



Goeie Nuus Good News

NOU REEDS 25 JAAR OUD!

GRATIS
Maart
2024

AANLYN-UITGAWE
ONLINE EDITION

Posbus 1957
Potchefstroom 2520
Tel: (018) 293 1996
www.goodnewsmessage.co.za
Goeie Nuus Koerant -
Good News Newspaper



Jesus het Opgestaan!

DIE SLAG VAN WATERLOO het uitgeloopt op 'n dawerende oorwinning vir die Hertog van Wellington. Die vermetele klein Fransman wat Europa platgetrap het en blykbaar alles kon regkry, was eindelijk verslaan. Napoleon was op sy knieë!

Dit was die grootste gebeurtenis in dekades! Londen moes die goeie tyding kry! Maar in daardie dae, voor die koms van telekommunikasie, was die enigste manier om die berig deur te gee deur middel van fakkels. In spanning het die mense van Engeland die horison dopgehou vir die woorde wat oorwinning of neerlaag sou beteken. Wat hou die toekoms vir hulle in? Toe skielik is die spanning verbreek.

Die tyding flits in letters van vuur: Wellington verslaan... Op daardie dramatiese oomblik dryf mistigheid tussen die opgewonde skare en die seine. Hul moed het

gesink. Hoop het plek gemaak vir wanhoop. Kon dit waar wees? Londen het stil geword van teleurstelling.

Maar dit het net 'n oomblik geduur. Die mis het verdwyn soos 'n gordyn wat oopgetrek word. 'n Oorverdwende triomfkreet het opgegaan van daardie skare wat 'n oomblik tevore moedeloos was. Nou kon hulle die volle boodskap lees: WELLINGTON VERSLAAN NAPOLEON!

Net meer as tweeduisend jaar gelede het die newels van wanhoop 'n klein groepie gelowiges omhul waar hulle staan aan die voet van 'n houtkruis. Al hulle verwagting was van hulle Leier wat nou daar hang tussen hemel en aarde. Hulle het gehoop dat Hy Sy Koninkryk sou oprig en op die troon van Dawid sou sit. Dan sou die heerskappy van sonde en smart beëindig wees. Die Koninkryk van God sou ingelui word! Maar dit het op teleurstelling



uitgeloopt. Toe hulle daardie Vrydagmiddag opkyk na die kruis en hul Meester wat daar hang, kon hulle net een troostelose boodskap in die lug lees: JESUS VERSLAAN...

Nou is dit Sondagoggend. Hulle staan sprakeloos by die leë graf. Hulle hoor die stem van die hemelse boodskapper. "Hy is nie hier nie... Hy het opgestaan!"

Skielik was die newels weg. Die boodskap het in hul siele weerklank. Dit vind ook nou weerklank in óns harte: **JESUS VERSLAAN SATAN! JESUS VERSLAAN DIE DOOD!** "Ek was dood en kyk, Ek leef tot in alle ewigheid. Amen. En Ek het die sleutels van die dode-ryk en van die dood" (Openbaring 1:18). En omdat Christus leef kan ons ook LEEF!
-Oorgeneem

"Jesus, Hier is Jim!"

Ou Jim was 'n Amerikaanse Neger wat grootgeword het sonder om ooit van Jesus te hoor.

Hy het in 'n myn gewerk en toe hy al grys was, eendag verby 'n kerkie geloop waar die mense heerlijk saamgesing het. Hy het ingestap en daar vir die eerste keer van Jesus gehoor en Hom toe gevra om sy sondes te vergewe en in sy hart in te kom. Van daardie dag af was daar 'n onbeskryflike vreugde en vrede in ou Jim se hart.

Die volgende dag om twaalfuur, terwyl die ander etenstyd gehad

het, het hy na die leë kerkie gegaan om te bid, want hy het gehoor dat die prediker gesê het as 'n mens bid, Jesus jou hoor. Toe hy egter wou bid, het hy besef dat hy nie weet hoe nie en al wat hy kon sê, was: "Jesus, hier is Jim!" In sy hart het hy 'n blydschap en vrede ervaar wat hom sommer weer nuwe krag gegee het om te gaan werk.

So het dit vir weke aangehou tot dat hy eendag baie siek geword het en in die mynhospitaal opgeneem is. Sy hart het baie seer geword as die ander mense in die saal so vloek en as hy hulle vermaan het, het hulle hom net uit-

gelag, of nog erger, gevloek.

Toe breek twaalfuur aan en ou Jim kon nie na die kerkie toe gaan nie. Meteens sien hy 'n Man met besondere gelaatstrekke en liefdevolle oë wat met 'n glimlag sê: "Jim, hier is Jesus!" 'n Wonderlike gevoel van vrede en vreugde het van Jim besit geneem. So het dit elke dag gebeur en alhoewel die ander mense in die saal nie vir Jesus kon sien nie, het daar so 'n soete atmosfeer geheers dat van die mense in trane uitgebars het, hul sondes bely en Jesus as hulle Verlosser aangeneem het.

-Oorgeneem uit Rebos



JESUS SE SELFOPENBARING AAN DIE MENS

Jesus se Selfopenbaring begin by Sy doop deur Johannes die Doper wat uitroep: “Daar is die Lam van God wat die sonde van die wêreld wegneem!” En dan die Gees wat soos 'n duif op Hom neerdaal, en God die Vader wat verklaar: “Dit is My geliefde Seun in Wie Ek 'n welbehae het, luister na Hom!” Hierdie openbaring volg op die dertig jaar van voorbereiding voor Sy openbare optrede.

Jesus se openbare optrede was gevul met Sy heerlikheid en tekens en wonders en kragtige daade, sodat die geliefde dissipel Johannes in sy Evangelie, Sendbriewe en die boek Openbaring Jesus se Godheid beklemtoon. Want Sy heerlikeid gaan gepaard met wonders en tekens en kragtige daade (Grieks = *semeion*).

Die uiteinde van Sy *semeion* is nie 'n blote magsvertoon nie, maar sodat hulle in Hom sou glo (Joh. 2:11). En dit is nog steeds so, want as ons in Hom glo, lei dit daartoe dat ons Hom aanvaar as ons Persoonlike Saligmaker en daarop volg die wedergeboorte (Joh. 1:12).

Het jy Hom al aanvaar as jou Persoonlike Saligmaker, al het jy nog nie deel gehad aan Sy wondertekens nie? Glo jy Sy openbaring? Ons het dit in die Bybel gelees, en daarom het ons geglo.

Volg nou verder die begin van die stroom van Sy heerlikheid soos Hy Homself openbaar. Om alles neer te pen, sal onmoontlik wees, soos ook Johannes self aan die einde van sy Evangelie skryf: “En daar is nog baie ander dinge wat Jesus alles gedoen het; maar as hulle een vir een beskrywe moes word, sou die wêreld self, dink ek, die geskrewe boeke nie bevat nie. Amen” (Joh. 21:25). Kom ons kyk na enkele hoogtepunte uit Jesus se bediening wat Sy Selfopenbaring aandui.

DIE BRUILOF TE KANA IN GALILÉA

Daar was 'n bruilof, en Maria die moeder van Jesus was daar. Jesus en Sy dissipels is ook na die bruilof genooi. Toe daar wyn kortkom, het Jesus se moeder vir Hom daarvan gesê. Sy het ook vir die dienaars gesê om te doen wat Hy sê. Daar was ses klipkanne wat elkeen 90 liter water kon hou.

Jesus het hulle aangesê om die kanne vol water te maak en daaruit te skep en vir die hoofdienaars te bring om daarvan te drink. Ek glo die wonderwerk het plaasgevind ter wille van Sy eie moeder wat geglo en geweet het Wie en wat Hy is.

Dan sê Johannes: “Hierdie eerste

een van sy tekens, *semeion*, het Jesus te Kana in Galiléa gedoen; en Hy het sy heerlikheid geopenbaar, en Sy dissipels het in Hom geglo” (Joh. 2:11).

FILIPPUS EN NATÁNAEL

Nog 'n teken wat Jesus se Goddelike natuur openbaar: Jesus sien vir Natánael onder die vyeboom sit. En Hy ken sy verwagting. Sy lyde en sy smart - want hy het 'n behoefte om die Messias te sien; die Verlosser van Israel van Wie Johannes die Doper vertel het.

So skryf Johannes: “Toe Jesus vir Natánael na Hom toe sien aankom, sê Hy van hom: ‘Hier is 'n ware Israeliet, 'n man in wie daar geen bedrog is nie.’ Natánael vra Hom toe: ‘Waarvandaan ken U my?’ ‘Voordat Filippus jou geroep het,’ antwoord Jesus hom, ‘toe jy nog onder die vyeboom was, het Ek jou al gesien.’ Toe roep Natánael uit: ‘Rabbi, U is die Seun van God; U is die Koning van Israel!’ Daarop sê Jesus vir hom: ‘Glo jy omdat Ek vir jou gesê het dat Ek jou onder die vyeboom gesien het? Jy sal nog groter dinge as dit sien.’ Verder sê Jesus vir hom: ‘Dit verseker Ek julle: Julle sal die hemel oop sien en julle sal die engele van God sien op- en afklim na die Seun van die mens toe.’” (Johannes 1:47-51).

DIE LYDENSWEEK

Gedurende die Lydensweek is daar ook oomblikke van duidelike Selfopenbaring van Jesus aan die Jode. Dit is die laaste week voor die kruisiging, en strek vanaf die Intog van Jesus in Jerusalem, en strek vanaf die een Sondag tot en met die volgende Sondag, die Opstandingsdag. 'n Hele boek kan hieroor geskryf word, wat sommige teoloë dan ook gedoen het. Getsémané, die kruis, die graf, die hemelvaart, en dan volg die Wederkoms. Maar tussenin is daar die Strydgesprekke met die Jode, en op die laaste, die verskyning van Jesus voor die Joodse Raad (die Sanhedrin), waar hulle Hom skuldig bevind het om gekruisig te word. En aldeur is dit Jesus se Self-openbaring aan die Joodse Raad.

Nou volg daar veroordeling, skuldigbevinding, kruisiging. Want hulle het Hom verwerp! Markus stel dit so: “Toe staan die hoëpriester in hul midde op en vra Jesus en sê: Antwoord U niks nie? Wat getuig hierdie manne teen U? Maar Hy het stilgebly en geen antwoord gegee nie. Weer stel die hoëpriester Hom die vraag en sê vir Hom: Is U die Christus, die Seun van die geseënde God? En Jesus sê: Ek is. En u almal sal die Seun van die mens aan die regterhand van die krag van God sien sit en kom met die wolke van die hemel. Toe skeur die hoë-

priester sy klere en sê: Wat het ons nog getuies nodig! Julle het die godslastering gehoor; wat dink julle? En hulle het almal Hom veroordeel dat Hy die dood skuldig was” (Markus 14:60-64).

Hy verklaar ronduit dat Hy die Messias is! Maar hulle verwerp Hom! Ten spyte van die feit dat Hy aldeur Sy bediening met Sy voete tussen die mense geloop het en wonders en tekens gedoen het, mense genees het. Sodoende het die gewone mense Hom aanvaar. Dit bly elkeen se keuse hoe hulle op Jesus se Selfopenbaring reageer.

Waar staan ons vandag met Jesus? Glo jy? Aanvaar jy Hom? Sal jy dan in aanbidding voor Hom neerval en erken as jou Heer en Meester?

Die duiwel soek Jesus se aanbidding deur te sê al die koninkryke van die aarde behoort aan hom, en hy sal dit aan Jesus gee as Jesus hom, die duiwel, aanbid! Hy sê vir Hom: “Al hierdie dinge sal ek aan U gee as U neerval en my aanbid (Grieks = *proskuneō*).” “Toe sê Jesus vir hom: Gaan weg, Satan! want daar is geskrywe: Die Here jou God moet jy aanbid (*proskuneō*) en Hom alleen dien” (Matt. 4:9-10).

Die begrip *proskuneō* is 'n veelomvattende begrip: In die eerste plek, gebed. Daaruit voortvloeiend vir die bidder: verootmoediging, aanvaarding van die grootheid van God, neerbuiging, onderwerping, totale oorgawe aan God wat ook deurkom in die lied van die Kerk (die lof- en aanbiddingsliedere, en daar is

baie), en vele meer in ons verhouding tot Hom.

Die blinde man het Jesus aanbid: “Toe sê hy: Ek glo, Here! En hy het Hom aanbid (*proskuneō*)” (Joh. 9:38).

Maria en Maria Magdalena het Hom na die opstanding aanbid: “En terwyl hulle op weg was om dit aan Sy dissipels te vertel, kom Jesus hulle meteens teë en sê: Wees gegroet! Toe kom hulle nader en gryp Sy voete en aanbid (*proskuneō*) Hom” (Matt. 28:9). Die dissipels het Hom aanbid (*proskuneō*) toe Hy die storm stil gemaak het. Thomas het Hom aanbid (*proskuneō*) na die opstanding met die woorde: “My Here en my God!” (Joh. 20:28). Al die engele het Hom aanbid: “En wanneer Hy weer die Eersgeborene in die wêreld inbring, sê Hy: En al die engele van God moet Hom aanbid (*proskuneō*).” (Heb. 1:6).

Verwag jy 'n wonderwerk in jou persoonlike lewe? Kom na Jesus toe! Aanvaar Hom as jou Persoonlike Saligmaker. Buig laag voor Hom neer. Aanbid Hom as jou Heer!

Jesus roep steeds: “Kom na My toe almal wat vermoeid en belas is, en Ek sal vir julle rus gee” (Matt. 11:28). Op die kruis het Hy ons sondes, ons siektes en smarte gedra (Jes. 53). Kom gee vandag jou lewe oor aan Hom, en Hy sal jou innerlik en liggaamlik genees, jou heelmaak, want Hy is die Groot Geneesheer! Hy het in liefde Sy liefdevolle karakter aan ons kom openbaar, en Hy alleen is aanbiddingswaardig!
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NEW LOVE

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

The word new can mean brand-new: something never seen or heard of before. Or it can mean something familiar that suddenly takes on new meaning or importance. This second meaning applies to Jesus' words in John 13:34.

On the eve of His arrest, Jesus gave His disciples a “new commandment” - that they should love one another. This wasn't a brand-new commandment. Leviticus 19:18 had established that Jews were to love their

neighbours as they loved themselves (to which Jesus had added the requirement to love their enemies; see Matthew 5:43-48).

So what was new about Jesus' new commandment? It was that **they were to love each other as He had loved them**. This standard would take on a whole new meaning for them as they saw Jesus give up His life sacrificially. This, Jesus told them later during their meal, is the greatest kind of love (John 15:12-13).

Jesus introduced a new kind of love - **sacrificial love**. He expected His followers, including us, to love as He loved: sacrificially for the sake of others. True love is always costly.

- Billy Graham

When Plans Collapse...

I understand - I've been there: sometimes we start out a new year, or a new endeavour, with a tremendous plan for how things are going to be... But life happens. Storms arise, barriers are thrown up against us, and our plans collapse. What then?

The very first chapter - and the very first rule of Robert Morgan's brand-new book, *The Mediterranean Sea Rules*, gives us the foundational strategy to weather these storms: **When Your Plans Collapse, Make Sure YOU Don't!**

It can be tempting to give up hope when we experience the destruc-

tion of our plans - but the example of the Apostle Paul's storm-tossed journey in Acts 27 - 28 gives us a better way to react. Paul knew the ship carrying him as a prisoner to Rome was bound to flounder, but his objections to sailing were overruled. For two whole weeks, the ship was tossed in timber-shaking storms that everyone knew would eventually destroy the vessel!

What did Paul do? He kept the faith. He encouraged the captain, sailors, and other prisoners by telling them a message he had received from an angel: not one of them would lose their lives, no

matter how brutal the weather. When the plans collapsed, Paul did not. He survived, he strengthened the others, and he came out of the ordeal stronger himself.

This can be your pattern for overcoming life's storms, too, because you have a Saviour Who knows how to calm storms and how to bring you safely through them.

Robert Morgan's book traces every detail of Paul's voyage and shipwreck, drawing out ten lessons that will equip you to come out of stormy weather stronger than ever:

Rule 1: When Your Plans Collapse, Make Sure You Don't!
Rule 2: Trust the Slow Work of God.
Rule 3: Speak Your Mind without Losing Your Leverage.
Rule 4: Let Divine Grace Hold You Together.
Rule 5: Jettison Hindering Cargo.
Rule 6: Expect God to Do Exactly as He Has Said.
Rule 7: Minister in the Moment.
Rule 8: Don't Underestimate One Percent.
Rule 9: Shake the Serpents into the Fire!
Rule 10: Look Around for What Christ Wants You to Do Next.
- David Jeremiah.

DINAKO TSA BOKHUTLO (End Times)



PHALA YA MORENA

DITEMANA

“Foo go tla nna ditshupo mo letsatsing le mo ngweding le mo dinaleding; le mo lefatsheng go tla nna tlalelo ya merafe e le mo tharaanong, go le mesumo ya lewatle le makhubu a lone. Batho ba tla idibadiwa ke poifo le tebelelo ya dilo tse di tlang mo lefatsheng; gonne dithata tsa magodimo di tla reketlisiwa. Foo ba tla bona Morwa-Motho a tla ka leru ka thata le kgalalelo e kgolo. Mme e re tseo di simolola go diragala, lo inamologe, lo tsholetse ditlhogo, ka gonne kgololo ya lona e a atamela” (Luka 21:25-28).

“Ke lo bolelela bosaitsweng ke jo: Ga re nke re swa rotlhe, mme re tla fetolwa rotlhe ka nakon-yana, ka ponyo ya leitlho, ka lonaka lwa bofelo; gonne lo tla kgelebetega, mme baswi ba tla tsosiwa e le ba ba sa feleng, mme rona re tla fetolwa. Gonne tse di felang tse, di tshwanetse



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go apara bosafeleng; le tse di swang tse, di tshwanetse go apara bosasweng. E tla re tse di felang tse, di sena go apara bosafeleng, le tse di swang tse, di sena go apara bosasweng, ke gona go tla diragalang lefoko le le kwadilweng le le reng: “Loso lo meditswe ke phenyo” (1 Bakorinthe 15:51-54)

“Gonne Morena ka esi o tla fologa kwa legodimong ka mokgosi le ka lentswe la moengele yo mogolo le ka phala ya Modimo, mme baswi ba ba swetseng mo go Keresete ba tla tsoga pele. Morago ga moo rona ba re setseng re sa ntse re tshela re tla tsholelediwa kwa loaping ka maru mmogo le bone go ya go kगतलहान्ताशा Morena. Mme jalo re tla nna le Morena ka gale. Gomotsanyang he ka mafoko ao” (1 Bathesalonika 4:16-17).

DIKAKANYO

Mo lefokong la Modimo re buisa gore ka dinako tsa bokhutlo go diragala gore bana ba Modimo ba tle go tsewa mme ba gapelwe go ya kwa legodimong. Fela jaaka re tlhola re bua gore mowa wa motho fa a ntsha mowa wa bofelo, mowa wa gagwe o ya legodimong. Tsholofelo e re e amogelang go tswa ditemana tse ke gore ba ba suleng ba amogetse Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa bone kgotsa ba sule mo go Keresete ba tla gapelwa le bone kwa legodimong fa go diragala ntlha e kgolo e e Beibele e re bolelelang ka yone. Temana ya reng? Ya re: “Gonne Morena ka esi o tla fologa kwa legodimong ka mokgosi le ka lentswe la moengele yo mogolo le ka phala ya Modimo, mme baswi ba ba swetseng mo go Keresete ba tla tsoga pele. Morago ga moo rona ba re setseng re sa ntse re tshela re tla tsholelediwa kwa loaping...”

Re tshwanetse go itse ka phala Modimo. Fa phala ya Modimo e lela mme o sa e itse go tla nna thata. Baswi ba ba swetseng mo go Keresete le ba ba santseng ba phela ka nako eo ba gapelwa legodimong mme ba tsamaya ka maru fela jaaka Jesu a ne a tsewa ke maru ka nako ya tlhatloso.

Fa motho a sa phela o kgona go amogela Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa gagwe mme o kgona go sokologa. Ka letsatsi le motho ntshang mowa



Johan Zerwick
Sêlê ke 083 458 3837

wa bofelo mo lefatsheng ga o tlhole o kgona go sokologa. Go raya gore o swa o se na Mopholosi. Ga o swele mo go Keresete. Fa phala e lela o tlabo o sa tsosiwe. A letsatsi le legolo le le botlhoko.

Ditshupo tsa nako e ke tse ditemana di buang ka tsone. Letsatsi le tla fifala, ngwedi e nna khibidu. Ngwaga e gape dilo tse di a diragala. Ga go na nako ya go tshameka kereke le go sa nne le nnete le boammaaruri. Sokologang ka gore letsatsi la Morena le gaufi.

THAPELO

Morena, Ntate wa rona re kopa gore fa re sa phela o re thuse gore re sokologe. Re thuse ka Mowa o o Boitshepo gore re amogele Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa rona. Ga go ope wa rona yo a itseng letsatsi la gagwe la bofelo mo lefatsheng. Re thuse gore fa o tla go re tsaya kgotsa fa re tlhokafala re dule re sokologile mme re amogetse Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa rona. Re bule matlho re bone ditshupo mme re utlwe phala fa e lela. AMEN.

Skilderye in die Galery van die Ewigheid

Het die skouspel van die see u al ooit in vervoering of verwondering gebring? Of die hemelruim: die wit vloot wolke - skoon, sag, rustig, óf die stormjaers wat deur die winde voortgedryf word - onheilspellend?

Hoeveel kunsgalerye, museums, of monumente beeld gebeure, tydperke, die sterrehemel, mense, diere of die natuur uit?

In die Sistynse Kapél in die Vatikaanstad, Rome, staan jy vasgenaël voor Michelangelo se asemrowende uitbeelding van die Skepping en baie ander Bybelse verhale, asook die uiteindelijke Verdoemenis wat vir sommige wag!

In die Voortrekkermonument kan ons meeleeft met die verhale van lief en leed van ons voorouers wat deur die fresco's uitgebeeld word.

Maar wat is skouspelagtiger as die menslike siel, die grenslose gees met al sy verskillende fasette en kompleksiteit? En die volle som van hierdie menswees het 'n blywende effek wat ons INVLOED noem. Dit is iets wat ALTYD van ons lewens uitgaan, soos die lig van 'n lamp, die hitte van 'n vlam, of die reuk van 'n blom...

Om te lewe, is om invloed op ander se lewens te hê, óf ten goede óf ten kwade. Ander mense let op ons lewenswyse en hulle dade of optrede word deur ons s'n getemper of gewysig.

Elke GOEIE lewe oefen 'n tweevoudige invloed uit: direkte uitvloeisels wat tot seën vir ander mense is, asook die stille inspraak waardeur ander beter gemaak of besiel kan word om soortgelyke goeie dinge te doen.

Selfs die dood beëindig nie invloed nie. Dit duur voort. Dink maar aan bekende Bybelfigure en geloofshelde wat deur hulle lewensinvloed vandag nog vir ons tot inspirasie dien.

ABRAHAM moes kies om te bly waar hy was óf om sy gesin te neem en weg te trek na 'n onbekende bestemming om sodoende aan God se Stem gehoorsaam te wees.

Hy moes kies tussen sy bestaande sekuriteit of 'n onseker toekoms. Sy gehoorsaamheid aan God se opdrag het die geskiedenis van die hele wêreld beïnvloed en tot vandag toe deel die mensdom nog in die seën van die ontstaan van die volk wat God gebruik het om Homself te openbaar en waardeur Hy Jesus Christus as Verlosser na die hele

wêreld sou stuur!

SAMUEL is gebore in antwoord op 'n moeder se hartstogtelike gebede. Sy naam beteken weliswaar "van God afgebid".

Omdat hy van kleins af gewillig was om in klein takies 'n toegewyde dienskneg van God te wees, is hy deur God geroep om o.a. priester, profeet, raadgewer en rigter van Israel te wees.

SAMUEL se lewe word só geskilder: *"Samuel het grootgeword. Die Here was by hom en het nie een van Samuel se woorde onvervuld gelaat nie. Die hele Israel van noord tot suid het gemerk dat Samuel betroubaar was as profeet van die Here"* (1 Sam. 3:19-20).

DANIËL se hele lewe demonstreer 'n persoon wat in woord en daad nie afgewyk het van sy beginsels nie. Hy het met wysheid God se Woord op sy eie lewe van toepassing gemaak.

Hy was nie net 'n hoorder nie, maar ook 'n dader daarvan! Beide sy fisiese en geestelike dieet het 'n baie belangrike deel gevorm van sy intieme verhouding met sy God.

Sy volhardende, volgehoue gebedslewe is vir elke mens wat na sy afbeelding kyk, kosbare inspirasie. Ten spyte van verdrukking en vervolging het hy getrou aan God gebly!

JEREMIA se geweldige uithou-vermoë ten spyte van antagonisiese en apatiese toehoorders laat ons verwonderd toekyk hoe sy lewe afgeskilder word. Hy moes leer om met al sy menslike krag en vermoëns aan God en aan God se liefde vas te klou.

Met sy hele wese het hy die waarheid verkondig terwyl hy soms geïgnoreer is en dikwels in lewensgevaar verkeer het en baie erg vervolgd is. Sy waarskuwings is in die wind geslaan en hy het met bittere trane aanskou hoedat koning na koning die volk van God verlei het agter ander afgode aan.

Hoewel hy menige keer moed wou opgee, het hy ten spyte van sy volk se wederstrewigheid, getrou aan God gebly tot die einde toe.

STEFANUS is deur die apostels as diaken gekies wat moes help met die daaglikse versorging van die Griekssprekende weduwees wat afgeskeep is. Hy is beskryf as iemand wat *"vol van die Heilige Gees is en wysheid het..."* (Hand. 6:3). Hy het sy taak met getrouheid verrig en het bekend geword

as iemand *"aan wie God baie genade en krag gegee het"* en hy *"het groot wonders en tekens onder die volk gedoen"* (vers 8).

Hy was ook 'n baie goeie spreker en voor die Joodse Raad het hy uitgewys hoe die Messiaanse profesieë in Jesus vervul is. Met hierdie woorde het hy sy eie doodsvonnis uitgespreek. Lede van die Raad het op hom afgestorm, hom buite die stad uitgesleep en gestenig.

In sy sterwensoomblikke het hy gebid en gevra dat God hulle sal vergewe! In sy kort lewe het hy baie gou soos Jesus geword, want hy het eers sy lewe gelê vir die Evangelie van Jesus Christus en toe gesterf daarvoor! As ons na Stefanus se skildery kyk, is óns bereid om regtig vir Christus te lê en ook om vir Hom te sterf?

Met bogenoemde voorbeelde in gedagte kan ons ook weer met nuwe oë na die geloofshelde van Heb. 11 kyk. Hul lewensskilderye is *"'n groot wolk van getuies"* (Heb. 12:1) vir elkeen van ons nog vandag.

Deur na hulle opregte en toegewyde lewenswandel te kyk, word ons aangemoedig om die goeie stryd te stry en moet ons ook *"elke las aflê en die sonde wat ons so maklik omring, en met volharding die wedloop loop wat voor ons lê, die oog gevestig op Jesus, die Leidsman en Voleinder van die geloof..."* (vers 2b).

Van elke mens wat ooit geleef het of wat nóg sal leef, word 'n skildery gemaak waarna gekyk kan word en uit wie se lewensportret ons die goeie of die slegte kan neem.

Hoe sal ander mense ons skilder of uitbeeld? Hoe sal ons selfportret lyk? Want deur ons woorde en dade skilder ons eintlik 'n skildery van onself! Watter invloed laat óns lewens na? Goeie invloed of slegte invloed, want slegte lewens en slegte dade het OOK hulle invloed.

Daar word vertel dat 'n sterwende man, wie se lewe andere baie geskaad het, uitgeroep het: *"Versamel my invloed en begrawe dit saam met my in die graf!"* Die man het hierdie wêreld verlaat, maar sy invloed het agtergebly en die GIF daarvan ook om vir geslagte lank in die lewens van ander te werk en uit te woed.

Kom ons besin ernstig oor die invloed wat vanuit ONS lewens gaan. Laat ons waak oor elke woord, gedagte en optrede. Net in dié mate wat ons met die Gees van God vervul is en die liefde van Christus in ons gestalte gevind het, sal ons invloed heilsaam en tot seën vir ons medemens wees. [Mag die geur van ons lewens en die invloed wat van óns uitgaan, welriekend wees en diegene wat deur ons lewens aangeraak word, besiel om die volkomenheid van menswees na te jaag...](#)
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Versugting

O, POTTEBAKKER! Van alle klei is ek die brokkelrigste kluit - móét U my rol, en buig en slaan, en met my eie trane meng - totdat ek na u wens en wil geskik die regte buigsaamheid bekom wat my die vorm kan gee waarin U my uiteindelik wil vind?

As dit U wil is en my lot moet wees brei en slaan en knee my dan tot ek, die klei, U hande pas.

Vorm my na U smaak en soos U wil. Bak my in die witste hittegloed wat my suiwer en my saamsmelt in dié vaas wat U verlang.

Plaas my dan daar waar ek móét staan - as houer dien om ander se trane op te vang...

- Oorgeneem

Die Twee Boeke

Lees: Genesis 36 - 38; Psalm 12, 13; Matteus 12.

Die skepping en alles wat God geskep het, was goed. Genesis 1:31 - *“Toe sien God alles wat Hy gemaak het - dit was baie goed.”* Besef ons dat ons as mens woon as nie-permanente inwoners in Godse losieshuis?

God het hierdie wonderlike, lieflike planeet nie net goed geskep nie, maar dit ook met lieflikheid beklee; as 'n wonder-skone oord en dit in werking gestel vir jou! God gee ons 'n asemrowende oord as tydelike woonplek, waarin ons kan leef en Sy goedheid elke dag aanskou in Sy skepping, om Hom daarin en daardeur te verheerlik.

Die Here vul die aarde met die geur van dou, fynbos, plante, vrugte, diere, water en blomme. Hy verwarm dit met die warmte

van sonstrale; Hy gee die maan in die nag vir lig. Hy stuur wind om af te koel, reën om te voed. Dit vul die oseane en mere en riviere met water en bring lewe aan elke vallei en oerwoud, elke bergreeks en grasvlakte.

Deur 'n skeppingswoord kom dit tot stand vir jou as mens, om daarin te woon en te heers oor plante en diere in Sy skeppings-planeet, tot eer van God!

Besef ons vandag werklik dat God met die mens uit 2 boeke praat, naamlik die boek van die natuur, en DIE BOEK van die Skriftuur. Dit is God se Woord. Daarrin het Hy alles wat die mens in hierdie lewe van God kan weet, laat opteken. Alles wat Hy graag wil hê ons moet weet, wat ons moet begryp: wat ons skeppingsdoel is en waar ons ewige woning gaan wees wanneer ons die tydelike met die ewige verwissel.

Meer nog, God het ons ook 'n openbaring van Homself in ons eie harte, in ons gewete, gegee. Romeine 1:19-21, *“Omdat wat van God geken kan word, in hulle openbaar is, want God het dit aan hulle geopenbaar. Want Sy onsigbare dinge kan van die skepping van die wêreld af in Sy werke verstaan en duidelik gesien word, naamlik Sy ewige krag en goddelikheid, sodat hulle geen verontskuldiging het nie; omdat hulle, alhoewel hulle God geken het, Hom nie as God verheerlik of gedank het nie; maar hulle het dwaas geword in hul oorlegginge, en hul onverstandige hart is verduister.”*

Ons besit beide boeke. Lees ek dit elke dag aandagtig? Heers ek oor die plante en diere, of heers hulle oor my (dwelms, dagga, drank, ens.)? Hoe lyk my lewe in God se skepping? Wat is my verhouding met die Skepper? Wanneer laas

het jy vir die Here gesê, “Dankie vir U skepping, dankie vir vandag, dankie Heilige Gees dat U vandag saam met my is. Dankie vir krag, gesondheid, lewe en energie.”

Dankie dat ek vandag my skeppingsdoel kan uit leef tot U eer, o my God! Ek staan verwonderd voor U - voor U almag, U skepping, wonderskoon en heerlik. Dankie vir hierdie dag, waarin U my gaan gebruik tot U eer! Amen.

Bestudeer ook Jesaja 40, Job 38 tot 41. Mag jy vandag opnuut jou skeppingsdoel besef en begin uit leef tot eer van die Here! Vertrou Jesus Christus, en raak betrokke in Sy Liggaam - die Kerk. Jesus roep jou by die naam. DIE KEUSE BERUS VANDAG BY JOU!

- Henco en Wilma Schoeman
083 644 0014 of 083 461 1620.

A Gospel Invasion!

Tonight was the third night here in Nigeria where two Gospel crusades are ongoing. Tonight, I preached at Ngwa High, but I will let two other evangelists stationed at these crusades tell you what happened in their own words:

Evangelist David Rotärmel (who was at Ngwa High) writes: “The whole atmosphere was charged with the power of the Holy Spirit. Bishops and pastors were so touched by the message, they were jumping up from their chairs, completely captivated. Looking into the crowd, every eye was fixed on the Gospel delivered by Evangelist Daniel Kolenda. Thousands surrendered their hearts to Jesus at the altar call after being pierced with the arrows of the Gospel.

Tonight was the night that we burnt various witchcraft items, juju and charms, and broke every local curse over the region of Aba. With some of those curses, many people know what power they carry and are even scared to speak their names.

After the breaking of curses, I started praying for the sick and a wave of miracles broke out. As I asked them to check themselves, hundreds of people waved their hands to say they had received a miracle.”

The following are a handful of the

- testimonies:
- **Blessing** from Igbo State had a baby in her womb in the wrong position. She was told by her doctors that the baby would not be able to grow properly. During the prayer for the sick yesterday and the whole night after, Blessing felt strong pain and movement in her womb. Today the doctor confirmed that the baby had moved into the right position. While testifying on the stage, she felt the baby kick strongly in the womb, rejoicing with us at God's miracle power at work.
 - **Chinazun** came to the crusade unable to raise his right arm for the past eight years. While he was demonstrating his complete healing on stage, he swung his arms like a propellor, faster and faster and faster, all without any pain.
 - **Comfort** from Aba came to the crusade with strong pain in her waist and back. 15 years ago, she was hit by a bicycle and had unbearable pain since then. She couldn't move and bend properly, but then she heard about the crusade and that Daniel Kolenda would be coming. She came to the crusade with faith for her healing and Jesus did his mighty work. Without any pain she was able to bend, jump and even dance.
 - 12-year-old **Samuel** was nearly deaf in his right ear since birth.



Today he felt a popping in his ear and since that moment, he can hear perfectly.

■ **Eunice** from Aba had a severe problem with her ears for 20 years. Two years ago, she travelled to America to get hearing aids. When the battery died, she was not able to hear properly. She decided to go to the crusade trusting that the Lord would heal her. Arriving on the field, she realized she was able to hear the whole sermon that Evangelist Daniel Kolenda preached with complete clarity.

Evangelist Macoby Donaldson (writing from Ogbor Hill) shares: “Wow! The whole team is exploding with joy! I had the privilege of preaching in Ogbor Hill tonight

about the power of the blood of Jesus. The power of that precious blood once again showed up and amazed us all with a wave of salvation that swept through the crowd. We had incredible healings, curses were broken, and joy flowed freely through the crowd!

During the preaching I noticed an unusual amount of flying bugs swarming the intense lights that light the stage and field. At first, I saw it from a distance on the light posts at the end of the field. Suddenly, while preaching, I was in the middle of a swarm myself! The platform became slippery because of the thousands upon thousands of bugs I had accidentally squished under my

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A Gospel Invasion!

Continued from p. 5

shoes. At times I could hardly see the crowd at all. I even saw some people literally running away from the light posts. Every time I would open my mouth to preach, multiple bugs would fly into my mouth. While my interpreter was interpreting, I would turn around and spit them out! That certainly would not stop us!

After preaching the Gospel we burned fetishes, charms, amulets and idols. We prayed and broke every curse the devil has plagued this region with. People in the audience began manifesting demons and being set free in Jesus' Name! We renounced every name that exalts itself above the Name of Jesus and the people were set free.

During the testimony time, we saw a wide variety of miracles and healings but what was consistent was the overwhelming sense of joy that each person seemed to exude."

■ A young lady named **Precious** could not see far distances since she was a little girl but when we prayed, she found that she could see clearly all the way to the platform.

■ **Victoria** had severe pain in her waist that hindered her from twisting or bending over. The pain greatly reduced her mobility and quality of life. She had been suffering since December of last year. She came to the first night of the crusade and tonight she testified she had no pain in three days!

■ **Laura** has had heart pain and experienced fainting for the past two years since birthing her baby. She came to the meeting on Thursday and followed Evangelist Kolenda's instructions to place her hand on her heart. She said all the pain left and she hasn't had any pain or fainting since.

■ **Richard** had a condition that the doctors could not identify. He would have seizures and even went into a coma. His body was literally skin and bones. They told his father that Richard would die soon. He could not walk without crutches, much less jump, but

tonight the power of the blood of Jesus healed Richard and he was walking without his crutches and even jumped with me on the platform. This was a truly memorable miracle!

■ **Pastor Patrick** couldn't come to the first night of the crusade because he had a service but on Thursday night, he heard the sound of preaching from his house and stepped outside. Pastor Patrick had terrible throat pain for two weeks and could not eat normally. When he stepped out of his house, he felt a strong wind and recognized that he was totally healed! He came to the meeting tonight to testify that God had healed him from his house. We even found him some crackers and he ate those crackers with no pain!

There are just some of the many testimonies we are hearing from both crusade locations this week. None of this includes the many testimonies we are hearing from the Gospel Invasion, in which Bootcamp and Fire Camp graduates have preached the Gospel in nearly every school, marketplace and busy gathering place in Aba. They have already seen more than 190 000 people come to Christ themselves. In fact, they preached in so many parts of the city that they ended up having to go to another city! This truly is a "GOSPEL INVASION!"

RAISED FROM THE DEAD!
Tonight was absolutely extraordinary! It was the last night of our crusades here in Abia State. Our whole team had a sense that something special would happen. Of course, if you've been reading my nightly reports, you know that we have seen many powerful and notable miracles here already. We were already rejoicing...

At our Umuahia Crusade, Evangelist David Rotärmel preached a powerful Gospel message after which Evangelist Bradley Fisher prayed for the sick. I will relay what happened next in his own words:
"There were so many powerful miracles that were testified of on stage. Suddenly, it was like a bomb of commotion and praise erupted when a mother of an 8-



Mother holding her baby who came to life after prayer

month-old came on stage to testify. Her little baby, named Gifts, was battling malaria and typhoid for two weeks in the hospital. The baby died two days before she came to the crusade. The mother carried her dead baby to the crusade field Sunday night.

When the sick were prayed for, the dead baby CAME BACK TO LIFE in the mother's hands! As I was talking to the mother on the platform, I had no words other than to thank Jesus for raising the dead. The whole crowd was erupting with praise to Jesus! Jesus is the resurrection and the life! He is the only one that can raise the dead!"

Evangelist Lukas Repert writes:
"On Saturday, I preached about God creating a new heart in us here in Aba South. And with that, I talked about creative miracles. Today a mother came with her son and testified that her son used to have a big hole in the middle of his chest. And with that he had many, many problems and sickness. But when she got home from the crusade last night, she saw that the hole had grown fully closed and the boy was completely healed of all his diseases! Jesus did a creative miracle and rebuilt his entire chest!"

There are no words to express the kind of impact that these crusades have had in the lives of countless individual people, not to mention the region as a whole.

We were able to take the Gospel into areas where crusades have

never gone before (Ogbor Hill).

We were able to see a den of thieves transform into a beacon of hope for a city (Aba South).

We went back to a place where Reinhard Bonnke held a crusade 20 years ago and reached a whole new generation (Ngwa High).

We saw a baby literally raised from the dead (Umuahia)

And many other mighty miracles and thousands upon thousands of salvations night after night!

As you can see, we are also multiplying labourers for the sake of the harvest, and it's working! Because of this multiplication, we were able to conduct FOUR CRUSADES for nearly the same amount of time and money a single crusade would normally cost. Plus, these new evangelists are gaining priceless experience in crusade evangelism that will continue to produce fruit for the rest of their lives and ministries. What a glorious start to our 50th year as a ministry. These are the first four of 50 crusades that will happen this year, "From Cape Town to Cairo." I believe we will see upwards of 10 million people come to Christ. We also have intense preparations ongoing in the Congo and in Uganda where thousands of pastors have already come together to support our upcoming crusades there. These are the days of harvest and the best is yet to come!

- Evangelist Daniel Kolenda
Christ for All Nations



Hendrik van Graan
Susana van Graan
OPTOMETRISTS / OOGKUNDIGES
PETER MOKABALAAN 3 (VAN RIEBEECKSTRAAT 3)
Tel: (018) 294 7666 • Tel: (018) 294 7111
B. Optom: F.O.A. (S.A.) • Praktyknr./Practice No. 7027060



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Wait...

- Russell Kelfer

*Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried;
Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied.
I pleaded and I wept for a clue to my fate...
And the Master so gently said, "Wait."*

*"Wait? You say wait?" My indignant reply.
"Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!
Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard?
By faith I have asked, and I'm claiming your Word.*

*"My future and all to which I relate
Hangs in the balance, and You tell me to wait?
I'm needing a 'yes', a go-ahead sign,
Or even a 'no' to which I can resign.*

*"You promised, dear Lord, that if we believe,
We need but to ask, and we shall receive.
And Lord I've been asking, and this is my cry:
I'm weary of asking! I need a reply!"*

*Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate,
As my Master replied again, "Wait."
So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut,
And grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting for what?"*

*He seemed then to kneel, and His eyes met with mine...
and He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.
I could shake the heavens and darken the sun.
I could raise the dead and cause mountains to run.*

*"I could give all you seek and pleased you would be.
You'd have what you want, but you wouldn't know Me.
You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint.
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint.*

*"You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair;
You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there.
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me
When darkness and silence are all you can see.*

*"You'd never experience the fullness of love
When the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove.
You would know that I give, and I save, for a start,
But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart.*

*"The glow of My comfort late into the night,
The faith that I give when you walk without sight.
The depth that's beyond getting just what you ask
From an infinite God Who makes what you have, last.*

*"You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee,
What it means that My grace is sufficient for thee.
Yes, your dearest dreams overnight would come true,
But, oh, the loss, if you missed what I'm doing in you!*

*"So, be silent, my child, and in time you will see
That the greatest of gifts is to truly know Me.
And though oft My answers seem terribly late,
My most precious answer of all is still . . . Wait."*

INDIEN U VANDAG TOT STERWE KOM...

WAT DAN?

Duisende mense in ons samelewing verkies om nie aan die ewigheid te dink, of waar hulle dit gaan deurbring nie.

In ons huidige lewensklimaat is dit egter van die allergrootste belang dat ons bogenoemde vraag kan beantwoord. Bepeins die volgende:

GOD HET U LIEF!

"Want so lief het God die wêreld gehad, dat Hy Sy eniggebore Seun gegee het, sodat elkeen wat in Hom glo, nie verlore mag gaan nie, maar die ewige lewe kan hê" (Joh. 3:16).

"Maar God bewys Sy liefde tot ons daarin dat Christus vir ons gesterf het toe ons nog sondaars

was" (Rom. 5:8).

ALMAL IS SONDAARS

"Want almal het gesondig en dit ontbreek hulle aan die heerlijkheid van God" (Rom. 3:23).

God se oplossing vir die mens se sonde.

"Want die loon van die sonde is die dood, maar die genadegawe van God is die ewige lewe in Christus Jesus, onse Here" (Rom. 6:23).

"Maar almal wat Hom aangeneem het, aan hulle het Hy mag gegee om kinders van God te word, aan hulle wat in Sy Naam glo" (Joh. 1:12).

Verlang u om kind van God te wees en met sekerheid te weet

dat u die ewigheid by Hom sal deurbring? **Erken dat jy 'n sondaar is en dat net Jesus jou kan red.**

"Daar is niemand regverdig nie, selfs nie een nie" (Rom. 3:10).

Bely jou sondes met berou en smeeek God om vergifnis.

"As ons ons sondes bely, Hy is getrou, en regverdig om ons die sondes te vergewe en ons van alle ongeregtigheid te reinig" (1 Joh. 1:9).

Vra Jesus om in u hart te kom woon.

"Kyk, Ek staan by die deur en Ek klop. As iemand my stem hoor en die deur oopmaak, sal Ek ingaan na hom toe en saam met Hom maaltyd hou, en hy met My" (Op. 3:20).

Aanvaar Sy vergifnis en redding.

"As jy met jou mond die Here Jesus bely en met jou hart glo dat God Hom uit die dode opgewek het, sal jy gered word; want met die hart glo ons tot geregtigheid en met die mond bely ons tot redding" (Rom. 10:9,10).

Wag met vreugde op Sy wederkoms.

"Want die Here Self sal van die hemel neerdaal met 'n geroep, met die stem van 'n aartsengel en met geklank van die basuin van God; en die wat in Christus gesterf het, sal eerste opstaan. Daarna sal ons wat in die lewe oorbly, saam met hulle in wolke weggevoer word die Here teëmoet in die lug: en so sal ons altyd by die Here wees" (1 Thess. 4:16,17).

Is This What Heaven is Like?

“Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55; NIV)

In 1987, while Des was still living on New Zealand's North Island, he moved from Levin to take up a ministry call in Tokoroa, a heavily forested town in the hub of the country's massive timber industry. This was where his wife Ros's father, Gordon, was pastoring a Pentecostal church, and Des had been invited to serve alongside his future father-in-law as he continued to train for the ministry. And what a good training ground this would prove to be, with so much spiritual opposition facing the local Christian community, with much sorcery being practised by indigenous witch-doctors. The only way to tackle this was through extended periods of spiritual warfare.

Des, Gordon and other church leaders had been fasting and praying for days when disaster struck after one Sunday morning service. 'I am not feeling at all well,' Des told his flatmates when he got back from the service. I think I'm going to have to go and lie down for a while. Little did he realise that he had been hit by a sudden illness that doctors would be unable to explain or treat. So quick was the devil's retaliation after this period of intense warfare, that Des did not realise the connection or how serious his condition was. All he knew was that his body was now burning with fever and his head was incredibly dizzy. One minute he was shivering and the next moment he was sweating.

'Lord, what's going on? Have I got a virus or something? What must I pray against?' he asked the Lord, as he began to confess every healing Scripture he could remember. He knew the power of divine healing in his life and was full of faith. Even so, he soon fell into a deep sleep, and when he woke up he hardly knew where he was. 'Something's very wrong!' he called out to one of his flatmates. 'You've got to get me to the doctor!' His friend immediately called Pastor Gordon, who quickly came around to the flat. 'We need to get this boy to hospital,' the pastor said, the moment he saw Des's condition, which seemed to be deteriorating.

Des soon became delirious, and when the doctor at Tokoroa's hospital examined him, he immediately called for an ambulance to take Des through to a larger hospital in the neighbouring city of Hamilton, where he could be better cared for. 'Where am I?' Des

asked the nurse, as he looked around the ambulance. 'Don't you know where you are?' the man replied. 'Am I in heaven?' Des questioned, almost as if he had an inner foreknowledge of what was to come. 'Well, you may not be far from it, but you are definitely still here on Earth,' the nurse tried to reassure him. 'However, you are in a very serious condition and we are taking you to the intensive care unit at Hamilton Hospital.' At that point Des lost consciousness. His blood pressure was sky high, his heartbeat was going crazy and his body was shutting down. Worst of all, when he got to the ICU, nobody knew why this was happening to him. They had never seen anything like this before and didn't have a clue about what was going on.

Then, all of a sudden, it seemed to Des as if he was looking down on the whole scene, observing the doctors and nurses in a hive of activity. He was lying on an operating table, hooked up to all kinds of machines, and his body was jerking wildly, but at the same time he was watching the whole procedure from above. It was obvious he was going into cardiac arrest. 'What are you doing to me? Be careful!' Des cried out to the doctors, but nobody could hear him. They kept clamping his chest, but to no avail, and the heart monitor continued to flat-line. The emergency medical team tried to revive Des again and again, but there was still no movement on the monitor. 'What should I put down as the time of death? doctor officiously asked.

In a flash, a beam of light encompassed Des, and a huge pair of hands pulled him up into a tunnel that was so bright, he could hardly keep his eyes open. In a split second he was taken from one place to another, yet there was no fear, just an overwhelming sense of peace and belonging. Des was overawed by the array of colours emblazoned upon the sky as he passed through the clouds. There against this extraordinary backdrop, was a huge doorway, guarded by a colossal statue on either side. They looked like great lions, yet each had six wings. It seemed they were made out of stone, grey and serene, but they were alive, with piercing eyes all over them like rubies.

As a pathway unfolded beneath Des's feet, he looked down on a cobbled road. Yet these were no ordinary bricks - they shone with a golden brilliance, and they somehow seemed to pull him in the direction he needed to be going. As he came nearer the doorway, it was as if the massive

monuments suddenly came alive and turned their heads towards him to scrutinize him carefully. It was as though every one of their piercing eyes was focused on him, like countless laser beams. As Des passed, these living creatures looked straight through him, piercing into the very core of his being, discerning his right to be there. But there was no fear, as the road kept pulling Des along.

Then the great doors automatically opened to let him into the most magnificent garden he had ever seen. Looking across the horizon, flowers and trees stretched for miles, and Des was quite overcome by the breathtaking beauty. In the distance he could see a brilliant light, like the sun, that seemed to get brighter all the time, radiating life and energy throughout the entire landscape and causing everything to glow. As Des continued walking, he came towards a large lake, where a small boat was waiting for him on the shore.

'I have to get in,' he thought to himself, 'but there are no oars or paddles, and the water is completely still.' Nevertheless, Des stepped into the boat and made himself comfortable. Then as he looked down at the crystal-clear expanse beneath him, he could see a current forming and the boat began to rock to and fro, as it was pulled across the lake towards the other side. Des was soon joined by a school of large fish, on either side of the boat and in front of it.

They seemed to be leading him in a certain direction. They were brightly coloured, some a fiery red, some speckled with white, each of them jumping in and out of the water joyously!

In the distance, Des could see a shoreline, where many people had gathered to welcome him. He felt great excitement as the boat took him closer, somehow knowing that he was about to meet his Lord and Master. Even before the boat came to a standstill, a very tall Being began to walk towards Des, offering him His hand to help him out of the boat. 'Follow Me!' He said kindly, and Des knew instinctively that this was the Lord Jesus.

I wonder who all these people are standing on the shore,' Des thought to himself. 'They seem so familiar, almost like I know them.' Immediately the Lord answered, although He did not speak a word. He did not need to - what He had to say just seemed to flood Des's mind. 'That is Elijah... and there is the Apostle Paul...' 'The prophet, Elijah? Paul, the Apostle?' 'Yes... and many other men who have inspired you. You have read about their great exploits in My Name and have been encouraged by them, while you have been on Earth... 'They have been cheering you on, and praying for you, that you would complete the work that I have laid out for you on Earth. I have brought them here because you have much to learn from

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All Grace for All Things

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Most Christians know the story of the hymn “Amazing Grace.” The author was John Newton who was converted to Christ while engaged in the British slave trade in the eighteenth century. He went on to become a pastor and worked energetically to abolish the slave trade in England. Though his memory began to fail him in his final years, he was always clear about two things: *“That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Saviour”* (Romans 5:20-21).

Newton's conviction - that God's

grace is greater than our sin - was probably based on Paul's words in Romans 5:20: *“Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.”* As he wrote in “Amazing Grace,” Newton considered himself a “wretch” for having trafficked in the buying and selling of fellow human beings. **But he found God's grace and forgiveness to be greater than his sin.**

Regardless of what you may have done, never wonder if God's grace is sufficient for you. God makes *“all grace abound toward you”* in *“all things,”* qualifying you for *“every good work.”* Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

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Is This What Heaven is Like?

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them. You will spend time with them and they will show you many things.'

As Des walked away from the boat towards a beach of fine white sand, he was fascinated by the structured maze of many different golden paths ahead of him. 'Follow Me!' he heard once again, the words echoing throughout his body as they continued walking, upwards along a path that took them ever closer to the light. On both sides of the path, Des could see many great buildings of all different kinds, stretching for miles and miles, with people everywhere - and the amazing thing was that he was entirely in tune with their thoughts. This was a place where you did not really need to speak like on Earth - you could look at a person and know exactly what they were thinking, and they immediately knew what you were thinking. Nothing was hidden here. Children were running and playing on beautiful grassy fields, and families were joyfully interacting with each other. Des felt total acceptance, peace and harmony - he felt completely welcome, as if he was part of each family.

'What are these large buildings?' he asked the Lord. 'They look like houses, but they are too big, and they even have gold paving up to their front doors.' 'These are the mansions I have prepared for those who love Me. Come, let me take you to yours... Follow Me!' All of a sudden they had turned off on a path and there was a huge mansion before them. And although the front door was closed, they walked straight through it without it even opening. Des was surprised by what he saw inside, for it was like taking a step back in history. He was in an old-fashioned kitchen with a kettle hanging over an open fire on the hearth, and some rustic wooden bunks in the corner. Lit by a single candle, this simple one-roomed home seemed quite dark and dingy and the stone floor was cold and uninviting, yet Des knew his family was somehow connected to this place. He could also see an antique loom where some kind of mat was being woven, and there were portraits of people hanging on the wall that seemed to resemble his family. 'How does this relate to me?' he thought to himself. Then Des saw an open Bible, prominently displayed in the centre of the room and surrounded by an eternal flame, and as he looked at it, it became brighter and brighter like a ball of fire. He had never seen anything like this before, yet there was a sense that this place

belonged to him.

'Lord, where are we?' Des asked. 'Somehow this seems to have something to do with my inheritance.' 'Follow Me. You will understand more as we go further,' came the reply, and before Des knew it, he had passed through the walls into another time-frame and into a completely different home of another generation. This house had no ceiling, as the roof was thatched, and there was a loft room and quite different furnishings, but one thing was the same - the Bible was wide open, and there was a large flame burning brightly in the centrefold.

Des followed the Lord from house to house, looking at the black-and-white family photographs on the walls, until finally he came to a house where he knew exactly where he was. Straight away he knew he was in his grandmother's home. She was a firm believer and he recognized her ever-open Bible on the table, almost as if it was her personal trademark. 'This is my grandmother's place!' Des exclaimed. 'Granny Huxford's house!' 'That's right, this is your family line. All these homes have belonged to your ancestors who have loved and served Me, and who are here with Me.' Des looked around earnestly for family photos on the walls, but the only picture he could find was his grandmother's photo and his. 'Where are the pictures of my father and uncles?' he cried. 'Where are the pictures of my sisters and cousins?' 'They are not yet part of My Kingdom, the Lord answered, 'and until they serve Me, their photographs cannot be here. But if they repent of their sin and give their lives to Me, then their pictures will be a part of this house. You have a great family inheritance,' the Lord continued. 'Many of your grandmother's family - of the Huxford line - were godly people and they served Me faithfully in preaching the Gospel. I want to introduce you to some of them.'

Des was amazed as many young people started coming up to him, dressed in beautiful clothes, without the slightest grey hair or trace of ageing. They were beautiful, healthy, and strong. 'This is your great, great, great grandfather - he served Me in Scotland,' Des heard the Lord say as he looked at his forefather, who appeared even younger than him! None of them talked, but there was instant communication between the Lord, Des, and his ancestor. It was as if a very quick film clip of this man's life and what he went through for the Gospel was being played out. In an

instant everything was revealed to Des in three-dimensional images that went through his mind like a movie. It was so quick! In the twinkling of an eye, Des could see all the suffering his ancestor had endured for the Lord, and what a great man of faith he was.

One by one, his relatives came and shared with him - but not his grandmother, who was still alive at the time. 'But how then can I be in her house, Lord?' 'I have prepared this place for her, for when her time comes,' the Lord Jesus replied. 'All of these people you have seen have completed their tasks on Earth and they are now here with Me, where they are praying for you and cheering you on. 'Did I not tell you in My Word that I go and prepare a place for My people? Your grandmother's time is not yet up, but she will be coming soon and this is her place, and you have seen it.' Des immediately recalled the words of Jesus in John 14:2: *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."*

'Did I not also tell you that I have surrounded you with such a cloud of witnesses?' the Lord continued. 'They are those you have seen today.' Des's thoughts wandered to Hebrews 12:1-3, a favourite passage of Scripture. In fact, he could recite word for word: *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

'Wow!' thought Des, 'How great You are, Lord, that You would choose a sinner like me, and take my life and use it for Your glory! I will never give up on the race You have called me to run, and I will always look to You for my salvation and deliverance. For what Satan has meant for evil, I know You will turn around for good.'

God was to reveal much of what would happen to Des in his future ministry during this divine encounter, including many of the places the Lord would take him to in the years to come, such as Australia, the Philippines, Norway, Russia, Germany, and various countries in Africa. One minute Des and the Lord were flying through the air, and the next



Des and Ros Sinclair

they were descending through the clouds. Des could hear the sound of several aeroplanes as the Australian scrubland materialised beneath them. To the left there was a busy Air Force base, and Des could see fighter jets taking off and landing. To the right was a mountain, where a large church building was nestling at its base.

The next moment Des and the Lord were walking through the aisles, observing the congregation as they participated in the service. There were about 5 000 people gathered to listen to a white-haired old man who was preaching. 'We need to be much more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, if we are ever to see revival in this city,' he said, tears filling his eyes. I urge you to worship the Lord right now with all of your heart,' he challenged the crowd.

'Follow Me!' the Lord said, as He led Des through the pews. Every now and then, He stopped at a man or a woman and reached out His hand to impart something into their lives. Des could see the Lord was crying as He knelt down to wash a man's feet with His tears but the man's heart was hardened and he could not receive anything from the Lord. This happened many times as Jesus walked through the whole church, trying to minister to the people, but very few actually received anything. 'Why is it Lord, that You were only able to minister to so few?' Des asked. 'Those that I was able to minister to serve Me wholeheartedly. The rest serve Me for their own gain and their own ambition, and I cannot do anything for them. Those who touch Me, I will touch. Those who don't touch Me, I can do nothing for.' 'I don't understand why You brought me here, Lord,' said Des respectfully. 'This is part of your destiny, the Lord answered. I will bring you here to Australia to minister to these people. You have been praying and crying out for direction for the rest of your life, and I am now showing you your future.'

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'I spoke to you on a rubbish dump and told you things that you would do. And you have been faithful and believed what I told you. Now I am revealing the bigger picture to you, and I will take you from country to country and show you where you will serve Me, so that you will know where you are meant to be.' 'You are sending me to Australia, Lord?' 'Yes. I will bring you here, to this city, when you are ready, and you will be the pastor of this church. Now we must go, for I have more places I want to take you.'

And so the Lord took Des from country to country, revealing to him in part where his future ministry would take place. God also allowed him to experience some of the horrors of hell, providing a shocking picture which motivates him to preach the Gospel more fervently each day - not out of fear, but out of love and compassion. The Lord also gave him a wonderful, unique insight into what happens to the millions of babies who are aborted in the world today.

Back on Earth, Des's body lay lifeless, waiting for orderlies to take it to the hospital mortuary. The devil had come to destroy outright, before his life became a further threat to the kingdom of darkness. Satan and his demonic cohorts had unleashed a deadly illness upon Des, but God had preserved him and was about to raise him up from his deathbed, to continue serving the Lord with a powerful new conviction and a whole new lease of life. 'Now you must go back,' Jesus declared.

'But Lord, it has been too short, and there is still much I must learn. You are showing me all these things, and I need to learn more so that I don't make mistakes.' 'Get back in the boat. I

have shown you things in part, but I will now show them to you in full through circumstances and the leading of My Spirit. And as you pray and keep talking to Me, all these things will be revealed to you in due course. They will all come to pass, but I have shown you enough so that when you see these things, you will know it is Me and you will seek Me and pray for further direction, and I will lead you into the fulfilment of all these things. Now go!'

As a divine current took the boat briskly back across the crystal lake, Des was still coming to terms with the fact that he had to leave. 'I don't want to go back!' he shouted, looking down at the fish leading the vessel at a fast pace. 'Lord, don't leave me!' 'Do not worry!' came the thunderous response from people on the shore, led by Peter, Paul, Elijah, and Abraham, as they spoke in unison. 'You are not alone - you are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. We are looking down upon you and we are cheering for you!'

The next minute Des felt he was falling head-first down a tunnel of light and back into his physical body with a thump. He immediately woke up, throwing the sheet off his body to reveal his face. The orderlies pushing his trolley screamed in shock, quickly turning it around to get Des back to the ICU. Des was quite dazed as he came around, wondering what all the commotion was about. As he looked at his arms, he realised how cold and blue his body was, and all of a sudden a doctor came running towards him. 'You're alive!' he shouted.

'Yes!' exclaimed Des, a little dumbfounded, as the medical team went into overdrive to warm him up and put him on a drip to replenish his fluids. Pretty soon

he was reconnected to all the various monitors and undergoing multiple tests, but nothing appeared to be wrong with him. 'You were dead,' explained the doctor, almost disbelieving his own words. I have your death certificate. We were taking you through to the mortuary. You were dead for thirty-five minutes.' 'What was the matter with me?' Des asked. 'We don't know. We have no medical explanation for why you died. But you are alive now, and we can't see anything wrong with you!' As he was leaving the hospital to go home, Des raised his hands in thanksgiving to the Father: 'Thank you, Lord, for healing me! Thank you, Lord, for preserving my life! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for turning a hopeless situation around. Instead of me dying, you have given me a blueprint for living! Death, where is your sting, where is your victory?' - *Life on the Line, The story of Des and Ros Sinclair, as told to Al Gibson, Monarch Books, 2009.*

Dr Des Sinclair was born in New Zealand where he came to know Christ as Saviour at a young age and was thrust into the ministry before he was barely a teenager.

As a young man he moved to Australia where he pastored a church and he and his wife Ros were itinerant ministers in New Zealand before answering the call of God to move to South Africa in 1998 where they founded Life Evangelism International, a Ministry which reaches across Africa with the Gospel through mass crusades and in practical humanitarian ways.

Dr Ros Sinclair is also from New Zealand where she met Des as a young man and married him in 1991. The coupled moved to South Africa together to establish Life Evangelism International, a Ministry she plays a key role in. A gifted song-writer, she loves spending time in praise and worship, and has written many poems and worship songs.

*“Kyk, die hand van die Here
is nie te kort om te help nie,
en Sy oor is nie te swaar om
te hoor nie” (Jes. 59:1).*



Jer. 20:11

★★★★B&B

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www.altewelkom.com

van die HERE

Oase van Hoop

AGS Baillie Park Gemeente

Sondagoggenddiens 9:30

JOI-Kinderdienste 9:30

E-pos: johann@safricom.co.za

Pastoor Johan Nortje 083 280 8971

OASE VAN HOOP

-KOFFIE KAFEE-

HEB. 6:19

est. 2023