

Spring 2021

# *Lakeside Letter*

**God's Grace:**

**For it is by God's**

**Grace**

**that you have been saved through**

**Faith.**

**It is not the result of your own efforts,**

**but God's**

**Gift**

**so that no one can boast about it.**

**Eph 2: 8 GNB**

*The Lakeside Chapel is a non-denominational fellowship to families who come from different backgrounds to worship God, to care for one another and serve Jesus Christ in the Hanglip area. It is part of the body of Jesus Christ on earth and welcomes all who seek to love God and their fellow man.*



## Six Reasons why we can trust God:

He knows us by name; He will fight for us;  
 He has plans for us; He thinks about us always;  
 He is our refuge; He is always with us.

## Table of Contents

Page		Page	
3	From my Stoep ...	15	Chatting to the Family: Paul & Heather
4	Pastor Paul's Page	18	Protective Grace
5	Amazing Grace - Expanded	19	Rip Currents
6	Grace by Dawikeho	22	Life on Earth and Life hereafter
8	In Memoriam – Albert van Niekerk	24	Pete's Dream – a Testimony
8	Since I am in Christ	27	God's Grace amongst us
10	Lines & Notes	30	Flower Arranging matters
11	n' Saamwoon Ooreenkoms vir Seniors	30	Following Instructions
12	Gems of Wisdom	31	Some Church Signs Seen
13	Indescribable Grace	32	Directory
14	I Hear His Whisper		



## A word of thanks ...

I would sincerely like to thank the congregation for all the excellent articles and items which have been contributed to this Spring 2021 edition of the Lakeside Letter. I am greatly encouraged, because I received written items, audio files, telephone calls with stories, WhatsApp messages and in-person communications, all of which can be and are used in compiling the Lakeside Letter. Keep up the great work, good Lakeside people!

Thanks also as always to the intrepid proof-reading team, Bev, Bienkie (ably assisted by Gary) and Olwyn McGill, who has stepped up to fill the gap when Heather had to withdraw due to her varied and numerous other and new commitments. They so patiently await my last-minute submissions and respond with alacrity! You are vastly appreciated! Thank you also to my long suffering husband, Ian, who keeps me fed and watered at all times!

A new era has dawned at Lakeside Chapel. We have said goodbye to Hans and Stefné, who retire for a well-deserved time of rest – we will miss you. And we welcome Paul and Heather Hartwig, who take up the baton as Pastoral couple. Paul and Heather, may your lives be blessed as you bless Lakeside Chapel as our new Pastor and wife.

Lastly, and most importantly, I thank God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit for guiding me for the input and production of this Grace-filled edition.

To God be the Glory!

Acknowledgements:  
 Images & photos either by authors  
 with permission, free clip art sites,  
 or as indicated.



# From my stoep . . .

It is probably the coldest day of the year today. I must confess, I am NOT sitting on my stoep ... It is overcast, raining off and on, with a howling North Wester and a wind chill factor of at least minus two degrees Centigrade (or so it feels!) But, by the grace of God, I have a solid house and warm slippers, and I'm feeling blessed because so many of you have risen to the challenge and submitted excellent contributions on God's grace. Thank you.

Much has been said and written about the grace of God, in this issue and elsewhere, but I want to share a beautiful lesson on God's grace which I received about 25 years ago.

We were living near Nelspruit, and I had a dear friend who lived in Barberton, forty-five kilometres away. She was, still is, a wonderful Christian lady, in her fifties, who loves the Lord dearly. For the purposes of this tale, I will call her Theresa (not her real name). One day a mutual acquaintance called to let me know that Theresa had been attacked in her house in the middle of the day, was tied up and threatened, and almost raped. Thankfully the perpetrator was interrupted and could not complete his evil intentions. I was devastated. Devastated and distraught for her. I couldn't even begin to imagine what she must have gone through, how terrified she must have been, and I wondered how she will ever recover from this frightening experience. I worked myself into quite a state, thinking about her terrifying experience.

I did not know what to do or what to say to her and consequently didn't even call Theresa for a couple of days. But eventually, I plucked up my courage and called. I still didn't have 'the right' words to say to her, and as I was listening to the phone ringing, I sent a desperate prayer to the Lord: "Give me the right words, dear Lord, to comfort and console her!" Well, when Theresa answered the phone, she sounded unbelievably chirpy and positive. We started chatting and after a few minutes I found myself sobbing into the phone in total distress, while she was basically comforting me! That obviously upset me even more, and I said to her: "I called to comfort and help YOU, and here you are, comforting ME, and I don't even need it!"

Her wise response to me was: "You know, God has given ME the grace to deal with this terrible thing, Steph. He has comforted me, held me, and protected my body and my life. I have incredible peace; I have forgiveness in my heart, and I am covered in His Grace. This has not happened to you, Steph. You don't need this grace which I have received. God gives His Grace where and when and to whom it is needed. Today, His grace is sufficient for ME. God never squanders His grace; it is never too much or too little. It is always enough." Theresa was filled with the power of Christ's love and forgiveness in her weakness and time of trial. I had not had to live through that experience and therefore did not need God's grace to deal with it at that time.

Her words have stuck with me all these years. When the Apostle Paul pleaded with the Lord to relieve him of the 'thorn in his flesh', Christ answered him: "My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds it's full expression through your weakness" (2 Cor 12: 9, TPT).

These days, when I look at the world we live in, the anxiety and "angst" which surrounds us, the political, financial, and natural chaos, which sometimes feels as if it is spiralling out of control, I hold onto the knowledge that His grace is enough for me, today, as it is enough for you, today, too.

May His peace be with you, dear friends, as you trust in His abundant grace.



*Stephanie*



# Pastor Paul's Page

I think that many people around the world have been realizing over the years that good education is something which you need to give yourself. To learn something new about a subject may be 30% mentoring and 70% personal exploration into your subject. Any good mentor is trying to do themselves out of a job, to eventually move out of the way and allow the subject studied to directly draw the student into the reality before them. Maybe it's a bit like surfing. I don't surf, but if I wanted to learn to surf, I would probably need 30% good mentoring, to which I would need to add the 70% of personal engagement with board and surf. At this stage in my life, the 70% is not in me – so surfing is probably not to be for me!

Lakeside Letter is a literary organ of the Chapel. Its objective is to 'build up the body of Christ' through creative and healthy content that would nourish and grow the body that we are. I think the Letter is an opportunity for many of us to do some fresh and original thinking and writing. This is not always easy, since there is so much pressure on us to do things that echo other people's originality, rather than be originally creative ourselves. Living authentic lives – writing authentically – begins with being our real selves before God, and then living out of that uniquely creative centre. This honours our Creator, who has made each of us a unique person for unique creativity. As a slogan I read recently said: "*Remember, you are totally unique - just like everyone else!*"

My hope for the Lakeside Letter is that it can contain articles and messages harvested from the distinctive texture of the lives of people at Lakeside. You may not at all think you can write something or are a good writer. But I do know that many of you who read this, can probably write a beneficial article if you follow the 30 - 70 principle mentioned above. Why not consider reading or listening to someone teach on 'how to write', learn to improve and grow in the 30%, and then press on personally with the 70%. The Lakeside Letter is your opportunity for this. Give it a go, sow the seed, and ask God to send his rain onto your ploughed fields.

I would like to thank you all for your contributions in the Letter and encourage both the current and future writers to press on to become 'first-handers' in this 'ministry of the word'. A big 'thank you' to Stephanie for all the 'labour of love' and dedication to the Lakeside Letter. May God be pleased to do something wonderful from this and future editions.



# Amazing Grace – Expanded

Original Lyrics by John Newton

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound

*Lord, the gift of Your Grace is amazing and like a beautiful melody which surrounds and enfolds me!*

That saved a wretch like me!

*I was a wretched sinner before Your Grace found me, Lord, and rescued me from spiritual death.*

I once was lost, but now am found

*Lord, I was lost to sin and darkness when Your Grace found me*

Was blind, but now I see!

*I was like a blind person, staggering in darkness, not knowing or caring where I was going, but You surrounded me with Your Grace, which brought light and purpose into my life.*

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

*It is only Your Grace that touches my soul and teaches me to reverence and fear You*

And grace my fears relieved

*And Your Grace also teaches me that I can surrender all my fears and worries to You!*

How precious did that grace appear

*When I realised that I had received Your gift of grace, I realised the invaluable value of it.*

The hour I first believed.

*As soon as I accept Your grace, it becomes mine!*

Through many dangers, toils and snares

*The enemy threatens me from all sides, with difficulties, dangers and tricks*

I have already come

*My life has been full of difficulties and trials*

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far

*But I have survived and been safe because of Your grace in my life.*

And grace will lead me home.

*And without Your grace, I could never be able to dwell in Your presence.*

When we've been there ten thousand years

*Your grace will be mine for evermore*

Bright shining as the sun

*It is as unextinguishable as the sun*

We've no less days to sing God's praise

*Even after ten thousand years – that is, forever – we will be singing Your praises, Lord*

Than when we first begun.

*Just as we do now. Amen*





By Dawikeho

Many years ago, I was invited to an evening of street evangelism in Hillbrow. Before we went out, I met one of the other Christians about to hit the streets, and we briefly chatted. He asked about my Christian background. I told him how I had

been raised in a Christian family, had always gone to church and at a point realised that Christianity is not a habit or tradition but a personal relationship between myself and Jesus and that is how I became a Christian, by entering into that relationship. Surprisingly he struggled greatly to understand this and to accept it. He had been a drug addict, a hard person and had found Jesus. He struggled to comprehend how a “relatively sinless” person could come to Jesus. From his frame of reference, he was a great sinner needing much forgiveness and was granted it but felt that only great sinners had a right to great forgiveness.

This shows how we so fundamentally misunderstand Grace. Jesus, understanding this, used two parables to prepare us for this:

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 18: 9 - 14 NIV) and ...

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him: ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.” (Matthew 18: 23 - 34 NIV)

What we often do not understand is Grace is **GRACE!** And sin is **SIN.** There is no half sin or small sin and there is no big grace or special grace.

Sin, any sin, separates us from God – totally, completely, and utterly. There is no partial separation. It is absolute.

And yet Grace is just as absolute. Grace through Christ restores us and brings us to God as completely and utterly as sin separates us. There is no partial salvation. No stages or levels to be achieved. Grace is absolute. We are either redeemed and under grace, or we are in sin and separated from God.

What we need to keep in our minds is to **KNOW** this. And not to be like the Pharisee or the unforgiving servant.



# In Memoriam

## In Memory of Albert

**George Green**



Albert van Niekerk was indeed a remarkable man. Highly qualified in the accounting field, he was nevertheless quiet, unassuming, and humble – to the extent that it took time to get to know the real Albert – a person unwavering in his faith, dedicated, determined, dependable, resilient, rock-solid. Added to this was a keen sense of humour, a genuine concern for the well-being of others, and an inability to say anything bad about anyone. Albert was truly lovable, as his family, friends, neighbours and co-workers in church and community all testify.

Soon after arriving to take up permanent residence in Betty's Bay, Albert and Elda joined our home-cell group. It was entirely natural that Albert ultimately take over the leadership of the group. His knowledge of the Bible, of both Old and New Testament, was remarkable. Often during cell meetings Albert would at some point break away from the topic at hand to share, with great excitement and enthusiasm, some new insight or discovery arrived at during his recent reading of the Word. On concluding, his characteristic "isn't-that-amazing!" look would invariably be directed at one and all of us.

Albert loved his garden and its mountainside setting, and relished the challenge of cultivating the more showy mountain species alongside carefully selected fynbos plants bought from various nurseries. As a neighbour with similar interests, I could hardly walk past without being called in to inspect or admire or identify a specimen, or express an opinion on how best to achieve some gardening objective. I miss these exchanges greatly. Another common interest we discovered as we got to know each other better was one from years gone by – road running. We could share memories of many traditional courses we had both run. Albert's pinnacle was much higher than mine. He successfully ran the Comrades at an advanced age, another example of the resilience and determination in his make-up.

Albert served a full term on the leadership of the Lakeside Chapel as Elder, during which time he also served as treasurer and leader of the audio-visual team. His financial expertise made it necessary that he continue as treasurer even after his term on the leadership had ended. Besides his deep church involvement, Albert never shied away from involving himself in broader community matters. For many years he was a member, and for a period also chairman, of the erstwhile Hangklip Men's Fellowship, participating enthusiastically in community projects and social events alike. He was a member and strong supporter of Hangklip Community Care Centre and served as liaison between the Chapel and the centre. During the hard lock-down period at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, Albert took the lead in establishing a WhatsApp Care and Share group for his immediate neighbourhood to facilitate mutual support and combat isolation.

Albert passed away after a short illness on 13 July. He was completely at peace, with no doubt in his mind that he was destined to be with his Lord, and that the loved ones he was leaving behind would remain in the Lord's care. His final words to Elda, echoing this conviction were: "Ek is lief vir jou en ek is lief vir die Here".



*Elda and family would like to say a sincere Thank You  
for all your prayers for Albert during his illness  
and for prayer and support subsequently received.*



# Since I am in Christ, by the grace of God I...

Compiled by Marion Green

Romans 5: 1	have been justified (completely forgiven and made righteous).
Romans 6: 1 - 6	have died with Christ and died to the power of sin's rule over my life.
Romans 6: 4	live and behave in newness of life.
Romans 6: 12	am dead to sin, alive unto God.
Romans 6: 23	have eternal life.
Romans 8: 1	am free forever from condemnation.
1 Cor 1: 30	have my life in Christ Jesus (by God's doing), whom God made my Wisdom, our Righteousness, our Sanctification and Redemption.
1 Cor 2: 12	have received the spirit of God into my life that I might know the things freely given to me by God.
1 Cor 2: 16	have been given the mind of Christ.
1 Cor 6: 19, 20	have been bought with a price. I am not my own. I belong to God.
2 Cor 1: 21	have been established, anointed, and sealed by God in Christ.
Eph 1: 13, 14	been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge (a deposit/down payment) guaranteeing my inheritance to come.
2 Cor 5: 14, 15	Since I have died, I no longer live for myself, but for Him (Christ).
2 Cor 5: 21	have been made righteous.
Gal 2: 20	have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me (the life I now living is Christ's life).
Eph 1: 3	have been blessed with every spiritual blessing.
Eph 1: 4	have been chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blame before Him.
Eph 1: 5	was predestined (determined by God) to be adopted as a son.
Eph 1: 6	am accepted in the Beloved.
Eph 1: 7, 8	have been redeemed, forgiven, and am a recipient of His lavish grace.
Eph 2: 5	have been made alive together with Christ.
Eph 2: 6	have been raised up and seated with Christ in heavenly sphere.
Eph 2:13	have been brought near by the blood of Christ. No longer an outsider.
Eph 2: 18	have direct access to God through the Spirit.
Eph 2: 19	now share citizenship with the saints and belong to God's household.

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. Eph 2: 4 - 5*



Eph 3: 3, 4	get direct revelation into the mystery of God.
Eph 3: 12	may approach God with boldness, freedom without fear & confidence.
Eph 3: 18	have the power to approach and grasp with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love.
Eph 3:19	have a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself.
Eph 4:1	have been called to God's service.
Phil 4:13	have strength and can do all things in Christ Who empowers me.
Col 1: 13	have been delivered from the control and dominion of darkness and have been transferred into the Kingdom of His Son of His love.
Col 1: 14	have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins (the debt against me has been cancelled). (See Col 2: 13, 14)
Col 1: 27	have Christ within me, my hope of glory!
Col 2:7	have been firmly rooted in Christ and now being built up in Him.
Col 2:11	have been spiritually circumcised (my old, unregenerate nature has been removed).
Col 2: 10	have been made complete in Christ.
Col 2: 12, 13	have been buried, raised and made alive with Christ.
Col 3: 1 - 4	have been raised with Christ. I died with Christ. My life is now hidden with Christ in God. Christ is now my life.
2 Tim 1: 7	have been given a spirit of power, love and a calm and well balanced mind and discipline and self control.
2 Tim 1: 9 and Titus 3: 5	have been saved and called (set apart) according to God's doing.
Heb 2: 11	am sanctified and one with the Sanctifier (Christ), and He is not ashamed to call me brother.
Heb 4: 16	have a right to come boldly before the throne of God (the throne of grace) to find mercy and grace in time of need.
2 Peter 1: 4	have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by which I am a partaker of the divine nature (God's nature).
John 14: 4	know the way to my Father's house.
John 15: 7	can ask and it will be done for me.
John 15: 15	am called Jesus' friend because he has made known to me everything He heard from His father (Our Father).
John 15: 16	have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
John 16: 27	am loved by my Father.

*For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. Rom 6: 14*



# Lines and Notes . . .

Hans van Dyk

Dear Members and Friends,

We have reached the point where this will be our last “Lines and Notes”, and I want to thank you all for walking with us in this season that has now ended. Like everyone and everything else, we have been impacted by the global pandemic but look forward to the future and a new and dynamic season.

For myself I have felt disappointed that there has not been more evidence of a world-wide spiritual awakening and revival. For many people it is just “business as usual plus virus”. One has to trust that the Holy Spirit is working deeply in the hearts of many to draw them into the Kingdom before it is too late.

One has to realize that for a great number of people all over the world the economic hardships resulting from the pandemic have taken up their main attention. So many are suffering with yet no end in sight. This has reminded me of Psalm 4: 7 where David says (in the NIV translation): “Many, Lord, are asking, ‘Who will bring us prosperity?’” The Hebrew uses the word “*tov*” (good) which in the context is probably well translated by “prosperity”. Isn’t this such a human question?

David, however, directs his eyes heavenward immediately in the next sentence. He invokes the well-known priestly blessing recorded for us in Numbers 6: 25: “The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you”. David’s testimony then is that the blessings of the Lord have filled him with joy or gladness. The Hebrew in this case is in the Perfect tense which is better translated in English past tense like in the ESV. In other words, it is a *fait accompli*, a done deal. He goes on to say that this beats mere prosperity: “more than when their grain and new wine abound” (NASB).

David is sure that this is the way to “peace” and “safety”. It is by the doing of the Lord. (And once more we must remember that the Hebrew word for peace (*shalom*) has a wide meaning, signifying total well-being.) Then David ends by giving us words to steer the course of our life by: “You alone, Lord”, he says, “do this.” Let us pray that this may come to be the experience of everyone, whether in the pandemic or whether after the pandemic, that we put the Lord, and Him alone at the forefront in our lives – not to experience His blessings, but because He alone is Lord and He reigns.



Many blessings and *Shalom* to you all,

*Hans & Stefne*



# ‘n Saamwoon Ooreenkoms vir Seniors

Andre Rabie

Tradisioneel was dit vanselfsprekend dat ‘n man en vrou wat saamwoon, regtens getroud behoort te wees. Gedurende die laaste paar dekades het die situasie egter sodanig verander dat saamwoon (“cohabitation” of “domestic partnership”) deur partye wat nie regtens getroud is nie, algemeen geword het, nie alleen tussen mans en vrouens nie, maar ook tussen partye van dieselfde geslag. Trouens wat laasgenoemde betref, is daar nou selfs wetgewing, die Civil Union Act 17 van 2006, wat voorsiening daarvoor maak dat sodanige persone ook ‘n verbond (“marriage or civil partnership”) kan sluit wat in alle opsigte as ‘n geldige huwelik erken word. Die status van ongetroude persone wat eenvoudig saamwoon is egter in baie opsigte steeds anders as dié van getroudes; daar is nie dieselfde erkenning en beskerming deur wetgewing nie. Daar was wel ‘n ontwerp Domestic Partnerships Bill wat reeds in 2008 gepubliseer was en hierdie situasie wou reël, maar nog nie in wetgewing vervat is nie. Daar is ‘n neiging te bespeur dat saamwoon verhoudings ook betrek gaan word deur bepalinge soortgelyk aan huwelikswetgewing.



Die behoefte wat deur hierdie artikel ondersoek word, is vir mans en vrouens op ‘n gevorderde ouderdom, wat na die dood van hul onderskeie eggenotes graag die res van hul lewens saam wil deel, maar nie ‘n regsgeldige huwelik wil sluit nie. So ‘n huwelik mag nadelige gevolge meebring wat gewoonlik voortspruit uit aspekte wat verband hou met die moontlike verlies van finansiële voordele uit hul vorige huwelike, bv wat partye se boedels, pensioen of mediese fondse betref.

Sodanige verhouding val in ‘n heel ander kategorie as ‘n blote saamwoon deur jonger ongetroude partye. Daar is geen sprake van kinders uit so ‘n senior verhouding nie en loopbane is gewoonlik verby en partye afgetree.

Die Bybel bevat geen formele vereistes vir partye om getroud te wees nie. Toe God man en vrou geskep het en hulle aangesê het om saam te lewe en een te word, was daar natuurlik ook geen owerheid of staat nie. Hoewel Christene hulle volgens die Bybel moet onderwerp aan die owerhede wat oor hulle gestel is, bestaan daar geen owerheidsverbod op partye om saam te woon nie. Die reg het wel voorskrifte vir partye wat ‘n huwelik wil sluit, maar daar is geen verpligting dat partye wat wil saamwoon, hierdie voorskrifte moet volg nie.

Die betrokke weduwees en wewenaars kan ‘n informele geleentheid reël, waar die bevestiging en inseëning van die verhouding behartig word deur ‘n Christen vriend of vriendin. Familie en vriende moet die getuies by so ‘n geleentheid wees. Al is so ‘n ooreenkoms nie ‘n regsgeldige huwelik nie, sal die bindkrag en status daarvan – as ‘n belofte voor God – oneindig sterker wees as ‘n staatshuwelik, wat in elk geval vandag maklik ontbind kan word. ‘n Christelike ooreenkoms weerspieël immers die verhouding tussen Jesus en die kerk, wat gekenmerk word deur wedersydse liefde, getrouheid en ‘n dienende gesindheid.

In die lig daarvan dat daar geen pasgemaakte wetgewing is waarvolgens bogemelde verhouding gereël kan word nie en dat daar ‘n behoefte bestaan aan spesifieke bepalinge vir hierdie verhouding, is dit baie belangrik vir die partye wat wil saamwoon om vooraf ‘n regsgeldige, afdwingbare ooreenkoms te sluit wat die aard, regte en verpligtinge van hul verhouding sal reël. Dit raak ook hul onderskeie kinders, ander verwante en ander belanghebbendes. Aspekte soos finansiële kwessies, balansstate van elk se bates en



verpligtinge, die bevestiging van hul afsonderlike boedels, onderhoud en bydraes tot die gesamentlike huishouding, woonplek, versekering, beëindiging van die verhouding en erfenis behoort in die ooreenkoms aangespreek te word. Dis beslis raadsaam om hieroor regsadvies in te win. Daar moet egter onthou word dat selfs die beste kontrak geen finale beveiliging daarstel nie; die partye se gesindheid en integriteit is deurslaggewend en die beste waarborg sal dan uiteindelik hul mede-Christenskap wees.

Afgesien van die vreugde en kameraadskap wat deelgenote in hul goue jare deur so 'n verhouding kan ervaar, is daar ook verdere voordele: anders as wat die geval is mbt 'n huwelik na egskeiding, waar byna alles verdeel moet word, vind verdubbeling dikwels plaas in so 'n kameraadskap saamwoonooreenkoms: daar is gewoonlik twee stalle kinders en vriende; twee wonings, twee voertuie en twee boedels.



Andre Rabie writes: "A somewhat similar article was sent to the Christian journal, Juig, and they have no problem with my article also being used for the Lakeside Letter. I was a member of Lakeside Chapel for many years until 2012, when I moved to Somerset West after the death of my wife." Ed.

## Gems of Wisdom

"WE ARE THE BIBLES  
THE WORLD IS READING;  
WE ARE THE CREEDS  
THE WORLD IS NEEDING;  
WE ARE THE SERMONS  
THE WORLD IS HEEDING."  
BILLY GRAHAM

God  
never said that the  
JOURNEY  
would be easy,  
but He did say that the  
ARRIVAL  
would be  
worthwhile

God has perfect  
timing; never early,  
never late. It takes a  
little patience and it  
takes a lot of faith but  
it's worth the wait.

From the fullness of his  
grace we have all received  
one blessing after another.  
John 1:16



# Indescribable Grace

Ian Milne

When thinking about the theme for this Lakeside Letter, I started wondering: What is Grace? It is a word that is used often and in many different contexts.

According to the Oxford Dictionary grace means:

- 1 Smoothness and elegance of movement. As in: “she moved with effortless grace”.
- 2 Courteous good will. “He had the good grace to apologise”.
- 3 To bring honour or credit to someone or something by one’s attendance or participation. “He is one of the best players ever to have graced a tennis court”.

(I suppose one could also say that a player like Faf de Klerk graces the rugby field, but I think I would draw the line at calling rugby players “graceful”!)

As one can see, none of these definitions come anywhere near describing God’s perfect grace. His “Amazing Grace”.

According to Wikipedia: “*Grace is understood by Christians to be **a spontaneous gift from God to people—‘generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved’—that takes the form of divine favour, love, clemency, and a share in the divine life of God. It is an attribute of God that is most manifest in the salvation of sinners**”.*

This certainly gets closer, but my feeling is that it is almost impossible for us to really understand the depth and breadth of God’s grace, mainly because it is a concept that is foreign to us humans, creatures of God’s creation. We are so used to our “*Quid pro quo*” approach—nothing for nothing, I’ll give you something, but then you owe me—that we find it very hard to understand that God is offering us EVERYTHING without us having to earn it. In fact, there is no way that we *can* earn it! God’s grace is in and over every part of our lives. It is like the cement in concrete which holds together stones and sand.

To quote from Richard Rohr:

*“The goodness of God fills all the gaps of the universe, without discrimination or preference. God is the ‘Goodness Glue’, the love that holds the dark and light of things together, the free energy that carries all death across the Great Divide and transmutes it into Life. Grace is what God does to keep all things God has made in love and alive—forever. Grace is not something God gives; grace is who God is”.*  
*(Richard Rohr 2018: Essential Teachings on Love)*

In our lives I think God’s grace fills the gaps between bad and the good things that happen in our lives; very often when something happens that seems bad or difficult to handle and we bring it to God, He steps in and His grace is what builds the bridge and turns bad to good. Often it is only when we look back that we can see that the reinforced concrete of God’s “unending love and amazing grace” provided the bridge.

I happened to read something the other day that really struck a chord with me: if you were to view the Betty’s Bay coastline on Google Earth from about 3000 metres you will see quite a lot of detail including the general curves and kinks. If you then bring your point of view down to about 500m suddenly there is a lot more detail to be seen; you will even be able to make out cars and small buildings. From 100m even more; you are able to see people and different animals and birds. Once you are standing on the rocks there is so much more with all the life in the rock pools and on the rocks. Look through a magnifying glass and there is more, and a microscope yields yet more. In fact, you could go on *ad-infinitum* showing more and more depth and more levels of creation.



This is what God's grace is like: INFINITE! In other words, we simply cannot define it. We have no words to describe it, and whenever we think we may be able to come near to describing it, we see another level.

Thus, in faith we can confidently face whatever may come in the future knowing that the grace of God is new every day and that He not only sees from a distance, but from every level and His grace goes before us in all situations from huge to microscopic! His love for us embraces every level of our lives. What a mighty God we serve!!

In the words of one of my favourite songs:

**I am a new creation,  
No more in condemnation  
Here in the grace of God I stand.  
My heart is overflowing,  
My love just keeps on growing  
Here in the grace of God I stand.  
And I will praise you Lord,  
Yes, I will praise you Lord  
And I will sing of all that you have done.  
A joy that knows no limit  
A lightness in my spirit  
Here in the grace of God I stand.**

## *I Hear His Whisper...*

*Give Me your time.*

*In My love you are able to do all things, for I strengthen you with My love. People make demands on your time and your thoughts, but I wait for you to come and draw you closer when you choose Me above your friends and family. Come as My dearest one, and I will give you grace for your dearest ones on earth, so you may show them My love.*

*When you give Me your time, I give you My strength. Are you feeling weak today? Then come before Me until you are bathed in power. Sit in my presence and come back to the truths I will remind you of. No human being can empower you, for their weapons are puny and helpless. Trust in My strength, not in the affirmation of others. Watch Me work in your heart as you spend time in My presence. As you sit with Me and unite your heart with Mine, you will be filled with all you need to touch the world. Then I will pour you, full of My love, out upon the earth as My gift and my treasure.*

*Whispers written by Brian Simmons and Gretchen Rodriguez*



# Chatting to the family . . .

## *Lakeside Chapel's new Pastor couple: Paul and Heather Hartwig*

**LL** Paul and Heather, thank you for chatting to us. Welcome as the new Pastoral couple of Lakeside Chapel! To start, we'd like to know where you were born and grew up? And how did you become a Christian?

**Paul** I was born in Cape Town in the late 60ies. I have one sister, and my dad still lives in Pinelands. Our home was a nominally Christian, happy home and we were members of the Methodist church. As a teenager, I started going to a youth group with a friend in Rondebosch, where young people were praising and worshipping in a wonderful way. One evening, at age 16, I talked to the Lord for the first time and surrendered my life to Him. It was a very formative period in my life, and I am most grateful for that time.

**LL** And your story, Heather?

**Heather** I was born in Harare, where I lived for the first 12 years of my life. Then we moved to Pinelands. But I didn't meet Paul then! My parents were committed Christians and after some searching, we ended up in the Salvation Army. It was in the 70ies, a time of charismatic revival and I remember, even when I was a child, the spiritual impact that was having on the youth. We were blessed to grow up surrounded by believers. At around age 9, I realised who Jesus is and believed in Him. During my teens there were some bumps in my faith journey, but never so bad that I turned my back on the Lord.

The next watershed in my life was that just after my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday I was diagnosed with leukaemia. I clearly remember realising that I cannot "do this" on my own. And that was the beginning of a deeper journey of trust and really getting to know what the Bible says rather than just a medical journey. After many tests and false results and investigations, it was discovered that I have an autoimmune disease – Celiac/Lupus combined. Living in the twilight zone of autoimmune health issues has its challenges. But Paul and I have been living like this for a long time and we have learned to wait out the tougher days. Paul has been very gracious and kind in adapting to my unpredictable limitations.

**LL** Heather, thanks so much for sharing this aspect of your life with us. So, how and when did the two of you meet?

**Paul** We met at Strand Baptist Church when I was about 38, and Heather was 36: I was the Pastor, she was the secretary.

**LL** That sounds like a textbook romance! Paul, what was the driving force behind you becoming a theologian, culminating with your doctorate in Theology?

**Paul** Well, when I came to know the Lord, I attended a Baptist charismatic revival youth group, while formally attending the Methodist church. But after my military service I started attending Rondebosch Baptist church and it was through their teaching, preaching, and ethos, and particularly the Bible teaching from the Pastor, something came alive in me towards the Bible that I have not lost. That church was in a way a catalyst for me to discover the Bible, but of course it was the Holy Spirit who led me into ministry. The things of the Bible were mainly the portal for me, and my interest in history helped as well. In spite of my academic achievements, I have never seen myself purely as a college-type teacher, I have always wanted to be first a Pastor and then a teacher, as it says in Ephesians: 'Be a Pastor and a teacher'.

**LL** Tell us a little about your ministry history?

**Paul** After my training in my early twenties at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary, I became an associate Pastor at the Baptist church in Rondebosch. A year later I went to pastor at Milnerton Baptist Church, where I served for 3 years, but I found that quite challenging. I think I was expecting or hoping to find people passionately on fire for the Lord, but I found just ordinary folk instead, who would generally watch more TV than spend time in the Word (laughs). I think I had some romantic illusion - as Eugene Peterson would say - about the Pastorate. This was also the time of the Toronto Blessing in churches, which had quite a big impact on my life, and I had these huge expectations of the church coming alive.

**LL** Was that a great disappointment to you? How did this affect you?



**Paul** It didn't really change anything. I think I can say nothing in my life has changed since my days at Living Hope, in the sense of my passion for the Lord and His people. I just felt like an underwater diver, who spends his time with folks who love climbing mountains. But that didn't stop me loving them. I understand that this is what ministry is about.

I then went on to do my Masters which I completed in one year's full time study. After that, I could not find any suitable position and so started to help a friend in his joinery business and worked with him for about a year or so. I was also meeting with a small group of Christians in Rondebosch on Sundays, and I hoped that might materialise into a church, but it didn't. I then decided to do my PhD in Theology, as I had no other firm direction. I managed to get a bursary from Unisa and finished my PhD just after the year 2000. I then went to teach at the Assemblies of God Bible College out in Milnerton for 2 years. A friend of mine lived in Strand, and I spent most weekends there with him, and that's how I started attending Strand Baptist Church. And then they called me to be the senior Pastor in Strand Baptist church. I was a little reluctant because I realised that being single as a Pastor was very difficult, but I realised later that God had a plan in that Heather was the secretary there and that's how we met. I was Pastor at Strand Baptist Church for 10 years, and then I was invited to teach at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary, where I had studied, and I lectured there for 7 years.

**LL** How does the non-denominational concept sit with you?

**Paul** I think I mostly relate to the way the Baptist Church operates, being mainly Bible based, without much hierarchy, and simple Christianity. I have always felt that Christianity is not about denominations, but about our commitment to the Lord. I am first a Christian, and then I subscribe to a denomination. These things become labels which are prejudiced, often misunderstood. And so I have absolutely no problem being in a church without these labels, just a Bible based Christian fellowship in the Kingdom of God.

**LL** What would you say are the strengths and passions which the Lord has equipped you with, which you are bringing to Lakeside Chapel?

**Paul** Primarily, knowing Jesus, which is what we all should strive for. There are two things very important to me. The one is the congregational community of Christians, and the other is training in Bible knowledge and history. These are two things which I am passionate about. I see the local church as an integrated community, gifted to serve the Lord together, keeping in mind the knowledge that church is made out of ordinary folks. The Body of Christ is the place where we are called to live out our spirituality and our calling. I have a strong sense of the 'common life' we have together as the people of God.

I also bring a love and knowledge of scripture which I have gained over many years and which I am excited to share with the congregation. Through my Bible knowledge and teaching skills, I feel I can offer various ways of outreach to our congregation. This is also why I have left teaching and am keen to get back into the pastoral field.

**LL** Heather, what do you see as Paul's strengths and passions?

**Heather** The way I met Paul was as a teacher. Somebody who can help you on your own journey to get into the Word. That for me was the first thing that attracted me to Paul. He has an ability to share his heart passion and the privilege of having had a life where he has been able to spend time in Scripture. That is a strength.

Also being able to do the 'long time' with people and knowing that it's the 'long time' that builds the relationship, when you journey together in the faith. Which is something I've seen Paul do in the past, and we've also done it together.

**LL** So that is also a strength you have as a couple?

**Paul** I think our strength is also a fusion of those things, because the matrix or the womb of our relationship has been in the church and in these things. Because we were both involved and doing these things together, we fell in love with each other in that context. Both of us wanted to try to have a marriage that preserves that character. That is the blessing of Heather for me, that she is not at odds with my desire to follow my calling. Our positive as a couple is that we bring a package, that we both have a confluence together in the pastoral teaching ministry, we are synchronised.

**Heather** There have been times because of my health issues, I have had to make choices of what I can and can't do, like baking cakes (laughs). I have decided to choose what I think is the most important.

**Paul** I think sometimes one's weaknesses are in opposition to one's strengths. I find sometimes I have a tendency to not put myself at risk in new circumstances, because I just have so many things that I would like to know about, so much to discover, that I find myself reluctant to do certain social things which will distract me from where I am at in my head.

**Heather** One of the things we have learned together is to be involved with your congregation in their homes, in happy and in sad times, that's very important. Not just to be the problem-solver Pastor, but to be doing life together and getting to know one another.

**Paul** I think that there's always the problem of pride trying to sneak in when you have a skill in something relative to someone else. I think it's important to continually live by 1 Corinthians 13, in love and loving and not seeing yourself as a cut above others. These are things I feel we have to be aware of.



**LL** Do you perceive anything as a big need in the Church in general and perhaps at Lakeside in particular?

**Paul** With regards to the wider church, there are particular challenges in these times, ideologically, culturally and socially in our world, for example regulations to clamp down on discriminatory language etc. And it's going to be more and more difficult for Christians to take a stand on what we believe, without people taking us to court just because we might say something they don't agree with. I think we are entering into a time where the surrounding cultures are becoming more hostile and less tolerant to what we would like to confess. Maybe we aren't really aware of that, but those things, also in terms of socialism and of governments wanting to control more how everybody needs to be in lockstep with what they want us to do, we need to take

cognisance of. Covid has brought this to the fore and we need to look at how we are going to deal with this in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the secular world. Those are very important issues. Also, our understanding of human nature, gender, evolution, etc. are issues we need to address without watering them down. We need to be His witnesses, as we are called to be in Revelation. This is of course the other side of evangelism, when we are just witnessing to what we believe. And then of course Evangelism itself, we need to spread the message of Christ.

I do think the nature of Lakeside Chapel is moving towards transformation from just being a little chapel near the sea, to becoming more of a church with solidarity, unity and cohesion amongst its members, and this is now evident in the need of the church for a full-time pastor. We've got to the stage where we could be more of a church entity. It feels a bit like a convenience church, convenient to be here in Betty's Bay, but maybe we need to be more committed.



Paul & Heather, Heather's mom, Caroline, Heather's brother Ivor and his wife Colleen and their son, Tyler

**LL** Tell us what is your favourite scripture passage?

**Heather** That's quite difficult, because at different times in my life, different scriptures spoke to me more than others. In my 20s, my primary concern was about suffering and healing and death, so 2 Corinthians 4 and 5, where the Apostle Paul talks about seeing the unseen things, and setting your hope on eternity, rather than the seen things; and the first chapter in 1 Peter, where again you're talking about treasure in heaven and how it can't be taken away. These are practical and often spoke to me. But I always turn to the Psalms, because there is always a psalm that meets you just where you are at. I also love the Gospel of John – I return to it again and again – and I also just love reading the history from Genesis onwards. I love the way scripture lives with you, it's not static.

**Paul** I think I can say that at this point, my favourite scripture is Phil 3: Leaving what lies behind, pressing on to what lies ahead.

**LL** And is there a particular characteristic of the Lord that at this time of your life you revel in, or that brings you joy?

**Paul** Possibly the wisdom of God, how He works things out and brings them together. And I would like everyone to experience seeing and knowing His love. Sounds a bit like a cliché but His gracious love, how high and deep and wide that is. The unfathomable love of God to the unlovable, the undeserving.

**LL** My next question is which two biblical characters would you invite for dinner?

**Paul** For me, one would be Paul, to hear his life story and what he meant by some of his writings. And another would be Antipas, he was a martyr we hear about in Revelation. He is the only person in Revelation mentioned by name, and we hardly know anything about him, but Jesus said: "He is my faithful witness". It would be an honour to meet him. So, my two are Antipas and Paul.

**Heather** Maybe I would invite Martha, she might cook for us (laughs). And maybe Mary too, both sisters. Because they are real people, with personalities and they both knew and loved the Lord, and I would love to chat to them about that.

**LL** And lastly, do you have a message for our Lakeside congregation at this time?

**Paul** We are full of faith and hope in following the Lamb together and serving Christ together with them at this time in history. We have a great message of hope which is so needed in this day and age. To God be the glory!

**LL** To God be the glory indeed! Thank you so much Heather and Paul, for sharing so freely of yourselves.



# Protective Grace

Beverley Green

A number of years ago our friend David Buwalda opened his Sunday morning sermon with the words: “Grace is Love with no strings attached.” Before leaving Pretoria, I was to experience a facet of that Grace in a way that seemed impossible to comprehend.

For a period of about ten years, I had had a recurring nightmare in which I was alone at home and in the bathroom when I heard a strange voice in the kitchen and walking down the passage found a man in the process of removing our belongings from the cupboards. I shouted: “What are you doing? Get out!” whereupon he attacked me – and I woke in a cold sweat!

One morning George had left for work as usual. Our younger son, Neville, was at school and his brother, Steven, had just left for university. I was alone and not feeling well, so forgetting to lock the kitchen door, I headed for the bathroom. While there I heard a voice in the kitchen and thinking Steven had left something at home and returned to fetch it, I left the bathroom (as in the dream) and started walking down the passage, to find a man in a blue overall removing our electrical appliances and packing them on the floor for transferal to a getaway vehicle.

By God’s grace that is where the “nightmare” ended. As in the dream, I shouted: “What are you doing? Get out!” This time my voice was much louder and echoed through the empty house. The intruder jumped over the appliances and fled. Our house was split-level, and as I approached the stairs a second individual who was disconnecting the sound system in the lounge followed on the heels of the first. Just about to descend the stairs, a third appeared, much closer than the other two, and rooted to the spot stared up at me with wide frightened eyes. What or who he saw or heard I will never know, but he looked terrified. I ordered him out again and he turned and bolted.

Members of the Flying Squad arrived within four minutes of my call. They sat me down, asked me to describe what had happened, and marveled at my composure. They had just left the home of a woman who had been alone, attacked with a knife and ‘would need years of therapy to survive the trauma’ ... but I had been prepared throughout those preceding ten years; and the detectives couldn’t believe that they were given a clear full report of events and a full description of the criminals. “There but for the grace of God” ... how often do we glibly use that expression? How do we not recognize His grace in the ‘ordinary everyday miracles of life’?

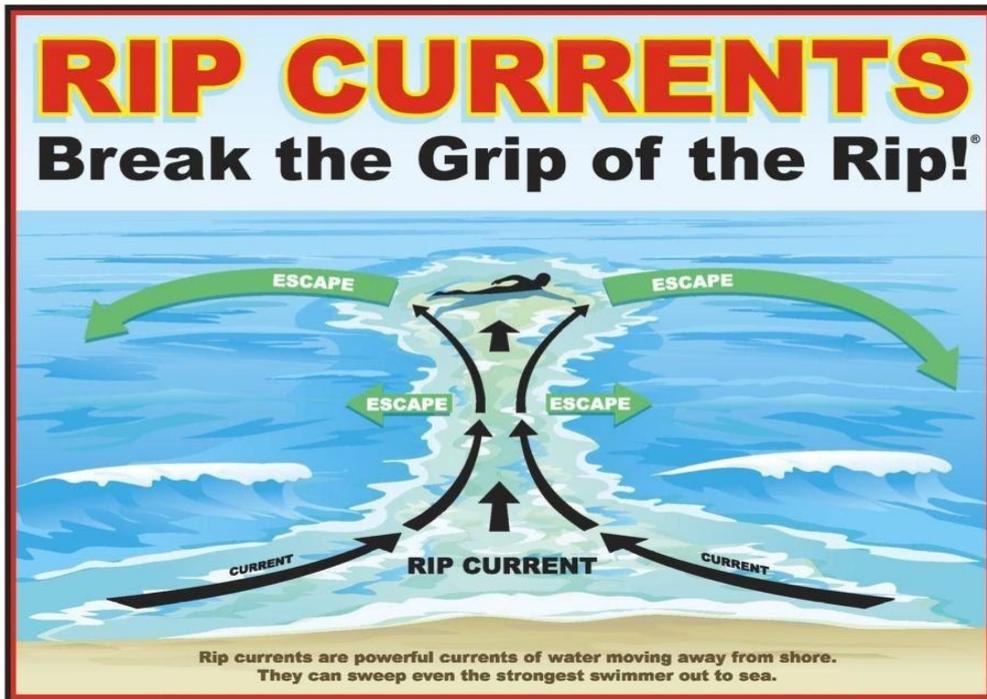
I fetched Neville from school in the afternoon, and he was silent as I related the story. As I parked the car he quietly said; “You have just related the dream I had last night.” Neither of us has had that dream since.

Fast forward 20 odd years. A few weeks after completion, our home in Betty’s Bay was fitted with a security system, and a soft-spoken gentleman came to check its efficiency. He looked familiar, and admiring our finishes, asked if he could see what it looked like upstairs. Gazing through the window at the fynbos and the sea, he said: “There is beauty and peace here that we’ve experienced nowhere else. We lived in Pretoria; I was a member of the Flying Squad...”



# Rip Currents

Janice Anderson



Our coastline is renowned for its rip currents. These billboards are at every beach with the warning:

***“Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.”*** The visual demonstrates the way to escape.

You'll often see surfers standing on the sand dunes gazing out to sea before they paddle in. What are they looking for? Although rip currents are a force not outwardly visible, there are signs that they are there. The surfers have learnt to recognise these signs (for example a break in the line of waves surrounded by smooth water). Surfers don't want to avoid rips; they use them to get out beyond the break. For swimmers though, these signs are just as vital. You don't want to swim there. The natural propensity when you feel the rip pulling you out is to swim against it back to shore. This natural instinctive reaction is the very cause of drowning. It causes exhaustion because the current is stronger.

Life is filled with rip currents, this undertow force tugging and pulling on us. This force is felt in our world, our social systems, relationships, and our own body, mind, emotions, will and soul. This force is the state of sin which we have inherited. Drowning occurs because we try to swim against it in our own strength, thinking that overcoming sin is our purpose and the shore is the goal to be achieved. It's our natural propensity. One of the biggest problems is neither recognising our own tendency to do so, nor recognising when we are doing it. Swimming against the rips has become normalized. Dallas Willard in *Life without lack* says: “The primary means Satan uses to keep the evil pot boiling are the ideas that govern society's individuals. Of central importance are the ideas about what is good and what is right, and how things should be done. It happens primarily through the desire to look good and the desire to be wise... When looking good takes precedence over knowing the good, Satan wins the battle, if not the war.”

Satan is a master of disguising rips. He especially will focus on disguising them in the church. Lakeside Chapel is not exempt, and we would do well to look for the signs that are there. Bob Hamp in *Live differently, lead differently* explains it this way: “Since the fall, our default way of knowing has been centred upon knowledge and doing – knowledge of good and evil and doing right things and abstaining from wrong things. We attempt to build a tower to Heaven on a foundation of our own knowledge, with bricks of good choices held together by the mortar of will power.” Dallas Willard continues: “Satan's main task is to keep our minds elsewhere, anywhere but on God... He presides over the thought patterns, the social organisation, the forces of human society, trying to move them in opposition to God.”



The Apostle Paul felt this and expressed it as “For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.” (Romans 7: 18, 19) Recognising the deception of calm waters, realizing the power of rips, understanding our nature of self-deception and to trust in our own knowledge, insights, and strength, and being sensitive to our own personal rip pulls, is key.

What do we do then when we find ourselves tumbled and submerged, the pull of rip currents setting the “try harder” and “get it right” mindset to kick in? The second half of 2019 found me in the waters with the pull of several rips that had been tugging for some years combining their strength. I was swallowing water in my efforts to overcome and get to the shore. The rips of misuse of power in a social system, discord in some relationships, a flare up in a chronic illness in my body, struggles with psychological and emotional anxiety from past and present trauma, and my own personal sin tendencies, overwhelmed me in their combined strength. Psalm 69 became my song “God, my God, come and save me! These floods of trouble have risen higher and higher. The water is up to my neck! I’m sinking into the mud with no place to stand, and I’m about to drown in this storm. I’m weary, exhausted with weeping. My throat is dry, my voice is gone, my eyes are swollen with sorrow, and I’m waiting for You, God, to come through for me.”

In this weakened state the message that some fellow Christ-loving swimmers broadcast made it harder. It wasn’t so much that what they said did not have truths; it was the weight of emphasis on their solutions – what you know and how you are doing it – coupled with the covert attachment to your value, acceptability and belonging, that was so deadly. They threw out manuals of how to swim and said if I followed this correctly then I’d be safe. The presumption that the shore of improved circumstances, where one can feel good, look good and be good, was the desired haven. The manner and strokes I was swimming were all important, what God required. If I could do more Christian things – attend church, read the Bible, pray harder, fast, just have more faith, believe from the correct doctrinal standpoint and worship in the prescribed manner (with their list of what correct looked like), submit to leaders (in an obsequious way), just forgive and love those who hurt me (by just being “nice”), then I’d stand on the shore, to be applauded over having victory over my sins, being cured and being saved. I had preached this to others myself, so I redoubled my efforts to not be sinning. But the current was too strong, and I was exhausted.



In that place Jesus came walking in my stormy waters, His hand grasping under and taking hold of me. He was my visual billboard of grace to escape the rips. His gentle voice without any condemnation, tenderly told me to be still. It was ok. He was there. “Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord ... For the “law” of the Spirit of life flowing through the anointing of Jesus has liberated us from the “law” of sin and death.” (Rom 7: 24 - 8: 2) Christ ripped the power of the rips! He overcame its power, so it is no longer deadly. It wasn’t dependent on how I swam, my ability or strength to hold on, but His hand of grace holding me. And then in His grace

He provided practical ways to live on in freedom.

On the boards on the beach, there are four mentioned ways to escape rips: Don’t fight the current. If you can’t escape, float or tread water. Swim out of the current obliquely. If you need help, call or wave for assistance. This I applied to my soul.

**\*Don’t fight the current:** A quote from John Ortberg in *Soul Keeping* struck me: “Many Christians expend so much energy and worry trying not to sin. The goal is to sin less. In all your efforts to keep from sinning, what are you focusing on? Sin. God wants you to focus on Him. To be with Him. ‘Abide in Me.’ Just relax and learn to enjoy His presence.” God’s Spirit reminded me that weakness is the doorway to grace. “My grace is always more than enough for you, and My power finds its full expression through your weakness.” So, I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I’m weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me.” (2 Cor 12: 9) Instead of trying harder, I started trying softer, just conversing *with* my Father in every activity, and that was enough. I did a “doing *for* God” fast.

**\*If you can’t escape, float or tread water:** At 4am, mind treadmill times, when anxiety is gnawing my gut, when script writing proposed conversations and erudite arguments are rehearsed ad infinitum, I float. For me floating looks like praying breath prayers. Breath prayers combine deep breathing exercises with



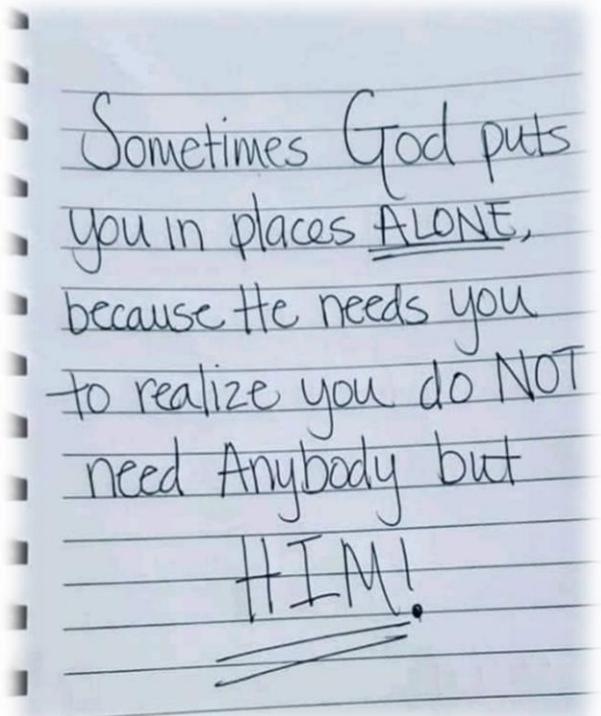
prayers of meditation on Scripture to help calm your body and focus your mind on God. And then I sing in all places and tonk it out on the piano, infusing my heart with music that reminds me who God is. "Be still and know that I am God." (Ps 46:10) His authority is a weightier voice.

**\*Swim out of the current obliquely:** 'Metanoia' is a beautiful word that means to think differently, to go in a different direction. It's an orientation of turning away from old and turning towards a new way of being. It's translated as repentance. The turning away from trying harder, the surrender of my will to get it right to be righteous, to stop trying so hard, to not be anxious, was life-saving. I rest in His arms of love. A verse from Isaiah sums up this salvation: "In repentance and rest is your salvation; in quietness and trust is your strength." (Isa 30: 15) My salvation and strength come from an orientation and focus, the direction I swim and who I am looking at and listening to. Repentance is a every moment orientation. "My heart says of you "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek." (Ps 27: 8) I seek His face more than His hand and by His grace He gives from His hand too.



**\* If you need help, call or wave for assistance:** "Oh, Lord God, answer my prayers! I need to see Your tender kindness, Your grace, Your compassion, and Your constant love. Just let me see Your face and turn Your heart toward me. Come running quickly to Your servant. In this deep distress, come and answer my prayer." (Ps 69: 16, 17) I waved and the Lord was there. I found Him in Scripture, in walking in nature, in reading books, through music, going for spiritual counselling, in the arms of my wise, kind husband, loving children and family, who have compassionately walked through this with me. Godly friends on endless coffee dates, who patiently listened to my jumbled wrestling to make sense of it all, held me without trying to fix me. It wasn't the activities that saved me. They were just the tools. They pointed me to the Truth and the Way: a person. Jesus Himself breaks the grip of the rip and these dear ones were His comfort.

The circumstances of those rips are still present, but I am not drowning under them. The pulls are still strong and bring fear and anxiety to my heart, but I look to Him who holds me, knowing its ok to not feel ok. My value, acceptability and belonging are secure because of the power of His love. Oswald Chambers in **My Utmost for His Highest** understood rip currents and expressed it succinctly. "If you can stay in the midst of turmoil unperplexed and calm because you see Jesus, that is God's plan for your life. Not that you may be able to say: "I have done this and that and now it's all right." We have an idea that God is leading us to a certain goal, a desired haven. He is not. To God the question of our getting to a particular end is a mere incident. What we call process, God calls the end. God's purpose is that you depend on Him and His power now. God's purpose is that you see Him walking on the waves. No shore in sight. No success. Just the absolute certainty that it is all right because you see Him."



Janice sent an amusing anecdote to this article:

"My daughter Sharon went for a minor medical procedure that required her to be sedated. She was very woozy when she came around, but it made for a hilarious video chat. I told her I was writing about rip currents and how mindsets can pull us under. She said Jesus walks on water to rescue us. Then she told me that if Jesus went kite surfing, he wouldn't use a board, just his feet. Very earnestly she said to please, please put that in the article, but to put it in in a Scottish accent!" 😊 Ed.



# Life On Earth And Life Hereafter

Raymond September

**“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Phil 1: 21 NIV)**

What we do and make of this life here on Earth is important, but our preparation for the life hereafter is more important. The decisions we make in this life will determine our future destiny.

Life here on Earth is only for a short time. The average time frame the Bible gives us is three score and ten, which is 70 years. It seems today that many people die before they reach 70 years. Why? Disease, violence, drugs, natural disasters, famine, and the appalling living conditions of a large part of the population of the world, are cutting people's lives short. Let me quote the first words of the hymn *"Life at Best"*, written by William Kirkpatrick:

*"Life at best is very brief. Like the falling of a leaf.  
Like the binding of a sheaf, be in time.  
Fleeting days are telling fast.  
That the die will soon be cast.  
And the fatal line be past, be in time."*

Remember, we don't have much time left in this life to secure our future life. Are you, who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, ready to meet your God? The prophet Amos said these words in Amos 4: 12:

*"Prepare to meet your God".*

Our life here on Earth and the life hereafter, are like two sides of a coin.

**One side of the coin is about life here on earth:**

Here there are two questions to consider:

What are you living for? Paul says: **"For me to live is Christ"** (Phil 1: 21a). But Paul was not always a Christ follower. His old life was bad news, he hated the Christians, persecuted them, and lived to please the authorities who approved his evil work. What about us?

Some people live to accumulate as much money as possible. They don't care how they do it, and resort to money laundering, corruption, and stealing other people's money. Some people live to accumulate material things. There is no more space in their homes and storerooms. They aspire to have more and more things, and yet they are not satisfied. And some people live for fame. Their lives revolve around trying to climb the ladder of success to become an idol or icon. Life to them is about power, prestige and prominence.

King Solomon, in the Old Testament, searched for the meaning of life. He searched for wisdom and wealth, and he searched religion and science for answers. He became obsessed with materialism. He says in Ecclesiastes that he tried everything under the sun to find meaning in life. But then he comes to the point where he admits that "all is vanity and meaningless" (Eccl 1: 2). He became disillusioned, having given up on all things that give the appearance of satisfaction and fulfilment, and offered a philosophy of resignation. I think this is the best thing that Solomon ever did. At the end of Ecclesiastes, he finds the way to a meaningful and true life. He states: "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them" (Eccl 12: 1) and he goes on to add: "Fear the Lord and keep His commandments (Eccl 12: 13b)".

Who are you living for? Some people only live for their families. A single mother may live only for her child. Paul, in his past life, lived for his Jewish family tree and his Jewish traditions.



Before he became a Christian, he only had confidence in the flesh. He was living for accomplishments and for his outstanding pedigree (Phil 3):

- a) He was a child of the covenant. He belonged to an elite group of people.
- b) He was from the tribe of Benjamin, its highest aristocracy.
- c) He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. He came from the purest Jewish descent.
- d) He was one of the Pharisees, the strictest sect of orthodox defenders of the Mosaic Law.
- e) He was a religious fanatic. In blind hatred he persecuted the church of Jesus Christ and maintained a zeal for all his Jewish traditions.

Then one day, there was a change in Paul's life. He had a personal encounter with Christ (Acts 9) and entered a time in his life where he counted all things of his life as loss, that he may gain Christ.

### **The second side of the coin is about the life hereafter:**

This is the life hereafter: **"To die is gain"** (Phil 1: 21b)

What gain is there for all those who die in Christ? The gain is immediate. The moment you close your eyes, and you breathe your last breath, your soul separates from your body. The Bible refers to an immediate transition for a believer in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5: 8 says: "...we leave our bodies behind to be at home with the Lord" (TPT).

The gain is incalculable. We cannot know exactly what Heaven is going to be like for God's children, but let me mention a few things I read in the Bible about Heaven.

- a) John 14: 1 - 4 speaks about a place where there will be beautiful mansions for us.
- b) We will have perfect bodies with no pain, no sickness, no tears, and no suffering (Rev 21: 4).
- c) There will be no night or day in Heaven because the glory of God gives it light (Rev 21: 23).
- d) 1 Corinthians 15: 55 - 57 describes our victory over death and
- e) We will be delivered from Satan, and from the power and presence of sin.

The gain is inexhaustible. Those who die in Christ will be with Him forever and ever. Eternity has no end; it is boundless and eternal. In this life we are governed by time and history. When Jesus comes again, history and time will end, and His children will be ushered into eternity.



The question is: Where will you spend eternity? I leave you with two quotes:

*"Let God have your life, He can do more with it than you can!"*

*D.L Moody.*

*"Take care of your life and the Lord will take care of your death."*

*George Whitefield.*



# Pete's Dream – a Testimony

Sue Maas

*Sue has very kindly shared this amazing testimony of a dream, which her brother Pete Garvin had. Pete sadly went to be with Jesus at the end of June 2021.*

Pete recorded an audio message of his dream:

"I had a very powerful dream last night. It was not something that I had expected or anticipated in any way, nor had I been thinking about anything like this before I went to sleep. It came out of the blue, very short, very powerful, and it literally had me in tears afterwards.

In the dream, Debbie and I were with Jesus, and he took us to some kind of garden, nothing special about it. There was a man kneeling there. I could sense and see that he was really angry, that he was full of sin and that he was a very hard person. Just by looking at him, I knew immediately that he was a bad person, and not someone one would want to associate with.

And the amazing thing was that Jesus went up to him, took him by the hand and they walked together to this doorway. Again, nothing special, just an ordinary green wooden door. No words were spoken but I could sense what Jesus was saying and what he was feeling. He took this person by the hand to the door, and I could sense there was an incredible regret in Jesus' heart, that there was a real heaviness and sadness about Him. It was as if He was with someone He was very close to, somebody He really cared for and loved. He walked up to the door with this guy, and He opened it, and this person walked through the door, and the door closed. I never saw what was on the other side of the door, I just sensed that it was very dark and empty.



After I woke up, the dream weighed heavily on my heart, and I was replaying it in my mind, trying to figure it out. This is the message that the

Lord gave me about my dream:

I firmly believe the Lord was saying to me that this is how He feels about every sinner who dies and goes to hell. Jesus was leading that person to the doorway, to the gates of hell. And the thing that struck me was that Jesus took time to personally walk with that person to the door. It was astounding to me that He cared so much for every sinner, that He will go out of His way to take his hand, as if it was the last opportunity to be with that person, a last gesture of love, saying: "Here, let Me walk with you the last few yards, the last few minutes of our time together, I'll go with you".

I must add that it was very clear that that person went to that door of his own accord. There was no resistance in him, he walked to that door accepting that he was going there by his own choice. The sad thing is, that Jesus never wanted this to happen, but He would not in any way stand in the way of God's process of judgement, God's righteousness and holiness. It was a pre-ordained thing, it had to happen. And yet, in spite of it happening, in spite of this person's wickedness – and he was truly a wicked person, full of anger, full of selfishness – Jesus took time and said, "Let me walk with you these last few meters, to be with you and spend your last few moments with you, before you go to hell".

I have no doubt in my mind that this dream came from God. I could feel Jesus' hurt, I could feel His suffering and the pain Jesus felt at having to take that man to the gates of hell, to have to open that door and allow him to enter.

The other thing communicated in my dream was Jesus' intense desire for us to spread the gospel. He communicated to me that He longs to see people brought out of that situation. People go to hell because they choose to go to hell, there is no other reason for it. It's not because God wants them to go to hell. The bible is clear on that. People choose their path to go to hell by virtue of their lifestyle, their selfishness, the tainted heart of a sinner, but the thing that really



struck me is that Jesus will do anything and everything that he can to prevent that from happening. And He has appointed us His proxy. What really struck me is that the gospel is the only thing that can prevent a person from going to hell. There is nothing else. The proper presentation of the gospel is what will arrest a person's mind, as the Holy Spirit works through that presentation. But it's not something we should be doing or striving to do in our own understanding or our own strength, we have to allow ourselves to become Jesus' proxy. We've got to be able to present the gospel as He wants us to present it. We speak on His behalf and the only way to speak on His behalf is to feel as He feels for that individual. It is vital for us to see an individual as God sees him, to know how God feels about that person's heart. We need to understand that, before we can help that person. And the only way of doing that is to stand in as a proxy, so that Jesus can speak through us, that He can use us as a substitute for His own words. Only then will that person pay attention. Only then will the Holy Spirit arrest that person's attention and he can truly see himself for what he is. We've got to speak on behalf of Jesus so that His words speak through us. There is no other way we can do it. That comes through prayer and understanding, and it doesn't have to be a long drawn-out thing.

If God arrests your attention and shows you someone and tells you: "This is how I feel towards him", then just pray: "Father God, Holy Spirit, please give me the words I can speak, let me speak on Your behalf. I do not want to say any words which may have no value or no input into that person's life. You, Lord, have the words for that person, so let me speak on Your behalf, so that he or she will pay attention!"

And perhaps Jesus won't have to lead that person to the door of the gates of hell."

*But there is more to this story: Debbie Garvin, Pete's wife, shares with us of how Pete came to know the Lord when he was a young man:*

I first met Peter Garvin in 1985. Some members of his family were committed Christians at that time - particularly his brother who had been dramatically saved and never wasted an opportunity to tell Peter about Christ - much to his annoyance. However, at that stage Peter was not interested and pursued a life of adventure and pleasure.

I became a Christian at age 13 and was very committed to God. I had prayed earnestly for my future husband and had even gone as far as to make a list of all the attributes I wanted in a husband - right down to his height! When I first laid eyes on Peter, he stopped me dead in my tracks. I was captivated immediately - it wasn't just his looks - he had a presence about him and in my heart I heard: "This is the man you will marry." As I got to know him, I found that he was as perfect for me inside as well as outside - we clicked on every level, and he was the first boyfriend whom I didn't get irritated with after 2 weeks and I actually wanted to spend more and more time with!

However, there was one rather large problem: He did not share my love for God. He was 7 years older than me, which at age 17, is a lot of years! Everyone warned me about getting involved with him - he was a free spirit and known for breaking hearts. My family, especially my parents, were more than a little alarmed - the warnings came loud and fast from all fronts.

But, against everyone's best advice and initially in secret, we started dating. My rationale was no harm done in dating - if I then find out he's a jerk I've lost nothing. The trouble was, the more time I spent with him, the more I fell in love! Peter behaved like an absolute gentleman with me - he treated me like a rare jewel to be treasured and taken care of. I asked him some years later why he treated me so perfectly, and he said it was because he had found everything he was looking for and didn't want to mess it up - it was like holy ground to him.

I was working on an island at the time, and Peter would dutifully walk me home by 9pm when we were together, and then go and booze it up in the pub with his friends.

For me the internal turmoil was well under way by now and I started bargaining with God: "Save him," I cried "he is the man of my dreams!" I tried at every opportunity to witness to him, but he politely changed the subject each time. Getting desperate, I now started earnestly begging God and making deals



with Him! “Surely it can’t be a big thing, God,” I cried. “He is perfect, he is a good man!” On and on the bargaining and compromising went, and every day faithfully I would go to the little chapel on the island, get down on my knees before the altar, and cry and BEG God to convert Peter.

Peter was away at this time – he had to go on an anti-poaching operation in a very remote part of the Zambezi valley and there was no communication with him, apart from writing letters and getting the occasional bus drivers who passed through that part to post them. Whilst he was away, I cried like my heart would break and my trips to the chapel became more and more frequent and desperate. Finally, after yet another heart wrenching session before God, I heard Him say to me: “Who do you love more – Peter or Me?” “You, of course Lord, I cried!” Then came the reply: “Then lay him down.” This went on for about 2 weeks until finally I surrendered. “Lord, I love him with everything in me, but I love You more – I lay him down.” Brokenhearted, but with my mind made up, I steeled myself to write the ‘Dear John’ letter. However, God had other plans!

In what can only be described as an absolute miracle, that very day I received a letter from Peter that he had written some weeks before. Due to the hit and miss postal system it ‘only’ arrived on that very day!

Peter’s brother had given him a bible for Christmas, and Peter had thrown it carelessly into his luggage. However, while he was there alone in the middle of the bush, he started thinking about the perfection in creation, the meaning of life, etc., and with time on his hands he started reading his bible. He said it was like a light went on and he suddenly saw and understood the divine hand in everything – creation, the fall of man and his sin in the light of God’s holiness!

There in the bush with not a soul around, he got on his knees, repented, and invited Jesus into his heart. He said he knew straight away that something had changed. Their rations were so short that they had been living off ‘Sadza’ and ‘Kapenta’. But Peter had a secret supply of powdered milk with him, which was the ultimate luxury. He had guarded it jealously and refused to share it with anyone. He said he knew he had changed because suddenly he saw everyone differently and started to share his powdered milk with all the guys! He poured his heart out into that letter to me, and when I got it, I cried.

God honoured me because I honoured Him - what I had laid down, He gave back. When we finally met up again, we decided that we would always have God as the center of our relationship, and we based our marriage on this scripture:

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.  
A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken”. (Ecclesiastes 4: 12)

Jesus said to her,  
“I am the resurrection and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live,  
even though they die; and whoever lives by  
believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”  
**John 11:25-26**

DailyVerses.net



# God's Grace amongst us!

## *Neville and Patricia have two Grace Stories to tell:*

### Jason & Simone

Jason and Simone, our son and daughter-in-law, have always been faithful, God-fearing people, trusting the Lord for their lives and their provision. Many years ago, before they were even married, they had been wanting to get their own home. At that stage they were worshipping at the Good Hope Christian Centre in Ottery. They had been praying for a house for some time, and one day someone said to my son that they must read and pray Psalm 91, which is all about falling under God's grace, and His protection in our lives. Jason couldn't quite understand why he was told to read THAT psalm, specifically since he was praying for a house. But, in obedience, they started praying Psalm 91. One Sunday afternoon they were driving around the area, looking for houses for sale. And as they came around a corner, they saw a house with a 'For Sale' sign, and the name of this house was 'Psalm 91'! It was the perfect house for them. They only had a certain amount of money for the house – which wouldn't even buy a small car nowadays – but they spoke to the owner, telling him that they had really been praying for a house, this house. It turned out that the owner was also a Christian, who had been praying for the right Christian buyers for his house. The most amazing thing was that he wanted the exact amount of money for the house, which Jason and Simone had available. The Lord's provision and grace!

But God's grace has always been on Jason and Simone, and I believe it's because they have always been obedient to the Lord. Years ago, Jason had worked his way up in Woolworths to a Managing Director's position, when they started laying off a lot of staff. Jason decided to resign from that position, so that at least 10 or more employees could then keep their jobs.

He then joined the World Food Bank but couldn't reconcile his Christian principles with the corrupt way of business in that organisation. While there, he was approached by a guy named Richard Porter from Britain who wanted to open a business in South Africa. Jason was in two minds about taking this step. One day he was on his way to visit us, and was driving along Porter drive, and as he looked up, he saw 'Business Road'. For Jason this was a sign from the Lord, 'Porter' and 'Business' coming together. He went ahead with this plan, and today he is doing incredibly well – they own factories, and he has just purchased a large home for us all in Bloubergstrand. I see all of this as the Grace of God, especially because they have always been incredibly obedient to the Lord.



Jason, Simone, Sifunda, Adam and Zoe

### The Lord's excessive provisional Grace!

Nick and Louisa asked us to look after their car when they went to Johannesburg. One day I (Patricia) was driving through to Kleinmond, and just idly thinking how much I would love a car like this. It was an automatic which is such a pleasure to drive, and we've never had an automatic car before! As I was driving along, I had this very strong sense of the Lord saying to me: "This car is going to be



yours!" Immediately I shrugged off that thought – that's just not feasible – and quickly forgot about it. But when they came back, Nick asked Neville: "Do you like the car?" Neville responded that it is very nice and yes, we enjoyed driving it, and Nick just said: "Here are the keys – it's yours!" Neville just burst into tears – we had a very old clapped-out car at that time – we just couldn't believe it. People just don't do this sort of thing – It was just unbelievable! Only God can, through His grace in our lives! We are so blessed!

### *Biddy Lubbe shares the following stories of Grace in her life:*

#### **A Happy Tale**

A while ago I decided to have all the dents removed from my car. I had become rather ashamed of them all, so I took the plunge and took it to the panel beaters. I was given a courtesy car to drive whilst the garage worked on it. They took a hefty deposit when they saw all the dents! Anyway, I drove down to Betty's Bay in the courtesy car for my usual week-end visit. All went well till I decided to go for a walk in the rain on Sunday afternoon before leaving again. I sat down at Bass Lake to send a text, removed my glasses to type the text – or so I thought – and when I looked again, the glasses were nowhere to be seen! Perhaps I had not been wearing them? After all, it was raining, and they become a nuisance.

The only thing I could think of doing was to go home, get my spare pair of glasses and return to Bass Lake for a thorough search. When I reached home, by now soaking wet, I realized that I had not brought the spare pair of glasses! My heart sank. I climbed into the courtesy car and inched my way along the road back to Bass Lake. What would I do if I still could not find the one and only pair of spectacles I had? How would I get home to Somerset West that evening? Imagine driving along Clarence Drive in a courtesy car, in the rain and not able to see! When I got back down to the Lake, the search resumed, all the time not really being able to see much.

This went on for what seemed like ages when down the path came a cheerful cyclist, also very wet from the rain. He stopped and asked if he could help me. I accepted with alacrity! In two minutes he had found the glasses, buried in the grass and I almost hugged him with relief. All I know is that his name was David, he lives near the Penguins and God sent him to be my angel that day! So, if anyone knows a David from that part of the world, please let me know, I would love to give him a bottle or two of wine. The grace of God in my life! Thank you, Lord.

#### **A burglary with a difference**

Four months ago, I had a burglary in Betty's Bay. At 4 am, I awoke to the sound of running feet in my living room, not too far from my bedroom where I was sleeping. I immediately phoned my security company and was advised to lock myself in the bathroom and they would be there in a few minutes.

They were, followed by a police officer who remained with me to take a statement. I felt a little dazed and in shock. The window in our living room had been skilfully removed, lent up against the wall and unbroken. The alarm was not triggered as the burglars had placed a huge branch between them and the security beam. As the wind whistled through the now pane-less window, my statement was taken by the officer. The TV and my handbag had been stolen.

I subsequently found out that a family across the river had been burgled at 2 am the same morning. The security company got my call whilst finishing up with them. At 6 am a third burglary took place, further down the road. I was very scared, and it was a horrible experience. But that is not the end of the story.



Why was this burglary different? In January 2021, I had been badly bitten by a dog and it took three months of constant attention to heal. I got to know the family to whom the dog belonged and was aghast when the dog ended up being put down by the vet. The dog was thought to have had a fit. It was the beloved pet of an 18 year-old lad with Cystic Fibrosis in a wheel chair, heading up to write matric.

The family who had been burgled at 2 am were very close friends of the “Dog bite” family. We all became friends. Two of us lost children and the third family are dealing with a disabled lad. Three families united by a dog bite and burglaries. All three of us are dealing with grief and tragic death of loved ones. Maybe the burglars did us a favour! I just think of Romans 8 vs 28: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”, and realise it is all about God’s grace!

### *Ohwyn and Graeme McGill share this story of God’s Grace in their lives:*

Graeme has always loved Betty’s Bay, but I had never dreamed of living there. Last year, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, Graeme had to come through to Karwyderskraal to look at a site where he was busy with an engineering job. He had checked it out on Google Earth, and then moved the screen view across to Betty’s Bay and then, unbeknown to me, started checking out houses for sale in Betty’s Bay.

On that memorable day I came with him and after the site visit, Graeme just casually said: “Let’s just go to Betty’s Bay, I’ve seen this house there which looks quite interesting, we’ll just go and look at it.” I reluctantly agreed, muttering about not having the money or the inclination to move etc! We arrived at this house, we walked through and within a short time, Graeme made an offer! I was surprised, but agreed, thinking nothing would come of it. We hadn’t even started to try to sell our house in Durbanville, but he just calmly made the offer conditional on selling our house for an above-market related price. This was on a Saturday, and the agent mentioned that there were a couple of other cash buyers who were keen to buy, and so we just agreed that if this is the Lord’s will, it will come to pass. The house felt so perfect for us, with space for our large family to visit us, compared to our small unit in a complex in Durbanville.

Well, on the Monday, while Graeme was having lunch with our Pastor and some missionaries, the agent called to say our offer had been accepted. Wow! Only problem was we would probably not get enough for our small Durbanville house, for what was needed for the Betty’s Bay property. We decided not to use an estate agent and go with Private Property. They came and took pictures to put up on the internet, and it went live on 26 March 2020, the night of the first heavy lockdown, so we thought well that is the door shut! There were a few enquiries, but mostly people telling us that we will never get what we are asking, so we were feeling quite resigned that the deal wouldn’t happen. But, a few weeks later, out of the blue we received an email from a young guy (who needed a 100% bond!) who wanted the property, and amazingly by the end of July we had sold, moved and finalised everything!

It took four months from not even thinking of selling and moving, to being settled here. From day one we have just loved being in Bettys Bay. One day I was walking past Lakeside Chapel, saw Patricia and found out how to join the Zoom meetings and the rest is history, as they say! We both feel very strongly that this move is not just for our enjoyment, but that there is a reason why God wants us here. We have met so many wonderful and interesting people, and we have the joy of hosting a weekly Bible fellowship now. We praise God and thank Him for His amazing Grace in our lives!



***God doesn’t bless us to raise our standard of living.  
God blesses us to raise our standard of giving.***

Mark Batterson



## A note of Thanks . . .



*We would like to express our sincere thanks to Grizelda, who, after many years of putting together countless beautiful flower arrangements for the Lakeside Chapel Services, is stepping down due to unforeseen circumstances.*

*Grizelda, you have blessed the congregation immensely, and we are sad to be losing your flower contributions! We wish you health, peace and rest for the future, and God's continued blessings on your life. Thank you!*

*We are now seriously looking for another lady or two to join our Flower Arranging Team! No experience necessary - Bev is a fantastic teacher! All you need is a love for flowers - working with God's creation of beautiful flowers is inspirational, rewarding and a wonderful way to honour The Lord!*

*Please speak to Bev Green (0782469386) if you can help! Thank you!*



## Following Instructions

By Tony Evans, YouVersion Plan: Teaching on Bibliology (used by permission)

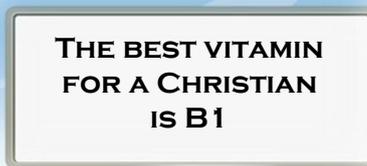
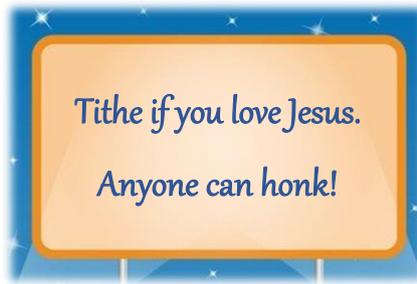
Fighting a bad cold, I went to the pharmacy to pick up some antibiotics. The prescription's label detailed the instructions I was to follow in order to get better, but I decided to observe my own regimen. After a few days, there was no change in my condition. Frustration set in. I had read the instructions. I understood the instructions clearly. But that wasn't the problem. Even though I knew and understood the information, the issue was I did not obey it. Finally, I conceded and completely followed the instructions. Then, and only then, I began to get better.

Many believers are frustrated because they aren't seeing a change in their condition. They read the Bible. They study it. They understand the instructions given through it. However, they never get around to applying and obeying it. Therefore, the circumstances in their lives never seem to get better. You see, a course on bibliology is great! We should desire to study the Bible and understand it better. However, knowledge alone doesn't lead to transformation. The reason we should want to understand the Bible better is so that we can have a deeper trust in what it tells us to do, and that should lead to a stronger motivation to apply its teachings to our lives. The goal of application is to take the meaning of Scripture and discern how God might be speaking to us and calling us to respond in obedience. This is why application and transformation are inseparable. As we apply, obey and live out the truth of Scripture, our lives are transformed.

When the Word of God is applied to our lives, it will convict us, as it reveals and judges the deep motives of our hearts. And as it begins to do this, commit to obeying whatever God reveals to you by taking action, because when your response to God's Word is obedience, that's when true transformation begins to take place. †

# SOME CHURCH SIGNS SEEN !

Submitted by Evelyn du Toit



# Directory: Spring 2021



**Please Note: This Directory is only applicable until the 2021 AGM on 19 September 2021.  
All updates will be communicated in the Weekly Bulletin after the AGM and in the next Lakeside Letter**

LEADERSHIP		E-MAIL	CELL	LANDLINE
Paul Hartwig	Pastor	Paulbruce.hartwig@gmail.com	072 186 0737	
Louis van Heerden	Elder	louisvheerden@gmail.com	072 793 9133	---
Neville Ackerberg	Elder	ackerbj4824@gmail.com	082 420 3539	---
Elizabeth Marzo	Deacon	marzoelizabeth77@gmail.com	082 739 1810	028 272 9120

ADMINISTRATION		E-MAIL	CELL	LANDLINE
Heather Hartwig	Secretary	hartwig.heather@gmail.com	076 868 4762	---
Patricia Ackerberg	Finance	lakesidechapel@sonicmail.co.za	082 378 1641	028 272 9120
Neville Ackerberg	Verger	ackerbj4824@gmail.com	082 420 3539	028 272 9120

WEEKLY MEETINGS				
<u>Cell Groups:</u>				
McGill Group	Thurs	18:00	Rotating venue Contact Graeme McGill	082 550 9108
Ackerberg Group	Thurs	19:00	Home of Neville & Patricia Ackerberg	082 420 3539
Chapel Group	Thurs	10:00	Lakeside Chapel Contact: Paul Hartwig	072 186 0737
Louis Group	Thurs	19:00	Contact: Louis van Heerden	072 793 9133
Prayer Meeting	Tues	17:00	Lakeside Chapel	
Bible Study	Tues	09:00	Lakeside Chapel Contact: Hazel de Kock	083 370 7911

MEDIA	ROLE	E-MAIL	CELL	LANDLINE
George Green	Audio-visual	ggreen@sonicmail.co.za	083 283 4454	---
Tricia Horne	Audio-visual	trish@horne.za.net	084 322 2397	028 272 9052
Louis van Heerden	Audio-visual	louisvheerden@gmail.com	072 793 9133	---
Heather Hartwig	Audio-visual	hartwig.heather@gmail.com	076 868 4762	
Rob Bodley	Audio-visual	bodley@polka.co.za	083 448 3497	
Zelda Botma	Library	---	082 990 6258	---

LAKESIDE LETTER	ROLE	E-MAIL	CELL	LANDLINE
Stephanie Milne	Editor	steph.milne1@gmail.com	064 655 8735	---
Bev Green	Proof-reader	creatabee@gmail.com	078 246 9386	---
Bienkie Lees	Proof-reader	binkielees@gmail.com	083 796 5842	---
Olwyn McGill	Proof-reader	olwynmcgill@gmail.com	082 442 2642	---



**Grow in the Grace and  
Knowledge of Jesus**

*2 Peter 3: 18*