

## MINISTRY UPDATE

### Pastor's letter:



Praise the Lord for the past 6 months!

As you read through these reports you should perceive something of the scope of reach that Knysna Baptist's members have within and without the church. This is good, it is healthy. God has called every disciple of Christ to exercise themselves in ministry, both in giving and receiving. I am blessed to see the high percentage of our people who are actively involved, and becoming more and more part of the functioning family.

Where can you give yourself? I'm not talking about formal appointments. Every ministry that I can think of right now exists only because someone took it on themselves to fill a gap they identified. Don't wait for someone to appoint you... minister in the capacity that God has given you.

**Q:** *Is it God's will for me to do such and such?*

**A:** *Will it honour Him? And do you think it is wise?  
Then yes, it IS His will!*

I look forward to us establishing a more regular Sunday evening service this year, where we can sit under teaching on doctrinal and contemporary issues. If you missed our last evening, you missed a great time. It was wonderful to have the church filled half-way! What's on your heart? What are YOU going to do?

May you be blessed to see the Lord's work being carried out as you read these reports! May Jesus Christ be praised for His power, through which we can do ALL things. (Philippians 3:13)

In Christ,

*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

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The Sedgefield Bible study has been meeting on Monday nights, and has worked through the last chapters of the Primeval History (Genesis 1 – 11). It stirred some interesting debate, as you can imagine, with topics such as the flood, the nations and the tower of Babel. What stands out, towering over every account, is the kindness and faithfulness of God despite man's incessant desire to be independent of Him.

Our numbers have shrunk slightly which leaves us with only 2 households in attendance. Thanks to Maureen and the Cowley's for the use of their homes, and the yummy snacks! We meet every Monday at 18h30.

## Tuesday: 18h30 – Ron Cairns Ben van Zyl

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We meet every Tuesday evening in members' homes and it has been our great privilege, for the last couple of months, to be doing a verse-by-verse study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. I believe I speak for all of us when I say it has been one of the most challenging and profitable studies I have ever participated in. We have all benefited tremendously from Ron's in-depth preparation and unmitigated enthusiasm for God's Word, as well as the lively discussions due to the active participation of the members.

In some ways our study has been a bit of a rollercoaster ride. In the first couple of chapters of the book of Romans we were once again confronted with the stark reality of sin and our desperate need for a Saviour, only to find that the glory of the Gospel and the sufficiency of our Saviour can nowhere be more clearly seen than on the dark background of human depravity. The great truths of the substitutionary atonement, propitiation, adoption, the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the golden chain of salvation and our security in Christ Jesus, the wonder of election, and many more, all led us to exclaim with Paul: *"Oh, the depth of the*

*riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!"*

Finally, I am confident that, even as the time has come for me to say goodbye, God will continue to bless this group and add people to them in order to glorify his Name by revealing wonderful things to them from the Scriptures as they continue to do their best to be faithful students of his Word and strive to live their lives in light of the wonderful things He has done for all of us in Jesus Christ. - Ben

## Tuesday: 18h30 – At the church Rodney Cilliers

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Our bible study group has made a good start to 2010. We are not many, normally 9, but our members are exceptionally faithful in attendance. Unfortunately we lost Lyndall, who moved to Johannesburg. We start with  $\pm$  15 minutes of singing favourite hymns. Anyone is free to choose. Here we thank Elaine, who plays so willingly for us each week. We do enjoy the singing of our "hymns from the heart", as I call them. Then we have our scripture reading and opening prayer, in which needs are remembered. This is followed by our Bible study time. On the first Tuesday of each month we have a "share and prayer" time. All who wish may share a testimony, meaningful scripture or anything that was a blessing. The remaining time is spent in prayer for our church and people, others further afield and missionaries. Because we are few, we have become a very close-knit group and I, for one, find Tuesday evenings a blessing, as I am sure the others do as well.

## Tuesday: 06h00 – 07h30



The Mugg & Bean  
Men's Growth  
Group – Mark  
Hoskins and  
Chansa Mataka

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The Mugg & Bean fellowship currently comprises men of different churches who have been gathering in the Name of Jesus for some 2 years, and

recently we've seen our numbers beginning to swell. It's a time where men from various walks of life are able to meet together to share, to learn and to pray, whilst enjoying the hospitality of the Mugg & Bean restaurant – for which we are grateful.

As this group took shape, so our thoughts were directed to a study of Systematic Theology by one of the then Mugg & Bean directors, "Juks". His kind donation of 4 or so text books (Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem) helped to give us a focus and purpose.

This book has helped us a lot in our quest to know more about our Lord Jesus Christ. It outlined six important aspects that should accompany our Bible study:

1. Study with prayer
2. Study with humility
3. Study with reason
4. Study with help from others
5. Study by collecting and understanding all relevant scripture on any topic
6. Study with rejoicing and praise.

We have benefited from this aid, yet still value the contribution of personal testimony, shared scripture and brotherly encouragement.

As we continue into the future, so it is our hope and prayer that we will remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, embracing the plans and purposes for which He has allowed us to gather.

We would welcome anyone who wishes to meet with us, and share in the joy of fellowship with Christ Jesus our Saviour – the Word of God.

Currently in attendance are Chansa, Mark, Malcolm Harris, Eben, Jonathan, Hardy, Jason, Johan and Malcolm Cunningham.

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## Wednesday: 15h00 Ladies Bible Study – Jacqui

The Ladies Bible study is back in full swing this year! We are 9 ladies all in all, and would love for more to join us. After finishing off our Study on 2 Corinthians, we have now started to study the Creation from Genesis 1 and 2. It is definitely not an easy study, but I assure you it is stretching us all. It is so encouraging to learn that we can really stand on God's word, that it is truth and worth standing up for.

Our desire is that the Lord would renew our minds as we study His word, so that we may be able to defend what we believe, and be fully equipped for every good work. If you would like to join our study, please feel free to contact me, Jacqui, or just join us on a Wednesday afternoon at the Church at 3 o'clock.

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## Wednesday: 19h00 – 12 Hope St, Hunters Home, Malcolm Cunningham

It was a joy to work through the book of James – a very challenging, and sometimes hard-to-interpret epistle. With James' focus on the necessity for works to accompany faith, many would think that this contradicts Paul's teaching that salvation is by faith alone apart from works. However, a simple study of the passages in question reveals that they are perfectly in harmony. We touched on many contemporary issues such as suffering, evidence of faith, the use of the tongue, giving to the poor, and praying for the sick!

Over the past 6 months our numbers fluctuated with some people moving on, and others moving in. As of late, we've had to say goodbye to Lyndall, Geraldine, and now Ben too!

Our latest study is more doctrinal – "Our Great God"—a study of the doctrine about God.

One reviewer writes, "*The One True God will lead you through a profitable exercise in biblical and systematic theology. You will learn what the Bible says about the character and attributes of the God who is truly like no other. This is a wonderful work...*"

We meet every Wednesday, at various homes around Knysna. We'd love to see you here! Children are catered for.

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## Men's Forum – Andre Viljoen

This fortnightly meeting is a highlight in the calendar. 5 to 10 men gather to be challenged by God's Word and edified by one another. Ask anyone who attends and they will surely tell you how they've grown through the current study.

The men have also been practically involved with...

- >In November a Potjiekos Competition was organised for the whole church and friends. Many different recipes and styles were practiced resulting in a wonderful time of enjoyment and fellowship.
- >A second dangerous tree was felled in the car park and removed.
- >The repaired floor in the basement was painted.

## Sunday School, Helga Raynor

We praise the Lord for the faithfulness of the little ones who so regularly come to learn more of Jesus. We usually have about 11 or 12, aged between 3 and 12 years old, and it is a blessing to be able to help them understand more from the Bible each week, their enthusiasm is wonderful.

Sunday School ended the last school term of 2009 with a Sunday School picnic at Coney Glen where all enjoyed the fun, games and food – including the teachers and parents!

This year we are learning “action” choruses and hopefully soon will be able to sing them for the congregation one morning.

Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers for their time and input in this ministry, and to the men of the church for making the Sunday School room look so comfortable and bright.

As our children enter into high school, we foresee the need to begin a youth ministry. Please pray for this and get involved.

## Hospice Groceries Rodney and Cathie Cilliers



During each month, our people bring their items to church according to the list that has been drawn up. These contributions are faithfully made. On the last Sunday of each month we take what has been brought and

deliver it to Hospice in Wilson Street. The groceries are received, each time, with much thanks and appreciation. They have often offered to write a letter of thanks. We have told them not to take the trouble since we would be there again in a month's time. Our grateful thanks to all who contribute to make this service possible.

### Food parcel items

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

## Hospital ministry to Women – Christine Cutforth, Geraldine Johnston

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The Hospital Ministry is still going well and it is all thanks to Malcolm and Jacqui's encouragement and to all of you for your prayers and for the beautiful knitwear. Another matter for your consideration is that it came to our knowledge from a Nursing Sister at the hospital with a request for face cloths and soaps for some of the more needy patients who may have to stay in hospital for a few days. I have written to Unilever. To see if they would send us some soaps and we have also been promised free soap from some of the B & B's in Knysna. I have also been in contact with a company in Cape Town and they are prepared to sell us face cloths at R2,99 per cloth. It has been suggested that if 30 people could each donate R30 that would cover our needs for the year. Any help in this direction would be greatly appreciated.

We also have a news update on Ruchelle the young Paraplegic girl. Last year Geraldine approached Rotary here in Knysna to see if they would consider lending Ruchelle a Computer to learn Computer skills with the hope that at a later stage she could derive some sort of income of her own. Rotary have kindly loaned her a Computer and Printer which she has taken to a Rehabilitation Home in Mitchell's Plain where she is going to be taught various skills including a Computer course. She will be assessed eventually and a more permanent Home either in George or here in Knysna will be found for her. I spoke to her a few days ago and she is in good spirits. Please pray that a Pastor from a good church in Mitchell's Plain will visit her and continue giving her the gospel.

On behalf of Geraldine and I a big thank you, without you this ministry wouldn't work as well.

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*I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the  
deeds for which He is to be praised according  
to all the Lord has done for us.*  
Isaiah 63:7

## Outreach to other churches – Andre Viljoen

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This outreach has continued every week, and in addition to the continuing appreciation by other churches for our prayers, interest and concern, two of the pastors on our list of churches have come to worship with us in our church. It is our hope that this mutual trend of trusting and responding will grow.

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.

Knysna Presbyterian

Garden Route Christian Centre

Belvidere Holy Trinity

Apostolic Faith Mission

Methodist Church

St Georges Anglican Church

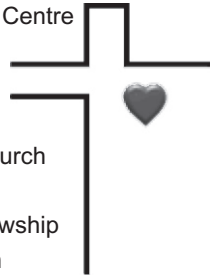
Charisma ministries

Vineyard Christian Fellowship

Dutch Reformed Church

Plett. Evangelical Fellowship

George Baptist Church



## Music Report Malcolm Cunningham

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The absence of the Cairns for 2 months has seen necessary additions to the music team. What a joy it is to have Estelle Colyn and Natalie Bright stepping forward and helping us to continue worshipping in song as we're accustomed to! Not only that, but a couple of



budding guitarists have been slowly joining, and a couple of undercover pianists are also making noises about joining.

Whatever happens, let us remember that this is all about functioning as part of Jesus Christ's body. It is enthralling to see people understand that this is not about a performance, but contributing the grace you've received to the rest of the church.

The music ministry seeks to aid the congregation in true worship, through Christ exalting song, and scripture reading and prayer. I thank the Lord for Ron & Felicity, Rodney and Welland who have served so well in this capacity.

## Hostel Support – Lloyd

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The hostel support was started in 2000 to assist primary school children residing in the High School Hostel – they should not really be there but are accommodated because their parents, for various reasons, cannot provide for them.

Numbers have been as high as 12 but the idea has always been to keep them as low as possible. But the situation can and does change fairly rapidly.

We provide ongoing basic needs support and birthday and Christmas gifts and an end-of-year outing.

We have also provided clothing, sports equipment, and have on occasion also assisted High School students when special requests have been made.

The desire is to establish a regular source of income to provide for special needs as and when they arise.

## Book Table – Jonathan Heath

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Knysna Baptist Church is an evangelical Christian church that is Baptist in its Doctrinal Beliefs and has a bible-based pulpit ministry at its core, where Christ Incarnate, Crucified, Risen, Ascended,



Glorified and Coming Again is preached!

At its heart is the aim of bringing sinners into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, for all to grow into mature disciples, united in worship, fellowship and service, faithful to the Word of God.

Since September 2009 we have been fortunate to have received the support of Augustine Bookroom with sound evangelical literature for readers of all ages. The books range from those suitable for children to the most theologically advanced reader and from tracts useful for the evangelist through to Study bibles and Doctrinal masterpieces. These books are extremely well priced.

The benefit to be gained from reading the words of inspired and learned fellow Christians is enormous and, whilst the bible needs always to be the all-in-all of our reading and our walk with God, we receive understanding, teaching and encouragement from reading.

The book table has added a wonderful new dimension to the worshipful service to God and it has encouraged fellowship around the books and, more importantly, enthusiastic discussion around the word of God and the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you haven't realised it yet, having a book table is almost like having a team of other trusty pastors in your church from whom you can learn and to whom you can go to enquire! You are strongly encouraged to use this God-given benefit to equip yourself even more – we all need this!

You may also order books that are not present on the table. For the catalogue, visit [www.augustine.co.za](http://www.augustine.co.za)

To God be the glory

## Property – Mel Colyn

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With the ongoing maintenance the building and grounds are in good condition.

1. With the basement cleaned and painted and partially carpeted, we have a nice Sunday school venue.





2. The water damaged pillars have been repaired as the old plaster was crumbling and had to be removed. The pillars were then painted as was the outside of the church as the paint was already 8 years old and in need of a repaint.
3. The water tank base has been built and the tank will be installed soon. The guttering from the main portion of the roof will be re-directed to flow into the tank. This water will be used for the Baptistry and after the service the water will be pumped back into the tank to reduce consumption. Once the rains return we might not even need to do this.
4. The sound system is in the process of being improved. This involves having individual controls for each microphone, control of the instrument volume from the sound desk, and monitors for the musicians to hear themselves and the singers. The sound mixing desk will also be moved, along with the projection computer to the middle of the gallery for centralised control. This will make it possible for even one person to control the entire audio/visual process if necessary.

As we are all aware that our sound engineer and computer whiz is moving to greener pastures, we are looking for volunteers to man the sound desk and make the recordings of the sermons. It is not very complicated and you will be fully trained before you are allowed to go solo, so, if you are a reasonably computer savvy person and would like to help, please see myself or Malcolm anytime for a short introduction of what it is all about.

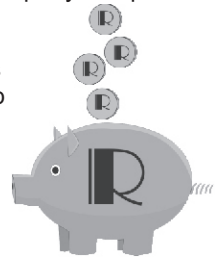


## Financial Report – Alan Cameron

The church is in a very good financial position with R141 251 in the bank at the end of January 2010. This has been due to the build-up of cash while we didn't have a Pastor and also some excellent tithing.

The deacons have taken the opportunity to improve and maintain the property and plans are being put in place to improve the sound system. Also, we are in the process of organising a family camp for this year, Lord willing.

Our greatest task is identifying how to assign the finances that the Lord has entrusted to us. We believe, according to 2 Corinthians 9, that the Lord grants financial gain for the purpose of extending his kingdom, which includes both our local church and sharing with those in need. We therefore sit with the huge responsibility to see how best we can partner in the gospel. We have already increased our missions giving by around 30 to 70%.



## Opportunities to serve

### IDEAS FOR MINISTRY

*... the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:16)*

#### **During the week**

- ❖ Phone someone you're thinking about and encourage them.
- ❖ Offer to do shopping for someone.
- ❖ Visit someone.
- ❖ SMS a meaningful verse to someone.
- ❖ Invite people over for a prayer meeting.
- ❖ Have a "share your favourite scripture" evening/afternoon at your home.
- ❖ Offer your home to a Bible Study leader.
- ❖ Have an open-house Saturday afternoon where people can come over for tea.
- ❖ Pop in to someone at work to encourage them.
- ❖ Accompany Geraldine and Crissi to the hospital and watch what they do.

### ***On Sunday***

- ❖ Sit with Charlotte, or Mel during the service and watch to learn how they operate the audio/visual.
- ❖ Introduce yourself to someone you don't know.
- ❖ Shake the hand of visitors after the service.
- ❖ Offer to help Mel pack away the microphones and cables.
- ❖ Offer to sing.
- ❖ Attend music practice with a view to playing one Sunday.
- ❖ Offer to neaten up the library books.

### ***Masathandane needs***

- ❖ A sponsor for the hostel fees and other necessities for a very talented young lady who is attending a school in George.
- ❖ A volunteer morning or afternoon per month.
- ❖ Financial assistance to start a Respite Care Centre for those who are dying – so that they can die in a loving a caring environment and with dignity – or the family can have a break from the demand of caring for someone who is really ill. The money is needed for a building and for four hospital beds and equipment.
- ❖ All contributions, big or small will be gratefully received.