

## Evangelical & Reformed Baptist Churches and Fellowships in Namibia - 2008

- Please use this list to pray regularly for all the Reformed & Evangelical Baptist Churches in Namibia.
- If possible, post a copy of this list in your church foyer and / or distribute a copy of this to every member of your church.
- Fellowships are preaching points
- Churches are communities where the members have a regular and organised ministry.
- Remember that many of our churches do not yet have full time pastors.
- Pray particularly for Pastor Laban Mwashekele – our church planter and church developer. We hope to publish a list of associated missionaries some time soon.
- Pray for the Evangelical Baptist Mission, the overseeing body of many of our churches. Please pray for our formal constitution as a body of churches. Our papers are currently lodged with the lawyers, as we intend to register the Evangelical Baptist Convention as an Article 21 company.
- Pray that we may have sufficient finances to do the work.

### Windhoek

1. Monte Christo Baptist Church – Okuruyangava
2. Eastside Baptist Church – Ludwigsdorf
3. Faith Reformed Baptist Church – Khomasdal
4. Grace Reformed Baptist Church – Khomasdal
5. Havana Baptist Fellowship – Havana
6. Westside Baptist Church – Rocky Crest

### Coast

7. Benguella Baptist Church – Luderitz
8. Rosh – Pinah Baptist Fellowship
9. Namport Baptist Church – Walvis Bay
10. Swakopmund Baptist Fellowship – DRC
11. Swakopmund Baptist Church – Vineta
12. Walvis Bay Baptist Church

### Central

13. Nahibah Baptist Church – Okahandja
14. Osire Baptist Church (Refugee Camp – near Otjiwarongo)

### North

15. Okashanakelao Baptist Church
16. Onakankuzi Baptist Fellowship
17. Oludhila Baptist Fellowship
18. Ohakoonde Baptist Fellowship
19. Onamhishu Baptist Fellowship
20. Ohamilema Baptist Fellowship
21. Ohamae Baptist School and Fellowship
22. Oshongwe Baptist School and Fellowship
23. Oshikunde Baptist Church
24. Ondwi Baptist Fellowship
25. Ondobeyomuthiya Baptist Church
26. Onanduli/Egambo Baptist Fellowship
27. Oilyateko Baptist Church
28. Ongha Baptist Church
29. Omakango Baptist Fellowship
30. Ondangwa Baptist Church
31. Okandongwena Baptist Fellowship
32. Oshakati 1 Baptist Church
33. Oshakati 2 Baptist Church
34. Ondeikalela Baptist Church
35. Ethotho Baptist Fellowship

## Report on: Kabwata Baptist Church's First Missions Conference

by Wilson Kamanga - Missions Coordinator

The work of missions at KBC has been growing over the last few years, with eight missionaries presently serving directly under the church, and two other missionaries being supported under our sister churches. Two mission stations without a fulltime missionary are also receiving oversight from the church, while three men were being considered to join this army in 2008. So, it was a fitting time to have our first in-house missions conference to enable the church to see "at a glance" what was going on, and to renew its commitment to the Great Commission. We generally had about half of our members present each day, except for Sunday when we had our usual full house.

The threefold purpose for our missions conference, therefore, was (a) that God would challenge the members to respond to his call into missions; (b) to be a forum where missionaries would meet members to share what the Lord was doing through their labours, and (c) to enable the church members to personally commit themselves to the work of missions through prayer and financial giving. For the latter, the church elders introduced a target which was to be raised

towards three projects on the mission field. They also introduced a new way of supporting our missions work, which involved the church members making personal monthly pledges. Each evening they reminded us of this challenge, asking us to pray about how much we would give towards these two financial needs. The preacher for the conference was Dr Charles Woodrow, an American medical missionary and church planter in Mozambique. His messages were excellent, as they dealt with the heart and experience of missions. The sermon on the heart of the Father, based on the story of the Prodigal Son, would have gone on forever with hardly anyone noticing the time. It was exceptionally challenging!

The conference started on Wednesday, 23rd and went up to Sunday, 27th January. During the week, the meetings took place in the evenings, on Saturday it was in the afternoon and on Sunday it took place during the morning service. It ended with a joint lunch and the usual evening service on Sunday was cancelled. The Elders took turns in leading our worship services. Each day, two missionaries used power-point

presentations to show the church what was going on in their fields of labour. This was greatly appreciated by the members. There was not enough time for all the missionaries to do their presentations.

The ladies not only provided a powerful lunch on Sunday but also mobilised clothes from their homes for the mission stations, especially those in the rural areas and in the poorer townships of Lusaka. The library ministry also donated books to all our mission stations. What overwhelmed the missionaries the most was the response that the members made towards the new pledge system and the one-off amount meant to cover the projects in three mission stations. The monthly pledge came to a little more than what we needed to keep our missionaries on the field (apart from the help we get from our partners and the extra that we give towards their outreach and building projects). The one-off contribution overshot our target by almost 100%. We rejoiced at the way God moved his people to show this practical commitment to the work of missions.

To God alone be the glory!

July 2008 : 08



# SOLA 5

an association of God-centred evangelicals in southern Africa

# Chronicles

## Sola 5 Annual Conference 2008

**The 5 Solas**  
A historical and practical perspective

Sola Scriptura  
Solus Christus  
Sola Gratia  
Sola Fides  
Soli Deo Gloria

**Annual conference**  
Venue: Goodwood Baptist Church  
Goodwood, Cape Town  
South Africa  
Date: 4-7 September 2008  
Register: hein.strauss@sola5.org  
Phone: +27 836300303  
Closing date: 31 July 2008  
More info: www.sola5.org

**Venue:** Goodwood Baptist Church, Goodwood, Cape Town, South Africa  
**Date:** 4 to 7 September 2008  
**Theme:** The five solas of the Reformation  
**Closing date for registration:** 31 July 2008

Register by communicating names and contact details of attendees to any of the following (no cost involved):

- Phone: +2783 630 0303
- Fax: +2786 531 8953
- E-mail: hein.strauss@sola5.org

### Accommodation

All South African participants will have to arrange their own transport and accommodation.

The intention is to provide accommodation free of charge to attendees from outside South Africa (where possible) provided that

- Confirmed registration details had been received by the registration deadline (see above)
- They cater for their own transport to Cape Town.

### Provisional programme

#### Thursday night (4 September) – Session 1

The five solas: a historical and practical perspective  
(Brian Stone, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Roodepoort SA)

#### Friday morning (5 September) – Annual Business Meeting

#### Friday evening – Session 2

Sola Scriptura  
(Errol Wagner George Baptist Church, George SA)

#### Saturday morning (6 September) – Session 3

Christ alone  
(Conrad Mbewe, Kabwata Baptist Church, Lusaka Zambia)

#### Saturday evening – Session 4

Grace alone  
(Roland Eskinazi, Goodwood Baptist Church, Goodwood, Cape Town SA)

#### Sunday morning (7 September) – Session 5

Faith alone  
(Otto Makalima, Wallacedene Baptist Fellowship, Wallacedene Cape Town SA)

#### Sunday morning – Session 6

The glory of God alone  
(Ronald Kalifungwa, Lusaka Baptist Church, Lusaka Zambia)

www.sola5.org

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At 5:15 p.m. on the 17th January this year (2008) my and my wife Sue's parenting of our son Clifford came to a very sudden and abrupt end as his earthly life was tragically and instantly ended in a motor accident. There was no time to say goodbye, let alone give him any more advice, no way to further direct, protect, correct or instruct, no way to instil any more values. Neither was there, nor would there ever be again, an opportunity to tell him we loved him, were proud of him or to thank him for anything and everything. There is so much that we are thankful to him for but we will never have the opportunity to tell him that. Every missed opportunity to tell him anything, or do something with or for him has gone forever. Our Jobs as parents to Clifford had, according to the perfect timing and providence of God, been completed. Although I had been with him just five minutes earlier and was less than 200 metres from him at the time, there was nothing I could do as a father to protect him or prevent his sudden demise.

We had spent some very good time together that afternoon just doing various chores, the last of which was him taking me to collect my vehicle from the repair shop. He dropped me off and said he would wait and follow me home. While I was inside he decided to leave and sent me an SMS saying "I've left. Know how to get home!" He drove off and 18 seconds later whilst stationary at a stop sign, two trucks collided in the intersection in front of him. One of the trucks, a cement mixer, capsized onto Clifford's vehicle, killing him instantly.

While we have been devastated by the loss and miss him constantly and terribly, we do not grieve as those who have no hope because while we know he was not a perfected saint, we do know that his trust for eternal life was in Christ alone. Clifford had not only an appreciation of original sin, but also of his own personal sin and had by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit been brought to repentance and true faith in Christ. So for Clifford the veil was parted and he did indeed leave and go HOME.

In that moment our lives were changed forever and many lessons were learnt and are still being learnt. All our beliefs, values and priorities were suddenly and intensely put to the test. This is the supreme reality check and only that which is real, true and of true worth will survive. Things that once seemed important, valuable and worthy of pursuit now faded into insignificance, while

the real value and importance of other things rose to the surface. It is at a time such as this that you will truly discover the value of your faith. Mystical religious sentimentality, placid contentment with ones own religious experience, subjective personal opinions of what lies beyond the grave and other similar forms of "faith" just wont cut it at such a time. Only the absolute truth will suffice and the only faith of value is a robust objective faith based on the truth of the Word of God, a faith that is in no way dependant on self but is entirely dependant upon Him who is THE way THE truth and THE life.

All of our priorities were put under the spot light, including our parental priorities and it something of this that I would like to share.

There is no shortage of the number of books being written and courses offered on the subject of parenting. There are books on raising and nurturing children through every developmental phase, books dealing with every aspect of parenting from discipline to nutrition, from education to dating, from careers to "the facts of life". The list of topics is endless. We should not be surprised at this in view of the difficulty, the complexity and the importance of the task facing parents. In fact we should welcome it because these books are written for responsible and loving parents who are concerned enough for their children to make the effort to read and equip themselves to be the best parents they can possibly be.

As parents, Sue and I have sought to equip ourselves to the best of our ability and as a pastor, I am always on the look out for good books to recommend to parents in our congregation to assist them in their task. Our church book table always has books about parenting as well as books for children to encourage them to read. I am personally thankful to God for raising up whole organisations devoted to The Family. The family unit is after all God's primary given institution for the fulfilment of our creation mandate to fill, subdue and have dominion over the earth. Some books best contribution to fulfil the creation mandate would be achieved by dropping them into the recycling bin where they can at least be used to save some trees. However, there are many excellent books on the market, written by godly men and women, extremely knowledgeable and wise in respect of their particular subjects and I would encourage parents to read and equip themselves as far as possible.

I am always encouraged when I see concerned and dedicated parents involved in their children's lives, wanting the best from them and for them in the various areas of lives; spiritually, physically, academically, socially, culturally and so forth. However, there is a danger of parents going too far, pushing too hard, demanding too much or expecting certain achievements that are not best for the particular child. Some parents in their devotion to their children are even guilty of children idolatry where the children either become the object of their worship or alternatively a trophy of their own self righteousness. What I am pleading for is biblical balance. The Late Dr Rex Mathe used to say "blessed are the balanced", may we be balanced and blessed parents in balanced and blessed homes. To that end, herewith some parental priorities which I trust you may find of benefit.

### 1. Make your own Spiritual well being your number one priority.

If the Lord is not number one in your life, don't expect Him to be number one in your child's life. You will never be able to train up your children in the way they should go unless you are walking that way before them. Values are caught not taught. Your children will very quickly discern where your treasure is, where your heart is. They will know if your career, your sport, your hobby or your extended family or anything else is more important to you than the Lord your God and saviour. Your love for the Lord or lack thereof will be visible to them as demonstrated through your commitment to worshipping Him in the fellowship of the saints and in your home. They will measure the depth of your belief through your actions more than your words. How much of a priority is the word and prayer in your life? How is that showing to your children in terms of your attendance at Bible studies, preaching services and prayer meetings? What about your commitment to these things in your home?

If the Lord is truly number one in your life, you will naturally make these things a priority and your children will see it and learn from it. If your children are not interested in going to church and you are battling to get them to go, begin by asking yourself how committed you are to the Lord, what is the condition of your own relationship with Him.

This is your first responsibility to the Lord, to yourself, to your spouse and to your children!

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**The very fact that John Bunyan devoted no less than half of a chapter to this reality of emotional despair and the temptation to depression and self-pity, must be a clear indication to us that it is part of life for us all!**

"Rising food prices! Petrol heading for R10 a litre! A shrinking economy – I just hope I can keep my job through all of this!" Negative anxiety-producing thoughts like these flash through our minds uninvited! Where do they come from? How can we cope?

As we all seek to "stay afloat" emotionally during what seems like "a total onslaught", especially when the general impression is that "we are not yet at the bottom of the curve – things will get worse before they get better", be very sure of this: You need to have a strategy. If you do not work hard to handle this deluge of internal thought-traffic, these fears can easily puncture your tires and buckle your wheels, and you'll find yourself stranded on the side of the emotional highway, or hopelessly limping along in depression lane.

In the timeless classic *Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan's famous character "Christian", along with his companion Hopeful, on their journey to the Celestial City situated in Immanuel's Land, find themselves imprisoned by Giant Despair in Doubting Castle. After many days without food or water in a dark, foul smelling dungeon, they are beaten mercilessly by Giant Despair. His wife, Distrust, tells her husband he should advise the two prisoners to kill themselves, since they are beyond anyone's help. He dutifully leaves them a knife, some rope and some poison.

Sore and full of self-pity, Christian and Hopeful mournfully discuss their options. Their conversation enters the desolate territory of Job 7: "Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. Am I the sea, or a sea monster, that you set a guard over me? When I say, 'My

bed will comfort me, my couch will ease my complaint,' then you scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions, so that I would choose strangling and death rather than my bones. I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are a breath. What is man, that you make so much of him, and that you set your heart on him, visit him every morning and test him every moment?". Eventually their thoughts climbed to loftier regions as they reflected upon the motivation of the apostle in Phil 1:21-26 – where he agonized over the choice between a life of service and Godward endurance versus the joy of seeing Christ.

They acknowledge to each other that murder is sinful, including self-murder. Eventually they are cheered by the realisation that the God who made the world, could cause the Giant to die, or could cause the Giant to release them. The words of Rom 12:12 flooded into their minds: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." From here it was a short trip to the encouragement of James 5:7-8: "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." (The "coming of the Lord" here is probably best understood as the gracious intervention of God, rather than the return of the Saviour at the end of history – the glorious culmination which we eagerly await).

When a second bout of despair gripped them, and they again felt that they were little more than a bag of fears, they helped one another review the many times in the past when they had faced similar or worse circumstances, and yet by divine grace were enabled to endure. (Such mutual encouragement and personal addressing of their own hearts was vital to their survival and ours!) After many more days of such hardship, including being shown the skulls and bones of other prisoners who had succumbed to such treatment in the dungeons of Doubting Castle, as Christian and Hopeful prayed, they were suddenly reminded of the key which Christian had in his breast

pocket – the key called Promise that would open any lock in Doubting Castle! "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us - eternal life." (1 Jn 2:24-25).

The very fact that John Bunyan devoted no less than half of a chapter to this reality of emotional despair and the temptation to depression and self-pity, must be a clear indication to us that it is part of life for us all! The great apostle spoke for every believer when he reflected on seasons when he was "afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies." (2 Cor 4:9-10).

Thank God for the local church, in which we can be assured that there are witnesses to our particular struggles, and that what we face is common to those we know and love. We can persevere in hope, as the genuineness of our faith is tested, knowing that our precious brothers and sisters are displaying the same resilient faith as we are. To the extent that we suffer under seemingly adverse circumstances, let us together be very mindful of Romans 5:3-5, and "rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us!"

So, dear fellow-pilgrims, make it part of your survival strategy to live out your faith by facing the potentially worrisome realities of our day by focusing on God's promises, by making your requests to your Heavenly Father for your daily bread, and by focusing your mind on things that are helpful. "... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Phil 4:8)

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# Brackenhurst Baptist Church has started extending their building...

by Doug van Meter and Neil Cable

## CLEAN CRIBS OR CONSTRUCTIVE CHAOS Doug Van Meter (Pastor)

When you live in a home with six other people things can get rather chaotic and life is not always 'neat.' The following is not hyperbole: many loads of laundry, various items go missing (are we the only family who can't seem to keep two-pronged adapters in the appointed rooms?), huge food bills (I don't even want to think what it would be like to feed five boys!), hectic schedules, things that get broken and need to be repaired (Praise the Lord for Bostik!), music lessons, ballet practice, netball, church functions, doctors, dentists, orthodontists, opticians, home schooling stresses, University functions, birthdays, etc. etc. On top of this are the occasional family feuds, the hurts and heartaches that family members experience, the attendant tears (did I mention that there are six females in the house?!). Yeah, life at our house is often chaotic and 'messy' at times.

Over the years I have often been prone to complain about the seemingly endless inconveniences to my personal (and selfish?) pursuit of comfort and 'order.' But I have been gifted with a godly wife who in her own inimitable way is able to put things in perspective. And she often does so by quoting Proverbs 14:4, 'Where no oxen are, the crib ('trough') is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of the ox' (14:4). She understands that sure, life at the Van Meter household is 'messy' at times (no reflection on my wife's wonderful ability to keep a clean house!), but the alternative of a more 'orderly' existence would come at the expense of a lot more empty space in the quiver. Sure, without children the 'crib' would be 'clean,' but we would miss out on the 'increase' of blessings that our family brings to us. In light of this, an empty barn seems like a high price to pay for the convenience of a clean crib.

This principle applies to many areas of life. Progress ('much increase') requires the 'strength of the ox' and thus a dirty crib, one that needs to be constantly maintained at personal cost and inconvenience, is an inescapable necessity. In other words, progress is usually messy.

As we make progress on our building expansion we need to keep this principle in mind. The Lord has blessed BBC with substantial, sustained and solid growth and thus the expansion is necessary. But attending this are some 'unclean cribs.' Some potentially 'irksome' inconveniences are and will be encountered along the way. Such chaos

as parking problems, seating arrangements, ministry reshuffling (for example the postponing of the children KFC to the October holidays), and the like are simply unavoidable realities of a full barn. In light of this the eldership would encourage all of us to make the best of the fruitful situation. Let us be willing to accept these and other inconveniences as coming from the Hand of God who continues to bless us with much increase. After all, the hassles of maintaining a well utilized trough because of a fruitful harvest is a much better prospect than having no chores and an empty silo. To Jim Claven and Travers Long (our two brothers daily involved in managing and overseeing the project), we want to say, "We really appreciate your labour of love and we are more than happy for your constructive chaos!"

## 14-1 Neil Cable (Elder-intern)

The construction of building extensions has begun! Foundations are dug. Stairs are in the process of being moved. The big palm tree is gone. Yet, in the months and years to come, when we gather in the new extended auditorium, there will be some among us for whom that tree will hold a 'special' place. The memory of that tree will linger long in our minds- and our hands, forearms, shoulders, backs and even our thighs!

Eish! What a job to remove that tree. What was initially supposed to be a quick morning of combined effort to extract the unfortunate palm, turned into a saga that makes running the Comrades seem like a pleasure-cruise. And this was not for lack of manpower, or lack of equipment! Oh no, many hands added to the effort. There was eventually quite a rhythm established in the process - axe, pick, fork, spade - each implement wielded by an enthusiastic feller.

There was just simply too much tree, or more specifically, too much of the most extensive root system ever found under a palm tree! Too much root for all the muscles exhausted that day. Too much for the chainsaws, and angle grinders, the 'domkrags' and too much for a truck, a big bakkie and a 4x4 in low range. The tired workers left defeated that day with aching anatomy and bruised egos but with lots of newfound respect! Personally I learnt a great lesson that day - in fact many lessons. Firstly, there's a reason tree removers charge so much money. Secondly - palm trees usually grow in sandy soil along a beach - not in rocky, clayey, impossible. The third lesson has been learnt

in thinking back to the day and trying to build a metaphor for application to life. Please allow the metaphor to stretch a little.

While hacking away at the adventitious roots of the ill-fated palm, the familiar verses of Psalm 1 came to memory. Psalm 1:1-4 *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.*

I remember that palm tree being planted. It was baby small. As a 'laaitie,' it was possible to run out the front entrance of church, bound off of the steps, take two further steps on the concrete and then jump right over the tree. Of course we wouldn't do that now - we've been warned about running around church! Nevertheless, time passed and the tree grew - a lot! It was certainly a prosperous tree. The tree grew and sank its copious roots deep into the earth and extracted as much nourishment and benefit from the ground as it could. In turn, it provided shade and nesting material for weavers and great places to hide Easter eggs. It is my suggestion that we should be like that tree.

While we aim to live a sanctified life and while we avoid the wicked and shun the scoffers, let us sink our roots deeply into the rich soil found at our local church. Let us draw in and absorb the great draughts of God's Word that are delivered to us so regularly. Let us find our greatest delight in drawing our inspiration and motivation from the pages of Scripture. And as we have been taught recently - let us produce much fruit for the glory of Christ, thereby displaying that our root is in Christ.

The metaphor will only stretch so far - and praise the Lord for that - for the big palm tree did eventually topple. After 14 (at least) concerted efforts at removal, the tree finally conceded and fell to the ground. 14 times the steel cable snapped as we tried to physically pull the tree over! 14-1, end game. But not so for us. For we are convinced that no axe, nor pick, nor fork, nor spade, nor angle-grinder, nor any other thing could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39).



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# PARENTAL PRIORITIES

## 2. Make your marriage your second priority.

In so doing you will be creating a balanced, biblical, healthy, loving and stable environment within which the children can flourish spiritually and socially. Bringing children up as the centre of all attention in the home is both ungodly and unbiblical. God's created order shows us that our primary relationship is with God, then with our spouse and thirdly with our children. Parents who organize everything in the home around the children communicate to them the mistaken and unbiblical notion that they are the centre of the universe and thus set them up for some bumpy roads ahead both within the Church and society.

Our children are only given to us as a temporary charge from the Lord, to nurture until they leave their father and mother and are united to their spouse (Gen.2:24 & Matt. 19:5). In the normative biblical order of things, your relationship with your spouse and the home you create together should both precede the arrival of the children and should exceed their departure as well. Don't allow the children to separate that which God has joined together. All too often parents so devote themselves to their children that the children end up being the only thing they have in common. They have a relationship with their children but not with each other and when the children leave home there is nothing left. Do your children a favour and make your marriage your second priority.

## 3. Make your children's spiritual well being your third priority.

In Luke 2:52 we have a description of the balanced growth of our Lord. That he grew in wisdom and in stature shows that he grew spiritually (the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom), intellectually and physically. He grew in body mind and spirit. The result we are told is that he grew in favour with both God and man. Notice that the priority is given to His favour with God, to His spiritual growth.

Our children will be saved by grace and by grace alone. No parent can convert their children. However, God extends His grace by means and according to scripture, parents are to be the primary ministers of the means of grace to their children. If your children do not believe, make sure it is not because you have failed to minister the means of grace to them.

In speaking of their spiritual well being I am not speaking about their "good works"

or their orthodoxy or their religiosity. They may look and behave like little angels but have they come to conviction, repentance and have they put their trust in Christ and His atoning work alone. Matt.7:21-23 is both sobering and instructive. The only valid ground for assurance is "doing the will of the Father who is in heaven". Well what is the will of the Father in heaven? The answer is stated unambiguously by our Lord "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:38-40).

**Our children will be saved by grace and by grace alone. No parent can convert their children. However, God extends His grace by means and according to scripture, parents are to be the primary ministers of the means of grace to their children.**

Far too often Christian parents are more concerned with their children fitting the moulds and expected norms in terms of dress and so forth so than with their hearts. All too often this is out of selfish motives "what will people think of me if my son/daughter does ..." In this regard I can highly recommend the books by the Tripp brothers on "Shepherding a Child's Heart" and "Age of Opportunity".

## 4. To make your children's physical, intellectual, social and cultural well being your fourth priority.

"Blessed are the balanced" Some parents are so focussed on turning their children into the next Tiger Woods or Einstein or Mozart, very often trying to compensate for their own failure to achieve, that they neglect all of the above higher priorities. On the other hand though, parents must not be so focussed on the higher priorities that they totally neglect these areas. Jesus did after all "grow in ... stature and in favour with God and man".

Various commentators have, I believe, correctly understood the training up of a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6) as training them up in the way that God has uniquely gifted them as individuals. If your child is naturally talented in engineering and maths and science, don't try forcing him or her down the road of becoming a lawyer or vice versa. Work with the gloriously unique raw material that God has given you in them. Help them to develop those talents which He has created.

I have purposefully left out "emotional well being" because emotional well being is very much a product of spiritual well being as well as of physical, intellectual, social and cultural well being as well. The key to emotional well being is the correct balancing and prioritising of these other areas and indeed some of the issues still to be mentioned.

## 5. In conjunction with the above, always make it a priority to be honest with them.

Honest about yourself and them. Don't make yourself or them out to be something that you are not. Admit your faults and their faults. Hypocrisy is literally the putting on of masks. They know when you are putting on the masks on yourself and also forcing them to do likewise.

## 6. Seize the moment, seize the day. You have no way of knowing when your parenting may be brought to an end.

So take the opportunities you have when you have them, to:

- appreciate them
- tell them you love them
- thank them and show your appreciation
- spend time with them. There is a lot of nonsense spoken about "quality time" as opposed to "quantity time". Quality time is not short periods filled special activities; it is spending lots of time in as many of the ordinary activities of life where they are learning the lessons of life from you and catching your values
- keep short accounts. Deal with issues as soon as possible so that you don't have any unfinished business.

Finally, just as Paul says to the Ephesians with regards to spiritual warfare and the putting on of the armour of God, they were to do it all in prayer V18. In all of the above priorities and activities, pray. Pray for yourselves and pray for your children. Pray without ceasing.





## Sermon delivered at the **funeral of Clifford Sammons** on 24 January 2008, Germiston Baptist Church

(Distributed to Sola 5 E-newsletter subscribers on 28 January 2008)

by Brian Stone



**Scripture reading:** Phil 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

### The Benefits of Death

In John's Gospel we have the record of a conversation Jesus had with His disciples – Jesus had just said to his disciples that He was going to die, and no doubt, their response was one of concern, which Jesus sensed. He then went on to comfort them with the following words:

Jn 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas was the one who responded on the behalf of the disciples to what Jesus said, by asking the question

5 "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

To which Jesus replied:  
6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Literally moments before Clifford was taken to be with the Lord in glory – he sent an SMS to Peter which read, "I know the way home." No doubt, he meant, he knew the way home to 4 Reed Lane, but he also knew the way to his eternal home, the one which the Lord had gone to prepare for him.

Any knowledge or understanding that we have about life and death is what we have been taught in the Word of God. There is nothing wrong in thinking about death – in fact, we don't think about it enough – hence God's reminder to us of it today. The Psalmist says:

Psa 90:12 "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Without exception – every one of us here this morning is going to die – and it with this mindset of the certainty of death that Paul says:

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

In order to die well – you have to live well – and for Paul that meant:

Phi 1:22 "If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I

am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;" As you read between the lines you can pick up on what Paul is really saying. He is saying that there are definite advantages that death brings. We have to confess that our attention is too often focused upon the here and now, upon that which is temporal, and because of that, we struggle with the mindset that Paul has.

Paul was consistent in his thinking on the whole subject of life and death. He says for example in:

2 Co 4:18 "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

And then he goes in the very next verse to say:

2 Co 5:1 "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."

In another one of his letters, as Paul thinks about the sufferings he is experiencing, his thoughts once again turn to the subject of death, this is what he goes on to say:

Rom 8:18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

The benefits that are gained at death for the Christian cannot be compared to the things of this world that will be lost or left behind.

It is hard for us at times to accept what the Bible says because we become so attached to the things of the world – in fact, it would be true to say that often our attachment to the things of this world gives the impression, that only what we can see, feel and touch are eternal – but they are not – says God's Word.

Let us look at some of the benefits that a Christian can look forward to when their time on earth comes to an end – when Paul says in:

1 Co 15:53 "For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

Let us consider some of those things that Paul has in his mind as he speaks of the benefits of death. You can't help picking up a sense of anticipation in what Paul says as he longs to be with Christ. We must all die – but as men's lives are different so, too, will be their understanding of death. To the ungodly man – death is a loss, in fact, it his greatest loss – but to the Christian it is gain, in fact, it is his greatest gain.

We look at Paul as being representative of the Christian's view and understanding of death – the benefits of death are these:

#### 1 At death, Paul recognized he would be perfectly holy.

At the moment of death, that which God has been in the process of bringing to perfection, that life which God has been conforming to the image of Christ, which, in Clifford's case, was over a period of many years since his conversion, will, in the moment of death, be brought to completion. The moment after his death, Clifford, like Paul, would have been transformed into the likeness of Christ, with every spot and stain and wrinkle removed, and as immediately as he is absent from the body so he is present with the Lord – and he will be like Christ and will see Him as he is:

1Jn 3:2 "... we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

And this is what Paul longed for most of all in this life – to be holy, to be free from the influences of sin upon his life. This is how he expresses this longing in:

Rom 7:24 "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

Peter tells us in his Second Letter (1:4) that, when a person is converted to Christ, and becomes a Christian, they are given a new nature, in fact the Christian says Peter, is given the divine nature – but much of the old sinful nature still remains. At death the believer is made perfectly holy, and this holiness consists of two things:

#### 1.1 It brings an end to the problem of our sin

Rev 21:1 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, ....2 (and) I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, .... 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 (and) He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'"

Immediately following upon death – the believer is:

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## Newsletter, February 2008

### Brackenhurst Baptist Church, Alberton South Africa

space problems and we are grateful for the problem! We continue to work at helping one another to see the responsibilities that attend church membership. One of the significant areas of growth has been regarding young adults. The Lord has blessed us with several young adults who are keen to grow in Christ and to serve in the church. Christo has been encouraged as he is shepherding many of them. He is excited about the prospects of many of these young adults becoming 'young marrieds'!

#### Missions

The church was shocked by the unjust deportation of the Koch family from their sphere of ministry in North Africa. After many years

of praying, planning and the investment of much money, the doors closed. Though we don't understand the providence behind it, we do trust the Lord in it. The Franks and Swanepoel families continue to labour fruitfully (and at times frustratingly!) in India. The Lord has given them many opportunities and He has also allowed many adversaries for their good and for His glory.

Our World Outreach Celebration this year will be held from 5-9 March and at about the same time we will also be hosting the Spurgeon Fraternal. We anticipate a great time of fellowship and mutual encouragement in the Great Commission. Jeff Gage, Ronald Kalifungwa and Joachim Rieck will be our

keynote speakers for the evening meetings of the conference.

#### SGTS and Shepherds School

For many years our church has sought to do 'in house' training of those who desire a more formal biblical education. This year we are thrilled that we are able to do so in conjunction with Sovereign Grace Theological Seminary. We currently have eight students registered. We are finding that the material is excellent and that the mentoring opportunity within our church is of great benefit. We are grateful to God for this opportunity to teach excellent material and to invest our time in training leaders right here are 'at home.'

## Newsletter from Germiston Baptist Church

### January 2008

by Peter Sammons



We at Germiston Baptist continue to praise the Lord and give thanks to Him for His many blessings and all that He continues to do in and through us as a body. "[W]e have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us". (2Cor. 4:7)



Committed to God and the Word of His grace.  
Acts 20:32

Germiston Baptist is best described as a happy, loving and united church. While we have our fair share of difficulties, disappointments and challenges, we praise the Lord for the wonderful sense of love and unity that continues to exist amongst us. This is truly a remarkable work of God's grace amongst us as a multi cultural and multinational congregation.

We rejoice in recent additions to our membership and will soon be welcoming five new members who were all baptised at our last baptismal service held on the 16th March 2008.

We rejoice in the ministries which the Lord has given to us, particularly our Sunday worship services (10h00 and 18h30) which provide a warm Welcome to all, reverent Worship to the Lord, expository preaching of the Word and a Witness to unbelievers who may be present. We have two prayer meetings on a Sunday (08h45 & 17h45). Our Sunday school meets at 08h45, prior to the morning worship and we have four midweek home Bible studies including our ladies Bible study on Wednesday mornings.

The Hospital ministry continues to enjoy an open door into the local state hospital every Sunday morning where around 52 beds are

visited and tracts handed out in 13 different languages. The Bible Sales ministry has sold over 6400 Bibles in 13 languages as well as a substantial number of catechisms in English and now also in Zulu. In response to the demand we are presently working on a Xhosa translation of the catechism. We continue to minister in the Elandsvallei Old age home every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

One of the most significant features in the life of GBC over the past seven months has been the home calling of three prominent members, starting with our dear brother Ken Bullock on the 26th May 2007. Ken was well known and loved in Reformed Baptist circles in South Africa and was a faithful pillar of the church for many years. Less than a month later on the 22nd June, we were shocked by the sudden and unexpected home call of our beloved sister Rita Haschick. Not only was Rita a faithful member and servant of the church (on the Organ and in the Sunday

School, to mention just two areas of her involvement), but she was born and brought up at GBC and as such was a feature in the church for the last 58 years. Then on the 17th January 2008, the church and we as a pastoral family in particular suffered the tragic loss of our precious son and brother Clifford in a motor accident. Clifford was involved in the life and ministry of the church in various ways including the running of the book table. He loved the church and the church loved him.

While they were all dearly loved and we mourn and miss them terribly:

- We rejoice that they are amongst that "great throng" "with harps and with viols" standing in the presence of Jesus singing the new song "unto Him who has loved us and washed us from sin unto Him be the glory forever amen". (Arthur T Pierson, hymn 806 – Grace Hymnal)

- We rejoice in every remembrance of them, of their witness in our midst, their respective ministries to us and all we learnt from them of what it means to be a child of God.

- We rejoice in the way we have seen the Lord work in our lives as He has ministered to us in comforting and loving us in very real ways through His body the church.

Please pray for us and our ministries as we are all very aware of our own weakness at this time and our absolute dependence upon Him for doing anything worthwhile for the kingdom. We truly know that we are "jars of clay" carrying the glorious treasure of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that the all surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2Cor. 4:7)

## Sermon delivered at the **funeral of Clifford Sammons** on 24 January 2008, Germiston Baptist Church

So much so, that as he thought about life and death – he could honestly say – to die is gain.

Phi 1:22 *"If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;"*

Is this your understanding of life and death?

I am not suggesting, and nor is Paul, that all we think about is death and dying – but when we do think about it – there is a sense in which it can be anticipated because of his understanding of what will follow death – it is in that, that the desire to be with Christ comes to rest. You can only say with Paul that death is an advantage, or a benefit, or a gain, or something to be desired – if you can also say with him:

*"For me to live is Christ."*

Is your present relationship with Jesus Christ such, that you can say with Paul, *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."*?

Jesus said in:

Jn 11:25 *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* Jesus in fact says that if we have come to

faith in Him, and this we do by repenting of our sin and trusting in Him for our salvation, we will never die.

The colours that God has used in the picture that He has painted for us in the death of Clifford are not soft pastel colours as used by the artist in a water colour – but rather, God has used strong, bold, dark oils to make you feel something of the urgency of what He wants to communicate. Clifford's death and the picture you have before you is not a work of modern art that you are free to interpret as you like – no, it is a classic masterpiece, it is meant to convey only one message, and that message is found in the inscription beneath it, which reads:

*"This is how you are to live in the light of eternity."*

If God had taken your life, instead of Clifford's, and you were the subject of the picture – what message would it convey to those left behind?

The picture of Clifford's life, I believe, is meant to leave you with two impressions:

- i Live with a sense of earnestness and urgency when it comes to living a life that is pleasing to God
- ii Live with a sense of expectancy as you anticipate seeing God, face to face.

We believe in a God who never makes mis-

takes. Margaret Clarkson has said: "We may not demand of a sovereign Creator that He explains Himself to His creatures ... God has good and sufficient reasons for His actions; we trust His sovereign wisdom and love."

A modern writer, commenting on the life and death of George Gillespie, one of the great pillars of the Church of Scotland and who was one of the great minds behind the Westminster Confession of Faith, who died in 1649 at the age of 36 said: *"When a gifted person dies at a young age, the world laments, 'If only he could have lived longer.' None of us knows the number of days God will give us, yet we know that those days will be enough to do what He has planned for us. How are you using the time that God has granted you?"*

I know that there are questions in the minds of many regarding Clifford's "untimely death," from a human point of view. But we know that Clifford's death was not one day too soon in the perfect plans and purposes of God.

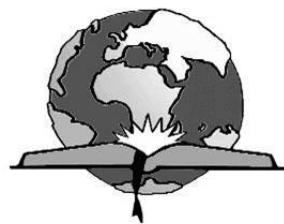
I would remind you of those words found in:

Jam 4:14 *"What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."*

## Newsletter, February 2008

### Brackenhurst Baptist Church, Alberton South Africa

by Doug van Meter



The Word to the World

#### Leadership

The new year has brought some changes to the eldership of BBC as Gary van den Heuvel made the decision to cease with his vocational eldership and to join his father in a family business. The church has greatly appreciated his integrity as he came to the conclusion that the pastorate was not his calling. He and his family remain actively involved in the life and ministry of the church and we look forward to the ways that God will use him in his newfound vocation.

Francois Koch has resumed his duties as an elder now that he has returned from the mission field. His position is non-vocational and he is waiting on the Lord for direction concerning future ministry. As much as we selfishly desire to hang on to him, we have a greater desire for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom and thus we anticipate that one day he may be called to strengthen the Body of Christ elsewhere. He appreciates the prayers of God's people with regard to this.

#### Preaching

The Lord has encouraged us as a church as we have been 're-discovering' the glory of the gospel. Doug (Van Meter) has been preaching a series from Matthew 1:21 on, "He shall save His people from their sins." There seems to be a new appreciation for what Jesus has done, is doing and will do for

His people. Sunday morning continues to be an exposition of the book of Genesis. As the church journeys through the story of Joseph there appears to be an increased sensitivity to our own 'hidden sins' and a joy at finding forgiveness as they are exposed.

Christo (Beetge) is doing a series on Wednesday nights entitled '10 Crucial Doctrines of the Christian Faith.' It is very meaty content which has been of great benefit to the congregation.

#### Membership

For the first time, the membership has recently exceeded 200 and we are encouraged by the many new visitors that are attending with a view to joining the church. We are currently looking into the possibility of expanding the size of our auditorium due to

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## Sermon delivered at the **funeral of Clifford Sammons** on 24 January 2008, Germiston Baptist Church

- Free from the pain of sin
- Free from the power of sin
- Free from the penalty of sin.

#### 1.2 It brings an end to the problem of our sight

• He will see everything clearly – A modern paraphrase of 1 Co 13:12:

*"In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now."* (TLB)

• He will experience everything perfectly – his will (his desires), will be perfectly conformed to the will of Christ. He will only desire that which is good and pleasing to God.

• He will do everything gloriously – whatever he does will be to the absolute satisfaction of the one He loved – which he was never able to do in this life.

The 2nd benefit of death is that:

#### 2 At death, Paul recognized he would be perfectly healthy

For the Christian, the book of Revelation says, when death comes there will no longer be any pain or suffering or sickness – for all these things will have passed away, for those in heaven, that is. But for the unbeliever it is just the opposite – suddenly pain and suffering, and sorrow is increased at death a 1000 times. The account of the Rich man and Lazarus confirms that.

To help us understand this truth of what is gained at death for those who love Christ, Jesus illustrates this truth in the story He tells of the Rich Man and Lazarus, both of whom died.

Luk 16:24 *"The rich man in hell cried out – 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' 25 But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' 27 He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five*

*brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "*

This is a concept that is difficult for us to grasp, because we are speaking here about something that we are not able to fully understand. Built into the equation of being human is this package that comes with every life – it is hereditary, we have received it from Adam, and it is called sin and it expresses itself in pain, suffering, sorrow and sickness throughout life. And the only time that that is finally done away with for the Christian is when they pass from this life into the next.

The 3rd benefit of death is that:

#### 3 At death, Paul would be perfectly happy

That is not to say that the Christian is not happy and fulfilled and at peace and content here in this world – of course he is. Jesus Himself said that He has come that we might have life and have it abundantly. It is difficult to grasp what Paul means when he says, "to die is gain" because if there was ever anyone who was happy, it was Paul. He had learned to be content in any and every situation. His greatest longing in life was to know Christ – he desired nothing more. In fact, he tells us that he had freely given up everything he had to gain Christ. You cannot be a Christian unless you have sold everything to buy the Pearl of Great Price that Jesus speaks about in Matthew 13.

Our difficulty in trying to understand what this happiness will involve at death is because we are so bound by time and the things of this world – but when Paul is saying, for me, to die is gain, he may have been thinking about those words of Jesus in His prayer in John 17, where Jesus prayed: Jn 17:24 *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."*

Surely it is in that context that perfect happiness is to be understood.

The 4th benefit of death is that:

#### 4 At death, Paul would be perfectly home

Death for the Christian is a "homecoming." It is going to heaven. It is going to occupy that place that Jesus says; He has gone to prepare for those who love Him. We speak in Christian circles of someone who has died as being called "home." There is nothing wrong with this understanding of death for the Bible tells us that in this world we are strangers and pilgrims, that this world is not our home.

The Christian's destination is heaven – the Scriptures are quite clear about that. Paul says it like this in:

2 Co 5:1 *"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ....8 "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."*

Concerning this home, the Scriptures tell us:

#### 4.1 It will be a glorious place

Rev 21:23 *"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."*

#### 4.2 It will be among a glorious people

Heb 12:22 *"... you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, "*

#### 4.3 It will be in a glorious state

2 Co 5:1 (It is described as) *"...a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."*

The 5th benefit of death is that:

#### 5 At death, Paul would be perfectly honoured

As Paul reflected upon his life he could say:

2 Ti 4:7 *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

Life here on earth for Paul meant, living for Christ. He was consumed with a passion to live his life to the glory of God. He had no regrets in this regard.

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**PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD (Amos 4v12)**

**INTRODUCTION**

Much of our Newsletter this month contains a summary of events in the last year and some planned issues for this year.

**LEADERSHIP**

During the year April 2006 to May 2007 the Pastor, Grave Singogo, and his family took sabbatical leave. We are grateful to the Lord for having watched over them and brought them back safely to minister amongst us.

We also report that towards the end of December 2007, one of our four elders stepped down. The elders wish to register their thanks for the period the elder served at EBC.

Further, one of the five deacons left for further studies and is not expected back until August, 2009. No doubt this has placed a constraint on the remaining 4 deacons. There are plans to add two more deacons to the diaconate.

**MINISTRIES**

The elders would like to acknowledge that for the first time in the Church's history, all ministries have handed in all their reports well in advance of the AGM. This exceptionally wonderful spirit is commendable.

**• The Senior Young People's Fellowship**

We have generally been very impressed with the numbers. There has been a definite improvement from the year 2006 in terms of attendance. However, there is room for more improvement.

**• Couples Fellowship**

This ministry, overall, has not been as active as we would have expected. We are concerned that this ministry did not perform and have meetings as scheduled. We hope that there can be a revolution in this very key ministry of the Church.

**• Women's Ministry**

This ministry has been very valuable in a number of ways. We wish to express our thanks especially in the area of ensuring

the sanctuary is clean and beautiful for worship. The flower decorations and arrangements have filled leadership with great joy. We wish to further express our heartfelt appreciation to the women. Their involvement in ensuring that there was enough food at the 2008 Christmas Breakfast Evangelistic Service which was being held for the first time was remarkable, particularly that they were given short notice.

**• Awana (Junior Youth Group)**

This ministry has been enjoying some wonderful times in the year 2007. The Holiday Bible Week last year attracted about 60 children! And it has been a real success. The concern is to urge the Church members to volunteer to help with teaching. The burden to teach these future leaders, it appears, sadly rests on the shoulders of a few people. We urge members to consider being available to take up the responsibility, especially the men.

**• Electronic and Library**

The elders have been concerned that members of the Church are not borrowing books to read. We believe that this ministry needs a lot of encouragement and hands are required. There is also need to have the sermons recorded.

**• Choir**

The elders are very encouraged by this ministry. However, we would like to see some of the older members of the Church taking part in this ministry.

**• Men's Ministry**

For some time this ministry had suffered. The introduction of a weekly Saturday prayer meeting at 0730-0830hrs in 2007 appears to have revolutionized this ministry. We would like to express our gratitude to the men for faithfully attending this ministry of prayer. As elders we have been very encouraged by this.

**• Sunday Adult Bible Class**

The general attendance and commitment has been very good at these meetings. The elders would like to encourage all of you to continue to avail yourselves at this meeting.

**• Sunday Youth and Sunday School**

Again we are delighted to say that the at-

tendance and commitment has been very encouraging. We urge all our guardians to avail their children and dependants to these meetings.

**• Home Bible Study Groups**

Out of the four Home Bible study groups two of them are doing reasonably well in terms of attendance. We would like to urge members in these affected areas to show more commitment this year to Home Bible study groups as well.

**CHURCH BUILDING**

The elders have generally been pleased with the progress and quality of workmanship during the year under review. However, our slight concern has been that some Church members made pledges which they have not honoured to date. More progress would have been made if members honoured their pledges.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The Church membership as at the end of 2007 stood at 112. We had a Joint Baptismal service held at the Lusaka Baptist Church on the 2nd of December 2007, in which 7 candidates went through the waters of Baptism and were accepted into membership. We also received an additional 10 members who came in by transfer of membership. We thank God for these 17 additions to membership.

**DISCIPLINE**

We are also pleased to report that 4 of our members, who had been excommunicated in 2004, had their disciplinary measures lifted in the year under review.

**MISSIONS**

Mr. Samuel Simunika is studying in South Africa for his Bachelor's Theology Degree. The Church has been sharing some of his costs. His studies come to an end this year.

**SOME PLANS FOR 2008**

• The theme for 2008 at EBC is 'Discipleship and Evangelism.' We believe that this is in keeping with the Lord's command in Matthew 28v19-20. In view of this we purchased some booklets on 'discipleship' from KBC which are given to all who complete the 'Membership and Baptismal classes.

• Every quarter of the year will be punctuated with a month in which all ministries will be involved in Evangelism. The last Sunday of such a month will be deemed Evangelistic Sunday during which all Church members will be asked to invite people they would not normally invite to Church. The Church is further informed that the Sunday prior to evangelistic Sunday will be set aside as a day of fasting for the entire Church. Members will begin fasting on Saturday midnight and will continue through both Sunday services with the fast ending after the evening service. In between the evening and morning services the Church will be fasting and praying specifically for the Evangelistic Sunday.

• The middle part of the year beginning May through to August 2008 will be the Thanksgiving period. Members are expected to make a freewill offering of monetary or building material over and above the tithe. The money must be clearly marked 'Building Fund' and will be specifically designated for the Building Fund. We are hoping to raise K50 million (or 12 000 US). This money will go a long way in completing the pulpit and office area of the Church. The Building Committee will continue to carry out their fund raising activities during this period.

• The final part of the year running October to December 2008 will be Family Month. During this time we will focus on ourselves and see what God maybe saying to us as a Church. Such as, "Are there areas we need to change? Or need to address as Church?" We hope to hold a Church Seminar that deals with some area that affects us as Church. We hope Church members can also plan to spend time with their families. We hope to end the year with a 2008 Christmas Breakfast Evangelistic Service which again will be preceded with a period of prayer and fasting.

**OTHER PLANS FOR 2008**

1. Due to disturbances we experienced particularly on Sunday when several ministries meet in the sanctuary, the elders would like to use some of the Building Fund money to build three chalets to increase the meeting places for other ministries instead of cramping ourselves in the sanctuary.

2. We would like to improve the water storage system possibly by purchasing a larger plastic water storage tank.

3. We hope to improve on the security of the Church by putting a barbed wire round the Church perimeter. Thankfully one Church member has already donated the wire.

4. There are plans to introduce a Church cleaning Saturday once a year when all members can come out and clean the inside and outside of the Church. This may probably happen during the last quarter of the year.

5. God willing, we hope to start a 'new ministry' – the name will be discussed by the congregant members – to start after June 2008, to address men and women who feel too old for Senior YP and yet too young for Men's / Women's meetings. It will target those in tertiary education of some kind.

**CHALLENGES**

1. We are still concerned that Church members are not looking out for visitors. We need to develop a culture where after the services members are looking out for visitors. We may introduce some methods of reaching our visitors.

2. Visitation among us is still very poor. Most members who do visit tend to visit the SAME members rather than other Church members too. We would like to see an improvement in this area.

3. We still feel that the Church Evangelistic programs are poorly attended and the participation could be better.

**CONCLUSION**

Overall, Church members have shown some commitment to Church programmes and we believe that this can be bettered. We thank the members for remaining united and we look forward to a better 'Evangel Baptist Church' during the year 2008. May the Lord Jesus richly bless you all – Amen.



Evangel Baptist Church Building