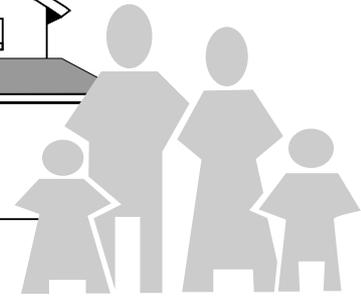


Knysna Baptist Church



August 2009



MINISTRY UPDATE

Pastor's letter:

Dear Family in Christ,

Hebrews 10:24 says,

"... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works".

I have thought it a *wise* idea to bring as much visibility to the various ministries in the church as possible, as a way of stirring up one another to give ourselves to the work of Christ. And now I have been greatly encouraged to receive and read these updates.

I can quite confidently say that none of these ministries, except perhaps Sunday school, were begun because someone told someone else to do it. They have sprung up from within the hearts of those involved, who have tasted the love of Christ and felt compelled to share that with others. As you read through these, and become excited at what God is doing here, please prayerfully consider where you might participate, or what other unmentioned ministry you feel the Lord is leading you to begin. I can guarantee you that if you ask Him, He will show you.

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

For Jesus,

Malcolm

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WE PREACH CHRIST:

Incarnate,
Crucified, Risen
Ascended, Glorified
and Coming Again!

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BIBLE STUDY

Monday, 18h30, Sedgefield, Malcolm Cunningham

We have a small and cosy Bible fellowship at one of the members' homes each Monday, including singing led by Welland. We are reusing the Genesis study from Knysna, but are blessed as the Lord leads us to apply it to our particular circumstances. It is a blessed time, but we're hoping that as news gets around more folk will be joining us.

Tuesday, 18h30, Ron Cairns.

Our enthusiastic group meet in members' homes, moving each week from home to home.

This year we finished off the study on Mark's Gospel and went straight into Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

We study as fully as possible from verse to verse, never ignoring difficult passages. Participation is encouraged and this leads to much debate, even going over time (most weeks!).

Authors referred to are solid Reformed Bible scholars: RC Sproul, J.Piper, John MacArthur, Geoff Wilson and John Stevenson, among others.

Weekly handouts cover summaries of the lesson and folk are encouraged to follow through in private study.

Our group stands at 17 members at present, but sadly, Brian and Bev Kitching are returning to Durban at the end of August. We will miss their faithful attendance.

Although the group is a large one, we have developed into a close fellowship, and are always on the look out for new members.



Tuesday, 18h30, at the church, Rodney Cilliers

There are 9 in our group when all are present. Our people are very faithful in their attendance and phone or sms apologies if they are unable to come. We have become a close-knit group and there is regular sharing of needs, for which we pray.

Presently we are studying the life of Moses and we find there is much to learn from him and his relationship with God.

Ladies Bible Study, 15h00 Wednesday, Jacqui



The group was started because the Lord put it on Vera and Fiona's hearts, and they were obedient to his call. We are currently about 11 ladies. Bev Led us for the first 3 weeks, until we received our Precept Work Book order. Since then I have been blessed and privileged to lead this study. We decided to start with a Study of Abraham: Becoming a friend of the Faithful God. We are half way in our 6-8 week study. Hereafter we will be studying a book called "Lord, give me a heart for you; A devotional study on having a Passion for God".

I think I speak for all the Ladies when I say that I am a different person when I am studying God's word in such depth. I am constantly being encouraged and challenged to grow, and to learn, and to be more like Him.

It is really such a blessing to be a part of this ministry and to watch the Ladies grow and blossom as the Lord renews their hearts, and at the same time, knits us together in unity and love.

I am also so blessed to see how the Lord is prompting the Ladies to give of His love to others in our church, practically and tangibly, and I look forward to seeing how He uses “our box” for His glory.

Wednesday, 19h00, 12 Hope St, Hunters Home, Malcolm Cunningham



Every Wednesday evening the young hooligans (including Geraldine) get together for fellowship and study of God’s word. Mostly it is at the Cunningham’s home, but we do move around now and then. It’s not supposed to be only for the younger generation – so if you’re able to join us, no matter what the age, please do. We also cater for young kids.

We began our study in the book of Genesis, and moved up to CH11. It was a fascinating look at our origins – and that nothing has changed since then – God is still good, and man still needs a Saviour from his sin.

Just lately we have begun with the book of James – a series of 12 tests of genuine faith.

Men’s Forum, Andre Viljoen

In March this year an outdoor men’s breakfast was planned, cooked and enjoyed by about 13 men of the church. At a short meeting after the breakfast it was decided that men would meet from 17h30 to 18h30 every second Thursday for fellowship.

Since that time discussions have been held that covered subjects such as:

- The Purity of men
- The role of men in the family
- The first two Beatitudes were discussed:

- What does it mean to be **poor in spirit?**
- The **mourning** over our sins that leads to the great comfort of Salvation.

- A critical examination was made of **“The Disciplines of Abstinence”**
 - Dallas Willard.
- Ongoing study of **“Don’t Waste your Life”** – John Piper

- Men have also repaired the damaged basement floor, and material is on order to etch and paint the floor.
- A fallen tree in the car park has been removed and a start has been made to fell and remove a second tree.

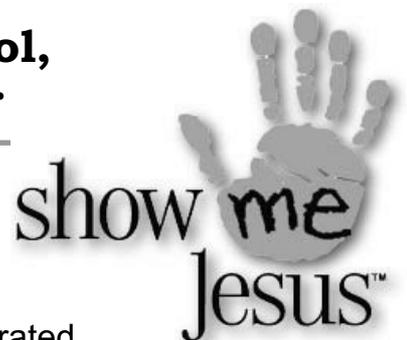


Sunday School, Helga Raynor

It is truly joyous to see little people in our church again!!

The Sunday School room has been decorated beautifully, all bright and cheerful and the children now have a rug to sit on while listening to the Bible story – thank you. We also have panel heaters for the odd very cold winter morning.

We have grown from the 3 children that we had last year to up to 15 each week which is a real blessing and we are grateful to God for this opportunity to teach the little ones His truths.



They range in ages from 3 to 12 years old.

The lessons we follow are from the "On the Way" series which covers the main Bible stories from Genesis to Acts. The lessons are grouped in series, with activities to help the children remember the lesson and to take home with them.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and assisted with the Sunday School work to date and a special thank you to the teachers, Lloyd, Natalie, Diane, Vanessa and Jacques. Geraldine has been away most of the year and we look forward to her returning to teach again.

Thank you also to Margie for her very generous offer to sit in the cry room with the younger-than-3 year old toddlers each Sunday.

We pray that God will continue to bless and grow the Sunday School so that many more young Knysna children will hear the gospel and come to know the Joy of Jesus.

Thank you.

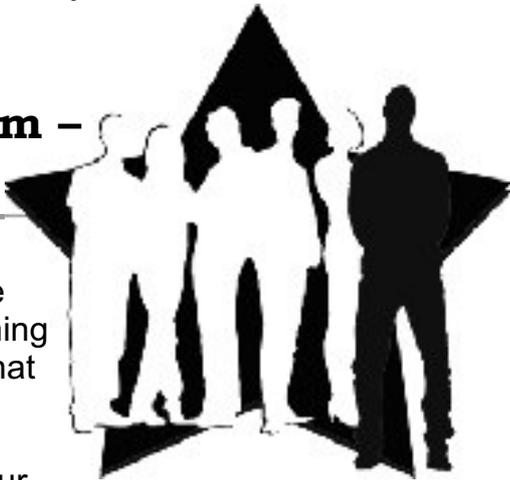
Evangelism – Malcolm

After sharing a combined Bible study one evening at the church that dealt with Evangelism, it was laid on our hearts to take the gospel to Woodmill Lane and see if the Lord would save any people through our obedience.

Ben, Andre and myself set a date, Tuesday lunch time, and started praying about it straight away – by our sense of needing His guidance and power – this is no small task if it has to do with the eternity of men's souls!

Ben set to work creating a tract with the gospel laid out in point form and we had copies made. Andre brushed up on his EEIII evangelism course. Jacqui, knowing what we were planning, decided to come along too so that she could watch the proceedings and pray for the interactions as they took place.

On Tuesday, we met at the circle outside Mug 'n Bean, shared the tracts among us, and then prayed. Having identified particular areas we would work in, we split up, relying on the Holy Spirit to lead us.



About 10 people were reached that hour. In fact, an hour seemed too short!

Some of the people professed to be believers, some didn't know the gospel at all, and some acknowledged they were backslidden and knew they needed to get back to church. Andre prayed with one man who said he wanted to repent and give his life to Christ.

Ben spoke with a lady who thought she was saved because she had sent money in an envelope to a tele-evangelist, and her prayer had been answered! When Ben explained the true gospel to her, it was all new – and when he was done, she asked him if she needed to pay him! When he said that the gospel was free, her disposition changed and it seems the reality of it all started penetrating her.

I spoke with two young girls in high school who didn't know the gospel at all, although their dad attended church. As we spoke, they became more serious and took the tracts, promising they would think very carefully about it.

The experience was invigorating, and Jacqui, who had joined me later, admitted that there was really nothing scary to it at all. It's just having a conversation with someone, with loving intent toward them.

My desire is that this informal evangelism should become a regular ministry by our members, even as we go about our business and shopping. Let's not drop the ball. Set another lunch time date and let us know – we'll join you.

Hospice Groceries Rodney and Cathie Cilliers



Once a month (usually the first Monday of each month) the groceries in the store room are collected and delivered to the Hospice Office in Wilson street.

First of all, a big thank you to those who regularly contribute. The groceries are greatly

appreciated – they are distributed to needy folk. On one particular occasion somebody from the church donated sheets and bedding. When we delivered this, the staff were so pleased because news had just come in of a shack fire where a family with children had lost everything. This bedding could be passed on to them.

It would be great if we could double our contributions next year. Any non perishable groceries are welcome. So when you do your shopping at the end of each month, just add something in your trolley for those less fortunate. Your contribution can be brought to church where we lock it away in our store room till the end of each month.

As we are blessed, let us bless others.



Music Report

For many years our music group has served by leading the singing. It has always been our aim and desire to be worshipful and to glorify God in what we do.

Our group consists of:

- Singers –
Fiona, Laetitia,
Eleanor, Estelle,
Jacqui, Rodney
- Pianists – Elaine and Felicity
- Guitarists – Malcolm and Welland
- Sound technicians – Ben, Ron and Mel
- Digital projectionists – Charlotte and Mary

Malcolm, Ron, Rodney and Welland take turns to lead the worship. We endeavour to have a balance of music styles, and enjoy the well-known old hymns, meaningful choruses, and new and modern songs.

We meet for practice each Friday afternoon at 4:30pm.

We would like to increase the number of singers, especially men, and are waiting to hear from willing potential singers.

Felicity Cairns.

Food parcel items

The hospice list next to the kitchen door at the back of the church gives a guide for the kind of groceries that can really help the needy folk. Try to buy non-perishable, healthy goods. Barbara has given us the following list too, for those ad-hoc contributions: (essentials highlighted).

Mealie meal
Samp and beans / legumes [split peas, lentils]
Mealie rice/ rice
Barley
Pasta
Savoury soya
Peanut butter
Canned pilchards
Baked beans
Tea
Coffee
Sugar
Condensed milk
Vegetables - fresh
Vegetables - canned
Fruit
Oil
Flour
Yeast
Stock cubes
Eggs or meat
Instant soup [flavouring]
Salt, pepper, curry powder, etc
Washing powder
Soap
Toothpaste
Paraffin/ gel/ prepaid electricity/ gas contribution



Hospital ministry to Women – Christine Cutforth, Geraldine Johnston

The hospital ministry takes place every Tuesday afternoon and Geraldine and I take tracts in Xhosa, Afrikaans and English to give out to the patients. Each year the Trinitarian Bible Society send me 100 Golden Thoughts Calendars in Xhosa and Afrikaans to give out. We read the Bible to patients and pray for them if they so desire and share the gospel or give a testimony. WE are at present visiting a young girl who is a paraplegic in Palliative Care at the hospital and she is showing interest in reading the Bible.

The beautiful baby clothes that are lovingly knitted by our ladies here at church and ladies from Knysna and Sedgefield are gratefully accepted by the mums in the maternity wards. We praise the Lord for you all. We would value prayer on guidance as to how one prays for the patients and how to share one's faith in a way that is easy for them to understand and for us to remember what a privilege this ministry is.

Hospital Ministry to Men – Blessing Chikwenya

Hospital ministry is a ministry based in the word of God. Matthew 25:36, I was sick and you visited me, and Romans 15:1, We who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves.

I visit people who are sick. By encouraging them with the word of God. Giving hope and comfort. And pray for them. I am glad because lots of lives are being transformed and saved by accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

What makes hospital ministry so unique?

1. It's because it is like saving a life which was dying going to the grave and hell. And then rescued from that dungeon. To bring to Christ to restore life again: John 10:10 I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.
2. I meet people with different problems. For instance people without family, without no-one to take care for them. Others critically ill. Others, robbers that have served jail and want to repent and etc. So Isaiah 53:4 answers them, Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.

There are many cases which I face but for all it requires understanding, passionate, love and care.

Progress:

- Since I started this ministry a month and half ago, ten people professed faith in Christ.
- The other breakthrough which God has done is nurses are also responding to the gospel. And I believe that God has a purpose with these lives.
- Another miracle is the healing which God performed recently to Phumulani Masangwani. He was admitted diagnosed of kidney failure. He underwent operation, and was cut from the chest down to the waist. Unfortunately that operation wasn't successful. So he was expecting to undergo a second operation and this time the doctors were supposed to cut him at the back. However, through prayers, God did amazing thing. He was discharged the same week without operation. The doctors confirmed everything was perfect. I met him walking properly without any problem. I glorify God for that.

Future objectives:

- To work together with doctors and nurses regarding spiritual help to patients desperately in need of prayers.
- To open a hospital prayer chain: To assist those patients who see their condition, needing prayers of emergency.
- To extend the hospital ministry to prison ministry, based in Isaiah 61:1, opening of the prison to them that are bound, and Matthew 25:36, I was in prison, you came to me. In fact my eyes got opened when Phumulani told me how he needed Jesus while he was in prison. So I felt there is also a need for prisoners to get reached.

Needs:

We need blankets. This is the most vital thing which needs you to intervene. I meet people with only bed covers without blankets. It is cold at night most especially dawn. It's something needing attention.

Lastly, tracts: they are helping a lot. Others are being saved through tracts. So please, if there's English and Afrikaans tracts, I shall greatly appreciate.

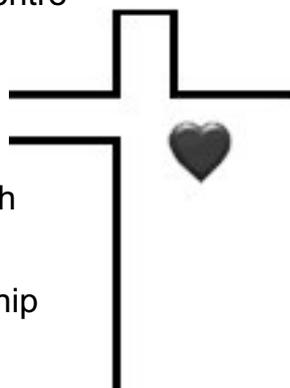
Outreach to other churches – Andre Viljoen

Every week we contact a church leader in one of 11 churches in our area. We advise the particular church that we will be praying for them and their ministry in the following week. This has been ongoing for a number of years, and a real warming towards us has been observed.

We now find that churches are showing an appreciation of our interest and concern for them, and for our prayers. Special prayer requests are regularly presented for our attention, and churches advise that they are now also praying for our church as well.

Please be faithful in your prayers for other churches featured in our weekly church bulletin. Also advise if you have other churches in mind for prayers over and above the 11 churches which are:

Knysna Presbyterian
Garden Route Christian Centre
Belvidere Holy Trinity
Apostolic Faith Mission
Methodist Church
St Georges Anglican Church
Charisme ministries
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
Dutch Reformed Church
Plett. Evangelical Fellowship
George Baptist Church



It is our hope that through this ministry our churches will move closer to one another, and that other churches will at some time in the future join with us as we pray for God's church in our area.



Masithandane – Barbara Pitt

When we moved to Sedgefield in 2005 I left behind my previous missions' involvement. How was I going to get involved here? Well, God had a surprise for me up his celestial sleeve. In 2007 I was invited to apply for the role of care giving coordinator at a Christian-based NGO that had just started in Sedgefield.

Within days of getting the job, I was catapulted into a community where hunger, thirst, poverty, illness and imprisonment due to HIV status were the norm. The implications of living out the scripture passage in Matthew became a living reality.

What did I encounter?

Fellow men and women who –

- were too ill to walk
- were preferring to die from Aids rather than admit that they had the disease and obtain treatment.
- were living in leaky shacks
- have lost all of their meager possessions when their homes burned down within minutes.
- were driven from their homes through xenophobia, and later terrified to return, having lost everything in those raids, some even their lives.

So how does God enable us to carry out His words in Matthew?

- † Masithandane has a Godly Board Chairman and praying Board members
- † Many of His faithful servants contribute to this work.
- † Many folk who don't know Him give of their time and energy to the cause – God can use anyone.
- † He has provided a team of dedicated caregivers in Smutsville/Sizamile, Fairview, Karatara and on the Barrington Road.
- † He sorts out donations of fresh produce, food, clothing, blankets, money, a vehicle, shelter material, etc, etc.

What have I experienced?

- **Love makes a difference** – I have seen folk with HIV/Aids blossom from the unconditional love shown to them;
- **Food makes a difference** – we have seen emaciated, ill people recovering. We hand out 50+ food parcels monthly, fresh produce to 40 people weekly and deliver SMM 3 x a week to 33 people.
- **Blankets make a difference** – I wish you could see the smiles that a simple blanket that you have donated brings to the face of a cold person! People ask why they're asked for blankets every year. Well fires happen when your only light is a candle and your only fuel paraffin, goods get stolen when you live in a shack that can't be secured [no money for ADT or insurance], and the population is mobile – people move in and out of the area
- **Shelter makes a difference** – we have been able to either repair ramshackle huts or build new ones

- **Work makes a difference** – folk often enter a job creation programme with bowed head and spirit; once they realize that they are capable of producing something that someone else wants to buy the change is remarkable; they stand erect and look you in the eye!



You're Invited!

MASITHANDANE

is having an **Open Day**,
fund raising operation,
on the **24 September**,
everyone at Knysna Baptist
is invited!

Come and SEE, and SUPPORT
this great work.

Transport to Sedgefield
will be arranged if necessary.

RSVP using the form below.

Please fill in this form and give it to
Barbara or Malcolm

***I am planning to be at the
Masithandane Open Day***

Name: _____

Tel: _____

I will be willing to help with transport to Sedgefield

Or you can SMS 071 702 1331 with your name
and the word MASITHANDANE.

Watch this space:

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Some years ago Jacqui and I attended a marriage enrichment course created by Bruce Wilkinson, hosted at a church member's home. I recently rediscovered it and became excited at the thought of sharing this with the Knysnains, or is it Knysnaites? Whoever you are, if you are married, or considering marriage, I would highly recommend joining us.

Can you become the husband or wife that God intends you to be? Certainly. Can you enjoy the full blessing of marriage? Yes! It all boils down to mining God's word for everything He tells us on the matter, and this is what the course does. Naturally it will be challenging, but it is also liberating.

Details to follow shortly.