

GAP NEWS April 2021

Personal Newsletter of Pierre and Sugnét van Wyk

Dear Friends,

We are greeting you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. This newsletter is most probably our first one in English, for the sake of our English-speaking friends. In future we will alternate between Afrikaans and English when doing the news updates.



A word from the Word

With half an ear and sometimes with a full ear and sometimes with no ear I have been trying to keep track since the start of Lockdown, of the trend of the many spiritual messages that are doing the rounds on social media. Overwhelmingly, the central theme which emerged is the assurance that we are not alone in our struggles here on earth and that we have, in our Heavenly Father, someone who through Jesus Christ, is intricately involved in the detail of our everyday lives. This is very encouraging and heartening for us who understand how it plays out in our daily walk. But for multitudes out there it does not make sense at all as their daily struggle to stay alive overwhelms them with anger, frustration, and fear.

And that is what we increasingly experience on our front porch, down the street and round the corner. And in many other places like Sandfontein. The stream has turned into a river as more and more people come knocking just to ask for help to help them through a day. And I am sure it is not only at our front door. Against this backdrop, we are trying to make sense of how to help those, and if we should help them. Some days we can do it with a smile and at other times when we return home to find a row of people waiting, my blood starts boiling by the thought that these people can make no other plan but to wait until the father or mother of the house gets home. They have become so used to waiting everywhere so the house of the father and mother is no exception. I have lost it many times and after I have dusted myself off, one just does not feel well for the rest of the day. And I do not know myself like this. Handouts help to fill an empty stomach, but it is just not sustainable. Any sustainability seems to be a long shot away. Without Jesus Christ there is no sustainable solution anyway. It is in Him and through him that one finds provision for an empty heart and stomach. And it is our aim to guide people into that relationship.

Back to the Word, where one does not read about a sustainable solution in so many words, but a lot about the attitude of our own hearts towards the poor. There are close to 50 scripture references that encourage us to engage the poor, and that is more than enough reason to prove how the Father feels about them and that He wants us to play our part. In the well-known story of the King and the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 there are some external motivations for being able one day to be called one of the blessed ones who will inherit the King's kingdom. Nevertheless, it boils down to simple acts of kindness to people whom the King calls the least in His kingdom who were hungry, thirsty, naked, roofless and in prison. In verse 40, the King replies in response to a question from the righteous: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The truth behind this passage eases the burden of not wanting too, as one realises it is, in this case, not so much about the one on the other side of the gate, but the King who is eagerly waiting for us to go back to fetch whatever one has to offer. I can only imagine the smile on the King's face, or when He is not smiling, but frowning instead. Maybe I should more often than not just pause for a moment and imagine the King, in His glory, waiting for an opportunity to smile.

Personal News

The Schools are on the edge of the first short break of the year and so is Huppelkind which still does the two-step thing of dividing the classes in half by splitting the weekly attend-

ance. Feedback from Sugnét is at times, hilarious and at other times much more serious, as some of the young children face the challenges of coping with the task of performing that which is not always to their individual liking. But the staff pretty much cope with each individual personality and they have a lot of which to be proud. Sugnét is very ready for the grandchildren! Speaking about that, the wedding between Johan and Eldi is just round the corner on the 15th of May and all the preparations are in an advanced stage.

The guestlist was pretty much trimmed down more by the practicalities of getting to all the venues than anything else, especially for those coming from the Northern Cape. They will only be a handful, but we are looking forward to introducing them to some Eastern Cape hospitality, dust and dirt roads. The initial plans, as set out previously, still stand with the ceremony taking place in the church at Rose Cottage and the function in the shed at Mount Ingwe, next to the museum. We are in anticipation of a marriage ceremony that will set the stage for a couple who will extend God's reign through worship and ministry, beyond what they can ever imagine! But first there is a wedding feast!

Pieter still finds himself wedged between getting an e-commerce business off the ground, and on the other hand, the fallout from the pandemic, where investors are saving their resources for another day when all the mist has cleared. Not a good time to set up a business venture. Creating a successful e-commerce website or platform is extremely hard work over an exceptionally long time, so please pray that the Lord will fit Pieter into the perfect plan which He has for him. Maybe it is the Lord's will for him, and maybe not, so please stand with him in prayer.

Ministry News and Events

The past Sunday, we reminded ourselves about the **revival of 1860** which broke out in the Cape after a meeting on the 18th of April in Worcester which was hosted by well-known preachers of that time. The topic under discussion was revival, in anticipation of similar revivals that broke out in the US and UK around the same time. The revivals were known for the supernatural move of the Holy Spirit, resulting in droves of people from all ages and all sectors of society who gave their lives to God under the burden of sin which fell upon them. Meetings were packed and continued for days on end. People spent days and nights in continuous prayer, seeking mercy from God for themselves and the lost. It was not the work of any man or person but a divine move of God in response to a deep desire by His people for His presence on earth in the hearts of people. Let us therefore not give up our efforts in asking God for mercy and for Him to pour out His Spirit once again divinely on us and the people of our country.

The roadshows in which Daniel and I were involved in before lockdown through the Eastern Cape had a similar agenda in mind. We trust that we will be able to resume those again somewhere towards the middle of the year. Daniel has been producing prayer guidelines daily since the pandemic started which focus, amongst other topics, on the attributes of God. I favour those 7 weeks of prayer that are set out at the beginning of the year with a specific focus on revival. Find the information about the dates and topics and how one can register to participate on www.jwipn.com website. In one of the seminars which is part of the Bible School on Wheels by Dr Bruce Wilkinson, he encourages one to list all one's answers to prayer. I have been doing that unconsciously and even that is remarkable. Imagine using a checklist! When it gets to the topic of revival, answered prayers are extremely few and far between so much so, that one can count answered prayers in decades. So then why is it worth it?

The Worcester conference was the catalyst for revivals which broke out soon after that in many towns across the Cape Colony and even further afield. It continued for a few years, but the biggest fruit only came many years later with large numbers of young men and women who entered the ministry as missionaries, teachers, and preachers. I cannot find any promises or prophecies in the Bible about end time revivals, but there is a clear call for us to pray for more workers in the harvest so that the harvest can come into the storehouse be-

fore Christ's return. Revivals in the past, without exception have accelerated this process dramatically. If it is only for that reason, it is still worth asking God for mercy and for Him to pour out His Spirit on His church here on earth once again. If you have not already done so, we would like to invite you to join us from time to time in special prayer events. It is easiest is to send us a WhatsApp message or email. We will not flood you with prayer requests but will remind you about needs and guide you in how to pray for certain topics, issues and events.

Still on the topic of prayer, Muslims around the globe are entering into their third week of **Ramadan**. Recently we presented another one of the Bible School on Wheels seminars with the topic "The Gold Nuggets for Communicating the Gospel to Muslims" presented by Fred Nel from Eternal Life Outreach. He has a lifetime of experience in Muslim Ministry. What struck me was that if we ever dream of engaging Muslims, never mind reaching them, we must understand and know what they think about Christians and our religion. Many of their beliefs are based on misconceptions that prevent them and us from entering any meaningful discussion with each other. The course deals with that aspect to a large extent. Pray that Muslims will experience a deep desire to seek the truth during this time of Ramadan.

Campus Crusade for Christ's **Jesus Film Project** has donated to us a "wind resistant" screen for the Jesus Film. We have not tried it out but by the looks of it should work as it is very sturdy. We have not shown the Film in quite some time, but are planning to do so soon as there is interest from other outreach teams to join us. We are looking for a second hand amp and speakers to be used during these outreaches. Apparently, our existing amp is beyond repair as something has blown something that has blown something, and so on. That was after we lent it out. A lesson learned!

Our monthly **Bible and Book table** in Market Street has taken a somewhat new turn with the help of Cynthia. We still stock Bibles and the songbooks from various churches at cost price but it became clear even before lockdown that people do not have money for new Bibles. But that does not mean there is no need for it. With the help of many of you who have donated Christian books, we have been collecting used Bibles and other spiritual books to give away at the book table. Bibles are the first to disappear with the rest to follow quickly, as people are at times so overwhelmed by getting free material. Almost every time it happened that we had some books which we thought no one would ever be interested in, we were astounded when someone would find what they were looking for. So, if you happen to have books and used Bibles that are gathering dust and been slowly eaten away by bugs let us know and I will gladly fetch them. Even if the Bible jackets are torn, we will first have them fixed at the bookbinders in PE.

The monthly services in **Elandsriver Church** at Rose Cottage have resumed. The lack of water on all the farms and the persistent drought are obviously the main prayer items and topics for discussion not only at church, but everywhere else. Please continue to pray for the farmers who are very despondent but nevertheless rejoice at every drop of rain as only a farmer can. Our **Transformation Network** meetings and activities are gaining traction, and for that we are grateful as we really missed the fellowship. **Heartlines** has asked our help with rolling out their new programmes and to keep the existing ones going. In the next newsletter we will share more information about their new upcoming programme which address the problem of fatherlessness. A challenge indeed!

Thank you to all of you for your interest, prayer, and support. You make a difference in our lives so that we can make a difference in other lives. We really appreciate you.

Pierre and Sugnét van Wyk