

The Highlands Grapevine
To know Christ and to make Him known

JULY – AUGUST 2017

Thank you, Launa Jacobs, for sending us this very heartfelt prayer for our beloved land.

PRAYER FOR ZIMBABWE

Dear God

Please bless this our land, Zimbabwe, with the grace of a grand miracle through ways which are not viable to our finite minds.

May all her people be inspired to bring about peace and harmony, balance and resolution to all the problems currently present.

May we all find it in our hearts to honour, respect and assist one another in our daily lives so that reconciliation may become a living reality and our country a shining example of prosperity and cooperation in tune with Your Divine Will.

May we have peaceful elections that will give us a responsible government that will respond to all in need through the love in the hearts of all.

Amen

“and we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose”

What a challenging time for our country – but praise God that we as Christians, can do something – pray! I know that this is sometimes difficult to accept as “all that we can do” but please, unless you have heard clearly from the Lord, don’t take matters into your own hands. We know where our help comes from.

God has instructed us to pray in faith, asking anything according to His Will. We need to discipline ourselves to pray as often as we can in a day, constantly committing our country and government to God. Then we need to let God work, and not join in with all the complaining and criticising, as tempting as it may be. Too many people undo their prayers by speaking contrary words to what they have just prayed.

God’s ways are not our ways, so let’s not act like we know best. We are not to speak out of our fleshy nature but must seek God’s words of hope and victory. The Bible tells us that the devil is a defeated foe, so don’t give him credit or license to operate. Speak life, in faith. We are the ones called upon in difficult times to bring encouragement to those around us who have no anchors or hope.

We can also always draw tremendous comfort from Romans 8:28, which says, *“and we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, who are called according to His purpose”*.

This is an incredible portion of Scripture and should be a huge encouragement to all. Let’s commit to meditate on it over and over again.

Values worldwide are deteriorating daily and God’s infallible promises are our only hope. Draw strength from them and become a beacon of hope in your workplace, schools and suburbs.

It is time to pray, pray, pray! **(by Erin Georgiou)**



The other morning as I was praying for God to guide our pastors, I was prompted so clearly to get up and find the prayer I shared with you all in the Grapevine at the time of Mark's Ordination in March 2008. Since we now have four pastors I have changed it to the plural.

PRAYING FOR OUR PASTORS

“Remember those who lead you, who speak the Word of God to you” (Heb. 13:7).

- Pray that Christ may be lifted up through them.
- Pray that they may experience the anointing of the Spirit in their preaching.
- Pray that needs may be met, hearts blessed and lives changed, through the preaching of the Word.
- Pray that they may offer guidance to the elders and lay leadership that may bring unity and shared vision.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit may be the Comforter of souls through His servants as they counsel the troubled, visit the sick in homes and hospitals, and exhibit the love of Christ in their daily acts of ministry.
- Pray that as they prepare their sermons, only the Word of the Lord may be revealed.
- Pray that the emerging vision God has for His people may be revealed and clearly interpreted through His servants.
- Pray that they may continue to discover new depths of understanding as students of the Word.
- Pray that they may ever find a consistent balance between the Word and the deed as they follow Jesus.
- Pray that a wall of protection of the Holy Spirit may keep them safe from the devices of Satan.

NEWS UPDATE

GOD TV LAUNCHES ON DSTV CHANNEL 344

MultiChoice has expanded its variety of faith-based programming with the launch of global network, GOD TV. The new channel will be available on DSTv channel 344. GOD TV, which started in the UK in 1995, broadcasts worldwide from Israel and has been established in Africa for 15 years. The channel will now be available to approximately 10 million DSTv viewers in South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Mozambique.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

JESUS FILM’ REACHES 1500th TRANSLATION

Jesus Film Project announced the completion of its 1500th language translation of The Jesus Film, the most watched film in history according to the Guinness Book of World Records. The 1500th language, Daasanach, belongs to an ethnic group inhabiting parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan. Since 1979, Jesus Film Project’s resources and strategies have been utilised in **7.5 billion Gospel presentations in more than 230 countries.**

SUDAN DECLARES WAR ON CHRISTIANITY

A Christian pastor in Sudan says the government has “declared war against Christians” because it’s fearful Muslims will be led to Jesus Christ, which is the reason why pastors are being imprisoned and churches are being demolished in the Islamic nation. He said the Sudanese government doesn’t want Christians in the country, especially believers who can speak Arabic, “because they fear that they can easily reach out to the Muslims and win them to Christ”. The Khartoum government has also been ordering the demolition of dozens of churches, harassing church members and threatening foreign Christians with expulsion.

When we watched all those thousands of refugees crossing the Mediterranean over the last couple of years , our fears were that many of them would be ISIS terrorists ready to infiltrate Europe with their doctrine of violence. BUT, God was indeed in control and knew exactly what He was doing, as the following news report confirms. Truly God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

MUSLIM CONVERTS BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO EUROPE’S STRUGGLING CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Christianity is making a come-back in Europe – and it’s mostly thanks to Muslims. A soaring number of Muslims, many of them refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, are converting to Christianity, breathing new life into Europe’s once floundering Christian churches. The Muslims are flocking to various Christian denominations, including becoming Protestants, evangelical or Catholic.

As many parts of Europe are becoming more secular and houses of worship are seeing congregants leave in droves, it is Muslim converts who are reviving struggling Christian churches.

European churches have struggled for decades to share the gospel with modern secular Europeans. They have found Muslim immigrants to be much more open to the message of Christianity.

(all these news items are taken from Joy Magazine dated May 2017)



*LADIES RETREAT 2017
LASTING IMPRESSIONS,
KADOMA*

The theme was “The Radically Blessed Life” and truly we were indeed “Radically Blessed”! John and Helene Stamboli from Bulawayo City Presby Church led us through:

Rooted in God (Gen.12:1-4).

Resting in God (Psalm 34).

Returning to God (Is.30:15-20).

Rejoicing in God (Matt. 5:1-12).

Relying on God ((2 Dor. 1:3-11).

Responding to God (Rev. 5:8-14)

We enjoyed three wonderful days of fellowship and teaching and returned home refreshed in both mind and spirit – not to mention the extra few kilos from all the delicious meals provided by the management and staff. We sang our hearts out to the Lord, accompanied by a small group of musicians and singers, and on Saturday evening gathered to share the Holy Communion Service, with every lady dressed in white to depict the Bride of Christ.

A couple of minor hiccups with the bus on the way home – but the Lord was with us and all was well.

A big thank you to John and Helene for their willingness to come to Kadoma and minister to us in their very special way. God willing, we hope to meet together again same place, same day in 2018.



THE KNITTING BEE!

What a wonderful response there has been to the appeal for blankets and knitted clothes for Pastor Evans new born babies - nearly 200 blankets and masses of knitted jackets, vests, caps and booties!! Many Highlands ladies have been knitting like mad, with two generous farming ladies, Jamie Butler and Sarah van Rensburg, forming a circle of ladies on their farms into knitting groups – thank you all so much. A very special ‘thank you’ also to the elderly ladies residing at the Braeside Home who have also produced beautiful blankets and baby clothes.



WEDDINGS

21 st July 2017	Glen & Calla Wakefield
26 th July 2017	Matthew & Lesley Middleton
26 th July 2017	Chris & Yolandi Strydom
29 th July 2017	Andrew & Lauren Hunter
8 th August 2017	Jayde & Carla Clack
26 th August 2017	Simon & Catherine Bowen
2 nd September 2017	Jason & Charlene Edwards



BAPTISMS

10th September 2017 Keilah Kuyeli



MEMORIALS

28th June 2017

14th July 2017

11th August 2017

18th August 2017

25th August 2017

31st August 2017

Cecil John Ford

Reginald Bryan Philip

Kajsa Loades

Peter Ernest Whyte

Johannes George Prinsloo

Joan Clare Burrows

LAUGH A LITTLE

During a visit to the mental institution, a visitor asked the Director what criteria defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

“Well,” said the Director, “we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub.”

“Oh, I understand,” said the visitor. “a normal person would use the bucket because it’s bigger than the spoon or the teacup.”

“No,” said the Director, “a normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?”

SUNDAY SERVICES:

7:30am (English)
9:00am (English)
2:00pm (Shona)
5:00pm (Family Service)

Feel free to join us for tea on the patio or breakfast after any of the two morning services in the gazebo.

Pleasant Ways

9:30 am 3rd
Sunday of the month.

Fairways

9:30am 4th
Sunday of the month.

RECEPTION HOURS

Mon & Fri 8am.-1pm.
Tues, Wed, Thurs 8am-2.30pm

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Senior Caretaker

Chenjerayi Chibondo

Breaking of Bread

Every 2nd Wednesday
4:00pm

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Mark Phillips &
Rev. Peter Aiken -
Elisha Gobvu (Shona
Pastor)
Matthew Mbanga
(Teens, Twenties and
Thirties)

LAY LEADERSHIP

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