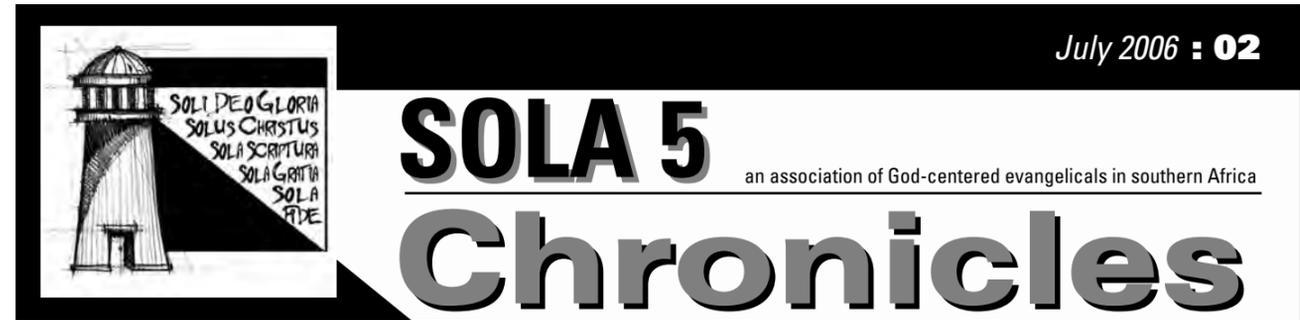


SOLA 5 CONFERENCE 2006 – REGISTRATION FORMS

Sola 5 Conference 31 August to 3 September 2006 Eastside Baptist Church, Windhoek, Namibia		
Registration form for visitors to Windhoek		
Please complete a separate form for each group travelling together. Conference attendance as well as accommodation is free of charge <i>provided that a completed registration form reflecting the name of every prospective attendee is received by Monday 31 July 2006</i> . Mail, fax or e-mail forms to Hein Strauss, PO Box 28276, Sonlandpark, 1944 South Africa; Fax 086 510 9555. Electronic copies of the registration form may be obtained from www.sola5.org or by e-mailing hein.strauss@sola5.org .		
Surname*	Name	
*Mark with an asterisk the names of those attending the Annual General Meeting on Friday		
Church		
Home address of contact person		
Phone numbers of contact person		
Mobile	Home	Work
E-mail address of contact person		
Transport arrangements		
If arriving by private vehicle(s), provide the date and time of planned arrival. The address of your host(s) will be communicated to the contact person.		
Date:	Time:	
Please indicate whether you would be able to provide a lift		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, number of persons <input type="checkbox"/>
If arriving by plane, date and time of planned arrival as well as flight number. Transport to your host will be arranged and details communicated to the contact person.		
Date	Time	Flight no
If arriving by bus, date and time of planned arrival as well as the name of the bus line. Transport to your host will be arranged and details communicated to the contact person.		
Date	Time	Bus line

Sola 5 Conference 31 August to 3 September 2006 Eastside Baptist Church, Windhoek, Namibia		
Registration form for Windhoek residents		
Conference attendance is free of charge <i>provided that a completed registration form reflecting the name of every prospective attendee is received by Friday 25 August 2006</i> . Mail or fax forms to Joachim Rieck, PO Box 21954, Windhoek; Fax 220097; E-mail jriek@iafrica.com.na or Hein Strauss, PO Box 28276, Sonlandpark, 1944 South Africa; Fax 086 510 9555. Electronic copies may be obtained from www.sola5.org or by e-mailing hein.strauss@sola5.org .		
Surname*	Name	
*Mark with an asterisk the names of those attending the Annual General Meeting on Friday		
Church		
Home address of contact person		
Phone numbers of contact person		
Mobile	Home	Work
E-mail address of contact person		



July 2006 : 02

The 2nd Annual Sola 5 Conference & Business Meeting

The Second Annual Sola 5 Conference and Business Meeting is being organised by pastors of a group of churches in Windhoek, Namibia, for 31 August to 3 September 2006 at Eastside Baptist Church. Joachim Rieck (Eastside Baptist Church), Laban Mwashekele (Evangelical Baptist Mission), J.T Beukes (Faith Reformed Baptist Church), Godwin Murangi (Grace Reformed Baptist Church), Spencer Tjijenda (Westside Baptist Church) invite you to enjoy FREE hospitality for the duration of the conference. Furthermore, the Conference itself may be attended free of charge. Only two aspects are the responsibility of prospective attendees. Firstly, complete a registration form and forward it to the address provided. Readers will find a copy of the registration form on the last page of this edition of Sola 5 Chronicles. Copies of the registration form may also be obtained electronically from the Sola 5 website, www.sola5.org, or by e-mailing hein.strauss@sola5.org, or by phoning +27 83 630 0303. The closing date for receiving registration forms is Monday 31 July for visitors to Windhoek. Windhoek residents have time until Friday 25 August 2006. Secondly, arrange for own transport to Windhoek. Travelling together will be a potentially cost saving idea – feel free to contact Hein to facilitate this. Visitors arriving from SADEC states do not need a visa, but a valid passport is compulsory, of course.

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday morning, 1 September, allowing for an overflow to the afternoon.

The programme will allow ample time for devotion and feedback on missions. Please pray that God will be pleased to grant those attending a rich time of fellowship and unity. Also, pray that the speakers will be helped in their preparations.

A few practical notes
There are currently no polio-related travel restrictions for individuals traveling to and from Namibia; however, a one-time booster is recommended for any adult traveler who completed the childhood series but didn't have a polio vaccine as an adult. According to a letter in the June edition of the travel magazine "Weg", the road safety levy fee for a motor vehicle with a trailer amounts to 220 Pula when travelling through Botswana. The Namibian road tax is N\$230. In Botswana Garage/Petro/Motor cards are not accepted at fuel stations, but fuel can usually be purchased using either Visa or Mastercard.



Six speakers will address the theme of the Conference, "The glory of Christ and His church in Ephesians", by expounding in turn the chapters of relevant letter of Paul. The seventh speaker, Nico van der Walt, will address the last session on Sunday evening. An abbreviated programme is outlined below.
Thursday evening, 31 August: Session 1
Eph 1 – Bruce Button (*Antipas Reformed Baptist Church, Pretoria*)
Friday morning and afternoon 1 September
Annual General Meeting
Friday evening 1 September: Session 2
Eph 2 – Christo Beetge (*Brackenhurst Baptist Church, Alberton*)
Saturday morning, 2 Sept: Sessions 3 & 4
Eph 3 – Laban Mwashekele (*Evangelical Baptist Mission, Windhoek*)
Eph 4 – Roland Eskinazi (*Goodwood Baptist Church, Cape Town*)
Saturday evening, 2 September: Session 5
Eph 5 – Doug van Meter (*Brackenhurst Baptist Church, Alberton*)
Sunday evening, 3 September: Session 6
Eph 6 – Ronald Kalifungwa (*Lusaka Baptist Church, Lusaka*)
Sunday evening, 3 September: Closing session
Nico van der Walt (*Antipas Reformed Baptist Church, Pretoria*).

Sola 5
2006 Conference
Windhoek
Namibia

Thursday evening 31 August – Sunday evening 3 September 2006
No conference fee charged

"The glory of Christ and His church in Ephesians"

Contact
hein.strauss@sola5.org
or speak to your Pastor for details

Own transport required
Arrange
Travelling together

editorial

In the first edition of Sola 5 Chronicles (this one being the second) the question was asked (and answered) from various perspectives: What is Sola 5? Allow us to attempt yet another angle in addressing the issue.

Four concepts are central to the description "an association of God-centred evangelicals in southern Africa."

Firstly, the Cambridge Online Dictionary defines association as "a group of people who are united in a single organization for a particular purpose." From a Sola 5 viewpoint, one would argue that the Concise Oxford Dictionary is closer to the mark: "a group of people organised for a joint purpose" – a better depiction because the emphasis should lie on the joint action (organise) and not on the organization as a body. In fact, Sola 5 is not an organization in the classical / normal sense at all, rather a mechanism / system whereby joint projects and attention to specific issues are facilitated as and where appropriate.

Secondly, God-centred is amply addressed in the five solas:

- Tota et Sola Scriptura: All of Scripture and only the Scriptures
- Sola Gratia: Grace alone
- Solus Christus: Christ alone
- Sola Fide: Faith alone
- Soli Deo Gloria: The glory of God alone.

To spread the God-centered, Christ-focused, Bible-based truth is the all-encompassing drive of Sola 5 – which brings us to the third concept.

The Cambridge Online Dictionary outlines evangelical as: "Belonging to one of the Protestant Churches or Christian groups which believe biblical teaching and persuading other people to join them to be extremely important." It should be clear by now that in our case joining would imply becoming convinced that the five solas are a summary of biblical Christianity – to join the cause and not so much the organization. How it crystallizes in practice – as an example – is that a member church may realise that it needs assistance to launch a specific missionary project, for example, church planting in an identified area. Sola 5, in its communicating and facilitating role, could bring one or two more other member churches to join in that objective. One of the goals of the Chronicles is therefore exactly that: to introduce its readers to churches and their activities, enabling them to take note of where God is (already) working and to join there, so that His kingdom may come. Lastly, Sola 5 will operate in the area of throughout southern Africa.

We pray that God's will be done to the glory of His name.

Hein Strauss

Grace Baptist Church, Walkerville

Dear Chronicles Reader

I have been asked to write a short article about our church based in Walkerville, Gauteng, so here goes. We are situated on the R82 (Old Johannesburg Road) roughly half way between Johannesburg & Vereeniging. We are a small church of approx 30 members of all races (approx 60% black, white and Indian) and the officers of the church consist of three elders, one deacon, one Sunday school superintendent, three Sunday school teachers and two church coordinators.

The church was planted in 1991 by Pastor Ed Crain and his wife Joan, and I took over the pastorate in February last year. The church is still in the house that Ed and Joan purchased and restructured in the 90's. The chapel itself is approximately the size of two double garages and has seating for 70 people. The church also owns a stand adjacent to the church, and we have had plans passed for a new church building; however the funds are not sufficient as yet to allow us to begin building.

At present we have a Sunday school of approx 25 children ranging in ages from 3 to 18. We have a wendy hut for the pre-primary children; the 6-8 year olds meet upstairs in what doubles as our dining room; the 8-12 year old meet in the chapel; and the high school children meet in my office. We are trying to become more involved in the community; one such event was a Christmas play that the children performed. They per-



At the back, Darryl Rawbone (deacon), in front of him from the left are Steve (elder) and Mary Whitaker, Michele and Eugene (elder) Rawbone, Nunben (elder) and Neerasha Dixon.

formed for the church and we also took them to a frail care centre, an old people's home and a children's orphanage. At the orphanage we also took chips, cool drink, water melon (which doubled up for many as their face wash for the day!) and small gifts for many who would not otherwise have seen the spirit of Christmas. Unfortunately, I cannot express in words the joy that all those concerned felt in seeing these young children from abused, abandoned and aids-ravaged homes eating, drinking, laughing and enjoying themselves with our children.

Unfortunately, since Christmas, many of our children have been unable to attend our Sunday school and service due to a lack of transportation within our church. However, we do run a Friday night youth fellowship for the High school students; Mary and I pick up the girls and the boys walk to the church. This is not an ideal situation and in the winter with the early nights it can be problematic for safety reasons.

We also cater for two Bible Study groups per week; one on a Wednesday morning specializing in doctrinal studies, and the other on a Sunday evening specializing in a book of the Bible. On Sunday evenings we meet at 5:00 pm to enable the study to finish before it becomes too dark as many in the area (mainly women) have to walk to and from the church.

As part of an ongoing arrangement we have a food box in the church by which the congregation can donate for those in the church whom are less fortunate, and we also collect clothes, toys, blankets for a local children's home.

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Visit: www.sola5.org. Please feel free to contact us with any comments and suggestions you might have. They are always welcome!

Letter from Joachim Rieck, Eastside Baptist Church, Windhoek

December 2005

Dear friends –

We have recently sought to encourage every member of our church to think not only of our own church and its many physical and spiritual needs, but to also think of other churches – particularly in our own country – who have much greater needs. A Reformed Baptist church was planted a few years ago by Pastor Laban Mwashekele in the port town of Luderitz in southern Namibia. Luderitz was born out of a diamond rush in the early 1900's. This town has one of the harshest climates imaginable: it is very dry and very windy! Currently – fishing, diamond mining and tourism are its chief economic resources.

The fishing industry has not done well of late. This means that many people in this town are suffering economic hardships. My family and I have sought to set an example by visiting and encouraging this little congregation in this remote corner of our country. We spent 5 days in Luderitz and took literature and some clothing we had collected for the very poor. On the Lord's Day (4th December); and every day thereafter, we met with the congregation and worked through Paul's letter to the Ephesians. I sometimes felt like the apostle Paul 'rambling on' about many and diverse subjects, such as the greatness of our salvation, the importance of unity, the credibility of our Christian profes-

sion, and the nature of the battle in which we all are engaged. The preaching had to be translated by one of the elders, Justus Hamutenya, as the members of the congregation are all Oshivambo speakers, and only a few are conversant in English. There is a great need for English literacy classes in our country.

We believe that the church was encouraged by our visit. Such visits can do much good and help believers in isolated areas to be spiritually strengthened (Rom 1:11, 12). Not only were they encouraged, but we were also encouraged by their faith. These are dear people who love the gospel, and saw the evidence of God's grace in the love which they had towards one another.

Thank you for praying for us! We covered 2400 kilometres (Windhoek – Luderitz – Swakopmund – Windhoek), mostly on dirt roads. Namibia's dirt roads are well maintained and take us through some of the most beautiful landscapes and isolated areas in the world. We didn't have a single tyre blow-out. Only in Swakopmund did we have a flat tyre – but only when the vehicle was stationary. God is faithful.

We trust that this will help and encourage you to plan for your 'missionary trip' to another congregation. You can make a difference!

Joachim, Marcelle, Jonathan, Martin & Kezia Rieck

The Benguela Baptist Church has been meeting in a tin shanty, but is presently in the process of erecting a functional church building.



The new building of the Church, which is halfway to completion.



Some members of the congregation



The young pastor of the church, Lukas Joseph, with his wife Victoria and son Ndailikana.

Brackenhurst Baptist Church

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home-schooling, making social interaction amongst the children in the context of the church all the more important. On Tuesday evenings the AWANA groups minister to primary school children. On Wednesday evenings the junior choir practices. On Friday evenings the senior school children meet, as well as regular meetings of Young Adults (who are also part of the SolaMind ministry – a Sola 5 initiative on the south east side of Johannesburg aimed at reaching Young Adults who want to be single-mindedly counter-culture for the sake of righteousness. This happens once a month. Do yourself a favour and visit their fantastic website www.solamind.com!) There is also a monthly ministry to Young Marrieds, Single Women and the Elderly. Then of course there is ministry on the Lord's Day to youth Sunday school classes and Children's Church for the very young during the sermon.

An aspect of our church culture which has certainly defined and developed part of our ethos is the requirement that every prospective member must be willing to be disciplined – a formally arranged but casual and friendly process of placing all prospective members under the care and instruction of another member or couple. This involves working through 23 booklets explaining various doctrines and aspects Christian behaviour and conviction. Only those who have either completed this process and have been brought into membership formally, or who are in the process are regarded as part of the family and thus eligible for the privileges of church membership. Making this distinction is vital for the health of the church family we believe. It also provides the context for healthy accountability, pastoral admonition and disciplinary action where necessary.

BBC has been blessed with many young people and young couples entering their parenting years. This makes for a healthy expectation regarding visitation, discipleship and fellowship. The local church is surely designed by God to be a support-community where people nurture true friendships and enjoy life together. Emphasis is thus placed upon social interaction amongst members in various fun events throughout the year. One of the highlights in this regard is the annual cycle tour held in December. Other groups such as

Book Clubs and mothers' groups meet throughout the year. The Mission-mindedness of BBC has been fostered over the years by an important annual event in the life of the church – the World Outreach Celebration. This event has served to raise the profile of missions and helped to create both a Great Commission mentality regarding the funding of and support for missionary endeavours around the world, and an increasing cultural sensitivity. More and more though, as a consequence of the process of reformation, inevitably, our support of missions has become increasingly focussed upon missionaries sent out from BBC and other Sola 5 congregations. God's people here are encouraged to visit and correspond with missionary couples supported by and prayed for by BBC.

The music ministry at BBC has been the source of great blessing. It is mysterious how some congregations have a dearth of musicians, and yet in His mysterious providence towards other congregations, BBC amongst them, God has seen fit to provide a wealth of musically talented people. God-centeredness in providing musical excellence for worship has meant that corporate worship is a joyful highlight!

When one scans the above, one must guard against naively thinking that BBC is the perfect church or that there is always the right kind of momentum in ministry. We are under no illusions – BBC is a very normal church, plagued by many of the same frustrations that keep all Elders on their knees before God! The Elders are currently praying through ministry decisions to remedy the fragmentation of the nuclear family, as well as the balance between incisive Eldership leadership and Baptistic congregational participation. Yet, God has certainly done great things in our midst, and we are trusting Him to yet bring much glory to Himself as we persevere in seeking to do the right things better and better. Whilst we do not buy into the "mega-church mentality" in which numbers play an inordinate role, we do pray that God may yet allow some sizeable congregations with a world-wide reach to develop in our country which will stand as a beacon of God-centred, Christ-focussed, Word-expounding hope for the generations to come! Please pray with us to that end.
Christo Beetge

A short note on Jason van den Heuvel

Jason van den Heuvel is a Chartered Accountant by profession, having qualified in 1965. Today however he runs a business of distributing hot stamping foils. He married Marlene in 1965, and have two sons of which the youngest Gary is a fellow elder at Brackenhurst Baptist Church. Marlene is a retired school teacher having taught science and music. Marlene still plays the flute in the music team at Brackenhurst. Marlene and Jason have been with the Church at Brackenhurst



from its beginning in 1972. Jason is still the treasurer and Sunday School teacher. He was a deacon and has now been an elder for the past four years.

Left: Jason and Marlene van den Heuvel.

A short biographical sketch of Christo Beetge



Anton, Christo, Gillian, and Maureen Beetge

Christo was born in 1962 in Johannesburg to Afrikaans speaking parents. He attended St. John's College Johannesburg. After matric, studies at WITS University and the completion of 4 years of national service in the South African Police followed. He worked in a plastics manufacturing environment and a small family business before studying at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Johannesburg. Christo married Maureen in 1988 and they have been blessed with two children, Anton (16) and Gillian (13). After an 11 year pastorate in Springs, he moved to Brackenhurst Baptist Church in December 2005. The family is resident in Alberton.

Grace Baptist Church, Walkerville

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We have recently introduced a library book and audio tape loan system at the church. This was introduced as the price of Christian books is beyond the means of most of our congregation. We have had donations from many people in our area and at present our library stands at 70+ books and 20+ audio tapes. However, we would like to expand this facility to our congregation, especially the children. Therefore, I would like to ask for your help; if you have any good solid Christian books you no longer require we would greatly appreciate your donating them to us. Children's books, and, if possible, any Christian books in the black languages would also be appreciated.

I would also like to seek your assistance for an overhead projector; if you have one you are no longer using and you could donate it to us it would be greatly appreciated; if you have one you would like to sell for a reasonable price, then please contact me at one of the numbers below.

Our vision for the future (God willing) is to erect our church building on the adjacent land, obtain a vehicle for transportation and become more involved in the community with evangelism.

Please pray for us in our work here for the Lord. God Bless you all

Yours in Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
Steve Whitaker

Grace Baptist Church, P.O. Box 527, Walkerville, 1876, South Africa.
Contact numbers: +27 11 949 2284 or +27 72 621 4434



Above: Kids enjoying the hospitality extended to them.

SolaMind

SolaMind community forum is up!
Young Adults single-mindedly devoted to Christ,
your time has come...

www.solamind.com

Hello everyone!

At long last, I have set up a rudimentary forum. I say rudimentary because it still needs a lot of cosmetic work. However, it is up and is fully functional! Here is what you need to do if you would like to get involved in the forum:

Visit the following link: www.solamind.com. Click on the "Register" button and add your details. Once registered, click on the "Profile" button. Once there, click the link entitled "Account Related Settings" on the left and change any details there that you want to. Then click "Forum Profile Information", again on your left, and change anything there that you desire to change. After doing this, if you would like to find out how to use the forum (if you don't already have some vague idea), click the "Help" button next to "Home" to read up about the different aspects of the forum.

After this, check out the different boards that I have made. Have a look at the "General Announcements" board. In there, I have posted a welcome message with some details & so on.

I think that's about it! Please spread this news around to anyone else who you think would be interested in the forum! If you have any ideas, requests, suggestions or criticisms, please post them up on the forum.

Let's endeavor to bring glory to God through this forum!
Warm regards, David Peyton +27 84 512 8356

A personal history of Steve Whitaker

Mary and I came to South Africa in 1980 with our two sons, Gavin (then aged three) and Gareth (aged nine months). I originally came on a three-year contract with Atlas Aircraft Corp, but stayed for seven years. We returned to the U.K. in 1987 and, after the passing away of Mary's parents, we returned to South Africa in 1991 to join my parents in Port Elizabeth. Straight away I found employment at an engineering company in P.E. and worked my way up to Production Manager, where I stayed until 2002.

The Lord called me to study his Word in 2000, which I did by correspondence in 2001. As I was still working at this time, I was able during this year to seek God's purpose for my life and to clear all my debts (car, house) and save for the full time studies which lay ahead. In 2002 I began full time studies at the Bible Institute Eastern Cape (BIEC) in Port Elizabeth. We were able to save during my last year at work for my first year studies at BIEC, but after that Mary and I were totally in the hands of the Lord. The Lord did not let us down. In the second semester of the first year I, along with two other students, received a bursary which paid for our studies for all three years. In the second and third years at BIEC we had very little finances, but again the Lord provided through people. My parents helped us, one person donated petrol for us, I was told to go to a certain petrol station and fill up twice per month. Some people would bring us food; some bought me books; I even had one donated from a lady in Australia. We would also be given envelopes with money in, usually when we were down to our last few rands.

In my final year at college, our principal (Vernon Light) informed me of a church looking for a pastor in Walkerville, as he knew the retiring pastor (Ed Crain). I contacted Ed, and in December of 2004 Mary and I came to Walkerville for the interview and a call was extended to me to come to Grace, which we accepted, and moved here in February 2005.

Yours in Christ
Steve Whitaker

Zimbabwe Carey Conference – Harare 2006

Over the weekend of 17-19 February 2006, 55 pastors and about 20 of their wives gathered for the First Annual Carey Conference in Harare. The few days we were together were packed with teaching and fellowship. The conference was held at the YWCA, where all the attendees stayed and were fed bountifully. Dennis Hustedt and Jeff Gage were the speakers for the conference; their wives, Lynn and Deborah respectively, spoke to the ladies. Erroll and Lynn Hulse were also scheduled to be there but were unable to make it due to an accident damaging Lynn's leg. Dennis and Erroll raised the funding for the conference while Joseph Soko and his team in Harare organized things there. Dennis preached on several portions of Hebrews, emphasizing that Christ alone (not ancestors) is the Mediator and High Priest of his people. Jeff spoke on disciple-making and expository, Christ-centred preaching. The ladies' sessions focused on God's sovereignty and the submissive role of women (which four female pastors in attendance found quite 'interesting').

Evangelical Press, Banner of Truth and Metropolitan Tabernacle provided several boxes of books, which were distributed free of charge to the conference attendees. They were very glad to receive three books and two booklets each. Free Grace Baptist Church, Boksburg, collected money to purchase bicycles for five pastors from the Reformed Baptist Church, Harare. Two donations were given from the States and the rest from the church. There was enough money to obtain the five bikes with pumps and locks (puncture repair kits were not available). In addition, each pastor received \$Z 21 million (about ZAR1300 or US \$210), which is what they need per month. Free Grace can only supply this every two months, so other churches are needed to take up the other half.

Medicine for a thyroid condition was also provided by the ladies of Free Grace for Lorraine, a pastor's wife in Harare. Our brethren in Zimbabwe continue to be genuinely appreciative without begging or expecting things from us. In fact, one man postponed his wedding so they could be involved in this conference, and out of their poverty the brethren gave us a gift of appreciation. When a couple of ladies were asked what they think of President Robert Mugabe, they responded by affirming Romans 13: he is their God-ordained

leader. What more can be said? There is also need for homeschool-type training as the children only go to school for four hours per day. Supplemental schooling at home is needed – and requested by the school teachers.

The needs in this country are great, as you can imagine. Let us continue to pray, give and go. It is the gospel that will have the best and most lasting impact upon Zimbabwe. Psalm 2:8!

Next year's conference is already being planned for 125 pastors (male evangelicals only). Dennis will be in the States in May to raise money for this.

Joyful in Christ's Service,
Jeffrey Gage

Free Grace Baptist Church
www.freegrace.co.za

Comments from the Conference Attendees:
 "I was blessed with the Word of God which was being taught through this conference and have been equipped as I will also go and teach others to be disciples."
 "I would like to thank you for your concern over us remembering us in Zimbabwe with this conference."



Bikes being loaded



Carey Conference attendees



Samuel with books



Lynn Hustedt, Plexedes Soko, and Deborah Gage



Books

Brackenhurst Baptist Church

Some 34 years ago the Head of the Church graciously allowed a Baptist congregation to come into being in a suburb of Alberton, south of Johannesburg. The Brackenhurst Baptist Church met for quite some time in the garage attached to the house of Jason and Marlene van den Heuvel, but moved in 1975 to a structure that had been built on a strategic corner stand purchased from the Baptist Union of Southern Africa. In these past three and a half decades this congregation has been served by three different shepherds. Doug Van Meter, originally from the USA, but now permanently resident in South Africa, has been the pastor since 1992, having been called from a sister-work in Naturena, also south of 'the City of Gold'.

For the major part of its existence, the Brackenhurst Baptist Church (BBC) has been known for characteristics of her ethos, specifically her independency, her commitment to the King James translation of the Bible, her passion for the pre-millennial return of Christ and for her mission-mindedness. By God's grace, a miraculous process of reformation has characterized the ministry in recent years – a reformation driven by Doug's expository ministry from the book of Romans, the Olivet Discourse (Matt 24-25) and the book of Revelation. Consequently the congregation has in large measure come to join the Eldership in a wholehearted embrace of what is known as a Preterist view of biblical prophecy. In terms of this understanding of Scripture, the congregation has come to appreciate more richly the New Covenant, the cohesiveness of the whole Bible, and the absolute sufficiency of Jesus Christ in a marvellous way. Gone are the largely pessimistic expectations of the future and the sentimental attachment to geo-political Israel spawned by a Dispensational hermeneutic. Now the mission-mindedness of BBC is characterized by a newfound joyful expectation that God will indeed allow the Kingdom of Christ to conquer the darkness

by the glorious Gospel in the generations to come! This sea-change in ethos, along with a move towards a plurality of Eldership ministry; an emphasis upon the doctrines of grace; and membership within the Sola 5 family of churches – these 'milestones of reformation' towards a biblical ministry, have indeed made the past years very challenging, exciting and fulfilling! By God's grace, the church has seen a commensurate growth in its membership. Yet, despite being possibly one of the largest of the South African Sola 5 churches, BBC is still a "small church", yet with a "big church mentality". Membership is currently just over 200.

Each congregation of God's people has its own unique characteristics within the framework prescribed by Scripture. At BBC one cannot appreciate the overall ministry without appreciating the role played by the following features:

A plurality of Elders who are trusted and expected by the congregation to provide decisive leadership. Currently there are four Elders: Doug Van Meter who handles the bulk of the preaching ministry; Gary van den Heuvel who has spearheaded the thrust in formal teaching ministry; Gary's father, Jason van den Heuvel, one of the founders of this church family, who is self-employed; and Christo Beetge who was recently invited to join the Eldership from the pastoral ministry in Springs. Two previous Elders, Francois Koch and Peter Swanepoel have been sent out as missionaries, the former to Ethiopia and the latter to India. It would seem that God would have the Elders lead by example in this way – so far two of the Elders

have obeyed the call to "go"! The Elders operate with a conscious commitment to both parity and giftedness. In other words, we are all accountable to one another, and seek to divide our pastoral responsibilities according to individual giftedness so that the total ministry of oversight is complementary. Doug is privileged to be used by God in a growing international preaching ministry, and the pulpit responsibilities are shared in his absence by both Christo and Gary. Our well-managed website www.brackenhurstbaptist.org allows the pulpit ministry to have greater access around the world.

The church enjoys an ethos of commitment to formal ministry. By this must be appreciated that each church member feels committed to benefit from formal teaching that is given on Wednesday evenings at the prayer meeting and during Family Bible Hour prior to the Worship service on Sunday morning. Whilst these ministries are largely the responsibility of the Elders, there are also valuable opportunities for other men who feel called to formal ministry to fan their teaching gifts into flame. These men and others who so desire, are also instructed in a Shepherds' School programme accredited by the University of Potchefstroom. In this programme formal lecturing is received in subjects like New Testament, Old Testament, Church History and a whole host of modules one would expect to find in formal ministerial training. This 'atmosphere of learning' pervades the whole church, and it is indeed heartening to find that the majority of members regularly avail themselves of these opportunities which means that the whole church family is often together. Thankfully BBC is not afflicted with the common malady these days of having a morning congregation as distinct from those who attend worship in the evenings. Support ministries during such events include care of infants, children's choir and discipleship training.

Now the mission-mindedness of BBC is characterized by a newfound joyful expectation that God will indeed allow the Kingdom of Christ to conquer the darkness by the glorious Gospel in the generations to come!

Any congregation that receives 'formal instruction' is constantly in danger of becoming cerebral and formalistic. To remedy this, great encouragement is given for members to get involved in 'practical ministry' such as food distribution, printing collation, ministries of mercy, evangelism and hospitality. The food distribution ministry involves the collection of waste food from certain supermarket outlets, the sorting of such food and the distribution of the usable food to needy recipients and institutions. This happens two days a week at least. The printing ministry requires people to lend a hand in collating printed matter. Over the years great emphasis has been placed on the printing and distribution of Gospel of John and Romans portions. Our printing ministry currently has some spare capacity which we are asking God to use for the extension of His Kingdom. Ministries of mercy involve providing meals and care for the sick and housebound in the congregation. Some of the young men have become involved in evangelistic endeavours such as Chronological story-telling in Soweto, with a view to providing a context into which the Gospel message of Christ can be profitably proclaimed. On the final Wednesday of the month, the Bible study and prayer meeting is suspended in favour of people entertaining friends in their homes. Despite all these many efforts and endeavours though, much like any other church family, BBC feels frustrated that not enough evangelism and 'hands-on-ministry' is undertaken in our desire to be salt and light in our community.

Thankfully, a great diversity of ministry to children provides many avenues for practical service and involvement. One of the characteristics of the church involves the prevalence of

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Biographical background – Gary van den Heuvel

Gary van den Heuvel was born on the 14th of November, 1968 and grew up in Alberton, South Africa. His parents were instrumental in starting Brackenhurst Baptist Church in 1972 a church he has attended for most of his life. Gary attended primary and high school in Alberton and was privileged to serve as head prefect in both. Once matriculated in 1986 with university exemption, he spent a year in the United States as a Rotary exchange student and attended college for one semester in Bend, Oregon.

In 1988 Gary entered the University of the Witwatersrand and was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts in early 1992. His majors were in law and psychology. While studying at WITS, Gary continued to attend his home church, Brackenhurst Baptist Church serving as youth leader for four years. Gary was also involved with Campus Crusade for Christ at WITS University and served on the executive council of that organisation at WITS in 1991. After graduating from WITS, Gary travelled to the USA in 1992 and worked for a youth organisation called Neighbourhood Bible Time. With this organisation, he was able to visit many churches across USA over a four month period while serving as a youth evangelist.

In August 1992 Gary enrolled at the Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina for a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in bible and a minor in speech, successfully completing the studies in 1995. It was here that he met Tammy Goldfuss in 1992. They became friends in 1993 and began to talk about the possibility of marriage in 1994, while still at University. Because Gary was under a contract with the University to return to South Africa after his studies, they were not allowed to date while on campus. After graduation in 1995, Gary travelled to Ohio to meet Tammy's parents and to ask her father for her hand in marriage. Fortunately he consented and Gary and Tammy began to make plans for her to travel to South Africa for their marriage, which she did shortly after her graduation in 1996.

Gary returned to South Africa in 1995 and took up the position of pastor at Brackenhurst Baptist Church. In 1997 the church started



Above: Shalyn, Tammy, Gary, Kyrin, and Jadyn van den Heuvel

a shepherd's school with the desire of training its own members in higher theological education. Gary has lectured at the shepherd's school since that time, often teaching two classes per term. Discipleship has played a big role in Gary's life and having been disciplined himself by other faithful men over the years, he has sought to pass that on to others.

Gary and Tammy were married in July 1996 and moved into a flat in Meyersdal, Alberton. A son, Jadyn was born in 1998. Gary and Tammy moved to a house in Brackenhurst, one block away from the church. Two days after moving in a daughter, Shalyn, was born in 2000. A third child, a son, Kyrin, was born in 1993. Gary and Tammy are currently home-schooling their two oldest children using the classical education style.

Gary is an avid reader, using the church's extensive library to further his own knowledge and experience. He is currently also furthering his studies in the field of theology and history. Gary currently serves as an elder in the church and is responsible for the church's teaching ministries including the shepherd's school.

A short bio of Doug Van Meter, as told by himself...

I was raised in a Christian home and was blessed to be connected to a church which was faithful to the gospel. My spiritual roots are firmly planted in my family and in their committed relationship with the First Baptist Church, Milford, Ohio USA. At an early age I remember professing the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour but I do not recollect much fruit from this over my pre-teen and teen years. It was while in my first year of attending Miami University in Ohio, USA that I had an unmistakable experience of conversion. The Lord then sent a man into my life who disciplined me and who lovingly held me accountable to faithfully follow Christ.

After another two years of studying at university I sensed God's call to study for the ministry. I subsequently enrolled at Tennessee Temple University, a small Christian University in Chattanooga. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Bible in May 1984 and subsequently married Jill Keen one month later. My wife and I in fact met in the creche of our home church when I was three and she was two!

Jill and I were sent by our then home church, First Baptist Church, Milford to South Africa in May 1990 with our two daughters (which have now become five daughters). By God's grace we planted a church in Naturena, south of Johannesburg and then in July 1993 I was called to come to the Brackenhurst Baptist Church as their pastor-teacher. This was originally only to be a temporary 'stop gap' measure until they found a South African pastor. As the Lord would have it, we soon ceased our missionary status, became permanent residents of South

Africa and thus for the past 13 years BBC has had a South African pastor – but one with a strange accent!

The Lord has been very kind to us here and we desire to spend the rest of our life in this church.

As mentioned the Lord has given us five daughters: Allison & Katy are both studying at Wits, Lydia, Jessica and Danielle are home schooled and we were recently blessed to become foster parents of Jessie.

Doug van Meter



Jill and Doug van Meter with their five daughters: Allison, Katy, Jessica, Lydia and Danielle

The Swanepeel family – making disciples of Jesus Christ in India

Pieter Swanepeel served as an elder at Brackenhurst Baptist Church, Alberton, for two years. Brackenhurst, in partnership with the churches of Sola5, has now sent Pieter and his family as missionaries to India. Pieter is assisting a church in Nasik.

Prayer letter – April 2006

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

We thank God for His love, grace and mercy in our lives everyday. We have been blessed by seeing God's hand upon us during this time of transition in our lives. It has now been a month since we arrived in India and although we have had our ups and downs, overall we can only give God the glory for the way that we have adjusted and for the progress that we have made. One thing we now know for sure is that nothing happens fast in India. I don't think you can imagine it until you have experienced it for yourself. I have learned patience in this last month and have been able to accept that I cannot make things happen faster. For those of you that know me well, you will understand how difficult that was for me, but God has given me the ability to do so far above what I could ever imagine to achieve. We give Him all the praise, honour and glory, for it is His strength that works through us to will and to do these things for His glory.

The most difficult time is on Sunday morning during the service. As everything is done in Marathi and we don't yet understand it, we have found it very difficult to be a part of the worship service. I have started an adult Bible study on a Sunday morning and, Lord willing, we will be starting a Sunday evening service that will be in English. There are a number of people who do not come to the church for the Marathi service, but whom Joseph feels might be interested in an English service. Please pray that God will use this to draw more people to the church. Although my original plan was to minister to my family at this time, we pray that this might be used by God to draw English-speaking people to the church. At first it will be held in our home and then, should it be necessary, we will look for a place to meet. The church currently meets in a conference hall of the Grand Manor Hotel, but April and May are the wedding months so we will not be able to use the hall in the evenings. We miss the wonderful singing that we had at Brackenhurst. Maybe we can import some singers like they had in the Old Testament – anyone volunteering?

After spending most of the first month ministering to my family and getting settled, I have now started ministering in the church. We have a Bible study on a Friday evening, where we are going through the book of Nehemiah; leadership training on Saturday evenings, where I am starting discipleship with ten young people wanting to be trained as leaders; and then we have the Bible study on a Sunday morning, where I am going through the book of James. It is a privilege to be able to minister to these people and we have seen a real desire in some of the young men to be trained to go out and plant churches. Nominal Christianity is one of the biggest problems and, after speaking to Joseph, we have decided to disciple the whole church on a one-on-one basis. I am currently training up some men to enable them to go and disciple others. Please pray that we will see God changing hearts and fuelling the desire for God and His kingdom here in India. We have just received some copies of the Book of Romans that Gareth has printed and look forward to using them to spread the gospel.

We thank God for His people. It was a blessing to spend time with Gareth, Keri and Ezra in Pune at the expositors' conference. It was just what the doctor ordered for the whole family. We needed to get out of the hotel and also be able to have some food without chillies in it, which we found very difficult to find in Nasik. Dianne and the



Our new home (top floor). "All things bright and beautiful" or something like that. God's provision is amazing!!!

children had a great time with Keri and Ezra, doing some shopping and feasting on KFC, McDonalds and pizza. It was as good as having a holiday. We came back from Pune and continued looking for a house to rent. After seeing some houses that definitely didn't suit our needs, and others that would have made people think that we were millionaires, we finally found a home that suited our needs – and at a reasonable rental. We signed the documents, which took two days, paid the deposit, which was nearly ZAR12 000, and moved into the top floor, which consisted of two bedrooms, toilet, shower and kitchen. That was the second thing the doctor had ordered. Dianne could now cook and provide food for the family. Suddenly the smiles appeared on all the faces again. Amazing what a place called "home" can do for the morale. It was still cramped – six in two bedrooms with one bathroom – but knowing this was going to be our home made it easier. The rest of the house would only be available at the end of the month as there were tenants renting the ground floor. We have now moved into the whole house, bought beds, a fridge, stove, microwave, and even a TV and DVD player. Dianne's comment, "I like this house; it feels like home". Praise the Lord for His goodness and provision. Anyone wanting to come and visit, you are welcome and we do have room available (hint, hint).

The next problem facing us is our Foreign Registration of Residency. Without this we cannot open a bank account or buy a vehicle. Understandably, the part of opening a bank account is very important as we will soon be running out of funds. We brought money with us, but, with the deposit for the house and buying the furniture, we have to be careful with our funds. We were told on Saturday that we have to appear before the Commissioner of Police on Wednesday evening in order for this registration to be completed. Please pray that it would happen and that we would receive our registration documents ASAP. We have not been able to transfer our support in from South Africa because of this problem. We thank God that the transfer of our property in South Africa has finally gone through. That will enable us to buy a vehicle. We have been blessed in the church with the addition of a Hindu lady who has come to the church for the first time. We visited her last Sunday evening and presented the gospel as clearly as we could. At the end of our visit she said that she had never heard Jesus Christ explained so clearly and that she understands better now what we are talking about. Her name is Swati and her husband's name is Vijay. He is a policeman and travels around a lot, so he is not in Nasik that often. He apparently does not have any problem with her coming to church, but pray that God will do a work in both their hearts. We have a young married couple in our church, Barnabas and Geeta, who are expecting their first baby in three months time. Geeta has just been told that the baby has grown sufficiently and she is currently in hospital on a drip. Please pray for her and the baby's health. Barnabas is one of the young men who are really on fire for the Lord and is hoping to be able to go out and plant a church at some

The Swanepoel family – making disciples of Jesus Christ in India

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point. He has been a blessing to us as he has his own rickshaw and he has been our transport ever since we have been here. He even helped us clean the house when we moved in, scrubbing floors and doing whatever was necessary. He has a servant's heart and a desire to share the gospel with the Hindu's. Please pray for Manu, Satish, Martin, Barnabas and Santosh as these men have a desire to serve the Lord in full time ministry. Pray for Joseph as he needs to leave his secular work and spend all his time in ministry.

We want to thank those churches and individuals that are partnering with us in prayer and providing the necessary funds for us to be able to minister here in India. Please know that we pray for you and thank God always for your work of faith, labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. May God have mercy upon you and bless you and make His face to shine upon you.

Prayer letter – May 2006

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

Our God is an awesome God who is gracious and merciful to us. With a love so great – that it carries us through all trials and temptations. Once again, our God has been gracious to us through this month by keeping us safe in our travels as well as in good health. I met the general secretary of the Union of Evangelical Students of India, Philip Samuels, who lives about 1 km from us in an area that they call the New Jerusalem of Nashik. He in turn introduced us to a group of believers from different denominations who have a Bible study every Thursday evening in English. It has been a real joy being able to worship and sing English hymns and choruses. We felt at home the very first night we spent with them. I have been asked to lead their Bible study and we are going through the book of Romans. They are all graduates from the UESI and now work among the students in different universities, spreading the gospel and training up leaders within the groups. Please pray that we will be as much of a blessing to them as they have been to us. It is amazing how much difference it makes just being able to sing English hymns and choruses with other believers. There is only one in our family, Tamsyn, who has a singing voice, so we have truly been making a joyful noise to the Lord as a family.

I thank God for the opportunity to preach an hour and a half message to the first-ever Christian farmers in a town called Ahmadnagar last week Saturday. The trip was quite an experience and it was a long day, but God's name was glorified and there were about 250 farmers who came to hear the Word. I left Nasik at 6.00 am by normal government bus and returned at about 8.30 pm. For two days after that my kidneys felt like they were floating around my throat and my back was

the back of a 90 year-old. It was all worth it, though. I thank God for the doors that have been opened for me to preach and teach in other areas and in other churches. We have settled down as a family and I need to get out and preach and teach more often as I am getting a bit frustrated. Last week was especially busy as I went to Ahmadnagar on Saturday, preached at two different churches on Sunday – as well as doing a Bible study and a leadership training class. I am not complaining, because that is why God brought me to India – to preach, teach, and spread the gospel. I had the opportunity to preach in a CNI church (Church of North India) on Sunday morning, which was a new experience for me as it is an Anglican church. I was nervous when they asked me to preach, but told them that I will be preaching the truth and as long as they do not limit me in that, I will gladly do it. I shared a message from Romans 12:1-2 about presenting your bodies a living sacrifice, and have had some very positive feedback, so I hope to be able to do so again. If they are happy for me to preach the truth and not compromise on the Word, I will continue preaching. They do not have a pastor or minister to lead the English service so some of the men like Philip Samuels lead their worship. I have had a number of invitations to go to other areas, but with Joseph working six days a week and only getting every second Saturday off, it is difficult. The transport has also been a problem.

Another praise item – God provided us with a vehicle this week. When we left South Africa, we sold our vehicles and brought that money with us in order to buy a vehicle, hoping that we would be able to buy a car as well as a motorcycle petrol is nearly ZAR8.00 per liter (so don't complain in South Africa). God did bless us with a motorcycle a month ago, and it has been a great help. On Tuesday we finally found a vehicle that is in good condition and that we could afford with what funds that we had left. I bought a Mahindra Scorpio that seats 9 people and is a diesel, which is cheaper (ZAR6.15 per liter) than petrol. This is the only good condition vehicle that I have seen and I have seen most probably 30. Now that our transport problems are sorted out, we can start going out to the villages and other towns to spread the gospel and do some teaching.

We met a pastor called Suresh from the Grace to You Pastors Training Institute in Pune; he has moved to Nasik to start an English speaking church in the city. This is a very dear family who truly seek to serve the Lord here in Nasik. We have been fellowshiping with them and trying to encourage them as they do not speak Marathi and also do not understand it that well. I think it is even more difficult for them, as people expect them to understand, speak and write the language, as they are Indian. They are from Hyderabad, which is in another state of India. Please pray for them, as they feel very isolated here in Nashik.

The leadership group from the church is doing *continued on page 7*



Far left: Brendan, David, Dianne, Kerry-Ann and Tamsyn.

Left: My first office, checking the finances already.

well after having ironed out some problems with false beliefs and doctrines. Please pray for one of the young men, Vipin, as his family is trying to force him to marry a Hindu girl. He is suffering persecution from his own family and especially from his uncle as he says his uncle hates Christians. Vipin is also trying to change his work at the moment as he is only earning 2000 Rupees (ZAR308.00) per month and cannot support himself on that income. Vipin is one of the young men who have a very strong desire to serve the Lord in a fulltime capacity. He has been faithful in his attendance to the leadership classes as well as the Bible studies and church services. Here we have an example of someone that is being persecuted for faith by his family. Please pray for him and for other employment in order for him to be able to move out of the house.

Please pray for Kerry-Anne and Brendon as they are busy writing their mid year exams. Dianne and David are still battling on with the quest of grade 1. The battle of the wills continues. Please pray for wisdom and patience for Dianne and for obedience for David. God has truly been gracious to us as a family in allowing us to settle down so quickly. There are still some moments where the girls get SA sick, but they are getting less. Thank you to all those young people that have been chatting to them through the internet as well as through Solamind. It gives them great encouragement to be able to have contact with their friends in SA.

The only problem comes in when we all want to use the one computer. We are hoping to get a desktop, which hopefully will be connected, to the internet as soon as our FROR registration is through. Yes, you have heard right, our registration is still not through. Last week Monday, I was promised it would be through by Saturday, this week Tuesday I was promised it would be done by Sunday. Why Sunday I do not know because they do not work on a Sunday. Once that is done, we

would be able to get a landline and an internet connection.

Please pray that God will be glorified in everything we say and do and that our lives will be an example of what we preach and teach. Dianne is doing a ladies Bible study on Wednesday afternoons which they seem to be enjoying. She is trying to organize a ladies tea, which seems like something they do not do here so we will see whether it works and if it does, we are hoping that it will become a regular practice. There is just about no fellowship between the believers in the church. We are trying to encourage them to become closer to each other and to share each other's joys as well as tears. Pray that God will awaken the desire to be true brothers and sisters in Christ. This is one of the things that we struggle with here as we have always had such great fellowship with everyone at Brackenhurst. Please pray for the church and for pastor Joseph as he leads the flock of God that he has been placed over here in Nasik.

We want to thank you all for your prayers and financial support for us whilst we are here in India desiring to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Our prayers are that God will have mercy upon you and bless you and make His face to shine upon you. May your desires and the will of God become one for the furtherance of His kingdom here on earth.

God bless
The Swanepoel's

Romans 1:16/17

PS: I know some have asked us to send some photos with our e-mail, unfortunately our digital camera expired (here in India they do not say die) on us and we have not been able to replace it yet. As soon as we have, we will send more photos.



POWER CAMP 2006

25-27 August

For All Teens 13 - 19 Years

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through the Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ

Ephesians 3:16-18

Are you coming?

Name: _____

Surname: _____

Gender: _____ Age: _____

Power Camp is for Teens (13-19 years)

Church: _____

Telephone: _____

Which friends would you like to share a room with?

We are once again planning on having an exciting and dynamic speaker for the Power Camp 2006. All of our previous speakers have been well received by the young people and have touched our hearts with the Word of God. The camp will be at CYARA (Youth for Christ) not far from Magaliesburg & the cost is ZAR300 pp (which includes a church subsidy of ZAR50 – actual cost is ZAR350 pp)

Please contact any one of the organisers to obtain more information:
 Gary van den Heuvel +27 11 867-3505; Wally Waite +27 11 916-2010; Wilhelm Smalberger +27 12 348-6809; Jacobus de Koning +27 12 343-2087; Jonathan Halland +27 83 527-3201; William vd Berg +27 11 915-2446; Pieter Swanepoel +27 83 986-4994.