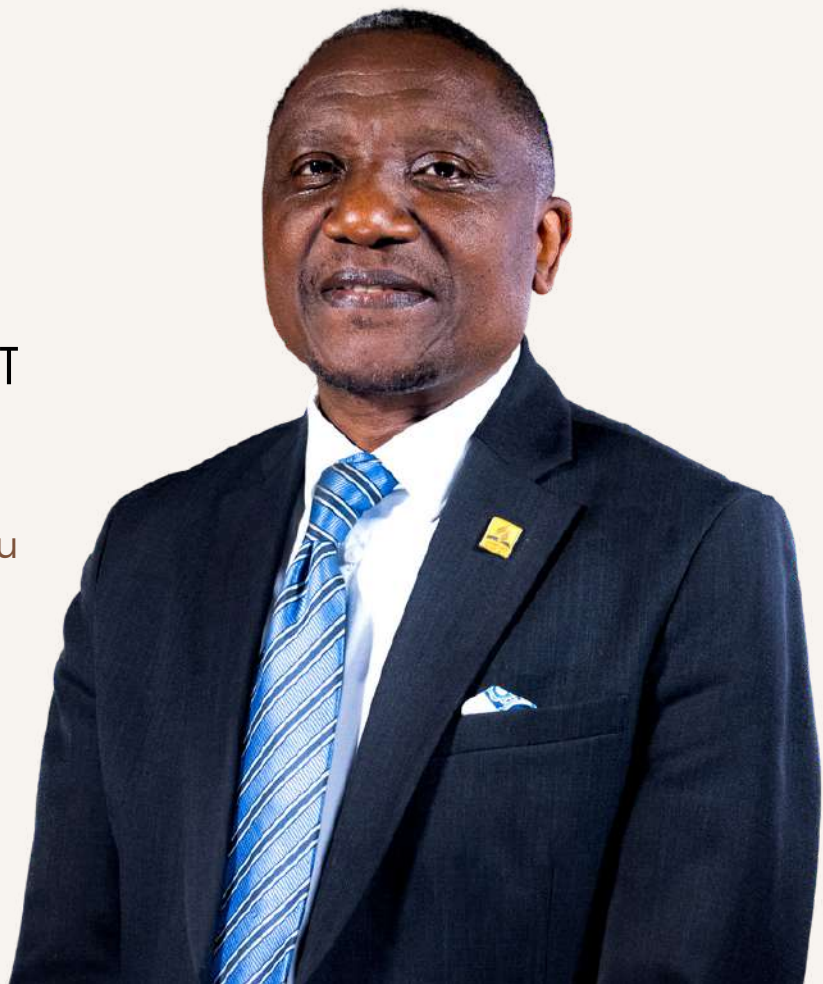
Romans 8:29 reads that God has predestined His people to conform to His Son's image: to become like Jesus.

Christians everywhere have one burning desire in common. It is to be like Jesus. As the song says, "is my song, in the home and in the throng, Be like Jesus all day long, I would be like Jesus".

The lyrics of this song are deliberate, purposeful, challenging and enabling. They portray the restlessness of a soul tired of mediocrity, self-absorption, pity, and a dented, dragged, and bruised identity. It expresses a longing to attain the full stature of a flawless, perfect pattern or model. His Name is Jesus.

Christian men and women know that if they can reach this 'status' by the grace of God, they would only need to "preach the gospel and, where necessary, use the words" as Francis of Assisi is credited to have said. "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words." Implicit in his (Francis') saying is the understanding that the most powerful sermons are often unspoken.

Ellen G White attests to the thought that evangelism would be easy to carry out if all those who follow the Christian path were Christlike. She says: "There is an eloquence far more powerful than the eloquence of words in the quiet, consistent life of a pure, true Christian. What a man is has more influence than what he says. MH page 469. And this is so because "The strongest argument in favour of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian" MH page 470



John R.W. Stott, (1921 – 2011) summarises the concept of Christlikeness by stating that we become like Jesus by imitating His humility, His service, His love, His patient endurance and His mission.

However, it is EG White's statement that challenges every child of God to seek the guidance of the Spirit to live a genuine, authentic Christlike life.

The Saviour's entire life was characterised by disinterested benevolence and the beauty of holiness. He is our pattern of goodness. From the beginning of His ministry, men began to comprehend more clearly the character of God. He carried out His teachings in His own life. He showed consistency without obstinacy, benevolence without weakness, tenderness and sympathy without sentimentalism. He was highly social, yet He possessed a reserve that discouraged any familiarity. His temperance never led to bigotry or austerity. He was not conformed to the world, yet He was attentive to the wants of the least among men.--CT 262 (1913). {2MCP 622.3} We cannot even attempt on our own, but thank God it is not "by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts". Zechariah 4:6 NKJV.

EN ROUTE TOGETHER

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S PEN

Ps Reece Anderson



Dear Church Family

As the year draws to a close and we stand on the threshold of a new beginning, I find myself reflecting upon the journey we have embarked upon together in faith. This year, like every year, has been a journey. Each of us, in our own unique ways, has navigated the highs and lows that life presents.

Ellen White once reflected, "The old year, with its burden of record, is fast passing away. The new year, with all its possibilities, will soon be ushered in. What advancement have we made in the knowledge of Christ during the past year?"

Are we prepared to show, more decidedly than ever before, that we are on the Lord's side?" Signs of the Times, January 2, 1901. This solemn question invites us to look inward and assess our personal growth in faith and our readiness to stand with Christ in the coming year.

In the spirit of ending well and new beginnings, let's remember the words of Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." This encourages us to let go of the past and look forward to the future with hope and determination.

As we close this year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to God for His faithful and steadfast love that He bestowed upon us this year while looking, with longing hearts, to the future, knowing that His second coming is so much closer than when we first believed.



ARE WE
PREPARED TO
SHOW THAT WE
ARE ON THE
LORD'S SIDE-
MORE DECIDEDLY
THAN EVER
BEFORE?

May the coming year bring renewed strength, deeper faith, and abundant blessings to you and your loved ones. Let us embrace the future with optimism and a commitment to living our faith.

Wishing you a blessed and joyous New Year.

In His Service!

NEWS SNIPPETS

YOUTH BAPTISMS

The Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department recorded 576 baptisms for the second half year. These baptismal candidates come from 53 congregations in the conference. This number is based on the feedback received from our local congregations, and there might be more. The SSPM Department encourages all congregations to record any baptismal services in a short email to jansenl@nc.adventist.org.

During Impact SAU Baptism on 16 September the NCSA and TOC (Trans-Orange Conference) joined hands in baptising 42 candidates at Sedaven.



Youth baptised at Hoedspruit (top and below)



13 Souls baptised at Westenburg & Tzaneng



Ambassadors / Young Adults Baptism

Our youth set the pace as 40 dedicated young people were baptised on 2 September 2023. Our first Senior Youth Baptism was conducted at Blue Hills. (Click for YouTube link)

Ps Talent Moyo (Director of Senior Youth Ministries) emphasised that our youth ministries would become just passenger departments without this.

From left to right, clockwise, are Ps Monkitsi Seoketsa, Ndaba Mvelasi, Talent Moyo and John Africa in front



NEWS SNIPPETS

WELCOME TO THE NEW PKs (PASTORS' KIDS)



The Thotolo family welcomed a baby boy! (right). Proud parents, Ps Lerato and Cleo, with their beautiful team: Siphokazi, Siphesihle and baby Tumahole Esethu. Congratulations!

The Namucana family during the dedication of baby Elnathan. Ps Larry, mommy Khahliso and big brother Neriah are getting advice from Ps Jaco van Niekerk.



**'The LORD bless thee,
and keep thee:**

**The LORD make his
face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto
thee:**

**The LORD lift up his
countenance upon
thee, and give thee
peace.'**

Numbers 6:24-26

Welcome to Gabriella,
daughter to Ps Jaco
and Raquel van
Niekerk and proud
older brother, Raphael.



The latest beautiful
baby, Milani, the
beloved daughter of
Ps Thokozani and
Boniswa Mphetswa,
and sister to Khwezi.

NEWS SNIPPETS

NCSA AT SAU STEWARDSHIP CONVENTION



The Southern Africa Union Stewardship Ministries organised a convention for all its eight Conferences from 8 to 10 September 2023 at its headquarters in Bloemfontein, under the theme “Worship the One who sits on the throne”

A highly powered NCSA 18 delegate team comprised of the local church stewardship directors, pastors, and the stewardship advisory team attended.

Major lessons gained:

All the time, stewardship points and guides believers to acknowledge God as the Creator, Owner, Sustainer, and Redeemer of humanity. (Genesis 2).

While humanity was given dominion over all lower order of creation, his role was and remains a steward and not an owner. (Genesis 1:26-28).

Total obedience and reliance upon God for spiritual prosperity to individual members and the church (Deuteronomy 28).

“Christ would have led the people into the promised land by a much more direct route had they shown a willingness to be guided by Him and to place their dependence on Him. Had they obeyed the directions given them by Moses, not one of those who started on the journey from Egypt would in the wilderness have fallen a prey to disease or death. They were under a safe guide. Christ had pledged Himself to lead them safely to the promised land if they would follow His guidance. They were under His direct leadership. In every one of them He was interested. But they allowed unbelief to enter their hearts and murmured against Moses and Aaron for bringing them out of Egypt, and punishment came upon them.”

Letter 259, 1903

BREAKING NEWS

NEW CHILDREN'S SABBATH SCHOOL CURRICULUM – 2025



ALIVE IN JESUS!



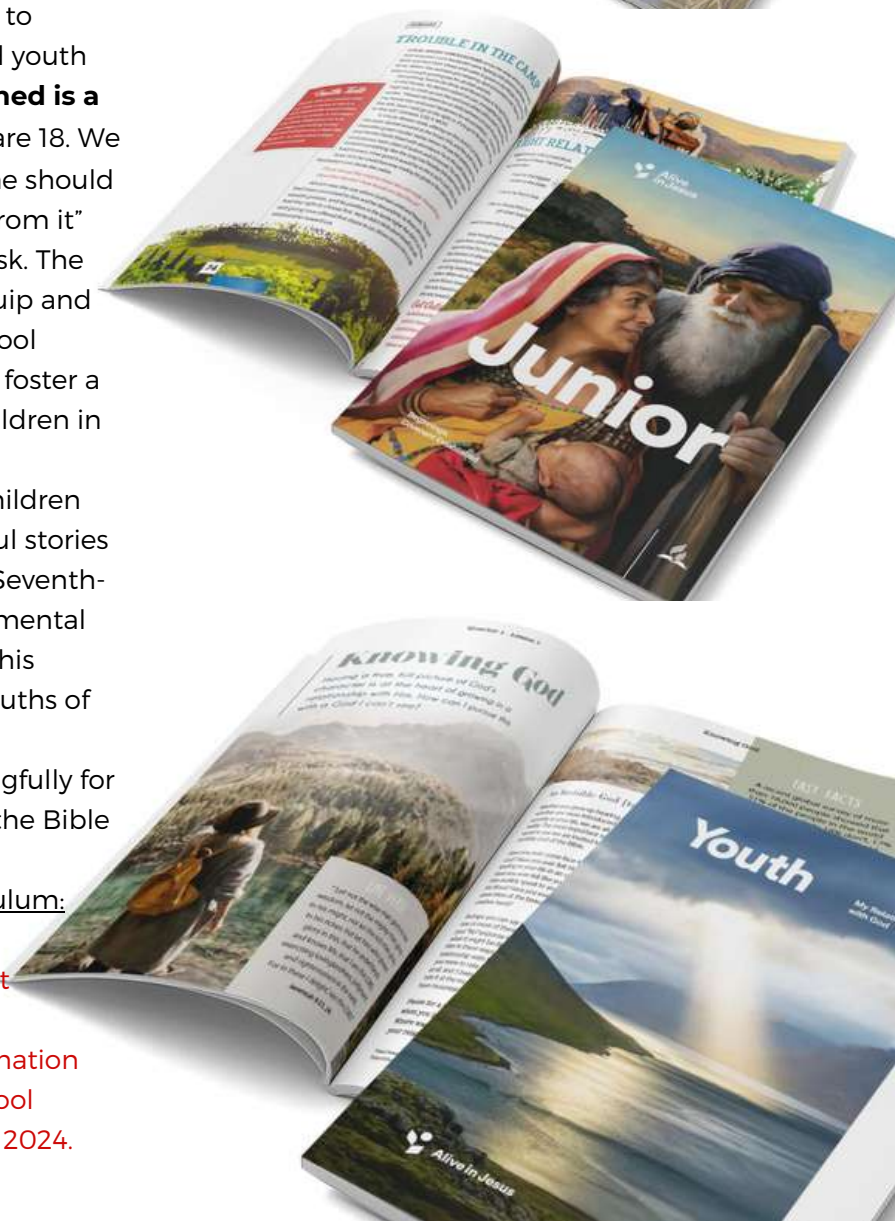
By Estelle Baker,
Director of
Children's Ministries

The Alive in Jesus Children's Sabbath School curriculum is a Bible curriculum that seeks to nurture the spiritual life of our children and youth from when they are babies (**yes, also planned is a book from birth to 1 year old!**) until they are 18. We are advised to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Such training is no small task. The Alive in Jesus Bible curriculum seeks to equip and empower parents, caregivers, Sabbath School teachers, leaders, and others to model and foster a thriving relationship with Jesus and the children in their spheres of influence.

The Alive in Jesus curriculum introduces children and youth to Jesus by bringing the beautiful stories and lessons of the Bible (including a clear Seventh-day Adventist worldview and the 28 fundamental beliefs) into our twenty-first-century lives. This curriculum shows young people that the truths of the Bible are unchanging and trustworthy, equipping them to study the Bible meaningfully for themselves to share the timeless truths of the Bible with others ultimately.

[Learn more about the Alive in Jesus Curriculum:](#)
([Click Here](#))

Contact the Northern Conference Adventist Children's Ministries Department (children@nc.adventist.org) for more information regarding the new Children's Sabbath School curriculum as well as the training dates for 2024.



PROJECT FIVE LOAVES

NCSA STAFF MAKES A DIFFERENCE

by Denise Pretorius

Project Five Loaves was launched on a freezing winter's morning with only two pots of soup, bread and two tables in a busy street in the old part of Bedfordview, Johannesburg. Initially, the staff were unsure to whom we'd give the food ...but God wasted no time showing us the way. All He needed was willing hands. He got us established in no time!

These days, when our cars stop there on a Wednesday morning, "customers" are already waiting...a neatly dressed gogo with her grandchildren respectfully requesting if there is also something left over to take home for supper and the young mum with her baby in the arms and golden-haired daughter excited about soup-kitchen morning. Then, the young couple and some other "regulars" stand a few meters away, patiently waiting for us to set up and serve.

The staff group has evolved by splitting up in different directions. Some minister to the school, others serve at the table in the street, and others split up in small groups covering the surrounding area to reach the street people busy recycling dustbins. Our food offerings, prayers and encouragement are received with initial surprise, delight and even unbelief...but always with gratefulness.

Local people are taking notice and stopping to chat. We are blessed!



GOD WASTED NO TIME
SHOWING US THE WAY

PROJECT FIVE LOAVES (CONTINUED)

The project was born through a longing from the NCSA staff to be in the hands of our dear Lord, Jesus, in our immediate community. The question was raised: should the Conference building vanish, would the Bedfordview community even notice? Under the leadership of Ps Hendrik de Winnaar and the Personal Ministries Department, a small committee was initiated, and the project took form. Our humble beginnings are now expanded to a branded gazebo.

On the first morning, a group was led to a small school for underprivileged children. The principal and children welcomed the food and the soul food shared by Etah Chivovo, an NCSA staff member. As it turned out, this is a school owned by a SDA Member. The small school serves children from the local area, but most of them are from a nearby shelter. When we show up on a Wednesday morning, eyes sparkle, and smiles abound! Our Wednesday morning offering is the only meal for some of these kids for who knows how long.

We decided to spend our time, money, and resources hosting their end-of-year function as a group. We had jumping castles sponsored for the event, games, and food. Even Pastor Rambelani Maligudu shared in the day's festivities. It is such a blessing to be able to give to these kids.... We were talking this morning; imagine if only one of them turns out to be the next Ps Carlton Byrd or Ps Rambelani Peter Maligudu. Pray with us as God increases His goodness and mercy in this ministry.

Every week, there is something else on the menu; delicious soup, breyani, hotdogs and lentil curry and rice, thanks to the kitchen of MEALS ON WHEELS, Alberton branch. The generosity of the staff of the NCSA financially carries the project. Please get in touch with Alison Newton at newtona@nc.adventist.org if you feel compelled to assist or join us on a Wednesday morning between 8 and 9. We have big plans - if you have clothes, toys or children's books, let us also know. **THE NEED IS GROWING WEEKLY!**



FLOURISH

NCSA WOMEN'S RETREAT

By Daleen Rodgers

During the last weekend of July, the NCSA's Women's Retreat was held in Springs and was well attended by 120 ladies from all over the conference and from sister conferences. The retreat was organised by Estelle Baker, Director of NCSA Women's Ministries. It created a space for women to slow down, rest, learn together, build relationships, laugh, have fun, enjoy solitude, and it was the ideal environment to soak up biblical teaching.

The theme, "FLOURISH", reminded the ladies how much they have to offer to their families, ministries, careers and communities by retreating and spending time with their Creator. Jesus had set the example as "...He often withdrew from the confusion of the city to the quiet of the fields, as more in harmony with the lessons of simplicity, faith, and self-abnegation." (E.G. White, MH, 53)

An array of competent speakers from different specialities delivered inspiring messages. The primary guest speaker was Ps Lola Johnston, a dynamic preacher and esteemed theologian from the United States. She founded Bloom Ministries, where women are encouraged to reach their full potential and lead gracefully: "Sometimes women found themselves in positions where they are clearly called by God, but meet with rejection all around them."



Ps Lola Johnston and Estelle Baker

Through her inspiring teaching, Ps Lola heartened the women through different ways Jesus interacted with Mary and Martha, the sisters from Capernaum, illustrating the importance of focusing on what matters. Sometimes, women, just like Martha, overestimate their contribution to God's plan for their lives and underestimate their own critical need for Him: "By trying so hard to be that 'mother/ ministry leader/career girl', everybody aspires to be can leave you in a frenzied lonely, dark space where you have disinvited the Saviour. Martha was overly concerned about feeding her guests...but Jesus fed a crowd of 5000 just a chapter before! Are you also sometimes worried about mindless foolishness? How often are we on the verge of a breakdown of what God can do through a single word? That day, Jesus did not come for a meal. He came to make a house call...on both sisters!"



*Top, left to right:
Estelle Baker, Juanita Africa,
Lauren Moonsamy,
Thobekile Ngwenya, Mercy
Shibalabala*

*Bottom, left to right:
Rumbi Hwinya, Zodwa
Kunene, Pastor Lola Moore
Johnston, Tshidi Nyama,
Molly Solundwana*

FLOURISH (CONTINUED)

The sessions were well balanced with ample time for prayers, inspiring music and worship, sweet reunions with friends, delightful meals and snacks and even an exercise and stretch session! Throughout the weekend, the women were reminded to be led by Jesus, make Him first, chase His company and FLOURISH!

"When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10. This is the effectual preparation for all labor for God. Amidst the hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, he who is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He will receive a new endowment of both physical and mental strength. His life will breathe out a fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men's hearts." (E.C. White, MH Chapter 3)

Contributors and Presenters of the 2023 retreat:

Adele van der Merwe led the morning devotions.
 Thobekile Ngwenya taught steps to personal revival.
 Zodwa Kunene, on flourishing in your chosen ministry.
 Molly Solundwana, who is passionate about prison ministries, challenged the ladies to get involved.
 The sweet voice of Mercy Shibalabala lifted the spirits.
 Lauren Moonsamy encouraged career women to trust God as He can make an impossible dream come true.
 Venny Dlamini, also on flourishing in your career.
 Emma Munyoro gave relationship guidance.
 Sutukazi Mabona spoke on the importance of self-care.
 Tshidi Nyama taught us how to flourish with our finances.
 Dr Mandy Mtwesi led prayer time.
 Gugu Nkosi got the ladies moving.
 René Winter gave the women steps to personal revival.
 Tsholo Maligudu led the prayer session on Sunday.
 Charlene Hector shared her powerful testimony on health and healing.



Seen here with Estelle Baker are two ladies who travelled all the way from Tzaneen, Limpopo, Rosita Muller and René Winter on the right..



Tsholo Maligudu, wife to Ps Rambelani Maligudu, NCSA President, led the prayer session on Sunday.

Why you should consider going to the 2024 NCSA's Women's Retreat:

- **Disconnect from technology and reconnect with God**
- **Gain clarity and perspective on life and relationships**
- **Connect with Christ-minded sisters**
- **Learn something new**
- **Pray together**
- **Return home refreshed and energised**

PROFILING ADVENTIST MEN

ADVENTIST MEN'S ORGANISATION

by Dr Jacob Mahlangu

Strong Men Sustain Strong Churches. Where do you get those men?

From the beginning, faithful men have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armour, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people. (Reflecting Christ, page 96)

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? “
Romans 8:31

Organisation and Road Map

At the beginning of this ensuing triennium, the department coordinated and mobilised local church AMO directors at Sedaven for training, equipping, and empowerment for mission. In the training session, an advisory was established and tasked with providing leadership and developing a roadmap for carrying out AMO projects and programs throughout the triennium.



Essential concerns that AMO is grappling with:

- **Men's place and role before God**
- **Men's place and role in the family**
- **Men's place and role in society concerning human security, peace, and gender-based violence**
- **Men's place and role in church and mission of the church.**
- **Men's place and role in environmental preservation.**

Quite a good number of programs covering activities such as Men's breakfast sessions, discussions on men's role in the family, Family finance, Self-Reliance and evangelism have been handled in various churches.

The AMO Congress at Sedaven Estate on 14 October 2023 demonstrated that sugar is always at the bottom of the cup. Great things are yet to come for AMO, by AMO and through AMO as the Lord shall guide.

“Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through Christ, the One who makes me who I am.”
Philippians 4:13

**AMO
Congress
at
Sedaven**



REAL HEALTH

A SIMPLE DIET – A SPECTACULAR LIFE

by **Connie Penniken**

The Health Benefits of a Whole Food Plant-Based Diet

1. **Heart Health:**

A whole food plant-based diet is rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and seeds and is naturally low in saturated fats. This diet has been linked to reduced risk factors for heart disease, including lower cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and body weight. By choosing plant-based foods, we can protect our cardiovascular health and decrease the likelihood of heart-related issues.

2. **Weight Management:**

Whole food plant-based diets are typically lower in calorie density, meaning you can eat larger portions of satisfying, nutrient-rich foods while maintaining a healthy weight. This makes it easier to control portion sizes and avoid overeating, aiding in weight management and preventing obesity.

3. **Diabetes Prevention and Management:**

Plant-based diets are associated with a reduced risk of type 2 diabetes. The high fibre content of plant-based foods helps regulate blood sugar levels and improve insulin sensitivity. For those already diagnosed with diabetes, a plant-based diet can help better manage the condition and potentially reduce the need for medication.

4. **Cancer Risk Reduction:**

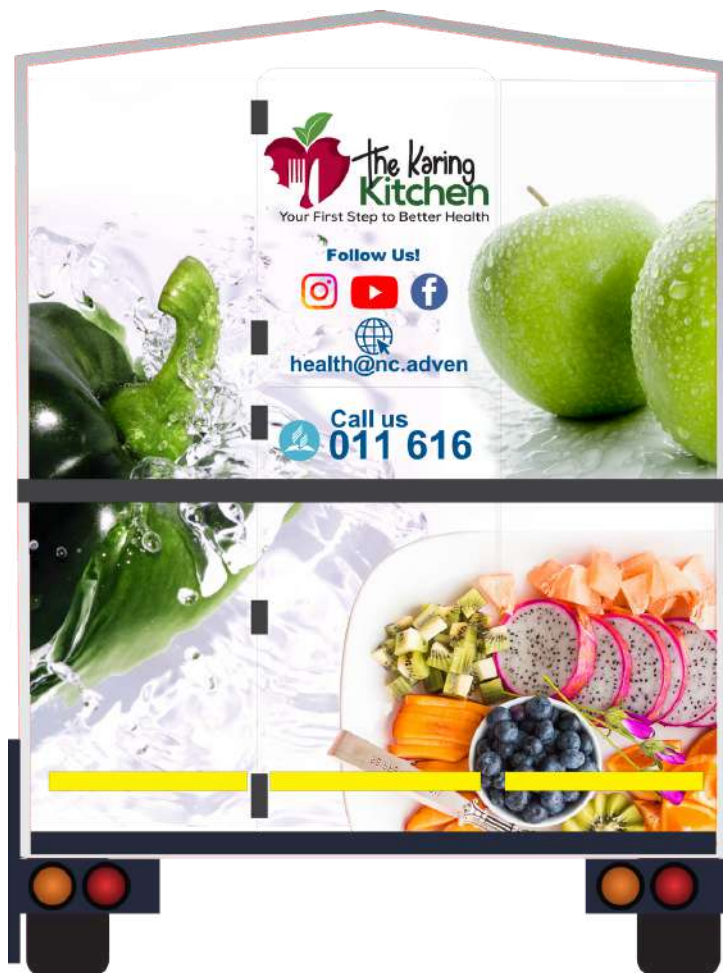
Research suggests that a plant-based diet may lower the risk of certain cancers, particularly colon, breast, and prostate cancers. The abundance of antioxidants, phytochemicals, and fibre in plant-based foods prevents cell damage and promotes healthy cell growth.

5. **Gut Health:**

A plant-based diet promotes a healthy gut
continued on next pg/



THIS TRAILER PURCHASE WILL
ENABLE US TO OFFER HEALTHY
PLANT-BASED FOODS TO OUR
MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES,
MAKING IT EVEN EASIER FOR
EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF
THIS LIFESTYLE.



REAL HEALTH (CONTINUED)

microbiome due to its high fibre content. This can improve digestion, reduce inflammation, and enhance nutrient absorption. A thriving gut microbiome is essential for overall health and well-being.

6. Longevity:

Studies have shown that individuals who follow a plant-based diet have a longer life expectancy. By reducing the risk of chronic diseases and promoting overall health, a plant-based diet can contribute to a longer, healthier life.

Introducing Our Healthy Plant-Based Food Trailer

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, we are thrilled to announce the acquisition of a mobile food trailer dedicated to offering delicious and nutritious plant-based meals and snacks to our community and members. This trailer will enable us to reach a wider audience and make healthy food options more accessible, affordable, and convenient.

What You Can Expect from Our Trailer:

- A diverse yet simple menu featuring a wide range of whole food plant-based options, from hearty salads to flavourful grain bowls and protein-rich legume dishes.
- Freshly prepared meals made with locally sourced, seasonal ingredients whenever possible.
- Nutritional information and educational materials to help you make informed choices about your diet.
- A friendly and welcoming atmosphere where you can learn about the benefits of a plant-based lifestyle and connect with like-minded individuals.



A whole food plant-based diet is a powerful tool for improving health and well-being, and the Northern Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Health Department is dedicated to promoting this lifestyle choice. With our new mobile food trailer, we are excited to make healthy plant-based options more accessible and convenient for our members and communities. Join us on this journey towards better health and a brighter future.



A Festive Treat

Waffles

- 2 Cups Water
- 2 Tbsp. Sesame Seeds
- ½ Cup Grape Seed Oil
- 10 Dates
- 2 Cups Oats
- 1 Tsp Himalayan Salt
- ¼ Cup Sunflower Seeds
- 1 Tsp Vanilla Essence

Method

Add water to the blender first. Then add all other ingredients and blend until smooth. Let mixture stand for 5 minutes. Heat the waffle maker and pour the mixture in when hot enough. Do not open it for the first 2 minutes.

Serve with whipped coconut cream/ honey and fruit of choice. A healthy treat that could be enjoyed for breakfast or anytime.

WE NEED TO GO!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

By Estelle Baker



Music is a precious gift from God. Music is inspiring and uplifting, an expressive and creative art form much like poetry or painting. E.G. White wrote, "Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God" (Music-Its Role, Qualities, and Influence, Pg.3). Music can be used to praise God, showing that He is all about celebrating goodness and gladness. It can help us bring depth to the words we express in adoration of Him.

On Sabbath, 28 October, 13 children's groups (±270) participated in the Northern Conference Adventist Children's Ministries Department's inaugural music festival at the Sedaven Auditorium. It was a morning filled with inspirational singing, instrumental music, and poetry.

Children joined to sing the official Adventist Children's Ministries song, "We Need to Go." The lyrics say, "We need to go tell the world of Jesus love, they need to know all the good things He has done, we're gonna be teaching, preaching, loving, leading, sharing what we know, we need to go tell the world of Jesus love."

It can be more challenging to remember the exact words of the best sermons, but the words of a song often come to us with little effort!

As we reflect on the amazing day together, the songs rendered at the music festival by all the children continue to ring in our ears.

Feedback from church leaders:

"We really had a beautiful time praising God in song. Thank you so much for organising such a wonderful program" (Northmead Church).

"If it were not the creativity and commitment of the Boksburg children, we would not have reached this far and height. They gave it all towards the Music Festival" (Boksburg English Church).

"They enjoyed and did very well. Thank you for such programs" (Ennerdale Church).

"We would like to THANK YOU for organising this wonderful event for all our children, for the guidance and support you show to all our leaders and for making the Music Festival a fantastic experience! (Agape Church).

"The experience there was too beautiful; I'm still in awe!" (Sandton Church).

We sincerely appreciate and thank all the church leaders for their excellent work preparing the children for the music festival. We are very proud of all the children who participated in the music festival.

All the children's groups did exceptionally well; they truly did us very proud. 🎵🎸🎹🎺



WE NEED TO GO!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL



Participating churches:

Agape

Berea Johannesburg

Boksburg Engels

Bosmont

Dalpark

Ennerdale

Mt Calvary

Northmead

Panorama

Rust Ter Vaal

Sandton

and

Sedaven Primary School

If you missed this year's children's music festival, please save the date for the 2024 event happening on:

Sabbath, 2 November 2024

We are looking forward to having many more churches participate.



THE GREAT CONTROVERSY PROJECT 2.0

LITERATURE EVANGELISM

by LE Elijah Maanzo

The messenger of the Lord says, "The press is a powerful instrumentality which God has ordained to be combined with the energies of the living preacher to bring the truth before all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples CM pg. 100. At the NCSA Publishing Department/ SOP (Spirit of Prophecy), we witness God's hand daily and His intervention and blessings in every aspect of our ministry. In this short article, we would like to share our experiences about The Great Controversy Project 2.0 within the NCSA territory.

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY PROJECT 2.0

The Great Controversy (GC) Project 2.0 is a world-wide initiative by the General Conference of SDA to distribute the book *The Great Controversy*. The Publishing Department/SOP works hand in hand with the NCSA SSPM (Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department) to ensure that the project is successful in the NCSA territory. The role of the Publishing Department in GC Project 2.0 is to ensure that every church in the NCSA territory is actively participating in the project, the church is informed about the project and is actively reading and sharing the GC with families, neighbours, friends, work and school colleagues. Encouraging the church members to read the book is very important because they become familiar with the contents of the book, and they can answer questions that the public might ask them about the book. PowerPoint presentations of a summary of the GC and information about the project are available at the NCSA publishing department. For more information about the project, visit the website www.greatcontroversyproject.org.

Literature Evangelists

The book *The Great Controversy* is an important book that presents the final warning message needed to prepare for the second coming of Jesus. The Northern Conference literature evangelist (LE) team is leading the GC project 2.0. The NCSA has a well-trained team of literature evangelists (LEs). Many Churches are teaming up with LEs to read and distribute the book to the public. As the NCSA Publishing/SOP department, we encourage local

Berea International SDA Church members trained by LE Wamu and LE Juma

churches to invite LEs to give talks and training to effectively share the Great Controversy with our families, neighbours, and friends.

Churches are mobilised

At various local churches, we have seen the formation of book clubs, a collective effort to facilitate and coordinate the reading of the Great Controversy. Our young members at Kliptown SDA church actively participate, with about 20 youth dedicating their time to this cause. We also have other church members who, eager to participate in the project, have committed their time and resources to buying and reading books in preparation for our mass book distribution in 2024. Active book reading groups have been reported at Edenvale, Krugersdorp Central, Pretoria Eastern suburbs, SDA churches, Sunnyside church and others. This growing unity and shared interest in the Great Controversy project is truly encouraging, and we look forward to seeing the book scattered like leaves of Autumn across the NCSA territory.

We urge your local church to keep the Conference Publishing department updated on all activities related to the Great Controversy Project 2.0 so we can share our experiences and receive full blessings from God. Let's continue to keep this project in our prayers.

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THE GREAT CONTROVERSY PROJECT 2.0

Mass Distribution Of Great Controversy At Johannesburg CBD

On 7 October 2023, at the Johannesburg CBD, church members from the Johannesburg Central SDA Church marched on the streets led by the local church senior pastor, publishing leaders, literature evangelists, pathfinder band, metro police, and a host of churches united to distribute The Great Controversy and make a statement that the Seventh-day Adventist church is concerned about our communities where we live. Church members prayed for city dwellers at a nearby park that day. Among those prayed for was a young man who requested to be prayed for deliverance from addiction to substance abuse. When he asked for prayers, he still had a cigarette in his hands. At the close of the prayer, he had crushed it. As the church members marched on the streets, many asked for more information about the Seventh Day Adventist church.

At the onset of the exercise, the local church pastor dedicated the books. The Lord answered our prayers. At the end of the event on that Sabbath day, more than 2000 copies of literature were distributed in Johannesburg CBD. Many people rushed to grab copies of the Great Controversy. While on the streets, little children were heard saying, "Mama, what's going on?" Some Adventists whom Johannesburg members met on the roads also gladly grabbed the literature, saying, "I am also an Adventist", while others asked where the church was located.

Members of Johannesburg Central SDA and other churches marched through the city to distribute copies of The Great Controversy. On the left is LE Elijah Maanzo, Director of Literature Evangelism.

This was a "wakeup call" that all church members should stand up to shout out Matt 24:14 so that Jesus comes back. The Holy Spirit has stirred in so many people who received books that they are requesting more material. Let us all do the work of God now before it is too late. Church members drew much encouragement from the experience. Thus, local churches are encouraged to participate in scheduled book distribution programs to reach communities near their churches and make them aware of the presence of Adventists in their area. "As we look forward to meeting soon and encouraging one another in the ministry of published work, we glorify God for the mighty works He is doing in His Church." Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, pp. 315, 316. (1900)

The messenger of the Lord has counselled us that there will be a positive outcome if our books are widely circulated. "The wider the circulation of our publications, the greater will be the demand for books that make plain the Scriptures of truth. Many are becoming disgusted with the inconsistencies, the errors, and the apostasy of the churches, and with the festivals, fairs, lotteries, and numerous inventions to extort money for church purposes. There are many who are seeking for light in the darkness. If our papers, tracts, and books, expressing the truth in plain Bible language, could be widely circulated, many would find that they are just what they want. But many of our brethren act as though the people were to come to them or send to our offices to obtain publications, when thousands do not know that they exist".{CM 85.1}



ON MY BOOKSHELF

BOOK REVIEW

by Ps Riaan van der Merwe

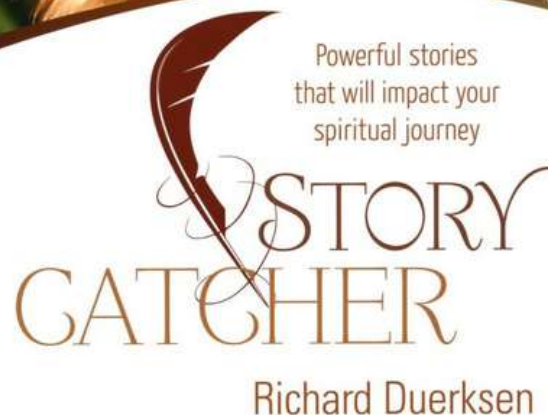
Richard Duerksen. **Story Catcher**. Editorial Safeliz, S.L., Spain 2019. 144 pp (Soft Cover)

"These stories help me love being loved by God" were the words from Todd Chobotar, publisher and editor of Adventist Health Publishing, after reading Richard Duerksen's book, *Story Catcher*. If you love stories (and who doesn't?), you will absolutely love this book. Richard Duerksen is a master storyteller.

When we read the Gospels, we can see that Jesus made use of telling stories (Parables) to His audience. It made it easier for them to understand the wonderful Biblical truths He wanted to share with them, and His stories were transforming everyone who listened to them with an open heart. So why not follow Jesus' example? That is what Richard Duerksen is doing. Your heart will be touched when you read all 25 stories in this book. It is stories packed with inspiration, with Jesus at the centre every time. It is stories that will show you the unconditional love He has for us; it is stories that will make you want to share the love of Jesus with others who don't know him.

"I believe in stories. Stories influence all people regardless of age or status. Stories change lives. People may argue with the theory, but arguing with a story or personal testimony is harder. Stories don't only appeal to the mind but also the heart. Jesus used them, and we must do the same. Richard's book can greatly bless you and those you work with as you learn how to practically use stories in your ministry." Pavel Goia - Editor Ministry Magazine

"Duerksen's masterful storytelling paints pictures that place you as a witness to the event. The power of his storytelling moves you towards God's Kingdom" Jose Vicente Rojas, President, MOVEMENTUM.



Story Catcher is a book that will catch your imagination and draw you so deep into the love of God that you will have no choice but to share it with others. The book is very well written and is an easy read. With stories like The Angel on the Bicycle, Turn Left Now, Gone Fishing and many more, you cannot put this book down. If you tell the children story at Church, get a copy of this book! Story Catcher is highly recommended. Get this book and get ready for a fantastic adventure with Richard Duerksen.

Ps Riaan serves at Orange Grove Church as well as manager of the Adventist Book Centre. He is married to Adele, and they have three sons. His passion is for the bookshop and souls, and he is a strong believer in the enormous role of literature in evangelism



SONG IN MY HEART WHATEVER MY LOT

by **Nadia Webster**

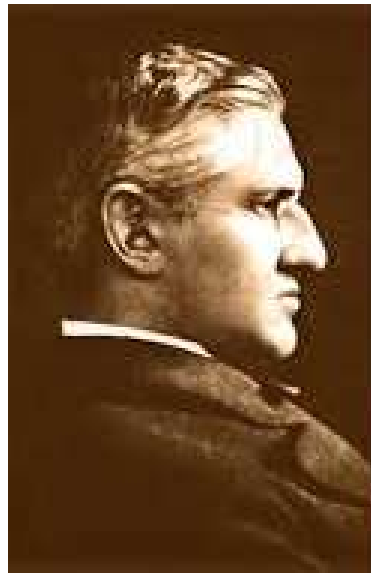
Life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings, and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So, how can we find peace amid such turbulence?

Horatio Spafford knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever.

Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford's precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone. What shall I do?"

Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the ship's captain, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.

Horatio and Anna Spafford's four daughters who tragically died at sea.



As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-beloved hymn:

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll—

Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know.

It is well; it is well with my soul.

It's hard to learn of Spafford's story and to encounter his hymn, prayers, and cries before the Most High and not be utterly moved.

Christ promised that in this world, we would suffer (John 16:33). Some of us may look at Spafford's story and pray that we never encounter such a shipwreck. Others among us feel they already have. Some are experiencing peace, and some are in great turmoil like the rolling waves of a storm-swept sea. The marvellous mystery of the gospel is wrapped up in a spirit that can praise God amid all circumstances. It's here that Spafford humbly and beautifully leads the way.

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Annie



Maggie



Bessie



Tanetta

SONG IN MY HEART (CONTINUED)

We serve a God who can walk on water and calm the waves—but He can also lead us through the storm (Matthew 14:22–23; 8:23–27). Whatever our lot, challenge, trial, or resistance, when we pray “it is well,” we don’t brush away the pain or despair, but we do plant our feet firmly on the steady Rock and with us in the storm and suffering. “It is well” is not a glib smile or a trite phrase. It’s the knowledge that Jesus, who wept for the loss of His friend, also weeps with us in our loss (John 11:35), ministering to us from His personal experience with great suffering.

“Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river... as one whom his mother comforts so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:12–13a).

Besides “Amazing Grace,” there might be no better-known hymn than “It Is Well with My Soul,” a poem penned by Horatio Spafford in 1873

As a child, I remember standing in many church services, singing “It Is Well” with the zeal of a child who loves Jesus and music.

“It Is Well” brings hope in heartache. Its themes travel into the deep, hurting places of the human soul and remind us that God is with us always. We can trust him, even when our hardships don’t make sense.

By 1878, composer Philip P. Bliss, who travelled and sang on evangelistic crusades, put Spafford’s poem to music. He and Ira Sankey published “It Is Well with My Soul”.

Philip Bliss also suffered a tragedy. While travelling by train to a crusade in 1876, a bridge collapsed as the Pacific Express passed over it, which caused the train to plummet into a deep ravine. Bliss initially escaped but returned to extricate his wife from the burning wreckage. They both died in the fire, leaving behind two young sons. Words to a poem (later to become another famous hymn) entitled “I Will Sing of My Redeemer” were found in Bliss’s trunk.

The grief experienced while writing “It Is Well with My Soul” has undoubtedly infused the lines of the verses with faith and comfort. Communication

penned during desperation facilitates a remarkable oxymoron: it connects hearers toward finding comfort in a God who allows tragedy.

Read the words and see why “It Is Well with My Soul” has encouraged millions of people during their darkest hours:

(Written by Andrew Stoddard)

It Is Well With My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

**1. When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well, (it is well),
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.**

**2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.**

**3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

**4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.**

**5. But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we
wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.**

**6. And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall
be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall
descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.**

SONG IN MY HEART (CONTINUED)

Four Reasons Why “It Is Well with My Soul” Hits Home

1. **Everyone experiences grief.** One person’s grief, when shared, resonates with another person’s suffering and brings comfort in the shared experience. Spafford could never have written this song from a place of affluence, although he had been blessed with much. He wrote it after years of heartache and loss.

2. **Everyone asks, “Why?”** During loss, everyone struggles with questions, “Why did this happen?” and “How could God let this happen?” Spafford’s strong faith pushes past the why and chooses to believe in God’s sovereign will.

3. **Everyone asks, “How do I go on?”** Our struggle for faith is always refined during times of crisis and trauma. Like Job, Spafford experienced the devastation of his fortune and then the deaths of all his children in an unexpected catastrophe; how he and Anna reacted to their loss revealed and bolstered their dependence on God’s comfort and peace.

4. **Everyone needs a go-to place for comfort.** Like Psalm 23, “It Is Well” is a fallback resource for believers and unbelievers--in times of pain and doubt. The song causes us to seek God for comfort.

You might be interested in knowing the Scripture behind Spafford’s powerful verses. The poem follows a progression of faith throughout its six stanzas. Perhaps we can follow the song and apply its truths daily.

How to Apply This Song to Our Daily Lives

1. **Choose a biblical perspective for life.** Verse 1—Spafford uses water to symbolise peace rather than destruction. He addresses the devastating situation that he’s struggling to understand and accept.

“Peace like a river” is a common phrase originating in Scripture. Isaiah uses it twice. Spafford quotes from both verses in verse 1, which, not surprisingly, has a nautical theme. Isaiah states, “your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea” (Isaiah 48:18) and “For this is

what the Lord says: “I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream” (Isaiah 66:12)

2. **Remember Jesus’ suffering and love for you.** Verse 2—Spafford reiterates that Jesus also suffered and that Jesus’ suffering benefits his children. Drawing from Romans, Spafford puts suffering in perspective:

“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance” (Romans 5:3)

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:17-18)

“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

3. **Pray and sing words of love and adoration to the Lord.** This will re-orient your heart and your mind.

Verse 3—Instead of focusing on his loss, Spafford focuses on his salvation, making his natural mindset disappear. He borrows the imagery from Colossians to describe his sins being “nailed to the cross.”

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)

4. **Give thanks for all of God’s blessings.** We usually don’t understand what God’s doing or how he’s using our life for a larger purpose. Verse 4—Spafford’s renewed thankfulness inspires him to
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SONG IN MY HEART (CONTINUED)

live purposefully again. He uses the language from Philippians to remind him of his spiritual calling and comfort him concerning his children's fate. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

5. **Look ahead to eternity.** As soulful beings, we weren't designed for this earth. Verse 5—Spafford's perspective turns to the eternal. His purpose on earth is merely a shadow of his eternal purpose. He references the Rapture and his eternal reward.

"After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

6. Place your hope in heaven. Especially when someone you love dies, the hope of heaven is a powerful comfort.

Verse 6—Spafford looks to the end of our mortal existence and our glorious reuniting with Christ. Indeed, this thought would also bring comfort, as Spafford, at this point, had lost five of his children. He speaks of the Lord's coming as occurring at night, but instead of a horrific event, he describes it as a "song in the night." Sleep, which poets and Scripture often use to describe death, is merely a gateway to our intended home.

"Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (1 Thessalonians 5:1)

Although Horatio and Anna Spafford endured several great tragedies, history records a family that stayed the course of faith. They continued to give and serve gospel ministers and established the Spafford Children's Center, which cares for 30,000 children annually.

Most notably, the words "It Is Well with My Soul" live on, inspiring millions to hope that pain has a purpose, that death is temporary, and that faith can carry you through your worst nightmare.

Perhaps Horatio Spafford turned often to Psalm 18:16-19:



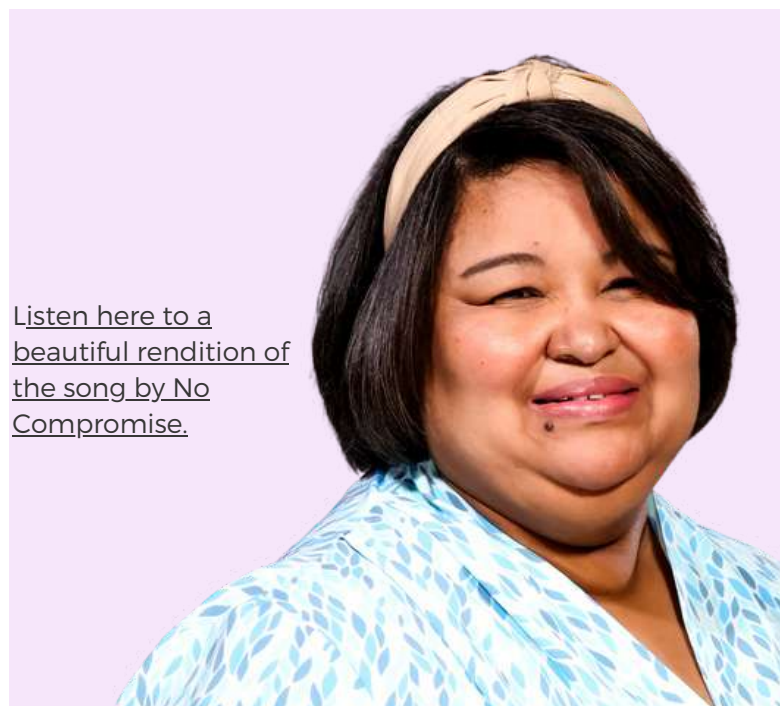
*Phillip Bliss
composed the
music.*

"{He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me."

As life's challenges and storms may surround us, as we struggle and feel low, may we focus on trusting God, knowing that He sees, knows and feels everything we are going through. So, when it feels like we have hit rock bottom, let us say, along with Horatio:

**"Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL."**

[Listen here to a beautiful rendition of the song by No Compromise.](#)



WHEN I STUDY ELLEN WHITE...

By Dr Gustav van Niekerk

No figure in the SDA Church has had a greater influence in the broadest possible sense than Ellen G. White. From the lesson book through evangelism and to health and beyond, to this day, we still experience the influence of Ellen White. When we consider the humble beginnings of the SDA Church, we find no theologians or trained thinkers. The founders of the SDA Church were minimally educated, poor, and without a grand plan and structure; in short, they started with nothing but slivers of Scriptural truth. When we consider the SDA Church in its current state, we are perhaps the richest regarding our potential for Bible knowledge, health, outreach, church governance, finances and various other aspects. It cannot be denied that Ellen White's writings deposited the SDA Church's spiritual riches.

Abusing Ellen White's Work

The most significant impediment to the blessings received from reading Ellen White's works comes from those who suppose they have read and understood her work. Too often, the words "Ellen White says..." are followed by lousy theology or condemnation. If this is the case, the simple solution would be to read and study Ellen White correctly. To do this, we must first understand, "How did Ellen White write?"

Christ, First, Last and Always

The first point to be grasped is that Ellen White had a Christ-centred focus that bordered on obsession. In her writings, Christ is everything, and anything she wrote only makes sense in Christ. It is Christ first, last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, but at every step of the way.^[i]

[i] E.G. White. Steps to Christ. Review and Herald Publishing Association: Hagerstown. 1908. P. 69.



*Ellen G. White, circa 1878 (colourised)
Courtesy of the Ellen G. White Estate, Inc*

Any reader who does not share this absolute Christ-centred focus will inevitably misunderstand Ellen White's writings. Christ is not simply a name to be uttered at the beginning or end of a sentence, but He is to be the first thought when one wakes in the morning, the guide to every thought and action during the day and the last thought of the day. For Ellen White, every aspect of life must revolve around Christ. This point, regardless of the topic she addresses, is always her goal that the reader moves to have Christ central.

Paradoxes and more Paradoxes

A paradox is when two seemingly opposing ideas are presented as belonging together. Ellen White utilises this writing technique repeatedly in her works. She presents ideas that appear contradictory, but she gives them as two sides of the same coin. It is up to the reader to consider how these two extremes form part of one concept. This is only possible to review Ellen White's thoughts in light of Scripture. The implications are that firstly if one were to read Ellen White, it would inevitably lead to the reading of Scripture. Ellen White as the lesser light leading to Scripture as the greater light is not mere sentiment but a concrete process. Secondly, a superficial reading of Ellen White will leave one seeing only one side of the paradox and give one an incorrect impression of her view on a

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WHEN I STUDY ELLEN WHITE (CONTINUED)

matter. In straightforward terms, simply quoting Ellen White does not confirm any idea. One must consider both sides of the paradox to understand what Ellen White believed.

Themes Threaded and Hidden

Another consideration is that Ellen White weaves several themes into her writings. As mentioned, there is the centrality of Christ; there is also God's love for humankind, redemption, and righteousness by faith, to name a few. These threads are not only woven into her writings but are interwoven with one another. These themes are not always highlighted, but they always form the foundation, and as Ellen White requires, she will bring one or more themes to the surface. Since these themes are woven into one another, it also implies that when she speaks of the love God has for humankind, it is always bound up with Christ, righteousness by faith, and any other aspect she addresses.

What to do Practically?

How, then, shall we approach Ellen White's writings? The next time one reads Ellen White, consider the following steps:

First, pray before reading Ellen White; as with Scripture, the Holy Spirit guided her, and we need the Holy Spirit to guide us in reading her writing. Second, ask the question, "How does what I am reading relate to Christ?" or "If I were to follow her advice, how would it reflect Christ?"

Third: Look for the paradox and then, falling back on Scripture, find a way to unite the two seemingly opposing ideas.

Last: Consider what theme Ellen White is bringing forward and how that fits into all the other themes.

In Closing

Reading Ellen White results in people reading their Bibles more, praying more, and doing more outreach; in short, in all aspects of their spiritual life, reading her leads to improvement.

[i] The only time this fails is when a person reads Ellen White for self-justification. Reading Ellen White is not easy because, through her, the Holy Spirit informs the reader that there are areas that need reform. Ellen White did not write mere spiritual feel-good books. She addressed concerns that would decide the readers' fate for eternity.

I have had the good pleasure of being acquainted with and meeting several directors of the Ellen G. White Estate. The one factor that is undeniable is that they were lovely people. If a person is reading Ellen White and they are grumps, condemning others, criticising, and complaining there is a problem. Reading Ellen White makes one lovely in joy, humility, and love for others and for God.

[i]Seventh-Day Adventist Believe. Ministerial Association General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: Silver Springs. 2005. P. 258.



Ps Gustav has recently received a PhD in Systematic Theology focused on the Christology of EG White. He is married to the beautiful Chontel. He serves the church at Laeveld, Lydenburg and Sabie.

EDUCATION NEWS

EDUACATING FOR ETERNITY



by **Sonia Mapumulo**

We aim to prepare young people for responsible citizenship in this world and the world to come. As we progressed with the year, each learner's purpose in the Adventist school system unfolded, each teacher's epic mission strengthened, and every support staff's commitment was nurtured.

The education at NCSA seeks to impart holistic education through events and activities such as fun days, concerts, leadership camps, entrepreneurs' days, restaurant days, career days, Eisteddfods, and market or car boot sale days.

Our schools held convocations such as baptisms, praise and thanksgivings, alumni meetings and anniversaries.

The 2023 conferences allowed us to meet our former learners, parents, teachers, members of the school boards, and principals who are still working for the Lord. Some of these people are not necessarily Seventh-day Adventists, but their lives are governed by the principles of what they learned or experienced by attending or serving in our schools.

The baptismal classes, VOP lessons, Pathfinder and Adventures classes form integral parts of our solid foundations that shape our learners' values, make them moral, and remain in the church through the years.

To our Lord be the glory for the 24 souls won for Christ. Sedaven High School had eight learners, Presda had one learner, and Paterson Park Primary School had 15 learners.



West Rand Primary School -Thanksgiving Praise Team



*Baptisms at Paterson Park Primary School
(Click for YouTube link).*

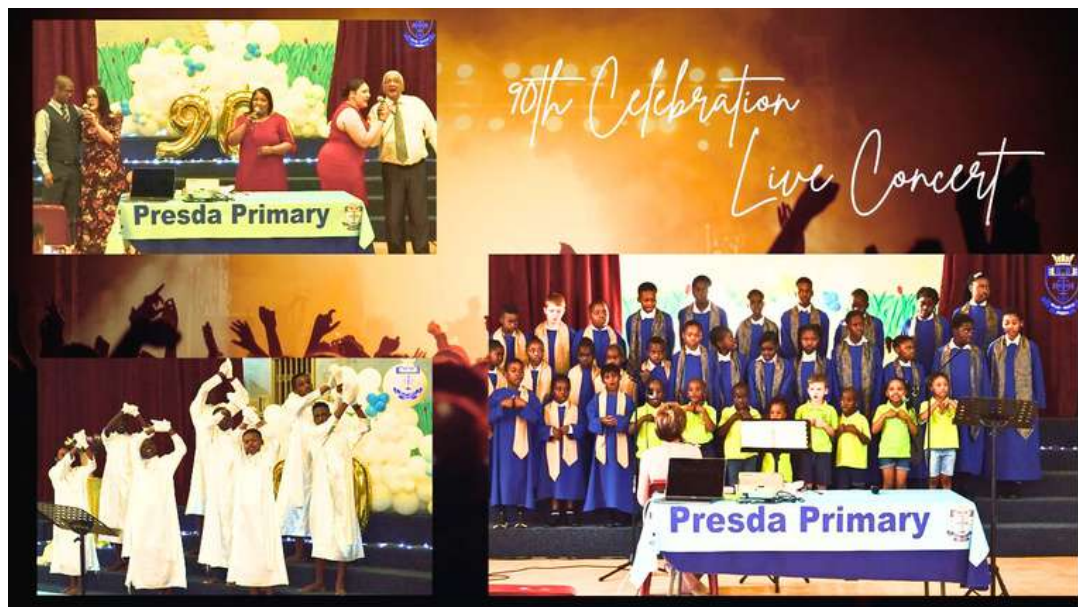


*Baptism candidates at Sedaven High School (above)
Family fun at Paterson Park Primary School (below)*



EDUCATION NEWS (CONTINUED)

PRESDA – 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!



The 90th celebration was honoured by Pastors, our current PRESDA family, former parents, learners, members of the school boards, and principals whose presence and voice notes made the occasion memorable. Testimonies, musical renditions, and the Master of Ceremonies' Adventist Education nuggets testified that Adventist Education provides more than mental discipline.

The inspiring speech by the Conference President, Pastor Maligudu, fortified the Presda community's mission for Adventist Education.

The NCSA Executive Secretary, Pastor Anderson's support at the celebration and the launch of PRESDA Alumni made Presda acknowledge that it is doing noble work. ([Click for YouTube link](#)).

INAUGURAL SEDAVEN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI REUNION



Reunited at last on the first weekend of September 2023, a whole weekend filled with old friends and gripping performances.

The ardent Sabbath School presentation by Mr Mawela, the inspiring divine service by Pastor

Khumalo and the exclusive afternoon testimonies and presentations by former learners who are dignified men and women making a difference in our communities was humbling and a reminder that the education we offer at Sedaven High school still conforms to the Creator's plan.

AND THE BRIDE WORE WHITE

TEEN CAMP 2023

By Estelle Baker

The Northern Conference Women's Ministries Department hosted a camp for teen girls on 27 – 30 April 2023 at Rocky Valley Christian Camp in Krugersdorp. Fifty-four teens aged between 12-18 years attended the camp. The camp's theme was "And the Bride Wore White – Seven Secrets to Sexual Purity", based on the resource written by Danna Gresh.

The need is great for effective sex education to take place within the faith community. Despite positive steps towards abstinence education, there remains a stigma attached to those who choose to wait until marriage to have sex. Young women need to be empowered to stand for what they believe. They also need practical skills to live out what they believe.

The primary objective of the camp was to provide young girls with practical tools to pursue purity in a world stained with sexual pain. The primary focus was to have them fall head over heels in love with Jesus.

The weekend programme was facilitated by skilled professionals (Social workers, Christian Counsellors, Qualified Life Coaches and Educators).

The programme format included early morning alone time, and girls were encouraged to use their Bibles, journals and Bible Study provided to understand, reflect, and appreciate the valuable lessons from women's lives in the Bible.

Small group discussions were held, and girls shared thoughts, concerns, and experiences and had the opportunity to have difficult conversations concerning their realities. Facilitators were highly efficient in addressing these. Girls were very receptive to the lessons on sexual purity, and there was very keen participation during the group discussions. Opportunities were available for individual counselling sessions with the on-site Christian counsellor.



The camp ended with a voluntary candle-lighting pledge ceremony. Girls were challenged and encouraged to pledge to a life of purity. Each prayerfully committed to staying pure by God's grace until their wedding day.

Feedback from a parent: "And The Bride Wore White, every girl's dream, every father's dream to walk their daughter down the aisle, every mother's dream to be Mother of the Bride. The girls were empowered, and we pray they embrace what they learned over the weekend. May God continue to put a hedge of protection over our daughters. Let's keep praying for them."

All praise and thanks to God for making this camp possible. We pray that the tools taught to the girls will be applied in their lives by the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.

Sincere appreciation to MOWCS Management for the generous cash and in-kind donations towards the camp. It was extremely helpful in making the camp affordable for the girls and their parents.

TIME TO TABERNACLE HEART TO HEART

By Ps Nico Theunissen



The only sure thing in life is that nothing is certain – have you heard this somewhat pessimistic saying? Looking at the significant events just in the past few years, it is becoming evident that the impact of situations and their rippling effects can soon become devastating. Seen in this light, it is not difficult to become a little despairing about the future.

A Daunting Task

Being carriers of the Three Angels Message, we should (and sometimes we do) become excited when we look at our position in the world's history. In times like this, God calls men and women to come to the forefront to answer the call enthusiastically. And when we say it and hear it being said, it makes us optimistic and excited, but when the speaker has left the building and finds ourselves alone at home, it goes back to daunting.

How can we ensure that we are doing the will of God, and how can we do it effectively? Pay attention because what you're about to learn is crucial. Let's explore valuable insights and perspectives that will benefit you personally and spiritually. So, let's dive right in and get to the heart of the matter: Time to tabernacle!

Back to the Beginning

To understand the meaning of "to tabernacle", we need to go back to the beginning of the tabernacle in Exodus 33:7, "Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting."

Although I have read this verse many times before, I suddenly realised that this was a different tent: a different tabernacle of meeting. The question arose: why was it far from the camp, and what was the need for this other tent? Mrs White can shine some light on the subject.

"...the tabernacle. This was a tent used temporarily until the completion of the more permanent "tent of meeting" (PP 327).

"Moses could not always be ascending Mt. Sinai to meet with God, for the camp needed his superintending care, especially at this time. The fact that the tent was moved "afar off from the camp" symbolised the removal of God's presence from the people because of their iniquity. Tabernacle of the congregation. Preferably, "the tent of meeting." Here, those who desired to return to the Lord could come in true repentance, confessing their sins and seeking God's mercy." SDA bible commentary vol 1 pg. 671.

Shekinah - One who Dwells

The Lord knows His chosen people are sinful and need to rid themselves of this sin. God also needs to be closer to His children; He does not want to be a distant God who only seeks worship. No, this God wants to live with His children. My son, Quintin, once asked what we associate the word Shekinah with. What do we think it is all about? An answer flashed through my mind: "It sounds like a shack. God wants to shack up with us." That was, of course, not the correct answer Quintin needed, but my answer opened my eyes to something more profound.

When we use the term "shack up together", it implies that I so eagerly want to be with you that I would move in with you despite the conditions and other risks involved, although there typically are some conditions from some or either party involved. After being married to me for 14 years and being together for 15 years, my wife is bringing these conditions out in phases... All jokes aside, but this is precisely what God wants to do.

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TIME TO TABERNACLE (CONTINUED)

He wants to be closer to His children so much that He is willing to live with them, but He needs some conditions to be met. He is glad to be close to us despite our sinful nature and tendencies to turn our backs on Him. The requirement must be completed is that His children know their sins and repent from them. Not only does God want to be close to His children, but He also wants His children to grow ever closer to Him. He wants us to be able to consult with Him when in doubt, like when moving in with your loved one (married loved one, of course). It can not happen soon enough. It just feels like every minute spent apart is a lifetime of lost seconds ticking away. Also, in the desert, Moses had to set up a temporary tabernacle for the interaction to start immediately until the permanent tabernacle was complete.

Offering of the Offender

Once the more permanent tabernacle was complete, one had to bring the offering to the tabernacle. On the shoulders of the offender, the offer had to be carried through the camp. I can imagine how some people stared and pointed, saying things like, "There goes old Zak again. Wonder what he sinned this time?"

A certain degree of embarrassment had to be endured, just like a husband who might forget his wife's birthday or wrong her in some other way. He has to stop at the flower shop to pick up his offering. When he gets home, he has to lower his voice, humbly admit to his wife his guilt, and beg for his forgiveness. This all has to happen not to degrade but to build the relationship to higher heights and stronger strengths.

Of course, with the arrival of Jesus, the process was made so much easier; by Him paying the ultimate price and creating the perfect offer, we don't have to carry it ourselves. By teaching us how to pray, we no longer need the priest or high priest to intercede. Through the Holy Spirit, our prayers enter the most Holy, and Jesus interceding for us, we have gained direct access. With this fantastic pass to the Originator of all, why should we still doubt, why should we still fear, and why should we still wonder?

[When we are called to proclaim the Three-Angels Message, we also have this access to confess our sins because we can not get rid of them by ourselves; not having to carry our sins anymore, we are now able to pick up some instructions on how to do the will of God and how to do it efficiently. Not only does God want to be close to us, but He wants us also to be close to Him. He wants us to bring our problems and concerns to Him. He wants to help us in our quest to proclaim the gospel and draw us closer to Him.

In our time and age, God has made it possible for us to meet with Him without making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem or carrying our offer for all to see. But just like the temple was under attack and being scavenged by every enemy, we still must be weary of the imminent attack. Satan does not want us to tabernacle with the Lord.

Also, as with the Tabernacle in the desert, we must try to meet God. He will be in our midst, but we have to open the doors of our hearts for Him to enter. When facing our problems, uncertainties and anxieties, should this not be the time to tabernacle with our Creator?

I want to wrap up with some baffling words from Jesus. I can not understand why anybody can be this forgiving and want to make amends with a sinner like myself. John 14:23, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Our time to tabernacle more intensely with the Lord is now.

Ps Nico is married to the beautiful Quanette. and they have two children, Nicolette and Quintin. He is a born fisherman - of souls and fish! They serve in Brakpan and Springs.



SABBATH AND I

A MIRACLE SABBATH IN WAR-RAVAGED UKRAINE

By Anthea Sutherland
AWR Ambassador of South Africa

My husband and I volunteered to serve Ukraine as a couple in an outreach by Adventist World Radio (AWR), but after the site we were assigned to was bombed, we thought that it was a sign from the Lord that we must not go. But then, Sue Hickle from AWR called and told us the group assigned to go to Chernivtsi is not going anymore... they need volunteers again. However, it will be on two different sites away from one another and not together as a team!

We turned to prayer again. The Lord guided our thoughts and gave us the wisdom He would show us and touch our tongues. Our home language is Afrikaans, and now I was being asked to preach for the first time in English. I was excited but nervous about this dilemma! "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." (KJV Isaiah 6:8) was our conformation.

The challenge we faced was safely getting to our destination in Ukraine and trusting that If the Lord wanted us there, He would get us there. We had to have complete confidence and persistence despite the circumstances and remind ourselves that God has us fully in His Hand despite the daily explosions and warning sirens we hear.

The Biggest Obstacle - Language

We had to firmly trust that the Ukrainian interpreters would interpret correctly and that the Lord is the One who would bring the understanding.



Anthea and Ps Herman Sutherland serve in Hoedspruit, Phalabora and Tzaneen

It was a new experience for us as we came to Ukraine to support the Ukrainian people during a full-scale war. Only the Lord knows the time and the hour. Five programs took place in Chernivtsi, the other five in settlements of the region, namely, in the villages of Mamaivtsi, Nedoboivtsi, Kamyana, Kadubivtsi and Klishkivtsi.

Each day, the program had a specific direction: an evening of prayer for Ukrainian defenders and their families or an evening of kindness. The respondents of the program received humanitarian aid, but most importantly, the program provided moral and psychological support.

Through the evening efforts with the Biblical message: "Revelation Brings Hope", the People were brought to a better understanding of the Bible. We, the ten preachers, ministered at ten separate Churches to present the 17 topics. We prayed with the congregations and worked with Theology students who were our interpreters. We were, therefore, also able to offer prayer and counselling to many of the Refugees. These people's prayer life is so strong, and they glorify God through everything they undertake in this time of need; they are still at full speed and shared with us that they did not expect this war; it has been going on for over a year.

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SABBATH AND I (CONTINUED)

The Miracle Sabbath

A great miracle happened during my second Sabbath Service at my church, Chernivtsi Conference Church No. 9

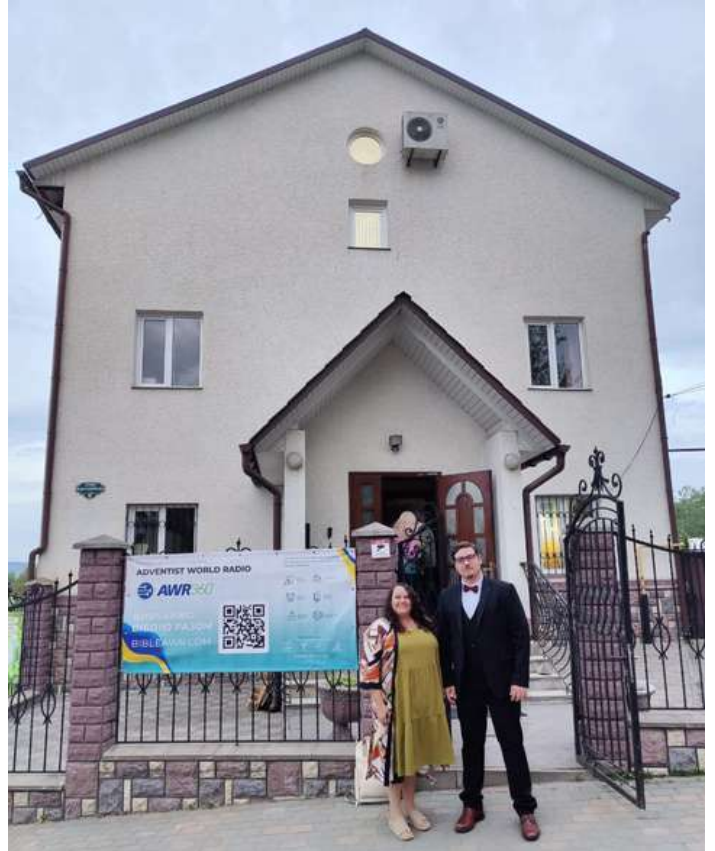
A Soldier from War came in, looking distorted but wanting to find peace. I could see the distress on his face and could only offer a few words of encouragement before I started the sermon.

That special Sabbath, the Topic was "Health", and when I started the sermon, this man was not focused, but I kept eye contact and sent up a silent prayer. I could witness halfway through the sermon that his colour and joy started coming back; a Higher Peace came upon this man so that his gentle smile returned. His heart and calmness took over through the Holy Spirit, and his spirit was lifted again to new hope.

I went to my knees on the Sabbath afternoon. I prepared for the evening at the home of one of the church families, the Vasylivnas, and Tetyana, a special friend I received from God, and her husband, Ilya Vasyliovych. I asked the Lord: "Lord, You told us that You are waiting for us to ask great things, and I want to ask You this great favour: May You make it possible for me in this lecture tonight to see the hearts of the congregation? When I speak to the people tonight, to speak to their hearts so they may understand."

That night, my topic was "Revelation Reveals History's Greatest Hoax - Changing the Sabbath," and I had to rely on an interpreter. There came a moment when I shared the words with the congregation about the protest against those who keep the Sabbath of the Bible.

Miracle upon miracle, I could "hear" that the interpreter did not translate a particular point correctly, and I stopped him and asked again to make this statement more transparent. (It could only have been God who could have given me the understanding that the interpreter did not translate it correctly as I do not speak their language!)



The church where Anthea preached

I repeated the message. Borris Demchuk, my translator, stopped me and asked if I understood him and could talk in Ukrainian because I understood what he was saying... I then spoke in a language the non-English people understood!

After hearing a flurry of conversation in the church, I turned to the congregation; some were getting up in their chairs. I asked them if they understood me, and everyone testified: "YES!" I could not but say: "Slava Bohu" which means Glory to God!

These lectures were also recorded and broadcast every night, and I could go and look at the recording later that evening to see what happened there. No, I didn't speak Ukrainian, BUT they understood me in English! God opened their ears to English. My tears overflowed at such a miracle, which was beyond my understanding.

After this Sabbath, I saw the congregation's hearts opening increasingly; most of the time, an interpreter was not even needed... Many came and asked if I could pray for them; some even asked for prayer in my mother tongue - Afrikaans.

My highlight was experiencing how hungry the people were for the Bible truths and how much they wanted to be prayed for, especially on that Sabbath! ([Click here to listen to their witness on Adventist Radio Pretoria - ARP](#))

THEOLOGICAL TALK



EVANGELISM DE LUXE

by Ps Hendrik de Winnaar

If today, we would ask in a room full of Seventh-day Adventists, "What are the reasons for our existence?" we would hear a few diverse answers, but probably there would be one answer which would predominantly sound the same. We are here to proclaim the soon Second Coming of Jesus. This is naturally the theoretical truth, but the next question may be, "How would we be doing this task?"

The First Church Growth Explosion

From the earliest time of the Christian faith the church had taken seriously the imposed task of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and took it to heart. The foundation of the church was the Jesus message. There were various angles from which the church approached it, but the two main themes of the early church were the work of salvation of Christ on the cross, and His speedy return. Soon after the Ascension of the Lord the disciples started off with unknown zeal.

About ten days after this great event, when Jesus left, Peter preached the first evangelism service and the first converts were estimated at about 3000 souls (Acts 2:41). Not long after that, a further 5000 came to the faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:4).

Hereafter, the church grew with leaps and bounds, and additions to the faith of individuals and multitudes became the golden thread of the Book of Acts. The new converts, in turn, were passionate about proclaiming the Truth, and even amid severe oppression, prosecution and challenges, the growth of the Christian church kept momentum. In the middle of the second century, the Christendom reached the number of more or less 40 000 believers.

Hereafter, the growth increased drastically. In 200 AD, it was already 170 000, and in 300 AD, the number of Christians in the world was approximately 2 500 000, which kept growing from strength to strength.

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THEOLOGICAL TALK (CONTINUED)

The SDA Church and Evangelism

Further on, more or less from 1500 to the 19th century, we find a similar story. The Christian faith reached the whole Western world and spread quickly in other developing countries. When Jesus did not return in 1844, as a group of Christians believed, they experienced a great disappointment. A small group remained who decided to study Bible prophecy further. In their studies of the Bible, they not only found the true meaning of the prophetic fulfilment of 1844 but also found other remarkable discoveries such as the seventh-day Sabbath, the state of the dead as a soul sleep, God's character of perfect love summarised in His law, and the conviction of the soon second coming of Jesus Christ.

Initially, the group of Christians had no plan to share their new discoveries with the world as they believed the end was so near that there was no time to evangelise other believers. This was known as the "closed-door theory." Luckily, this conviction was quickly abandoned after the young Ellen White received a vision from God, which encouraged the newfound Adventist movement to proclaim the gospel to the whole world, as summarised in the Three Angels Message. In 1863, the movement was organised formally as the Seventh-day Adventist church with more or less 355 members. These members and their leaders proclaimed the message of the Seventh-day Sabbath, the speedy Second Coming of Jesus and other unique beliefs with energy and passion.

Over the last 160 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has grown into a worldwide movement with over 23 million members and many more who worship in SDA congregations in almost every country. It would take approximately 100 years before the church passed the million mark, but the cumulative growth again kept momentum as the task of evangelism was taken up in different ways.

In the last few decades, the Adventist Church had several growing phases. From the 1960s to the 2000s, public evangelism meetings were very



NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THE NEXT PHASE OF EVANGELISM WILL BE AND IF THERE WILL BE A NEW PHASE

successful, and the tent meetings, Bible Prophecy seminars, and other efforts attracted many people to come and listen to dynamic evangelists and eventually make choices for God's truth. A new era was incorporated as the 21st century started. DVD Evangelism and Christian TV channels became mighty mediums to get the Word of God into every home. The digital era started quickly, and DVDs and TV channels had to make room for platforms on the World Wide Web. Social media and digital channels such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and WhatsApp, to mention a few, became the communication network of the day. The new platforms provide unlimited opportunities for evangelism, and millions of people are reached through the material placed on these platforms.

Back to the Beginning

Although nobody knows what the next phase of evangelism will be and if there will be a new phase, the loud call of the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 still echoes in everybody's ears: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them ..." This command was not only taken up by the great speakers of Jesus' time, it was not only accepted by the apostles. Everybody would be witnesses of Him, for Him. Although the apostles' influence may never be denied, the growth in the early Christian movement cannot only be ascribed to the preachers of that time.

THEOLOGICAL TALK (CONTINUED)

The key to the Christian church's success was every believer's obedience to Jesus' command. Now, how did they do it? Without big tent meetings, DVDs, TV channels and the WWW, how could they have been so successful without all the modern technology we use today?

This first evangelistic movement used Evangelism De Luxe, also known as friendship evangelism. The Christian church's early growth was because of the caring simplicity that Christians showed to each other and which they applied. It was not programmes, seminars, and big meetings that were the primary reason for the church's success. It was believers who lived their daily lives as evangelists. Where the people worked, visited, bought and went, they did it with the love of their Lord Jesus. They formed friendships with people, and by their example, caring and personal witness, they led their friends to meet Jesus.

It is no wonder that Ceaser Julian, in the 4th century, wrote that Christendom did not grow because they did not try to grow but because they cared so much, not only for each other but even for the heathen. The Christendom in its baby shoes grew with leaps and bounds because they shared their faith by loving each other and others. Tertullian, the Roman writer, also mentioned in the 2nd century regarding Christians: "See how they love each other, even that they die for each other." This small group of Christians changed the world with their unflinching, caring love for people, all people.

Friendship Evangelism Today

We can ask ourselves today, is this method of caring, loving and tending to others still enough? What about beliefs, prophecies, and end-time happenings? Must we really use our time to form friendships with people? The answer is a plain "Yes!" The old saying is, "People do not care about what you believe until they believe that you care." Various evangelistic methods testified over many years to be successful in numbers, but eventually, friendships and caring will grow the church.

So, how does a church look like where friendship evangelism happens? Anil Kanda suggests that congregations must stop all evangelism efforts until they can answer the following questions positively:

- How many SDA friends do you have? How good is your relationship with your neighbours, colleagues, clients and family? Is it superficial, or do they believe that you care about them?
- How comfortable are you to invite non-SDA friends to your church? Are the people at your church visitor-friendly?
- What are you doing on a Sabbath afternoon? Sleep? Watch DVDs? Or are you actively involved in people's lives, to reach out in your community or spend time with people?
- Do you regularly invite friends, both from your church and not in your church, to Sabbath lunch?
- What do your friends and family think of Adventism?
- Are you involved in any small group ministry?
- Are you actively involved in a community outreach programme? Does your congregation do more than just hand out small books on a Sabbath afternoon? (Even if they do that?) What about soup kitchens, prison ministry, centres for abused women and children, children's homes, hospitals, and countless other opportunities where we can care practically?



IT MAY BE WISE
FOR US
TO SHIFT OUR
EVANGELISM FOCUS

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THEOLOGICAL TALK (CONTINUED)

These questions are not to make us despondent because the standard of care is too high but rather to encourage us to follow Jesus' method of evangelism. Ellen White writes about His outreach to people: "People can only be successfully reached by Christ's method. The Saviour mingled with people as someone who longs for their wellbeing. He showed His compassion to them, supplied their needs and won their trust. Then He invited them: "Follow Me." MH 243.3

Today, we can be thankful for all the programmes, methods, and techniques that can equip our congregations to reach our communities. However, a programme-driven outlook without a caring person will have little success. Jesus said to His disciples: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35.

If the method of friendship was so successful for Jesus and the early church, it may be wise for us

to shift our evangelism focus from a program-driven approach only to, above all programmes, follow a person-focused approach. An approach which sees and acknowledges a person totally, who cares, provides care, shows love and then invites them to follow Jesus.

This is Evangelism De Luxe.

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Ps Hendrik serves as director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SSPM) Department of the NCSA. He has a passion for evangelism and New Testament studies, for which he has an honours degree. Currently, he is busy investigating the family model of the New Testament church as the foundation for his master's degree script.

He is married to Telana, and they have two sons, Reynier (11) and Ruben (8).



MEALS ON WHEELS NEWS

ONE MEAL AT A TIME

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Charity is the root of all good works!"

On September 5th, 2023, International Charity Day, the Meals on Wheels Community Services NCSA Area office partnered with Heidelberg MOWCS to distribute nutritious meals to those in need in the local community. With support from Meals on Wheels Community Services SA and the Lesedi Community Services department, we could distribute more than 120 meals. It was an incredibly fulfilling experience to see the smiles on the faces of those who received the meals while doing the Lord's work. Through this project, we raised awareness about Meals on Wheels and our mission to help those who need nutritious meals.



We are grateful to Meals on Wheels Community Services SA for their generous contribution of aprons, which helped us achieve our goal of making a difference in someone's life, one meal at a time. Heidelberg MOWCS prepared delicious meals that filled the recipients' stomachs

The N3TC Meals on Wheels Cycle Challenge is an event that was created to provide relief to the elderly and less fortunate people in the Vaal Triangle area.

The event has grown over the years to assist those unable to support themselves and their families. The race was held at Sedaven High School in Heidelberg and offered two events: a 108km race at 07:30 and a 53km race at 07:00. N3TC has partnered with Spectrum Sports Events for the past 17 years to provide relief to the community.

Generous donations were received from the participating cyclists and will be distributed by Meals on Wheels Community Services NCSA (MOWCS) to the branches in need. We thank everyone who donated and helped make a difference in the world. We also thank the N3TC, Spectrum Sports Events, and MOCWS teams for contributing to this success. Lastly, we thank our Heavenly Father for making all things possible through His will.



PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

GO WITH JESUS

By Ps John Africa

40 Clubs, 8 Days and Countless Memories

In the heart of Sedaven, from 1- 8 October 2023, the NCSA Junior Youth Ministries (JYM)'s "Go with Jesus" Pathfinder Camporee unfolded as a transformative experience for 40 Pathfinder Clubs. This annual event, hosting a myriad of activities and spiritual engagements, became a haven for young minds seeking adventure, camaraderie, and, most importantly, a deeper connection with their faith.

The official opening of the Camporee kicked off with an inspiring opening service on Monday evening, graced by the presence of the NCSA Officers, Ps. Peter Maligudu, Ps. Reece Anderson and Br. Gerrit Blignaut, Office Staff, NCSA Senior Youth Representatives, the Executive Mayor of Lesedi Municipality, Mr Mluleki Nelson Ronald Nkosi, and many more. Addressing the gathering, Ps. Maligudu shared a Special Secret (clue: about Jesus) with all at the Camporee. The Executive Mayor emphasised the importance of Christian values and character building, urging young participants to become responsible and productive citizens. This set the tone for a bumper week with activities centred around personal growth, teamwork, and spiritual development.

The days were packed with 18-21 activities catering to various interests—early risers engaged in the invigorating "Walk4Fun" sessions, exploring the scenic beauty of Sedaven. Craft enthusiasts found joy in beading, card making, and soap crafting. The Camporee provided a platform for learning with various honours, covering subjects from Mammals to Disaster Response, creating an educational yet entertaining atmosphere.

Adventure Games, Nature Trails, Archery, and Planetarium visits added an exciting edge to the experience, ensuring there was never a dull moment. Photo opportunities abounded, capturing the smiles and camaraderie that defined each day.

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The spectacular camp grounds at Sedaven



The flag raising ceremony is a proud Pathfinder tradition



Ps John Africa, Director of Junior Youth Ministries



The Planetarium Team with Michelle and Ps John

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE (CONTINUED)

Evenings took on a more reflective tone, with powerful Bible Character Skits presented by different regions. Music and fun were interwoven with messages of faith, making every evening a unique blend of entertainment and spiritual nourishment.

The overarching theme of the Camporee, "Go with Jesus," served as a guiding light throughout the week. Pathfinders and leaders used the Prayer Room and visited the Pastoral Counsellors, who were available daily. The Camporee encouraged Pathfinders and Club leaders to integrate faith into their daily lives, offering valuable lessons to navigate the complexities of life.

Seek His Guidance: In times of uncertainty, turning to Jesus for guidance through prayer, meditation, and study of His teachings can provide answers and direction. **Lean on His Strength:** Life's challenges can be daunting, but with Jesus, no burden is too heavy. His strength empowers individuals to overcome obstacles and face adversity with resilience.

Trust Him in Uncertainty: It's okay not to have all the answers. Trusting in Jesus, even when the path is unclear, brings peace and assurance that there is a divine plan.

Find Solace in His Presence: When faced with overwhelming situations, complex relationships, or challenging issues, leaning on Jesus for solace and comfort brings a profound sense of peace, even in the stormiest times.

The Beading Ladies from Orlando West

Make Life-Changing Decisions: Consulting Jesus through prayer and reflection during pivotal moments in life ensures that decisions align with faith and values, guiding individuals toward a path of purpose.

The mayor's message echoed throughout the Camporee, reinforcing that character development and spiritual growth go hand in hand. As the week concluded, the participants left Sedaven with more than memories – they carried a strengthened faith, newfound friendships, lots of button pins and the tools to navigate life's journey with Jesus by their side.

The NCSA JYM "Go with Jesus" 2023 Pathfinder Camporee became a chapter in the spiritual journey of each participant, marking the beginning of a life anchored in faith and adventure.

And so, we say...Until then, Go with Jesus!



Smiles and camaraderie defined each day



ABUNDANT LIFE REPORT 2023

SPEND A YEAR WITH ABL

By ABL 2023



JOHN 10:10

At the beginning of the year, the Abundant Life team underwent intensive training to prepare us for the rest of the year and the rest of our lives. During this time, the distractions of modern life are removed as the team is in the tranquillity and serenity of nature. The team was able to have personal worship where we would learn about God in His Word and His creation. Spending time in nature reminded us of the kind of God we serve, who spoke the Earth into creation. The team received seminars that explained the Bible's beautiful truths, especially regarding God's character. This training served as a foundation upon which our individual and team growth was to be built.

After the intensive training, the team returned to campus to receive missionary training from Adventist Frontier Missions, together with a group of Brazilian student missionaries. This training elucidated how one can share the gospel with others who might not have had the chance to hear the name of Jesus. As Christians, we are all commissioned to go and make disciples of all nations, to tell everyone of God's immense love. However, we are to not only tell them of this love but also show it to them through our lives. This commission does not necessarily mean we must leave the country to be missionaries.

We can be missionaries right where we are - in our nation, communities, and homes. Our lives may be the only Bible that someone might ever read; thus, we are to ensure that we radiate God's love in everything we do..

Throughout this year, Abundant Life had the opportunity to participate in three camp meetings and host the Drakensberg Camp Meeting.

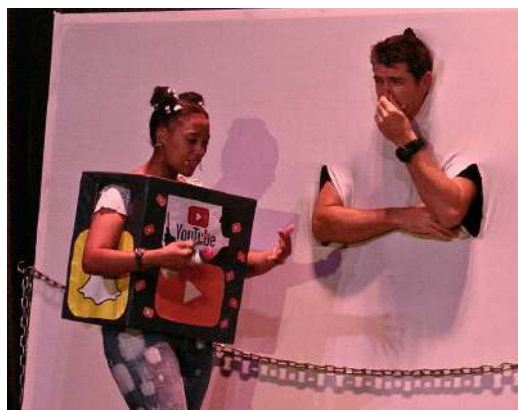
The first camp meeting we attended was at Sedaven from the 6th to the 9th of April, where we were divided as facilitators among the babies, kindergarteners, primaries, juniors and teens. Abundant Life also performed the Boxes play on Friday night, which, through the work of the Holy Spirit, caused a multitude of the audience to come streaming down the aisle when the altar call was made. It was a camp meeting in which we saw the power of God drawing human hearts to His love. This power can work in you, too, and God can reach souls through you.

Although the Port Edward camp meeting (25th - 28th of May) was unfortunately attended by only half of the team, we managed to perform puppet shows. We assisted with the facilitation of the juniors and the teens.

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The 2023 ABL Team





The Boxes play touched many hearts at the Sedaven Camp Meeting

The Limpopo camp meeting was hosted from the 22nd to the 25th of September, and fortunately, the whole team could attend. We assisted in the facilitation of the juniors, teens, and youth. We also performed puppet shows and skits and did video presentations for the campers. The theme of both these camps was "I Will Go". It is paramount that we instil the importance of sharing the gospel with others to the future generation of the church. The challenge to all, young and old, is to answer God's call and say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

One of the year's highlights is the Drakensberg camp meeting from the 12th to the 16th of October. Hosted by Abundant Life, the camp's theme was 'Behold the Lamb', and from the babies to the adults, this theme was conveyed, emphasised, personalised and embedded into the hearts and minds of everyone through the music, seminars, testimonies and mission programs. Everyone involved worked incredibly hard to ensure the camp's success, but in the end, the only One who could bless it and make it successful was God, who was more than faithful in doing just that. God chose to use a lamb to symbolise Himself. Therefore, the question might arise, "Why a lamb?" The beauty in the symbolism of the lamb is that it portrays God as gentle and as One who does not force or coerce but instead draws us to Him through His endless love.

Throughout the year, we travelled across South Africa and visited schools, old age homes, hospitals and churches. Our programs are tailored for every target audience, including puppet shows for small children while skits, talks and messages of hope are directed to older groups.

Our touring campaign started at Potchefstroom. The team also toured Nelspruit, Hluhluwe, Pinetown, Merebank, Willowmore, Uniondale, Sedgefield, Knysna, George, Riversdale, Kleinmond, Cape Town, Rietbron and Tzaneen. As the team gained experience during the tours, we became more comfortable with the tour life and could reach many souls through our programs. The most important lesson learned during touring was that we have one match, one chance, to lighten up people's lives and bring them to the warmth and light of God described in John 8:12.

From the 25th of June to the 1st of July, Abundant Life hosted the annual winter junior and teen camp. The team assisted in facilitating one of the biggest junior and teen camps hosted by Abundant Life - "Rebuild." Witnessing many young people who want to build a close relationship with God was incredibly uplifting—the image of God, which Satan has marred. We have to rebuild. We are to complete this task not only by what we preach or say but also by what we do and how we live our lives. We inculcated the juniors and teens with the importance of living a life that reflects the character of God. The most amazing experience was seeing the campers spiritually grow throughout the week and having fun while doing that.

Satan came to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came so that we may have life and have it more abundantly. This abundant life is a gift - all you must do is accept it. Will you?

Join ABL 2024

ABL One Year Training Programme
(Limited to 12 people aged 18-26)
[For more information click here!](#)

ABUNDANT LIFE LEADERSHIP CAMP 3 – HISTORY TOUR.

CALLED TO DIE

By Ps Heino Torlage

Under the dry, arid ground of South Africa, great riches were hidden ... or did God preserve it for the right time? At that stage, we were poor, and there was no hope for the country's future. The hidden riches and prosperity of the country lay buried. One day, a shiny stone caught the morning sun's rays, drastically changing South Africa's history. It was in 1867 when Erasmus Jacobus picked up the first diamond next to the Orange River. His first thought was that it was only a beautiful stone, but after a long postal journey to Grahamstown, it was found to be a 21.24-carat diamond. This was named the Eureka (it was found!) Diamond. The single, most important diamond in the history of South Africa.

Johannes Nicolaas de Beer found diamonds on his farm a few years later. De Beers is a company which dominates the worldwide diamond industry and is named after Nicolaas de Beer. He thought it wise to give the wealth away. The descendants of Nicolaas de Beer are still in our church today.

Eureka, it was found ... wealth! But was that all which was found?

A group of teens, accompanied by ABL facilitators, took the road to Kimberley to learn more about the wealth found, not so much diamonds, but also that it was when the truth in God's Word was discovered, Eureka! We had to go and find out how everything began, how God worked and how He orchestrated things. Shortly after the discovery of diamonds, in the same period, the Sabbath was "discovered" in South Africa by two men: Pieter Johannes Daniel Wessels and George J van Drueten.

Who were the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in SA?

How did they build the church, and how did they live out their faith? The leadership camp is one of a series of three camps which were held. These camps were developed by Abundant Life to train young spiritual leaders to serve in God's church and to lead with faith, hope, and love. One of the things that stood out was seeing how God called His church to start and grow. How He called people, sent His angels to give leadership, and gave dreams so that the great wealth of His truth could be discovered (Eureka!) That was the right time for the wealth, hidden under the earth, to be found: the time designated by the Lord for His church to arise.

The ABL Leadership Camps are based on Revelation 12:11:

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." (NKJV) The first camp was titled: "Called to Grow" ("..by the blood of the Lamb..."). Here, our focus is on the spiritual growth of a leader, and the camp is held in the Drakensberg mountains. The second camp, "Called to Serve" ("...the word of our testimony...") focused on serviceability in and outside the church and is held in Hoedspruit. "Called to Die" ("... and they did not love their lives to the death.") is the third camp where a tour was conducted through South Africa to search for the history of our pioneers and to see how they laid down their lives for the truth and the growth of God's church.



ABL LEADERSHIP TOUR 3 - HISTORY TOUR (CONTINUED)

Diary of the Third Camp

Sunday, 24 September 2023: Eighteen eager teen leaders and four facilitators departed from Filadelfia SDA Church. Our first visit was to Paul Kruger's house and, after that, to the SID (Southern Indian Ocean Division), where Ps Gideon Reyneke told us how the SDA church functions and how the SID fits into the system of the church. Then, we embarked on the long road. Kimberley was our first destination, where Ps Ryan and Sensia Landsdown and the congregation entertained us.

Monday, 25 September 2023: We visited the historical Big Hole in Kimberley. It was originally the farm of Johannes Nicolaas de Beer, whose descendants are still in the SDA church today. He found the truth through Gert Scholtz, who, in turn, was convinced by Pieter Wessels, Gert Scholtz's brother-in-law. One of the youth leaders in the group, Joshua de Beer, is a direct descendant of Johannes N de Beer. Gert Scholtz also proclaimed the truth to Paul Kruger, who accepted it but never lived it out.

We also visited the first SDA church built in 1890 at Beaconsfield, Kimberley, a beautiful corrugated iron and wood little church. Here are stories of our pioneers: William Hunt, the first Adventist who set foot in 1871 on South African ground and Pieter Wessels and George van Druuten, the first Sabbath-keepers in South Africa. In 1885, they visited William Hunt and discovered that they were not the only Sabbath-keepers in the world but that there were another 30,000 in America who called themselves "The Seventh-day Adventists." They wrote a letter to the General Conference requesting the sending of missionaries. 1887, Pastor Charles L. Boyd and Pastor Dores A. Robinson came to South Africa as the first missionaries. Then, there was JHC Wilson, the lost and forgotten convert. Nobody knows what happened to him. There are stories about how God led people and worked things out so His church could be established on South African soil. We sat on the church pews where the pioneers sat in the olden days; we read out of God's Word and sang as did the pioneers. What an experience ... for a moment, the small church came to life again!



The pioneers' churches were visited

Tuesday, 26 September: The last beams of the sun disappeared over Cape Town while the lights in the city came alive ... thirteen hours after a long road. There was great excitement; it was the first time in Cape Town for some of us. Here, the church's heart started beating to fill the rest of South Africa and past its borders, deep into Africa, with the gospel.

Wednesday, 27 September: Our first visit was in Wellington on Pieter Wessels' father's (Johannes Jakobus Wessels) farm. The first missionaries established the strategy to spread the gospel in our country. What a beautiful farm! In Wellington, we visited the Andrew Murray Dutch Reformed Church. In the church's graveyard, we searched for Johannes Jakobus Wessels's grave; to our amazement, it was the cemetery's most prominent and tallest tombstone.

Thursday, 28 September: Today, we visited the first church for Coloured people; the Salt River congregation was established and built by Daniel Theunissen, our first Adventist convert of colour and the first ordained pastor in his community. In the Salt River church, we sang and worshipped with Uncle and Aunty Fisher (congregation members). We sat in silence for a moment to listen to the passion of our pioneer, Pastor Daniel Theunissen, who discovered the truth (Eureka!) through Pastor Robinson's (missionary) son. The Salt River church is the oldest SDA church in South Africa, where members still worship.

The same day we visited Pieter Wessels's grave, we met Aunty Pinky. Aunty Pinky Coetzee is the granddaughter of Hendry Wessels, brother of Pieter Wessels. Together with us, she held a memorial service at the grave of Pieter Wessels, referring with reverence to his life, which was

committed to God’s Word and His church, and thanksgiving to him, who took the first step to establish God’s church in our country. Joshua and Janfrik read through the original burial letter, Adriaan sang a song, and we sang, “Come, Jesus, Come”. If it were not for men such as Pieter, our church may not be where it is today. After the memorial service, we all went to Aunty Pinky’s home, which was her grandfather Hendry’s vacation home in Fish Hoek, and there we were spoiled with a healthy lunch.



Friday, 29 September: We visited the beautiful church on Roeland Street. It was the second SDA church in South Africa and the first one built in Cape Town. It is the most beautiful building still with the original finishes. The church was dedicated on April 17, 1892. With permission from the current owner, we could make a quick visit there to conduct the group worship for the day. This historical church still has the original baptismal font on the stage and the beautiful wooden stairs which lead up to the worship hall. When our voices were lifted in song, we could see in our mind’s eyes how our pioneers sang heartily. A small history of God’s heaven on earth was discovered (Eureka!). The bottom level was initially used for the first conference office, and one of the rooms was used as the first printing house.



After our experience at the Roeland Church, we went to the EG White Centre in the Pieter Wessels library at Helderberg College. There, we experienced a few things. In the “Vault” were copies of her original books and letters, which EG White had written, and a replica of the Bible, which she held up with one hand for an hour. It was an experience to walk through the centre, see how God’s prophet was called, and see Ellen White’s involvement in the development of the church in South Africa.

Sabbath, 30 September: We worshipped in the Tygerberg Church, and after lunch, we met Aunty Pinky at Rondebosch Common, the original place where the excellent health centre building was, which was later destroyed in a fire (photo right).



. We also went to the original Claremont Union College, the first SDA College in South Africa. It moved to Spioenkop in Natal and Somerset West, Helderberg College, where it still exists. After Union College moved to Spioenkop, the building was used for the SPA Printing house. Today, it is a medical centre. Aunty Pinky could again tell us many stories. We closed Sabbath on Signal Hill with guitar and songs while the red sunset over the Atlantic Ocean.

Sunday, 1 October: We went by road to Mossel Bay and first to Hermanus to watch the whales. In Mossel Bay, we visited the Dias Museum. Dias was the man who planted the first cross in South Africa and brought Christianity to our country in 1487.

Monday, 2 October: We woke up early to visit Oudtshoorn. There, we met Uncle Norman van Druten, whose great-granddad was George van Druten, who, together with Pieter Wessels, discovered (Eureka) the Sabbath in South Africa. Again, we listened to stories of our pioneers – fresh from the mouths of the pioneers' descendants. From Oudtshoorn, we travelled through Meiringspoort to view the footprints of Noah's flood. We stopped at Langkloof SDA church early in the evening, where the congregation waited for us with songs and prayers. They went out of their way to tell us how the truth was discovered (Eureka!) in Langkloof and how the church was built. Langkloof SDA Church has a rich history.

Tuesday, 3 October: Near Grahamstown and Port Alfred is the SDA Rokeby Park church, where we stopped momentarily. This is the third SDA Church built in South Africa. It is an exciting story about how David Tarr went to Kimberley and discovered (Eureka!) the truth from Pieter Wessels. Davis returned home to Grahamstown and shared the truth with his family and friends. This is how the Rokeby Park church started; it was built out of wood and corrugated iron. The church aged over the years and, for safety reasons, had to be demolished. Simon Hawkins built A replica in Port Alfred, where the current Kowie Park Church is. Here, we received a hero's welcome from the congregation with a healthy lunch with the members, where we worshipped. What a path our pioneers followed. Their faith was so strong. Nothing was too hard.



Wednesday, 4 October: We visited Bethel College and heard about the long history of Richard Mokko, the first Black convert to the truth and an SDA Church pastor. Firstly, it was Maranatha Mission, then it moved to Spioenkop College, and ten years later, it moved to Butterworth, where Bethel College is today. Our young leaders played for a while on the grass and ate breakfast together. It was a long road from here to Amanzimtoti.

Thursday, 5 October: On the second last day of our tour, we were in Pietermaritzburg. A rich history of our church as it is here where the smallest conference ever was established in the history of the SDA church worldwide, the Natal Transvaal Conference, with only two congregations, one in Pietermaritzburg and one in Johannesburg. The work began with a colporteur who conducted Bible studies at a sanatorium of a German man named A.C.C. Beisner. In 1905, the first church was built on Stranack Street. We had the privilege to visit the church and again listen to stories about our pioneers and their faith, passion and the church's growth.

Later that afternoon, we stopped at a farm near Spioenkop Dam, where we visited the ruins of Spioenkop College. It was an experience to identify the different buildings from photos. And there, in one of the still-standing ruins, we sang our theme song, "Come, Jesus, Come... we have waited too long."

Friday 6 October: A full circle came to fruition because, at Filadelfia Church, we testified and shared stories we learned on this tour. We could testify to the faith of our pioneers, which was unshakeable. We testified on how the Lord worked in our lives during the past two weeks while we travelled the road of our pioneers, studied their faith, and how we, as young leaders, must live out our faith. There are so many diamonds in the Word of God that we must discover (Eureka), and those diamonds provide leadership of faith.

We learned the history and were on Table Mountain, with a boat on the sea to visit the seals in Hout Bay, the Cango Caves, and an ostrich farm. We also enjoyed nice ice cream, roosterkoeke and pizza pastries!



Through the long hours on the bus, we had deep and intimate discussions about faith and its meaning. Everyone had a chance to lead out in worship; everyone had a responsibility to make the tour successful, and everyone had an opportunity to let their leadership grow.

If we forget where we came from, how shall we know where we are going?

I now know where my church's history comes from and how our faith came here. We also made many memories on the tour, which I will never forget. Eduan

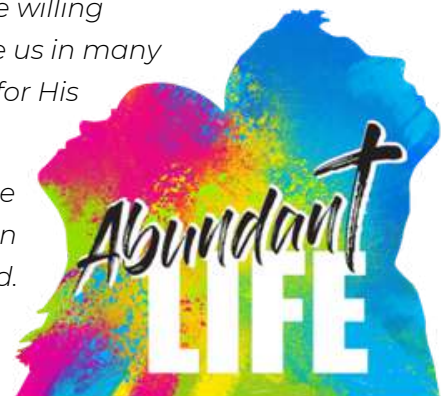
What stood out for me was how the Lord used all these pioneers and how their faith can be an example for every one of us. Janfrik

This camp was exceptional because humility was spoken so much and why it is so essential for a leader. Nikolas

One lesson I have learned from William Hunt that stood out is that if we are willing and believe, God can use us in many ways to do great things for His Kingdom. Avelin

The camp challenged me to have a stronger faith in God like our pioneers had. Gabriella

[You can also join an ABL camp - keep an eye on their website for the latest information and opportunities to grow your leadership skills! \(CLICK HERE\)](#)



JOHN 10:10

Courageous

- With Aunty Estelle Baker

Hi Kids!

Welcome to your own Kiddie's Corner! In a sometimes scary world, we can choose to be courageous as we know God can protect and help us.



What is courage?

Courage means to be brave!

Having the boldness to do something that may even frighten you....

What does the Bible say?

Deuteronomy 31:6
Be strong and of good courage,
fear not: for the Lord your God
He is the one who goes with
you: He will not leave you, nor
forsake you.

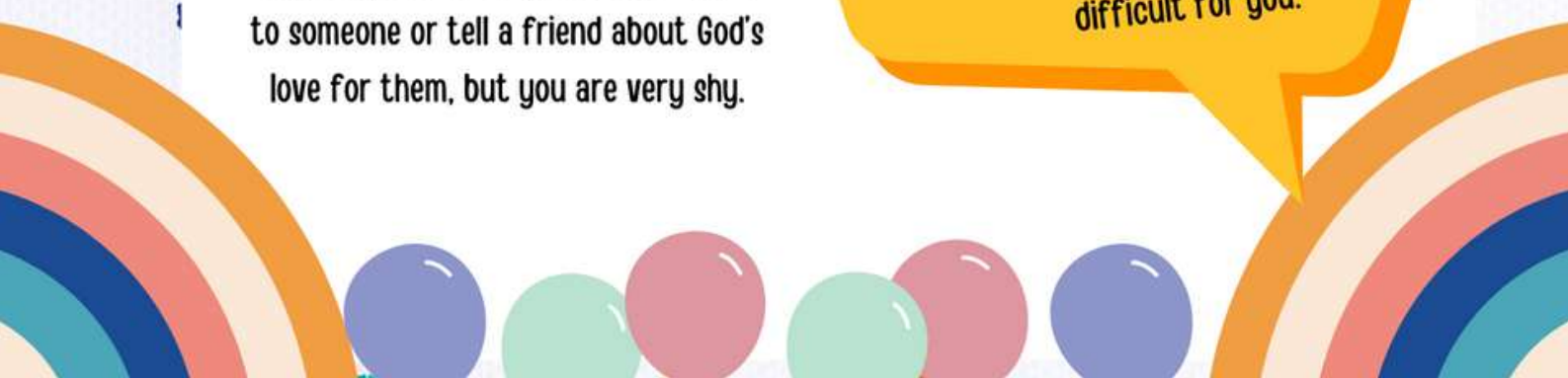
Well, never give up and keep in trying until you succeed!

It takes courage to do things that you have never done before.

Maybe you are learning to ride a bicycle, and you are afraid that everyone will laugh at you if you try.

Maybe you need to speak a kind word to someone or tell a friend about God's love for them, but you are very shy.

You will feel so happy inside that you were brave enough to go ahead and do something that was difficult for you.



STORY

Time

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of good courage, fear not: for the Lord your God He is the one who goes with you: He will not leave you, nor forsake you.

Three Courageous Men



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three young men taken captive in Babylon, along with Daniel and many others. King Nebuchadnezzar appointed them to serve in his court. King Nebuchadnezzar made a giant golden statue for himself. He set it up and gathered many important people from all over the kingdom to come to the dedication of his statue.

All the people were gathered before this statue, and a herald cried out, "The king commands that every time you hear this music, you fall down and worship this golden statue of the king. And anyone who doesn't bow down shall be thrown into a fiery furnace and burned to death.

And so it was that whenever the sound of the music was heard, people fell down and worshipped the image. Only not everyone obeyed. Certain men went to the king and told him, "You commanded that we all bow down when the music played, but some are not obeying. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not obey the king's command. They refuse to worship the golden image!

STORY Time

Three Courageous Men

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of good courage, fear not: for the Lord your God He is the one who goes with you: He will not leave you, nor forsake you.

The king was furious and called for the men. "Is it true that you do not obey my command and worship the image? Now, listen to me. Next time you hear the music, you will fall down and worship me, and all will be well. If you do not, you will be thrown into the furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered, "We will not worship this image. The God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand.

Nebuchadnezzar was overwhelmed with fury. "Make the furnace seven times hotter, and bind these men, and throw them into it!"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were bound and thrown into the fire. It was so hot that the heat killed the men who threw them into the fire.

Then Nebuchadnezzar was astonished. "Didn't we throw in three men?"

"Yes," said his men.

"But there are four men, all unbound and walking in the furnace. The fourth man's image is like the Son of God." Nebuchadnezzar went and called to the men in the furnace, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of God Most High, come out of the furnace."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the furnace completely unharmed!

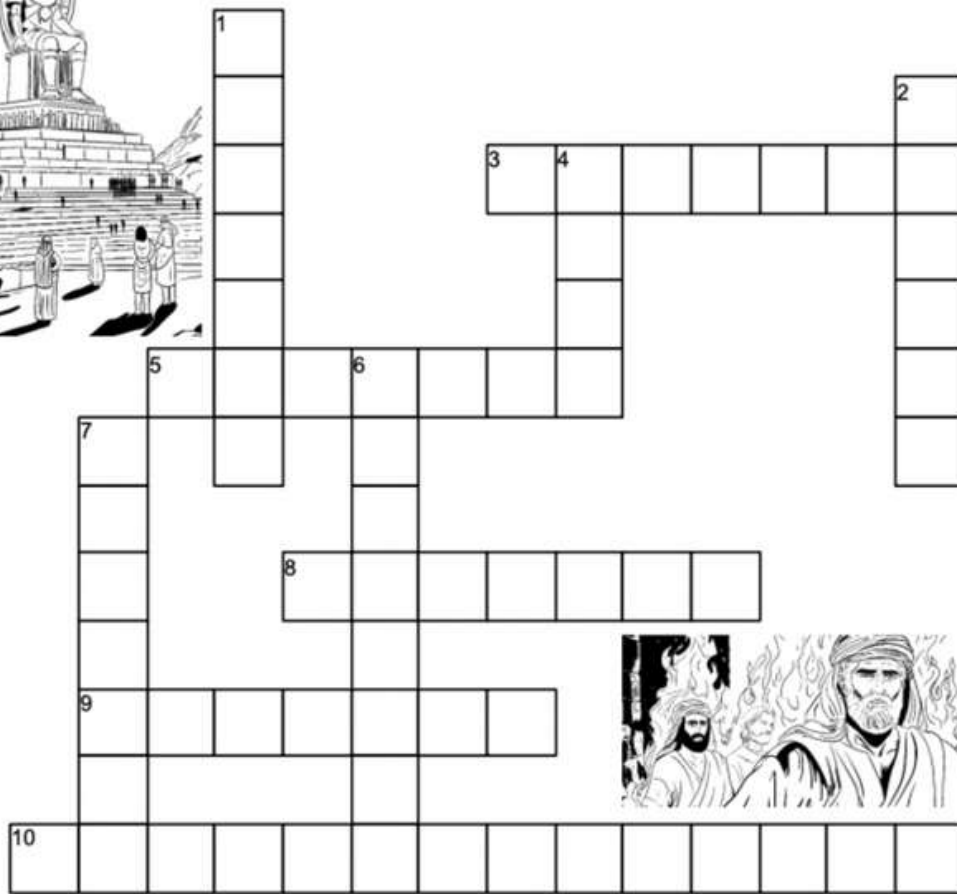
Nebuchadnezzar made a decree that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could worship their God and that any man who spoke against their God would be punished.

TRUE OR FALSE

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace because they stole from the king.		
2. King Nebuchadnezzar created a golden statue that everyone was commanded to worship.		
3. The furnace was heated seven times hotter than usual before Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown inside.		
4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were rescued from the furnace by Daniel.		
5. King Nebuchadnezzar saw a fourth figure in the furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.		
6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king that their God would save them from the furnace, but even if He did not, they still wouldn't worship the golden statue.		
7. The men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace were killed by the flames.		
8. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the furnace completely unharmed, without even the smell of smoke on their clothes.		



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 3 God performed this by saving the three men from the blazing furnace (Daniel 3)
 5 Meshach's original Hebrew name before being assigned a Babylonian name (Daniel 1:6-7)
 8 The kingdom where the three men were taken as captives (Daniel 1)
 9 Abednego's original Hebrew name before receiving a Babylonian name (Daniel 1:6-7)
 10 The king who ordered the construction of the golden statue (Daniel 3)

DOWN

- 1 What the three men refused to do to anyone but the true God (Daniel 3)
 2 The royal order issued by King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:10)
 4 Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden one of these for everyone to worship (Daniel 3)
 6 Shadrach's original Hebrew name before given a Babylonian name (Daniel 1:6-7)
 7 The three men were thrown into this as punishment (Daniel 3)

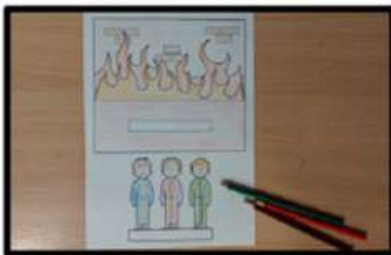
Fiery Furnace Craft



What you need:

- Template on white card
- Coloring pencils or crayons
- Scissor
- Glue
- Red, yellow and orange tissue paper

What to do:



Colour in the template pages. Fold along middle.

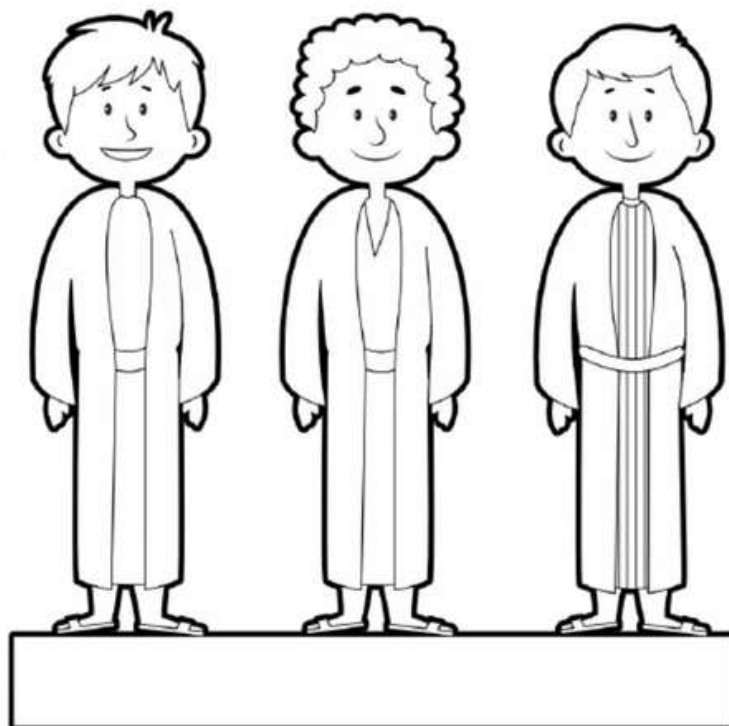
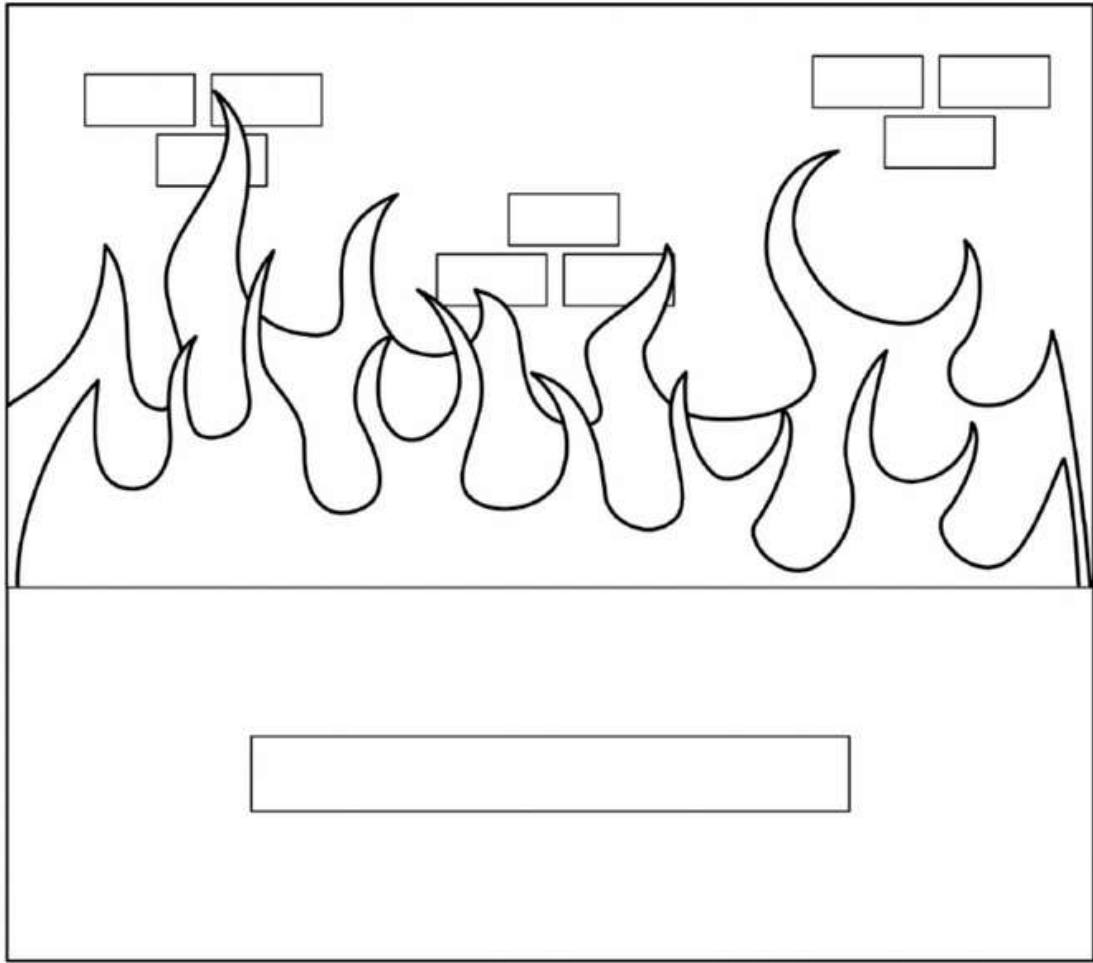


Cut around Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and glue in place.



Glue on red, yellow, and orange tissue paper to create flames. Allow to dry.



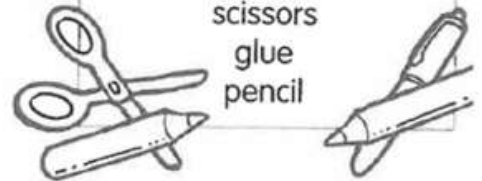




Courage Kit

We're going to make "Courage Kits" to help us have courage when we run into difficult situations.

- envelope
- paper or cardstock
- ribbon or strong string
- scissors
- glue
- pencil



How to:

- Get an envelope, (or make one of your own using a sheet of paper and taping the sides together, leaving a flap on one side, like a regular envelope).
- You will need a ribbon (or a piece of strong string) that is about one and a half times the measurement of your waist.
- Cut out the verses below and glue them to cut out pieces of cardstock. You can look up some more verses in the Bible and add them to your cards.
- Put the cards in your envelope.
- Fold the flap of the envelope backwards. Glue the flap down and thread the ribbon or string through it. Now, tie the envelope around your waist.
- Wear your courage kit and read the passages whenever you need a little courage and encouragement to remind you that God is on your side!

<p>2 Chronicles 15:7 Be strong and do not let your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded!</p>	<p>2 Corinthians 12:9 He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for you: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.</p>
<p>Exodus 14:14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.</p>	<p>1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith.</p>
<p>Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.</p>	<p>Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.</p>



THE MONGOOSE AND THE COBRA

Story by
aunty Adele van der Merwe

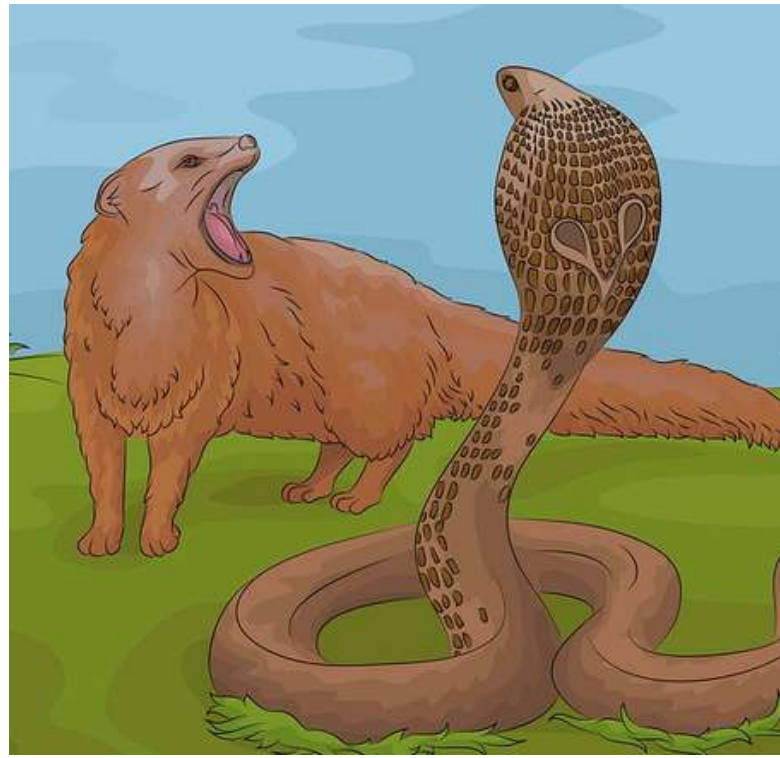


A father and mother lived on a mountain in the Cape, and they had to go into town to buy a few things for the house.

Their beautiful small baby was sleeping peacefully in his bed, and the mother did not want to wake him up and take him with her on the difficult mountain path to town.

The mother then decided to leave her baby at home while they went to town, as the grandmother was near enough, just in the next room, to keep an eye on the small baby, and she would check his room regularly.

The family had a tame Cape Mongoose who lived in their home. The mongoose stayed next to the baby's bed while he was sleeping.



While the baby was sleeping peacefully, a big Cape Cobra snake sailed in through the open window. The cobra snake first just sailed along the floor and then suddenly started sailing onto the boy's bed.

The mongoose jumped up immediately when he saw the cobra who was readying himself to pick up the baby in his long strong tail to take him with as a prey. The mongoose jumped up immediately and quickly grabbed the cobra snake and pulled it away from the boy's bed. The cobra snake landed on the floor, lifted its head immediately, and blew up like a small bowl began hissing, and got ready to bite the mongoose in order for him to go ahead to take his prey, the baby.

The mongoose was now a big threat to the big cobra snake which readyed himself with his big mouth with the sharp tongue, to spit.



THE MONGOOSE AND THE COBRA (CONTINUED)

He wanted to bite the mongoose who was protecting the baby and paralyse him with his poison.

The mongoose realised that he had to get rid of the big cobra snake.

Otherwise, he would bite the baby, and his deadly poison would have killed him quickly, and then he would have taken him as his prey. The mongoose stormed the cobra with quick moves, and with his razor-sharp teeth, he bit the cobra again and again ... until the cobra lay still and was dead.

Grandma heard the sounds which

came out of the baby's room and ran to see what was happening. Mom and Dad had just come back together from town after their shopping spree, heard Grandma calling out, and they went quickly to the baby's room.

They saw the dead cobra lying on the floor and realised that their brave mongoose killed him and rescued their baby from a cruel death. They were pleased that their baby was safe and that the cobra did not manage to take the baby away as his prey.

The Bible teaches us:

Who in the Bible is named the snake?

Revelation 20:2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan.

What did the snake do?

Genesis 3: Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the fields which the Lord God had made. In Genesis 3 the Bible tells us that the snake was used by Satan to seduce man, because he wanted to destroy man, whom God loved so much. Satan, the serpent, led man into sin.

Then, they were driven out of the garden and began to see what death, pain, and heartache meant. Death would now have dominion over them. God wanted to protect them against this.



Satan also wants to destroy us, but Jesus will never allow that and made a plan to rescue us from Satan and death's power.



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What did God do?

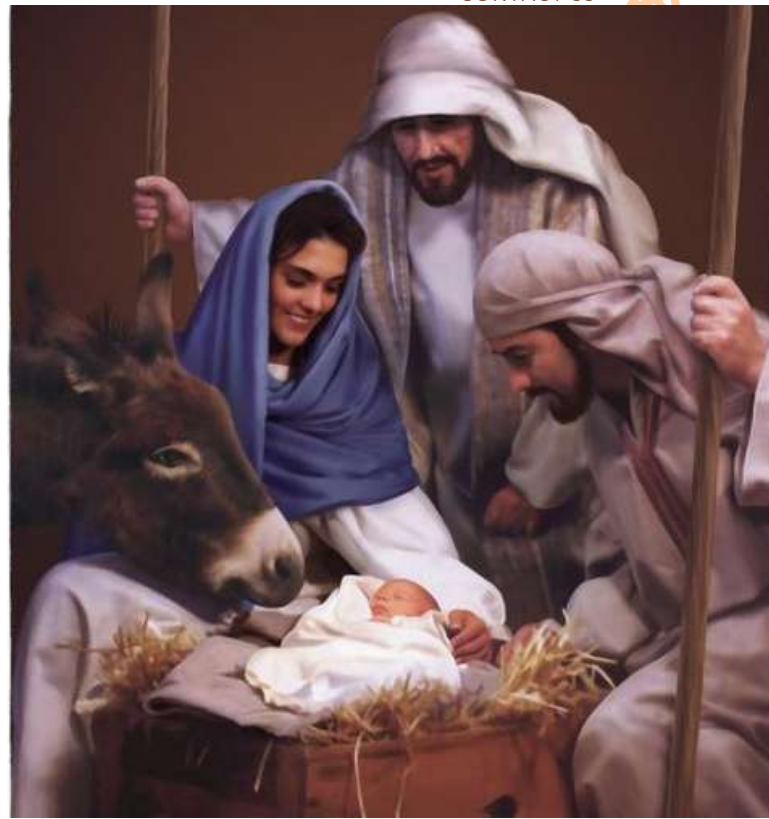
God loved His creation, man, so much that He sent a Redeemer, Jesus, to save men from the serpent and the consequences of what the serpent did so that they could conquer death through Him.

Genesis 3: 14 - 15: So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly, you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

God then sent His Son, Jesus, to counteract that which Satan did. After Jesus' birth He was tempted by Satan, but He conquered death which Satan brought, by rising out of the grave and then ascend to heaven and has gone to prepare a place for us and He is coming again to fetch us and take us to Him. After that, He will create for us a new heaven and new earth, and there will be no more death, heartache and pain which came from the serpent, Satan.

Then Satan and his works will be obliterated forever.

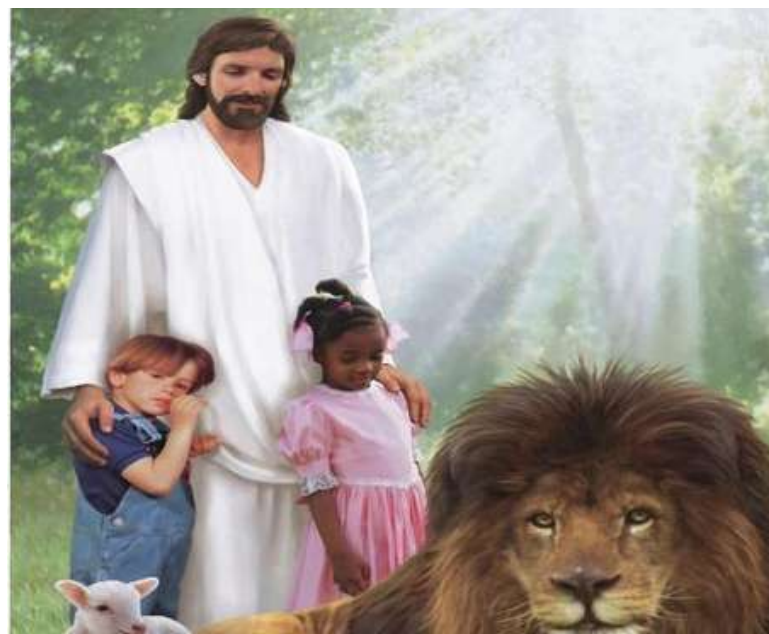
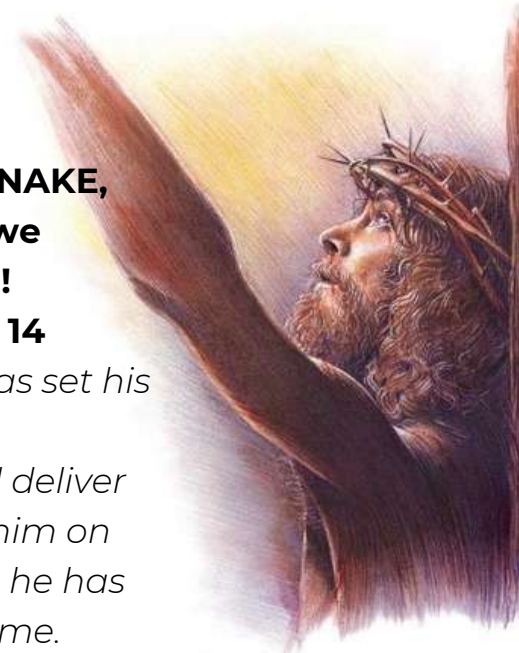
Jesus fought against Satan and conquered him.



**JESUS WINS
against the SNAKE,
SATAN! And we
win with Him!**

Psalms 91: 9 - 14

*Because he has set his
love upon Me,
therefore I will deliver
him: I will set him on
high, because he has
known My Name.*



INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING THE CAPE COBRA AND THE CAPE MONGOOSE



CAPE COBRA



CAPE MONGOOSE

<p>Also named Yellow Cobra or Banded Cobra, Length: 1,4 - 1,9 metre</p>	<p>Also named Cape Small Grey Mongoose, Length: 55-75 cm</p>
<p>Lay more or less 8 - 20 eggs at a time, and hatches it</p>	<p>Will have more or less 2-3 babies at a time, which are born live</p>
<p>When young snakes are hatched they are more or less 34cm - 40 cm in length, totally independent.</p>	<p>Young, hairy babies are looked after and fed until they can fend for themselves.</p>
<p>Unique characteristic: One of the most venomous snakes in Africa. Very aggressive during paring season Shed and literally sail out of the old dry skin, 3 - 5 times a year</p>	<p>Unique characteristic: Very quick movements, very thick skin, not immune against the poison of snakes, but is not afraid of the snake and hardly loses a fight against a snake</p>
<p>Diet: Rodents, birds, small animals.</p>	<p>Diet: Insects, rodents, birds, amphibians, small reptiles, fruit</p>



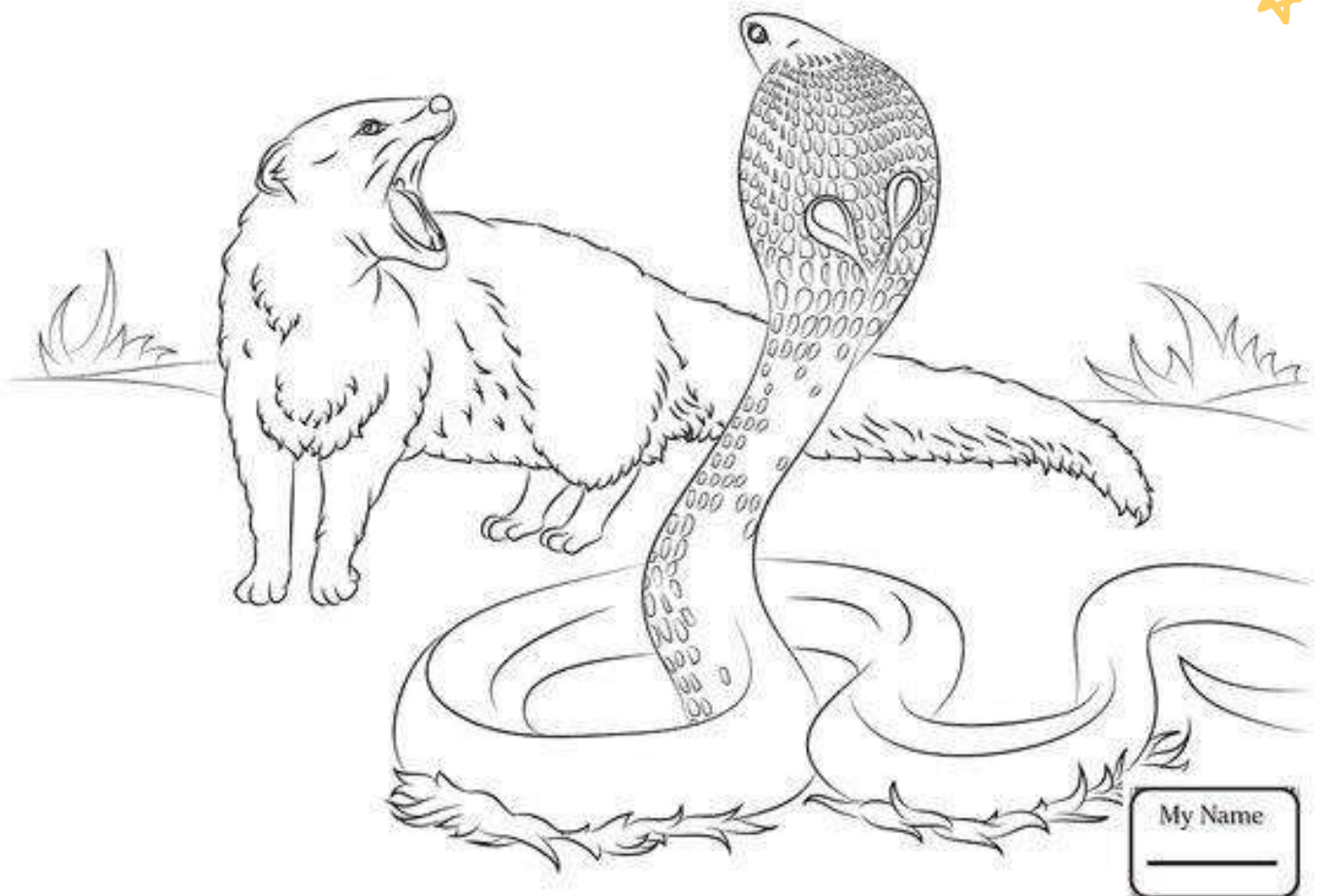
[Click here to watch an interesting video of a fight between a cobra and a mongoose or go to: Cobra vs. Mongoose | National Geographic on YouTube](#)

THE MONGOOSE AND THE COBRA (CONTINUED)

This is one of Aunty Adele's favourite stories. Aunty Adele is married to Pastor Riaan van der Merwe, and they have three grown-up boys. She works at the Conference for the President. She loves God and all His children with all her heart and loves to tell children's stories.



COLOUR THE PICTURE AND TELL SOMEONE THE STORY!



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What (or who?) would you like to see in CONTACT?

Help us to be **BETTER!** Take this quick quiz:

<https://us10.list-manage.com/survey?u=1590382e55a87ad10719b39ab&id=c7cfee3cb2&attribution=false>

