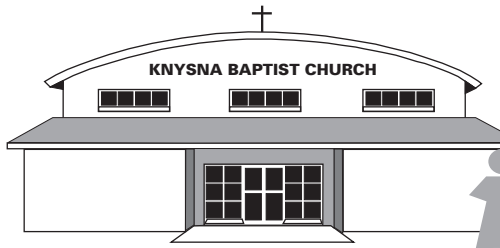


# Knysna Baptist Church



February 2011



## MINISTRY UPDATE

### Pastor's letter:



Dear Church Family

It is that time of the year again when we take stock of what's happening in Knysna Baptist Church. In this review booklet, you'll find feedback from various ministries. Our goal is to inform you, encourage you, and see you challenged to continue the good work!

We cannot underestimate that a mature church is grown through the active participation of its members. This is not church philosophy. It is biblical truth. Our God has designed it this way, and if we want to see this local body being effective in the Kingdom of God (as we so often pray) then lets continue to press on! We are indeed a church blessed in this area. Many churches around the world struggle with only 10% doing 90% of the ministry, whereas we have a very high percentage of involvement. Thank you. You are invaluable. You are God's gift to the rest of us.

Sometimes we add value in an official way – like preaching or opening the windows. Other times we add value unofficially, by just being. Being present. Being available. Being like Christ. Don't underestimate the encouragement you are to everyone else, just by attending!

I thank the Lord for these reviews. They reveal such a multi-faceted ministry in this place.

*Malcolm*



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#### WE PREACH CHRIST:

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

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# BIBLE STUDY

*Sometimes we call them Bible Studies, and sometimes Cell Groups. Certain people make a distinction between the two, but an effective group must contain both elements of studying God's word, and facilitating close fellowship and numeric growth.*



*To me, Bible studies are an essential part of Christian life. Sunday morning just cannot provide what you get at a Bible study. Sunday morning is over in an hour and a half (unless the preacher takes liberties...), and so many people walk in and out without properly connecting with one another. They don't have an opportunity to challenge or question what is taught. There is no opportunity to share their problems, or reasons to praise God. They only get to hear one voice, and not get to see the life stories of their brothers and sisters in the struggle before Heaven.*

*The Sunday service meets a particular need. It brings the whole body together for corporate worship. And it saves the pastor from travelling to each house to teach the Word. It also gives a common place to invite friends or family or new comers to be introduced to the Body. But this 1.5 hours of the week is by no means sufficient for Spiritual Growth, well, at least good growth.*

*Whatever the reason, if you are not attending a midweek Bible Study, you are missing out. Don't sit with excuses. Find me at church and say, "I need a Bible Study!". Let's make a plan.*

*Malcolm*

## Tuesday: 18h30 – Ron Cairns

Our enthusiastic group met every Tuesday at 6:30 pm. The members of the group hosted the studies in turn each week. We had a regular attendance of 11 members and were later joined by some of Rodney's group after his death.

We spent most of the year in an in-depth study of Romans. In the lead up to Christmas, we followed Christ through the Old Testament. This bunch loves to talk and this leads to

much discussion and so we don't always finish on time! However, our ladies are past masters at saying, " Good Bye!"

This year we have just started with the Epistle to the Hebrews. This very important book was written when ages were colliding and society seemed to be shaking. It was written to Christians who were wondering what was going on and what to do about it. Hebrews emphasises the supremacy of Christ and is very relevant to the Christian Church in the 21st century.

We welcome anyone who would like to get their teeth into sound doctrine and in depth study of God's Holy Word. Come and join us, you'll be so glad you did! ... and so will we!

## Wednesday: 09h00 Ladies Bible Study – Jacqui

The Ladies bible study has been a tremendous blessing to all who attend. It is such a source of encouragement and friendship. We (12 Ladies) love meeting every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am at Claire Lemke's home around a cup of tea, sharing our burdens, gaining wisdom from a friend, praying together and feasting on the Word of God together. In 2010 we did a study on Creation from Precept Ministries followed by an extended study on the Lord's prayer called "Lord, teach me to pray" also from Precept. We were constantly being reminded of Our Fathers love for us. Firstly in creating us a perfect home wherein all our needs are met. And secondly in studying the Prayer that Jesus teaches us, an example of how to pray. This year we started of with a short study on Trusting God taken from the book by Jerry Bridges. And have now started with our 16 week study on the names of God, called "Lord, I want to know you". Our goal is grow in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and in our love for one another. We invite any Ladies looking for such growth and encouragement to join us!

## Wednesday: 19h00 – Malcolm Cunningham

We meet every Wednesday at 19h00 (well, we try to, but we aren't as time conscious as

the 'other' bible study!) and are a mixed bunch, both culturally and in age. Our youngest attendee is only a couple weeks old, and the oldest are so old that they don't divulge their age! But that doesn't stop us from having great fellowship and discussion around the word of God, and contemporary issues that come up now and then.

Most of 2010 was spent working through some systematic theology by Paul Washer – a study of the character of God: His holiness, His perfection, His Justice, His Will – well you get the idea. It was in some ways very deep, but in other ways pre-processed by Paul Washer to make it easily accessible to our minds.

We have now begun with a study of 1 Timothy – a book that speaks to the Church today in many ways. There should be lots of interesting discussion when we get to the question of women in leadership! We've already had the questions flying!

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### Sunday School

At the beginning of the year it was decided to split the Sunday school into two groups.



A senior group catering for Grade 4 to Grade 7, and the remaining class for children up to Grade 3.

This has worked well as the lessons are now geared more to the appropriate age group.

We are very grateful to have more teachers this year which has made the load lighter for all, and thank them heart fully for their preparation and teaching of the lessons to our little people so faithfully.

If anyone is interested in teaching or finding out more about teaching in the Sunday school, please speak to any of the teachers. At the moment we teach, on average, about 8 lessons each per year.

We were also blessed to have a new curriculum which has taught the Bible lessons in a fun and interactive way for our children.

The children had the opportunity to participate in Sunday morning services, with singing, welcoming folk at the door as well as the collection of the offering. We are hoping that this will become an annual event, it is important to involve the children so that they feel part of the church family.

We also enjoyed our annual picnic where fun and food was enjoyed by all.

As always the main objective of the Sunday school is to teach the gospel so that our children may come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour at an early age and grow in faith and knowledge.

We would like to ask the church to continue to pray for our children and for the teachers serving in the Sunday school.

*Helga*



### Book Table

#### The year past

Over the past year the ministry offered to us by Augustine Bookroom has allowed many of us to buy books that we might otherwise not be able to afford. It has certainly focused our minds on the huge variety of doctrinally sound books that are available.

Those who have used this opportunity have enjoyed so many benefits, of which these are a few:

We have been exposed to Christian doctrine. Reading has encouraged us in the daily living as Christians in a fallen world.

What we have learned and been exposed to has allowed us to share with fellow Christians the majesty and wonder of the living God in our daily walk as he works His purposes out.

Many members have taken the ministry further and spread it outside the church by sharing with friends in other churches and towns.

#### The future

The present system (we received books on consignment and paid only for what was sold) has stopped for a time. Augustine is restructuring their system and in future it may become available again.

In the interim it is best for those wanting books to order directly from Augustine, pay for the books and have the books posted. In order to reduce the cost of postage, it will be better for people to join orders and share postage.

### **Prayer Requests, Needs, particular Praise**

- Praise God from whom all blessings flow that we have become a reading church and that many have been blessed because of this ministry.
- Please pray that the ministry will be able to continue and that the staff at Augustin Bookroom continue to serve God faithfully and are blessed because of it.
- Please pray that God will continue to bless us and that many will continue to make use of this ministry.

For the catalogue, visit [www.augustine.co.za](http://www.augustine.co.za)

**Jonathan**

## Music Report

*Sing to the LORD, bless His name, Psalm 96:2a*

This verse declares what we as a team have endeavoured to do. Each practice is started in prayer when we ask God to help us to glorify Him, and to help us be a means of leading the congregation at the morning service also to glorify God in their worship.

In this last year we have enjoyed singing many of the old and loved hymns, but have also had the joy of learning many new and modern songs. We would assure the members of the church that we are very careful to choose sound, Biblically based hymns and songs. It is always thrilling to learn something new, and so to increase our repertoire.

The editor of PRECIOUS HYMNS stated: "New songs and choruses will become precious, only when we try them over and over until the melody and the message is actually found." He added that it was his prayer that God would bless those hymns to the salvation of the lost, to the strengthening of Christians, and to the praise of His precious Name. To this we add our resounding, "Amen."



Our thanks and appreciation to all the members of the music team for their faithfulness over the past year. There is always place for new members, and anyone who would like to share in this joyful ministry, please do so.

*Our team consists of:*

Leaders - Malcolm, Ron, Jonathan  
Pianists - Felicity, Estelle, Natalie  
Guitars - Malcolm, Eben, Sarah  
Vocals - Adele, Estelle, Fiona, Jacqui, Jonathan, Laetitia  
Projection – Mary, Charlotte,  
Sound – Mel, Jacques



**Felicity**

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Hospice Groceries

For many years we have supplied a food parcel to Hospice every month.

The recipients of these groceries are determined by the Hospice staff and many are terminal patients.

These groceries have been donated by some members of our Church.

For the last few years this ministry was handled by Rodney and Cathe Cilliers, but now Ron and I fulfil this task.

I appeal to all those who have promised to donate food to be regular, because some months our parcel is rather sparse. For those who are not on the donation list, there is always the need for more donations, and extra groceries would be most welcome, and I would encourage you to be part of this community service.

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7

**Ron & Felicity**



## Hospital ministry to Women

The hospital ministry is on a Tuesday between 3 and 4 pm at the Knysna General Hospital. We take tracts along to hand out to the patients and I also receive



150 copies of the Golden Thoughts calendars each year from the Trinitarian Bible Society in London which I hand out. They are printed in Xhosa and Afrikaans. If they wish, passages out of the bible are also read to the patients. Five washing packs, each containing a flannel and bar of soap, are given each week to the nursing sister for distribution to the most needy. This is greatly appreciated by both the hospital and the patients. To the proud mothers of all the little babies we see we give either booties or beanies depending on their preferences. The lady who owns the teddy bear shop in Knysna, Brenda, supplies us with teddy bears and I always take a couple to give to those patients who have been through a bad trauma and need a little extra comfort. At Christmas we try to give all the children a teddy. When we are two we generally get to see most of the female patients as well as covering the maternity wards but when one is absent for some reason this is not possible due to time restraints so it would be helpful to have others we could call on for help when the need arises.

We really appreciate the help given by all those who have made this ministry possible, those who knit, those who sew and those who include our work in their prayers. All we ask in 2011 is for the continued support of the church and that those who we manage to help in some small way come to thank and praise the Lord for the work we all do in His name.

**Crissi**

## Outreach to other churches

Remember to pray for the other churches in town. Currently we phone these churches in

turn to hear their prayer requests and items of praise which are placed in the Bulletin for your use.

Knysna Presbyterian  
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



Christianity Explored will be no news to you. We intended to run the course at the beginning of the Soccer World Cup 2010! But by God's providence, we have only been able to run it from the end of January 2011. We have seen a marvelous mix of attendees, and all have thoroughly enjoyed it.

There is a line of thought in some Christian circles that says we must get past the gospel, past the cross, and move on to living the New Life in Christ. Although this may sound exciting, they are making a terrible mistake. The gospel is the New Life in Christ. I think the reason people want to 'get past the cross' is that they view it only as a ticket to Heaven. They have not understood what the cross means, and therefore are still hungry for fulfillment.

This course has reignited the fire of the gospel in many hearts. I believe there have been hearts challenged and excited, and New Life tasted in this very basic course on the Christian fundamentals. Thank you Jesus, for the cross, for Redeeming my life to Newness, in every respect, in every aspect.

I think of this verse in 1 Corinthians 2:2 ... I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**Malcolm**

# High School CIA

CIA (Christians in Action) is the Christian ministry at Knysna High School, and has been running for many years. Since last year I have been actively involved, speaking on a roster basis to the kids during a school period, or break time.

Various other churches are involved too, including The Rock, St George's Anglican, Southern Gateway, The Island church, and YFC.

I thank the Lord for this opportunity, albeit a very difficult one because one never really knows the audience you are addressing, and where they stand spiritually.

This year I am the 'pastor' for the Grade 9 students. What this exactly means still has to be seen, but in essence, each Grade is assigned a pastor for counselling / leading purposes.

If anyone would like to experience these sessions, come along and stand on the side – I think you'll be amazed at what's going on in this little town!

## **Please pray for:**

- The Christian children to be salt and light in the world.
- The preaching of the gospel.
- Discernment on the part of the leaders as they seek to be effective for the Kingdom.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

### Men's Forum

In the course of 2010 the intensive study of John Piper's book "Don't Waste your Life", which stimulated lively discussion, was completed, and significant spiritual growth was experienced by those who attended.

A summary of Andrew Murray's biography was subsequently presented to establish what we could learn from Murray's long and fruitful life.

It was decided that the meetings would in future be held monthly instead of bi-monthly, and that future discussions would concentrate on moral issues.

As a result the following subjects were debated.

- Euthanasia
- Suicide
- Capital punishment
- Christian liberty and the world of entertainment
- Abortion

During these sessions participation was excellent, and everyone was invited and was at liberty to voice his personal views. During discussion the biblical view on all matters was regularly sought.

### **Future Hope**

- That more men would be willing to commit themselves to regularly attend the meetings.
- That men would come forward with topics for discussion and suggest alternative activities.
- That forum members would be willing to lead meetings from time to time

### **André**

## **MISSIONS**

Do you read the missions board now and then? This is a great way to remain up to date about those we support. After all, a percentage of your monthly giving is going to these people! Don't you want to know where the money is going?



My vision for missions this year is that we get more involved in the lives of those we currently support. By looking at the scope of our support, we can say that we have done well. There are at least 9 families, and 8 organisations, besides 2 training seminaries who we support with prayer, the odd email and for some, monthly finances. But if we would like to be even more effective as a body, then we should aim at doing the same for them that we do for one another here at KBC. At KBC, we personally interact. We share. We encourage. We relate.

Let me stir you to see how you might be more personally involved by way of 4 thoughts:

1. Pick out a missionary family on our board and write them a letter or email. Do this in your own private capacity. No one needs to know you've done it.
2. Go and visit a missionary family! We have a number of folk in this church who travel now and then. If this is in your means, why not take a detour and visit a family for a couple of days, as ambassadors of KBC. Imagine if we as a church could send you off with some letters and gifts, and you could be our Epaphroditus!
3. As a Bible Study, pick out a missionary, and be a support group for them. Over and above your normal giving to the church, set aside an amount each month, and when you think you have enough, send it to them. Pray for them each week. Consider them as part of your Bible study, even though they are not present.
4. I would like to see us hooked up with a mission organisation who could organise a mission trip to Lesotho. Typically they provide the means and the program, and we go as willing hands, for a few days. Many of us are retired – which means we are far more flexible in our time. Some of us are younger, and are able to lend much elbow grease on the field. Your eyes will be opened!



**Malcolm**

## PROPERTY

During the past 12 months the following maintenance and improvements were carried out:

1. Rain water tank, pump and plumbing was installed for filling of the baptistery and having extra water for the garden.
2. Exterior walls of the church building were repainted and
3. Windows above the pulpit were waterproofed.



4. The trees that were poisoned were cut down and removed from site.

### New Equipment:

1. The sound system was upgraded and new microphones purchased. The speakers were re-positioned to improve the sound quality.
2. New chairs were purchased to cater for more attendants at the services
3. The mobile bookcase was manufactured to display the books on sale.

The church building is overall in good condition. The only outstanding item is the repainting of the interior walls and film installed on the windows to reduce the outside light reflection from the walls to improve the projector image on the screen. This still has to be approved.

It is proposed that the circle garden, at the entrance of the church, be reconstructed to accommodate a bench and pathways. Some of the plants will have to be removed to allow for better vision of the road, as the view of the lower road is blocked when exiting the church parking area.



At the time of this proposal it was felt that due to the remoteness of the Remembrance Wall, the existing wall be broken down and rebuilt in the circle garden. This has been postponed due to the extra cost.

**Mel**

## FINANCE

The balance of cash on hand at the beginning of the year was R102 263 and has reduced to R63 302 at the end of January 2011. The tithing for the 12 months to end December was excellent.

The deacons have undertaken some major expenses in improving the sound system and painting the building as shown in the property report.



We also hosted the Pastors Conference and sent Malcolm to a couple of conferences for his spiritual encouragement.

Our cash reserves have reduced quite a bit and we, as always encourage members and adherents to tithe generally. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says it all – “give as he has decided in his heart”.

**Alan**

## ANNUAL PLANNING

Our annual planning meeting went well, although it was very poorly attended. I think we had about 20 attendees. However, it was exciting to put down on paper what we're aiming at for the year ahead.

Please take note of these dates, and mark them in your diaries!

Saturday 5 March 7h30 to 21h00  
Family Camp all-day retreat

Saturday 16 April and 17 September  
Newcomer's welcome dinner

### EASTER

21 April – Maundy Thursday  
Friday 22 April 9h00 – Good Friday Service

*Sunrise Service Pilot's view*  
Sunday 24 April,  
15 minutes before sunrise

Monday 30 May to 1 June (3 days)  
Shepherds Conference, Cape Town

Sunday 19 June  
Father's Day Sunday School Service

Sunday 24 July 18h30  
An Evening of Song

Thursday 4 August 09h00  
Pastor's conference

Saturday 8-9 October (2 days)  
Missions weekend

### FOOD PARCEL ITEMS

Please consider donating these for hospice.

<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

