

From the Crows Nest



Dagsé Vriende, Greetings Friends

In the summer of 1785 a German poet Friederich Schiller composed the poem **“Ode to Joy” (An die Freude)** it was destined to become one his most popular works. The poem’s lasting popularity is in big part due to it’s musical setting by Ludwig van Beethoven in the final movement of his Ninth Symphony. Beethoven’s famous choral finale was the first example of a major composer using voices in a symphony. This popular symphony is regularly performed by orchestras and choirs at the end of the year and has become a landmark in the history of Western music. It is also seen as a musical representation of universal brotherhood. The words of this poem are full of optimism and faith in what is best in humanity, and could not appear more relevant amidst today’s widespread disorder, confusion and extremism. In many English churches, the hymn “Joyful, Joyful we adore thee” written in 1907 by Henry van Dyke is set and sung to Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy”. Joy is the natural reaction to the work of God, whether promised or fulfilled. Joy expresses God’s kingdom—His influence on earth (Romans 14:17). Sometime back I watched a programme on television featuring an unbelievably talented self taught young Zimbabwean artist named Great Joy whose paintings focus on the different emotional behaviours and expressions we encounter in our

daily lives. This month’s theme **Joy** is the last of our focus on the Fruits of the Spirit. Joy formed the main focus of Rod’s sermon on Sunday 18th November. I am sure you are in agreement with me, what a joyous sermon it was. Finally to The BellPress Team, many Frank thanks for your contributions throughout the year... *Mooi gedaan!*

May the miracle of Christmas fill you and your loved ones hearts with joy during this special time. A prosperous and blessed 2019 to one and all.

Dieu Benisse
and be joyful,

Yours aye,
Frank



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Letter from the Minister

Dear friends

Although this is my love-letter to you for the December/January edition of Bell-Press I am writing it on the 11th of November (11/11), Remembrance Day: the 100th anniversary of the end of the 1st World War.

A great day! And I wish you a peace-filled Christmas and New Year.

Peace is not just the declaration that a war has ended, whether the war was just in your household, marriage or between nations. Peace is something that comes with having a relationship with Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace; He is our peace (Isa 9:6); He brings to us a peace that passes understanding (Ph 4:7) - we get to be peaceful or at peace even

when it doesn't make sense, when things around us should be making us feel rattled, ruffled, out of sorts, worried or afraid.

The earliest blessing in the Bible is that God would turn towards us and give us peace (Num 6:21). And at Christmas we remember the message the angels brought : God sent His Son to let there be peace on earth and goodness to all who love Him.

Peace is something that comes with having a relationship with Jesus.

At the heart of creation God gave us Eden - thé place where we had ...

peace with God our
creator Father

peace with His creation

peace with other people

and

peace with ourselves

It all fell apart when our first ancestors allowed themselves to be persuaded by the Evil One that there was something better than this peaceful existence: if they could only see that if they were like God then this garden and world and life of peace would be seen for what it really was, a prism! What a lie! Of course Adam and Eve go against the one protection of all this peace - they disbelieve God and go their own way. (It was like pulling down the glass wall that protected them from lethal poisonous snakes and they got bitten).

You know that from the verse in John 3:16: "God sent His only begotten Son so that we would not perish" nor be condemned says the next verse. But instead of the fearful, non-peaceful life we have come to expect, Jesus would give us life

in abundance (John 10:10).

And to underline this gift and to remind us of God's first wish for us, Jesus told those around Him: "Peace I give to you: My own peace - not as the world gives." (John 14:27). We should take a moment to see there is more to peace than a truce between hostilities that leaves you walking on eggs and/or the constant looking over one's shoulder and having a feeling of being gnawed at on the inside: fear, just around the corner; fear about to pounce; fear that sooner or later something will go horribly wrong in our lives.

The one peculiar result of living in fear, without a relationship with Jesus and thus without deep-centred peace, is the world increasingly rejects Christmas but celebrates New Year with the triumphant call to each other: "We made it"; "We got through another year!" And instead of revelling that God has come to us, the

revelling gets confused between a wishful but boozy “Happy” new year and the making of resolutions: “This year I will ..., I will not ...”. It is not “peace to all”; not restfulness because He is here with us but a drivenness to make things better for ourselves by ourselves.

Peace is something that comes from having a relationship with Jesus.

And we have that - you have that! Christ has come to you and you have received Him and believed in Him (and not merely that He once came and lived in ancient Israel).

When I wished you, at the start of this letter, a peace-filled Christmas and New Year I was praying that you would:

- ✚ rest more and stress less
- ✚ pray more and worry less
- ✚ serve more and ask for less attention to yourself
- ✚ bless more and curse things

less

- ✚ worship more and be less lazy about God
- ✚ give more and demand less
- ✚ offer hospitality more and be less hostile
- ✚ laugh more and sigh less
- ✚ trust more and be less suspicious
- ✚ celebrate more and be less cynical
- ✚ love more and fear less
- ✚ be a fearless, strong and loyal servant of Christ Jesus.

Please take time, every day, to ask the Lord Jesus to fill you again, and again with His Holy Spirit. Love yourself enough to do that. Living at peace with God, His creation, other people and yourself is hard work. Impossible really, if we leave it to ourselves. Jesus knows that and that is why He said “The Father will give the Spirit to those who ask”. (Luke 11:13).

I really do hope and pray you would have a peace-filled Christmas and New Year.

My door and heart is open to you, especially when your load is heavy and filled with sadness. Give me a call and I will come to you.

I really do want you to have a happy 2019 and every year - put your hand into Christ's hand, walk boldly, go in peace and God bless you.

Your friend and minister



The BPC Children's Church,
ALONG WITH THE
Bellville Presby Family
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR
Christmas Variety Concert

DATE: 9 December
WHERE: Bellville Presby
WHEN: 09:30



In the Family

Rod and Mandy are happy, proud grandparents for the second time! Philippa Amy was born on 9 November to Hannah and Warwick (Allan) in Johannesburg, a sister for Kingsley. Thanks be to God for His gifts of family life, love and joy. Thank you, everyone, for your good wishes, messages and love on this special occasion.

Gerry Snyders is to be congratulated on two milestone achievements.

After many years of studying through the TEE (Theological Education by Extension) institute Gerry has completed his Bachelor of Theology degree.

And he has also completed all required by our denomination (the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa) to be set aside to the Order of Lay Ministry (The OLM), effectively making Gerry able to preach and teach in any of our congregation in RSA, Zimbabwe and Zambia. And could be appointed to look after a vacant congregation while it looks for a minister. Had he been a few years younger he could have applied to be an Ordained minister.

Gerry will be SET ASIDE to the OLM on Tuesday 04th December at 1900 in the Mowbray church in the presence of the Presbytery of the Western Cape.

Well done Gerry!

BARNABAS CORNER

A very sincere and grateful thanks to all for your constant prayers and message of goodwill during my by-pass operation. Thank you also for your concern for Elsabé during this time. Your prayers carried me through this traumatic experience.

Thank you! Thank you! John Kleynhans.



December Church Diary

- 2nd Advent 1 & Children's Ministry Prize-giving
- 4th Presbytery Meeting
- 5th **THANKSGIVING DAY with Worship at 7pm**
- 8th Children's Ministry Concert Practice
- 9th Advent 2 and **Children's Ministry Concert**
- 16th Advent 3 & Day of Reconciliation
- 17th Public Holiday - Office Closed
- 23rd Advent 4
- 24th Christmas Eve - Worship at 11pm
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY Worship at 9am only.**
- 26th Day of Goodwill
- 30th Holy Communion will be celebrated at services.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING WEDNESDAY 5TH OF DECEMBER

Rod will be in the church from 7am until 6pm to give thanks and pray with you.

The day will culminate at 7pm with a joyous service of Thanksgiving.

EXTRA envelopes available from the foyer table.

Give Give Give
Thanks Thanks Thanks
to God to God to God

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY

9th December

7 30am & 7 00pm Worship
9 30am Children's Ministry
Concert

16th December

Lessons & Carols
7 30am & 9 30am Services
No EVENING Service

23rd December

7 30am & 9 30am Services
No EVENING Service

Christmas Eve

11pm Worship &
Holy Communion

Christmas Day

9:00am Worship

Sunday 30th December

7 30am & 9 30am
Holy Communion
No EVENING Service

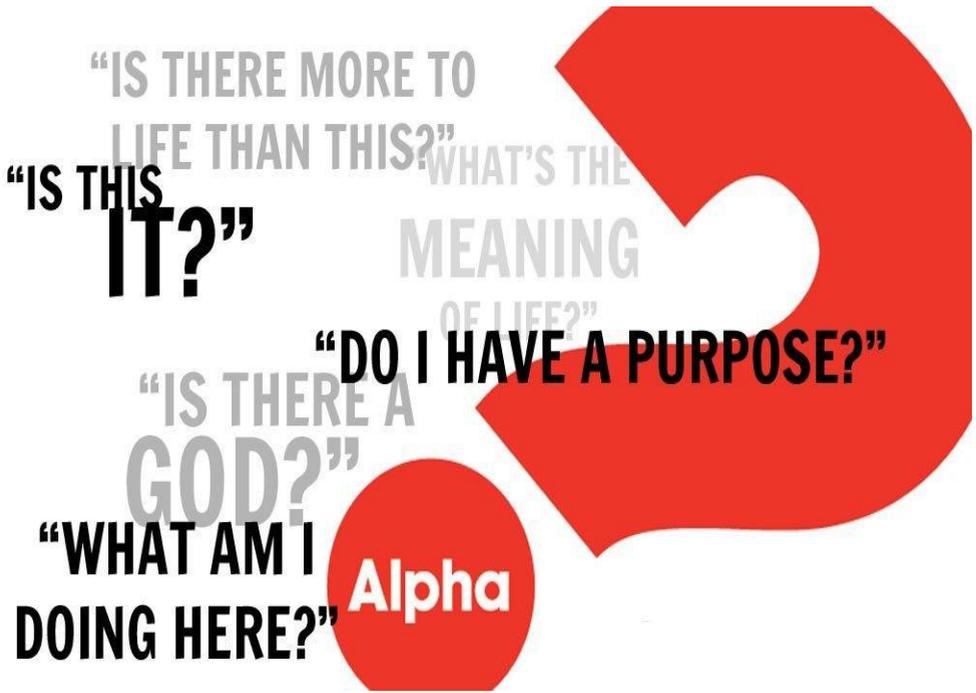
6th January

7:30am & 9:30am Worship
No EVENING Service

13 January Worship at

7 30am, 9 30am & 7 00pm
Children's & Teenz
Ministry at 9 30am





WHO? WHAT? WHY? HOW? We're all searching for ANSWERS.

Join our next ALPHA COURSE and we will help to answer these questions of life.

WHEN? SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY - SATURDAY 16TH MARCH

TIME? 9am - 11am Starting with breakfast.

COST? 2 hours of your time and a donation towards the breakfast.

WHO IS INVITED? You, your family, your friends, your colleagues, your neighbours. Anyone who wants to learn a bit more about the Christian faith.

CONTACTS: Louise Winterbach (0824562266)

Axel de Boelpaep (0833565684)

Included as part of the course is a weekend away from the hustle and bustle of life. This will be from Friday 15th to lunchtime on Sunday 17th February.

The cost will be ± R500 p.p. but don't let this cost keep you away!

Talk to Rod, Louise or Axel.



December Birthday Greetings

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Ulinde de Jager
Ashley Fourie
Neil Onana | 9 | Cara Gie
Guy Parker | 24 | Christiaan
Opperman
Jessica Swanepoel |
| 2 | Kaylin Stevens
George Köhler | 10 | Brian Feldman
Patricia Welman | 25 | Alida Bosman
Emmanuella Ticha |
| 3 | Chelsea Abrahams
Zac Conradie
Tony Downing
Ludmila Frank
Cheryl-Ann Gaillard
Lauren Michaels | 14 | Leon Conradie
Adele Gaillard
Isabella Rudman
Lieb Venter | 26 | Kyle Brown
Joyce Kanyerere
Jeanette Ungerer |
| 4 | Hazel Plant | 16 | Jaclyn Downing
Suretha van Bergen | 28 | Linda Pianizzola
André Swart
Mikayla van der
Merwe |
| 5 | Brendon Abrahams
Wilma Beukes
Siphamandla
Makhambi
Debbie Pepper | 17 | Hein Louwrens
Sue Shaw | 29 | Chimwemwe
Chibambo
Caleb Coetsee
Arno Swanepoel |
| 6 | Liezl Fourie
Karen Kirk | 19 | Emma Hendricks | 31 | Anna Davidson |
| 7 | André Coetzee
Anthea Dorman | 20 | Donald Buchan
Odilia Ticha | | |
| 8 | Ignatius Ticha | 21 | Marie Hasse
Maureen
McLachlan | | |
| | | 23 | Gary Kirk
Charl Lehmann | | |

Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!



January Birthday Greetings



- | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Michaela Lilley
Clive Peck | 15 | Luke Davidtz
Jaco de Jager | 23 | Rainer van Leeuwen |
| 2 | Lynette du Raan
Gordon Groves
Lynette van der
Westhuizen | 16 | Gabrielle de Villiers
Taryn Lilley
Rebekah Lumsden
Axel van Leeuwen | 24 | Julian Matthews |
| 3 | Valerie Luyt | 17 | Marelize
Badenhorst
Adrian Ford
Jack Watermeyer
Louise Winterbach | 26 | Thea Kleu |
| 4 | Maureen Downing | 18 | Annette Courtriers | 27 | Olga Bloomfield
Guy Brown
Mariska Vorster |
| 5 | Pepetua Fowang
Shaun Lee Stander | 19 | Cathy Armstrong
Evan Calitz
Claire van der
Westhuizen
Terrance Wheatley | 28 | Devi-Sankree
Petersen |
| 6 | Marlene Botha
Antoinette
Donaldson
Ria Simons | 20 | Terry Brown
Betty Davidson | 29 | Jan le Roux
Jake Petzer |
| 7 | Mark Adonis
Clara Ticha | 21 | Christine Lamb | 30 | Peter Martin
Rita Smith
Estelle Snyders
Kobus Swanepoel |
| 8 | Len Goodchild | 22 | Blake Lerm | 31 | Anthea Petersen
Melissa Sineke |
| 9 | Dylan Goldsmith | | | | |
| 11 | Kirsten Wolfaardt | | | | |
| 13 | Dirk Bruwer
Gideon Lombard | 23 | Gideon le Roux
Hannelore Leite
Pauline Smith
James van Eyssen | | |
| 14 | Nathaniel Köhler
Dirk von Zeuner | | | | |

Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!

LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

DI IVISON-CONRADIE

**“Long obedience
in the same
direction”**



The above is the title of a book by well known Christian writer, Eugene Peterson. It's a study for **developing discipleship in an instant society**. It's my joy to write about Di Ivison-Conradie who has been a BPC Sunday School teacher for 22 years! I think you'll agree she's a living reality of Peterson's book title.

Di grew up in a family of Sunday School teachers where teaching in the Sunday School was something you just did, Gran and Mom having set the example. When Di became a member at BPC in the early 90s she was still at student at Stellenbosch University and at age 20 she committed to teaching in the Sunday School. Over the past 22 she years has taught all ages

starting with the “littlies” up to Teenz ministry (Grades 8 to 10). She's particularly enjoyed teaching the Teenz because she felt she could relate more easily to them, having two of her own (Antoni and Megan). Knowing and watching many children in the Sunday School change and mature over the years put her in a unique position to identify and connect with them as they became older. She's amazed at their strong faith and relaxed way of talking about Jesus. Teaching them has been blessing and a learning for her.

Estelle Strydom, a former Teenz teacher shares her thoughts about Di's Teenz ministry: “she slotted in easily and, besides having a solid Bible foundation, quickly took on some of the more challenging life skills discussions, as well as introducing some creativity to the curriculum - I remember seeing beautifully decorated cupcakes and prettily packaged bath bombs!

Coming up from the Sunday School, she was able to provide worthwhile background information on and insight into the Teenz, who already knew and loved her. She proved to be a star at organising interesting year-end functions - memorable occasions were the fancy high tea at Willow Bridge and the group pedi session at Glengarry Shopping Centre. Although she had originally planned to "retire" at the end of last year already, she selflessly agreed to go the extra mile this year, to maintain some continuity and stability. No matter what problems she and her family were facing, she was always cheerful and positive. It was a privilege working with this beautiful woman of God!"

Di's memories include teaching in the "Old Hall", a much larger Sunday School then and an abundance of teachers. People she admired and learned much from are Georgia Groenewald, Patti von Molendorff, Cynthia Koning and Jill van Eyssen (Di reckons the "new hall" - officially the Lingen Street

hall - should be named the Jill van Eyssen Hall, such have been her immense contributions and commitment. I'll share more about Jill and the Sunday School next month). She also remembers (and would love to see re-instated) training for Sunday School teachers.

Helen Oosthuizen, a former Sunday School Leader, says of Di: "she has always been able to take things in her stride. I never once saw her frustrated or angry, she simply dealt with the situation at hand and moved on. She was the epitome of calm as she wafted into the Sunday School, basket in hand and ready for whatever came her way. She never burnt the popcorn for the children and made the most delicious meals for the teachers.

She was always available should you need her help or advice and in her calm quiet manner she has always been able to keep things together".

Despite the calm Di exuded she said the end of year concerts were her greatest stress -

we can understand that! But there's been much that she learned too. She realised a few years ago that teaching in the Sunday School (no matter what age children) was her way of witnessing and bringing children to a knowledge and faith in Jesus. Di's great love and passion for children and her teaching enabled her to fulfil her calling to share the Good News with our children. By the way, Di says she also learned patience!

Her message to our Sunday School parents and teachers is this: the numbers of little ones attending Sunday School have grown over the past few years and soon more teachers will be needed. You don't need formal training to teach and you shouldn't feel fearful about teaching. God gives you the wisdom and strength to do the job. And you receive double in return.

Teaching brings humility, huge joy and encouragement. Her concern at the moment is the small number of male teachers. (Men, are you out there?)

Despite Di's Sunday School commitment, she has her own family, her own professional career and has many times been involved in decorating the church for special occasions. On behalf of BPC, let me say thank you to TC, Antoni and Megan for sharing your wife and mom with BPC and allowing us to be blessed by her gifts and abilities. We've been on the receiving end of your sacrifice over a long time. Di, thank you for your "long obedience in the right direction" and blessing our children in such a magnificent way.

Mandy Botsis



**KINDLY SUBMIT ALL ARTICLES
FOR INSERTION IN THE FEBRUARY
MAGAZINE BY NO LATER THAN
WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2019. Ed**

THE BIRTH OF JESUS WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|
| ANGELS | GOD | SACRIFICE |
| BETHLEHEM | GOLD | SAVIOUR |
| BIRTH | HEROD | SHEPHERDS |
| CENSUS | HOLY SPIRIT | SON |
| CHRIST | IMMANUEL | STAR |
| DAVID | JESUS | SWADDLING |
| EAST | JOSEPH | CLOTHES |
| EGYPT | KING OF THE JEWS | THRONE |
| ELISABETH | MANGER | TIDINGS |
| FLOCKS | MARY | VIRGIN |
| FRANKINCENSE | MYRRH | WISEMEN |
| GABRIEL | NAZARETH | |
| GIFTS | PROPHECY | |

From Mondays to Sunday

to serve you

We hope you have a

laugh and play and

And, also make

of the poor and

A blessed New

full of hope and

Much love

Danielle & Flora : Grace

Patience :

Pam & Louise : Pas

Caryl : S

Rod: Friend



*ndays we do our best
at His behest.*

*jolly Christmas fest;
and have some rest.*

*ke a little fuss
ongst all of us;
ew Year too;
d with no fear.*

ve from:

ace Kitchen Ministry

Caretaker

toral Co-ordinators

ecretary

and Minister



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL VISITATION.

We suspended our Men's Fellowship meeting mainly because we decided to focus on our Congregational Visitation. I am glad to report that over 200 people have been visited so far. The visitation has slowed up in recent times although a few visits are still taking place before Christmas. We hope to resume it early next year, 2019.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP REUNION AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - TUESDAY
27 NOVEMBER, 2018.**

We are showing the DVD "DIGITAL COCAINE" which deals with the misuse of modern technology - the Internet, Smart-phones, Video Games, the Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. and the Christian answer on Tuesday 27 November, 2018. While the issues affect all ages, children and young people are especially vulnerable. All parents and grandparents who love their children and grandchildren should try to attend.

We meet with refreshments from 19:00 (7pm) and the meeting proper begins at 19:30 (7.30pm). There is no charge but voluntary contributions towards the cost of refreshments are welcome. The meeting should end not later than 21:00 (9pm).

Some people at last Sunday's services on 18 November, have already indicated their willingness to attend. I shall contact others of our regulars to find out if they are willing and able to attend but, as I have said, the meeting is open to everyone.

MORNING MEETING - TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER, 2018.

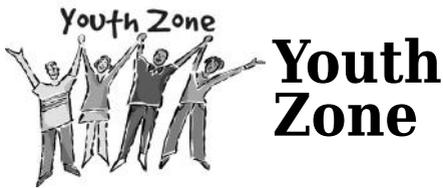
We are also going to show the DVD on Tuesday morning, 27 November, for some of our Seniors preferring to view during the day. The meeting starts from 10:00 with refreshments. The meeting proper will start by 10:15. It should end by 11:30. I have some names already but all are welcome. Please feel free to contact me if you are able and willing to attend either meeting.

Heinrich Asch

tel: 0219110522

cell: 0793023755

email: hdasch@telkomsa.net



Audrey Coetzee has written the following report about the activities during 2018:

Initially we were a bit nervous about the task that lay ahead with Helen Oosthuizen stepping down as co-ordinator after so many years, but we quickly found our new groove, and with the support of dedicated co-ordinators, musicians, teachers and helpers Children's and Teenz Ministry have had a fantastic year.

We have really tried to make the children feel part of the greater church family this year with regular attendance of praise and worship and communion with the congregation. Many of the children have taken part in the leading of worship on these occasions with children singing and playing musical instruments, presenting Bible readings and praying. Rod always makes a special effort to include the children on these Sundays with a life lesson tailored just for them!

Palm Sunday was a special celebration with the children entering the church waving the traditional palms and singing songs of praise to God. They were spoilt with Easter Eggs for their excellent participation and

enthusiasm.

The children spoilt their Moms on Mother's Day with specially decorated cupcakes, hand-made cards and beautiful flowers. Dads were surprised with hand-made keyrings and the whole congregation was showered with love notes during our balloon ceremony!

Family Fun Day, themed "Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat", was particularly enjoyable! The teachers enacted Joseph's story - many of us discovered hidden acting talents we didn't know we had! We then had a series of games and activities for the parents and children to enjoy, with the built-in task of collecting portions of a few Bible verses that when put together at the end completed Joseph's Technicolour Dream Coat. We ended the morning with an Indoor Family Picnic to which the whole congregation was invited. This event was not as well attended as we would have liked, so we hope that in 2019 there will be a better turn-out.

Still to come in December will be the End of Year Celebration when the children will join the congregation, and we will celebrate their dedication to

attending Children’s and Teenz Ministry. After this, children and teachers will enjoy some party treats and fun games to close off the teaching year officially.

Then, last but not least, is the Christmas Variety Show which, continuing with our theme of making the children feel part of the greater church, will involve members of all ages in a musical celebration of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ!

Audrey also worked hard to gather as much information as possible about children who were blessed with opportunities to fulfil their God-given talents in a variety of activities during the year. Congratulations to the following:

Megan Wilson, in Grade 5, obtained her maroon belt in karate.

Matteo and **Chiara Gush** received academic awards at Monte Vista Primary. Matteo achieved over 80% in all his subjects and is in the Top Five in Grade 4, and Chiara is in the Top Ten of her Grade 1 class with special achievements in Maths, Phonics and Creativity.

Malumbo Kanyerere, in Grade 7, is a monitor at Erica Primary School, and is 8th in the Top Ten of her class with 71.3%. She also received

two certificates in the Poetry Eisteddfod.

Jack Watermeyer, in Grade 8, and **Ben-George**, in Grade 5, both achieved Highest Honours in their respective age categories in the Tygerberg Electric Drum Eisteddfod. Ben-George was awarded his academic badge at the Reddam House Grade 5 mid-year prize-giving.

Lehan von Solms, in Grade 4, is on UNISA’s Roll of Honour for his piano exam for the second consecutive year. He also received gold and double gold for his piano performances at the Tygerberg and Stellenbosch Eisteddfods.

Abigail Coetzee, in Grade 5 at Bastion Primary, passed her Grade 2 International RAD Ballet exam with Merit.

Seth Coetzee maintained his Top 20 academic position throughout Grade 8 and served on the Grade Council. He has been reappointed to the Grade 9 Grade Council.

Anthony Oosthuizen, in Grade 8 at Brackenfell High School, achieved the following:

Academics: 2nd in his class, Top Ten in his grade and Top 100 for the UCT Maths Olympiad

Sport:

Hockey - u/16 A school team, u/16

Quagga Zonal team, level O Umpire's Certificate

Athletics - school team for long distance running

Leadership: class captain, member of the Grade Council, RCL (Representative Council of Learners) for 2019 (the highest leadership position in the school for his grade)

Kaylee Oosthuizen, in Grade 6 at Bastion Primary, has also done well:

Academics: 1st in her class and Top Ten in her grade

Culture: Highest Honours for Poetry Eisteddfod with 92%

School Drama Club - achieved gold for her role in their production at the drama festival in Fraserburg

Sport: Hockey: vice-captain of the u/13 A school team; u/13 Durbell Zonal team

Tennis: school 1st team

Ballet: highest mark (79%) in her dance school for her exam

Leadership: Head Girl of Bastion Primary School for 2019

Anya Lock, in Grade 1, scored 100% in her school's spelling marathon. **Dylan Lock** is currently in the 4th position academically in Grade 4.

Rachael Kirk played netball for her Grade 1 team at Bellpark Primary, and her love for reading and success in completing several books a week has been acknowledged. More importantly, this fun-loving, happy, child has gained a reputation for sharing and caring, and for encouraging her friends, particularly in overcoming their fear of swimming.

As a family in Christ we not only help to bear one another's burdens, but also share in celebrations, and we give thanks for the many ways in which our young people, and all who support them, have been able to set an example of hard work, perseverance, humility and faith, as they bring glory to His name through their achievements. May they grow in their trust in Jesus, and in the knowledge that they have been "Blessed to be a blessing"!

Estelle Strydom





Did you know?

Fruits of the Spirit - Joy

When we think of joy, we may picture a young child with bright, sparkling eyes gazing at a Christmas tree or a mother gently cradling her new-born baby as she looks at the miracle in her arms. Joy has many synonyms in English - happiness, pleasure, gladness, delight. But there is a difference between these fleeting moments of happiness and what the Bible means in classifying joy as one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Real joy is a gift from God, and it is something He wants to give us to give to others unselfishly. It is the realisation that God loves us and wants to give good things to His children - those who have repented, been baptised and have received His Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38-39 says: "Peter replied, 'Repent and be

baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord God will call.'"

One of those good things is the Kingdom of God, when Jesus Christ will rule a peaceful and prosperous world: "Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth" (Psalm 67:4).

Our greatest reason to be joyful is that God wants to save us and spend eternity with us. "I tell you will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." (Luke 15:7).

Having joy is a choice. We

choose whether to value God’s presence, promises, and work in our lives. Joy that is gained through selfish desires and activities brings temporary enjoyment – they are the landmines that Satan lays that will then blow our lives apart. God wants us to demonstrate that following His way of life brings real contentment and optimistic feelings.

Why demonstrate joy? If we truly believe what God has told us in the Bible, then we have plenty to rejoice about. There will be times of mourning in this life (deaths of loved ones or life changes) but even in those times of sorrow and weeping, the underlying joy of God’s plan for humanity (including the resurrection of loved ones) must reign in our hearts and actions. Easier said than done, right?

[Sources: <https://lifehopeandtruth.com>; <https://gotquestions.com>]

MYF STEYNBERG



Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.
Henri J.M. Nouwen

Joy is an outward sign of inward faith in the promises of God. Tommy Newberry

Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. Mother Theresa

Choosing Joy is being able to see God’s goodness even when life is hard and messy. Anon



If you look for me at Christmas
You won’t need a special star
I am no longer just in
Bethlehem
I am right there where you are.
You may not be aware of me
Amidst celebrations—
You’ll have to look beyond stars,
And the stores,
And all the decorations.
If you take a moment
From the list of things to do
And listen to your heart, you’ll
find,
I’m waiting there for you.
You’re the one I want to be
with,
You’re the reason that I came,
And you’ll find me in the
stillness
As I am whispering your name
Love
Jesus



Ultimate Strange Views

Last Sunday morning I took a breakfast cruise up the 45 kilometre long Osterffjord out of Bergen, Norway. Yes, it is spectacular cruising between the steep snow covered mountains on mirror-smooth water while eating raw Alaskan King Salmon and brunost on rye. Brunost, for the cheese lovers, is a brown cheese made only in Norway by boiling the whey until it looks like fudge. It tastes like salty fudge - yummy.

It is even better when enjoyed with that yeasty fermented grape juice made in a specific region of France. OK, their cloudberry jam is also good. Cloudberry jam grows wild in the swamps of Arctic Norway and Norway has not succeeded in growing it commercially.

A highlight was when the boat drew up close to a huge waterfall where the brave amongst us could catch an icy shower on the bow. Of course there were some

couples who did the Titanic movie stunt but me, I set a new Cape Town record for showering - one second.

Those of us who were brave/stupid enough, were rewarded with a glass of Brennevin (burn-wine) made from potatoes and grains. *Giftig!* When a fellow Norwegian cruiser asked me how I liked it, I had to reply that South African diesel tastes much better. Afterwards, sitting quietly in the cold harbour area, a senior lady on a red mobility scooter pulled up next to me. When I replied: "Good Morning" to her "God Morgen", she immediately switched to English with a mile-broad Scottish accent.

When she was not satisfied with my "no" to her "are you a tourist?" she persisted with "then what brings you to Bergen". My boring answer: "cheese and talking about it", did not put her off and she

immediately started telling me about the cheeses she grew up with in the Outer Hebrides.

Then it was my turn to ask her what she was doing in Bergen if she's from that dreary part of Scotland. She's been in Bergen for 43 years and stayed on after her husband, a ship captain, died some years back. Because Bergen is prettier and as there is little difference between the weather of the two areas, she decided to stay. According to her a major difference between the Outer Hebrides and Bergen is that it rains for 20 days less per year in Bergen than the 320 days it rains the Outer Hebrides. To my question what she's doing outside in such cold weather, she replied that she is on her way to church at the Mariakirkin. She had baked real Scottish short-bread for the coffee hour after church and with that she invites me to come with her to church. When I said that sitting for ninety minutes without understanding anything is a bit tough; she replied: "no, the eleven o'clock service is in English".

To my question what kind of denomination it is, she replied: "Anglican, where one has to get-up-and-sit-down many times while reading from a paper together with the reverend.

She's a Presbyterian since birth but because the only English service in Bergen is held in the St Mary's Church (Mariakirkin) by expat Anglicans, she attends it. St Mary's Church is part of the Church of Norway, an evangelical Lutheran denomination of Protestant Christianity and the oldest in Bergen having been built between 1130 - 1180. It was built on the specific site because remains of an unfinished earlier church were found on the site at the time. It withstood several fires during the 12th and 13th centuries but has been rebuilt every time.

The entrance portal is the first thing that caught my attention because there are four mullions with the door in the middle. Each mullion has a different pattern; one with plants, the other with animals and another with ornaments which looked like

those I have seen in old Roman churches in France.

My first thought was that the church fathers could not agree what the portal mullion was to look like so they made four to satisfy each faction. The pulpit is a work of absolute beauty and not like anything I have ever seen in the many cathedrals I have visited in European countries.

The pulpit and the stair-case leading up to it are divided into eight panels, all richly and colourfully decorated. Each panel depicts women holding something which demonstrates one of the cardinal virtues. Penitence with a pelican, Prudence with a snake, Truth is a naked women, Chastity with two turtle doves, Patience with a lamb, Hope with a dove and part of an anchor, Faith with a book and cross and Charity with two children.

My new lady friend, who was a guide in the cathedral for many years, pointed out that these works of art were made with tortoiseshells and lacquer and

because tortoises are not found in Norway, these must have been "imported" from some East Asian country, for the purpose. The seats of the chairs are heated which is a necessity in a place like Bergen where the temperature seldom goes above 0 degrees for six months of the year. My friend pointed out many people, sitting on specific chairs, "as those have the warmest seats".

It was an All Saints Sunday service with Communion and Reverend Kirk Weisz delivering his sermon from John 11:32-44; focussing on Saint Lazarus while high lighting v43 when Jesus called on Lazarus, who has already been dead for four days, to get up and come out of the burial cave. He put much emphasis on v35, the shortest verse in the Bible, which reads: "Jesus wept", which demonstrates that He, a man with iron strength, also has a velvet touch.

To me Lazarus is one those mysterious Biblical figures; I read in Luke for the first time about him when he is a beggar,

hoping for crumbs from a rich man's table while dogs licked his sores. When both of them die, the rich man goes to hell while Lazarus is put next to Abraham in Paradise by angels.

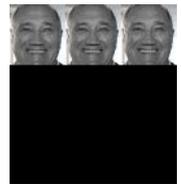
The story, or is it a parable, goes on that the rich man begged Lazarus to put his finger in water to quench the rich man's thirst where he was burning in hell. The death and raising of Lazarus is described in John 11 and only one more time, in John 12, six days after his raising, is he mentioned where he is having a meal with Jesus. And then he disappears from the Bible. The first time I "saw" him again was in 1987 in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, where the Rembrandt masterpiece of the dead Lazarus, hangs on the first floor.

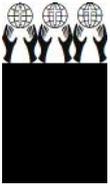
During the coffee session, after the service, while surrounded by people from around the world, I admitted that I don't know why Lazarus was made a Saint; I will have to ask Kees Jongeleen, the BPC Bible encyclopedian. My excuse, for not knowing, was

that I am a young Presbyterian and have not done enough religious studying to have the answer. A gentleman, an ex-seafarer with a fantastic white beard, offered the opinion that Lazarus, who suffered from leprosy, could have been made a Saint when the Order of Saint Lazarus was founded in the 12th century to provide nursing for lepers. He remembered from doing duty in Israel that the leprosy hospital in Jerusalem was founded in the 12th century.

If true; what a coincidence that this leprosy hospital was built during the same time as the church I have just attended - while sitting on a "varm stol".

Watching God at Work
Kobus MULDER





Spread The Word

Mission and Evangelism

Mission and Evangelism

At Christmas time, a time of joy and giving, many people struggle with loneliness, depression, heartache, mourning and despair, more than at other times of the year.

May praying this prayer, from Jericho Walls. 26 October 2018, be a great source of comfort and help.

You are light, and there is no darkness in you. You are the Omnipotent God, my Refuge, my Helper in distress, the One who upholds me and who fulfils everything in everyone; Emmanuel, who is always with me.

You are Jahweh-Shalom, who gives me rest and peace and Jahweh-Shammah, the God who is always there for me and a God of abundance.

You are my Shadow. You know sorrow and pain, the Man of Sorrows; the One whom I love,

my Protector, my Hope, my Song, the Resurrection and the Life, a Stream of Water in a dry land, the One who refreshes me, the Finisher of my faith.

Holy Spirit, You are the Comforter who gives everlasting comfort; the omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent Spirit of God; the One who intercedes for me with the Father, my Intercessor and Helper, the Power from on High, the Spirit who gives new life, the Spirit of love and self-control, the Spirit of adoption as children, the Spirit of faith, the Spirit of praise, the Spirit of joy and the Spirit who gives me rest.

Amen

And now a prayer challenge for the new **school** year as part of the Jericho alls

Be prayer-aware-everywhere:

Teachers and principals face overwhelming challenges daily

in order to further education in schools. Consider starting a prayer group with friends or other parents at one or more of the schools in your area once a week. Find out what the specific challenges are in these schools and pray Scripture into the situation. Pray also for the salvation of the children.

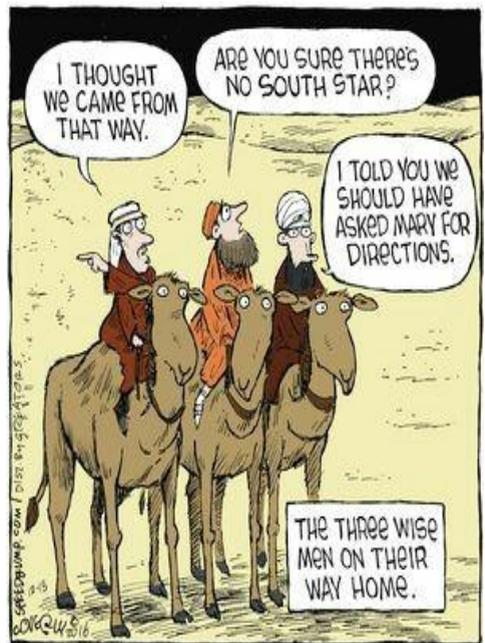
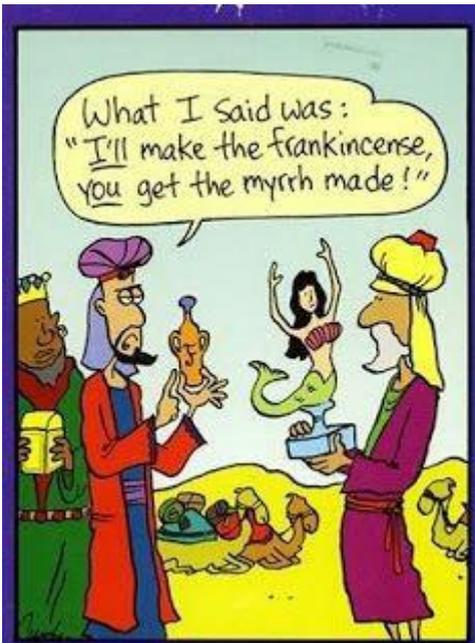
Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
(Proverbs 22:6)

Finally, remember in your hearts and prayers this

Christmas, our missionaries (Marlene, Mike and Lorraine, Andre and Peggy) and all the missionary organisations with whom BPC has had significant contact, e.g. Mission Aviation Fellowship, Operation Mobilisation, Africa Inland Mission, Open Doors, the Bible Society, the Leprosy Mission etc.

A blessed Christmas to all at BPC!

**Katie
and Deirdré**



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Wednesday 10:00	Venues rotate	Gill Goodchild	084 9194428
Wednesday 10:00	La Rochelle	Annemarie Smith	072 222 9954
Wednesday 10:00	BPC - Cry Room	Rod Botsis	082 921 5179
Wednesday 19:00	Welgedacht	Marelize Badenhorst	072 852 0157
Wednesday 19:15	Loevenstein	Chris & Henda Calitz	082 990 8230
Wednesday 19:30	Tygerberg Hills	Jill van Eyssen	082 874 2120
Thursday 9:30	BPC - Cry Room	Denise Asch	078 306 1129
Thursday 19:00	Brackenfell Venues rotate	Rod Botsis	082 921 5179
Thursday 19:30	Oostersee	Joan Rossouw	073 245 2246