What Would Jesus say About Racism in South Africa Today?

Not another one! We cry as we hear of yet another person who has tweeted or preached or broadcast on social media a statement that is seen as racist and which causes grave hurt. Racial tensions continue to make headlines. Racism is of course not new, nor is it confined to South Africa or to a particular race group or even to those who have been called out. But in South Africa these comments are particularly hurtful and dangerous to people's souls because of our unfortunate history.

What should we do? Other than being very careful about what we say, and staying off social media, Chrisians might ask the WWJD question – what would Jesus do or say about the issue? Well, he said quite a lot actually, such as in this text below. And remember, Jesus was living and ministering in a deeply divided and racist society.

Matthew 8:5-13 tells the story of the centurion – a senior Roman colonial official – having faith in Jesus – one of the subject people - to heal his servant.

At the time Jesus was ministering there, Capernaum was a thriving fishing town on the northern bank of the Sea of Galilee. Situated on the main road to the north, Capernaum became the home and base of Jesus for the three years of his public ministry.

Here "a centurion came to him, asking for help" (v. 5b). A centurion was a Roman officer commanding 100 soldiers, enforcing the Empire's rule. Rome had conquered Israel in 63 B.C. and oppressed her people. As colonial occupiers, they were despised by the people of Israel. Thirty years after this event, a revolt against Rome lead to the destruction of the Temple; another revolt forty years after that scattered the nation.

The Jews hated Gentiles. Every Jewish male began his day by thanking God that he was not a Gentile, slave, or woman (in that order!).

So this centurion was not just a hated Gentile and pagan, he was also a Roman officer, representing the oppressor, and forcing them to pay taxes to Rome, all the while subjugating the people.

But this great man came to Jesus for help. Maybe he had tried everybody and everything else without success. He called him "Lord". You can’t be more respectful than that. With wonderful compassion, the centurion pleaded with Jesus to heal his servant.
"I will go and heal him" (v. 7), Jesus replied. For Jesus, a Jew, to enter a Gentile home would cause a great scandal, violating social convention. Jews did not talk to Gentiles, nor eat their food, nor set foot in their homes. But Jesus did.

This centurion might have been a representative of the oppressor, but he had a sensitivity that gave him an understanding of Jewish culture: "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof" (v. 8a). He knew that he was asking Jesus to reject his culture and its standards. But he wanted his help: "But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it" (vs. 8b–9). He really believed that Jesus could give the order that the servant be healed, and his command would be obeyed.

Jesus was "astonished" (v. 9a), the only time in Scripture he has this reaction to a person's strong faith. (In Mark 6:6 he was "amazed" at Nazareth's lack of faith.)

Then Jesus said to his Jewish followers: "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (vs. 10–12).

In other words, being Jewish is not enough to guarantee entrance in heaven. It requires faith such as the centurion's to receive eternal life. Instead, God "wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). He is "not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

We are required to trust him for salvation: "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:18).

So all who believe in God are his children, whatever their race, nationality, or social status. "Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.' And his servant was healed at that very hour" (v. 13). What Jesus did for the servant's body, he does for our souls.

Look at Jesus' ministry in its racial context. He befriended a Samaritan woman (John 4) and ministered repeatedly to Gentiles. He commended a Canaanite woman for her "great faith" (Matthew 15:28) and travelled through the Gentile region of the Gerasenes (Mark 5:1).

Jesus came to be a "light for the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6), so that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:21). His example moved Paul to ask, "Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too" (Romans 3:29).

In heaven there is "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9). The Bible says that "God so loved the world" that he gave his Son for us.

Paul told the Galatians, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:26–29).

Nelson Mandela said, in Long Walk to Freedom: "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

The way of Jesus Christ is clearly love, not hate. I have no doubt that God hates racism in all its forms. As followers of Christ it is required of us that we spread love, not hate, and that we do not differentiate between people because of their race, nationality, gender or age.

It's up to us as Christians to follow the example of Christ.

David
Report back: SAINTS—Bishop Brian Germond “The Beatitudes for today”

Bishop Brian’s talk at SAINTS was absolutely amazing and extremely challenging. As always, those who were there were greatly blessed by his teaching. For those who were unable to be there, his talk was recorded and is available on the website and on CD at a cost of R30.

Listening to a recording is never as easy or satisfactory as being there to hear the original, so make sure you don’t miss the next two SAINTS talks!
17 September: Bishop Steve
22 October: Archbishop Thabo
They will both be addressing burning issues of the day from a Christian perspective.

Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? Ps 56:8 (NKJ)

This is a beautiful picture. There is a sense of the Lord validating and treasuring our tears and our pain.

We are created as tender beings. God purposes it that way. He wants our hearts to be soft so that we are open to Him and so that we can relate sensitively to each other.

This means, however, that our hearts are vulnerable to hurtful experiences. They are just as vulnerable when they receive emotional and spiritual blows as our bodies are when they receive physical blows.

We come from a variety of cultures, some of which teach us that physical pain is acceptable but that emotional pain is not. It is all right to walk around with a plaster cast on our leg or arm but our emotional hurt needs to be hidden.

If we constantly receive a message that emotional pain is unacceptable, we might try to reject it and deny that it is there.

This is not Godly behaviour. Our emotions are God given. When Jesus heard that Lazarus had died and He saw the anguish of his family and friends (John 11), He wept.

There are some experiences that are very painful and the appropriate thing to do is to cry.

Jesus cares deeply about our hurts. He does not mock our tears. He treasures them and keeps them safe in a bottle and records them in His book

However, Jesus can do more than just validate our tears. He can pour His healing balm into the wounded places.

When Jesus heals, He heals to the centre of the wound. His is not a superficial healing where a scar grows on top but the inside is still sore.

Jesus loves us to bring our requests for healing to Him so that He can touch and restore us.

Prayer

Thank you Lord Jesus that You have given me emotions and that You care when my heart hurts. You don’t scorn my tears. I want to tell You today what hurts me. (Take time to think about the hurts and mention them). Please come with Your healing balm and bring Your healing and Your peace. (Take time to receive the healing and peace)

Margie Southey

Margaret Southey is a wife, mother and grandmother. She has had a career in education. Her passion is to understand the truth of God’s Word and to share it with others. She is part of the ministry and teaching team of Ellel, Africa.
Missions Weekend 23-24 July

Mission contains the idea of sending – but who sends, who is sent, what is the message? “God so loved the world that He gave (sent) ....” (John 3:16) In Paul’s words: “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself ... and to us is given the ministry of reconciliation”. (2 Cor 5: 19) And again Paul: “the Gospel (Good News) ... is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” (Rom 1:16)

Mission began in the heart of God in His love and longing to restore to himself the creation and the people who became separated from Him when sin came into the garden of Eden. It’s all about reconciliation: with God and with each other, Jew and non-Jew, one in Christ (Eph 2:14). That is mission – the sharing of the good news of Jesus with the whole world.

It’s a challenge for us to relate to the Jewish heritage in which our faith is rooted. During the Mission Weekend Revd John Atkinson will be leading us in considering this.

Saturday 23 July

08h30 – 10h30 – Can there ever be peace in the Middle East?
We are called to pray because reconciliation is God’s plan. Come to the breakfast as we consider how to pray for and about the Middle East.

11h30 – 14h30 – How do we share the Gospel with others who do not share our faith in Jesus, especially His own people?
Join us as we consider this – bring a picnic lunch!

Sunday 24-July

Morning services – This Jesus I never knew

Evening service – The heaviest commandment

Messiah’s People is the South African expression of the Church’s Ministry among Jewish People. CMJ is one of the oldest of Anglican Societies going back to 1809 – seeking to help Jewish people understand Jesus – and to help the Church understand heritage, and relate to Jewish believers in Jesus. John is the chairman of Messiah’s People SA, and international chairman of CMJ. He was for many years on the staff of Christ Church Kenilworth in Cape Town.
**Youth Day at St. Luke’s**

We all know how much the youth of 1976 have played an enormous role in changing and structuring the future but what was started must always be finished however not everything has an ending.

As the youth of today we have tasted the fruit that was **grew from** by the youth of 1976 and although not recognised by everybody, they took the stand to ensure that what was done was not done in vain. Like the great protest leader Tsietsi Mashinini, we the St Luke’s youth leaders decided to do something - not only to celebrate 16 June as a public holiday but to ensure that we celebrate the history behind the day and understand the reason for the celebration. We invited the surrounding churches, St Augustine’s and Andrew Murray and children from the Maria Kloppers Children’s Home to come and celebrate with us. Not only to have a good time but also to go home with a sense of what exactly we as the youth of South Africa and the Church have to offer to the generations after us and how we should encourage others to **keep on keeping on** by grooming and living lives that will allow the next generation to enjoy the fruit that we the “90s kids” and the kids from the 2000s have sowed for others to reap.

**Our June 16...**

The day started off with a session hosted by an NGO called Life Line which focuses on youth development and offers counselling for those who need it. We split into two groups aged 14 and below in one group and the older youth in the other group. We fell into the older group so can only report from our group. The session was led by Lebo and Delight from Life Line regarding issues teenagers face every day. We may not necessarily be a victim of an issue but we are exposed to certain issues such as peer pressure, trends in society, beliefs and values.

Striking debates and opinions were given from each individual as well as our head of YPC, Pamela who played devil’s advocate really surprising the youth tremendously by taking the opposite side to what we were saying, thus causing great debate and getting us to see the issues from all perspectives. Debates and discussions went on for a good two and half hours, and touched everyone deeply.

After the debates we had boerie rolls and tons of chips and snacks to send us off into a lighter note. After lunch we had our famous “Amazing Race” putting groups with team leaders from One Life and Life Line. Challenges required team effort and spirit. These games showed us how we make things work well when we have the same vision and work on the mission together making the achievement worth working for and not full of regret. The day ended at 15:15 with smiles and willingness to work together again for future ventures.

Later that evening One Life headed to St Paul’s church in Alberton where the famous South African artist Majozi, who is a committed Christian, performed songs of praise and worship as well as some of his own music which is inspired by Christ and his family. He shared testimonies and experiences over the course of the night. Those who were tall enough J managed to catch free shirts and beanies. Delicious boerie rolls were on sale and free hot chocolate was given.

The day was a great success, and hopefully the first of many. Thank you to all who gave support, offered donations, and prayed for the event. Moulding the future starts now.

Lebo Matlawe
From Spiritual Formation

Something to think about....

I found this quote in my reading the other day and thought it was worth sharing...read it a few times and know when JB Phillips says ‘men’, he means all of us!

"If New Testament Christianity is to reappear today with its power and joy and courage, men must recapture the basic conviction that this is a Visited planet. It is not enough to express formal belief in the "Incarnation" or in the "Divinity of Christ"; the staggering truth must be accepted afresh -- that in this vast, mysterious universe, of which we are an almost infinitesimal part, the great Mystery, Whom we call God, has visited our planet in Person. It is from this conviction that there springs unconquerable certainty and unquenchable faith and hope. It is not enough to believe theoretically that Jesus was both God and Man; not enough to admire, respect, and even worship Him; it is not even enough to try to follow Him. The reason for the insufficiency of these things is that the modern intelligent mind, which has had its horizons widened in dozens of different ways, has got to be shocked afresh by the audacious central Fact -- that, as a sober matter of history, God became one of us."
--- J.B. Phillips

And what about listening and asking the right questions...

I am reading a book at the moment called An Other Kingdom...it is a collaboration between a Biblical scholar (Walter Bruggeman) and two Community commentators and Developers, Peter Block and John McKnight. It’s a short, interesting and profound book which really looks at what it is to “love your neighbour as yourself.” It challenges our consumer culture. In a world where everything can be bought and sold including companionship and every sort of perceived expertise, what does it really mean to live and care for each other in community and live out the Kingdom and Covenant values at the centre of our vision at St Luke’s? Central to any understanding or shift they encourage is listening. I share this extract:

“The practice of listening brings people together. It reminds us we are not alone. When people gather, the right questions bring the sacred into the room – questions of connections not opinions. If you bring questions of depth, questions that are personal, the experience of being together shifts. When we ask questions that are an invitation to hear each other, something is created....How do we construct ways to listen to each other? One is to present questions that evoke profound speech versus just talk. Any time you ask a question that results in a list, nothing is going to happen. The questions you ask have to take into account doubt, fallibility, confession, mystery and apology. ...For example, you ask people, “What’s the crossroad you are at in this stage of your life?” Every time you do that – the room changes....Good questions can be considered as sacraments of silence.”

Here are a few good questions from the Bible and I am certain there are many more...

Jesus was especially big on asking questions as opposed to answering them for us!

“Who told you that you were naked?” God asks Adam (Genesis 3:11)

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9)

Then the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7)

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? (Jeremiah 8:22)

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? (Psalm 139:7)
**Spiritual Formation (continued)**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? (Psalm 8:3-4)

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? (Isaiah 40:25-26)

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? ... He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:6,8)

Jesus... asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ... He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27,29)

Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16)

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? (Mark 8:36-37)

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ... How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:1-3)

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Romans 8:35)

*In asking, listening and truly hearing, be with us* God. Amen.

Simon Reed is Visiting us—5–11 September 2015

Simon Reed, who wrote this book, is coming to visit us in early Spring (5–11 September). This is really exciting for us! Simon is an Anglican priest who runs two parishes in London. He is also one of three Guardians of the Celtic Christian Community of Aidan and Hilda. His book suggests a return to three anchoring faith principles:

- following a Rhythm of daily prayer
- consciously adopting a Way of Life and
- sharing your faith journey with a Soul Friend.

The book has suggestions for growing church and community within a diverse and worldly context. Some of you are familiar with the book and have read it...we are ordering more copies which will be available shortly if you would like to borrow or buy one. The book is also available on Kindle.

Simon will preach at our Sunday services on 11 September and be available at talks and workshops during the week of 5 September. Mark this week in your diaries...it promises to be an inspiring opportunity for engagement, growth and meaningful input. If you have any queries or would like to be involved in the organising or catering around this time, please contact me...diana.lawrenson@gmail.com or through the church office on 011 728 7015.

*We live in times so hungry for meaning but often too distracted, disengaged or entertained to hear the Good News. Keep this time in prayer and pray for what is might mean for your journey!*

Diana Lawrenson
Testimony ...Be Still and know that I am God (Ps 46:10)

How true this is when turmoil and uncertainty hits us. When fear takes control of our lives and makes us doubt our abilities and capabilities. I have experienced the power of God in my life on 2 occasions when I needed Him most. I have shared these 2 testimonies in church, but would also like to submit it for the newsletter. It may bring hope to someone, and inspire others.

My first testimony is about my brother. His name is Dan. On 16 December 2015 he had a serious car accident. He had severe head injury and multiple fractures. He was in a coma for 3 months and on life support. The doctors had not given him much hope because of his injuries, and during the time in the coma, he had developed various infections and none of the antibiotics seemed to be helping him. I had contacted my home group and the church to pray for him, and many churches and different religious groups were praying for him. My brother is not a Christian, but we all stood in the gap and interceded on his behalf. Many times we had given up hope of him ever coming back to us, and the final straw was when the doctors had told us that he had severe brain damage and he would be a “vegetable” for the rest of his life. But praise be to God, He had a plan and purpose for my brother, because on 17th February my brother came out of his coma. When he was able to talk, which was the following week, he told us that he saw Jesus, and he was touched by Him. He also recounted the time while he was in the coma, being spent with his grandchild that he says was about two and half years old, and an uncle of ours who died 5 years ago. We were a bit puzzled about the grandchild, but when he asked my nephew to bring his child to visit, (my nephew and his wife had a baby on 22 December 2015, when Dan was in a coma), we had naturally assumed that he knew about this child. However when this baby was brought to him, he told them that it’s not this child, he wants to see the other child who is about 2 and half years old. It was then that my nephew had told him that his wife had a miscarriage at 3 months about 2 and half years ago. He said that this child and my uncle were with him throughout his comatose state, and they only left him the day Jesus touched him. Dan made an amazing recovery; he stunned doctors and specialist with his remarkable recovery. Where doctors have said that he will never walk or be able to speak again, he did it. He walked my daughter down the aisle on 21st March 2016, and he did the father/daughter dance with her. He had everyone in tears. He knows that he was given a second chance by God, and he is thankful to be alive. From the person he used to be, to the person he is now, it is all through the touch of God upon him. I know in my heart that Jesus brought him back to us for a reason, and even though we want immediate answers and solutions, our time and God’s time is not the same. God has a plan for Dan, and I pray that Dan will open his heart and listen to God, and not be influenced by family and friends with regards to his salvation. At this moment, there are too many people trying to make him believe otherwise, but I am trusting in God to make Dan see the light and be a testimony to the world.

My 2nd testimony is about God making me understand that He is the only one that can do the impossible. I was retrenched in December 2015. In December 2015, a week after I got retrenched, one of our customers had spoken to another supplier about me, and the Director had asked to see me. I was so happy, thinking that I had just gotten retrenched and here I have another job already. Unfortunately when I went to see this Director, even though he was impressed with my CV and my relationship with my customers he said that he could not afford me. I was very disappointed, I was so confident that with my experience and years of service I would get a job immediately. But sad to say, 6 months down the line I was still unemployed. I had put in over 1000 applications, but nothing. Then on the 3rd of June, this same Director called me to ask if I was still available and if I could come for an interview on Monday, 6th June. I went for the interview and he still told me that he could not afford to pay me what I was earning, but he put an offer on the table that was reasonably close. He told me that he was impressed at the way customers had spoken about me, as he had asked other people about me. He said that for people to speak so highly of a person there must be something good that they have seen in me. He told me that they were interviewing other people, and he will let me know by Friday, 10th June. However on Wednesday 8th of June, he called me to tell me that if I was still interested, the job was mine.

Now to the part that Jesus played in all this. I was so focused on not finding a job, and worrying about how I was
Testimony ... Be Still and know that I am God (Ps 46:10) - continued

going to manage financially and just putting in application after application, that I forgot my priorities. Yes, I was praying, but it was not the way God wanted me to pray. The word that came to me was from Psalm 46:10, BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD. On the week of 22nd June, I had decided to go on a week of fasting and prayer, and just leave everything in His Hands. In that week I never did one application, I trusted God to open a door for me. And behold, He did.

It was not from any of the applications I sent out, but from this place that I went to 7 months ago, and was told that they could not afford me. Seven months later, they remembered me, and called me. It was by the Hand of God that this was possible. Seven is a significant number in the Bible, and seven months later, this door that was closed to me, was opened again by the Grace of God. I know that the minute I put all my burdens, worries, cares, anxieties, fear etc into God’s Hands, He took over. I had to be still and trust in Him to open the way for me. Instead of wallowing in the hopelessness of the situation, I needed to trust Him and lay it all at His feet.

It is by the Grace of God that I have this job and I am thankful that He is true to His word, “I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU”

It is also by the Grace of God that my brother Dan is alive today, and restored to his normal self.

I only pray and hope that my testimony will be of help to others, who think of giving up, or think that God does not hear your prayers. He hears us, but we also need to be still to hear what He has to say to us, and then everything falls into place, because His Hand is upon us.

Thank you
Mano Govender

God is Crazy About You

"Because he delights in me, he saved me" (Ps. 18:19 NCV).

And you thought he saved you because of your decency. You thought he saved you because of your good works or good attitude or good looks. Sorry. If that were the case, your salvation would be lost when your voice went south or your works got weak. There are many reasons God saves you: to bring glory to himself, to appease his justice, to demonstrate his sovereignty. But one of the sweetest reasons God saved you is because he is fond of you. He likes having you around. He thinks you are the best thing to come down the pike in quite awhile. “As a man rejoices over his new wife, so your God will rejoice over you” (Isa. 62:5 NCV).

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, he’ll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and he chose your heart. And the Christmas gift he sent you in Bethlehem? Face it, friend. He’s crazy about you.

Max Lucado is a best-selling Christian author and writer and preacher at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio
June 27th–July 1st Holiday Club

Holiday club was a great experience, not only for the interns and youth leaders but for the children as well. We had between 35-42 kids each day, with five wonderful days of learning, team work and of course a lot of fun.

We separated the kids and leaders into teams, and everyone had to learn how to work within that team as we all learnt about Gods kingdom. We learnt that if we work together, as a team we can make a real difference in bringing God’s kingdom to those who have never experienced it. We had team war cries, team building, “boere races”, biblical drama skits and teachings on the unity in Gods kingdom.

The leaders, taken from our youth, interacted wonderfully with the kids and surprised me with their loyalty and commitment. The children bonded with their leaders, and enjoyed being with them as much as they enjoyed the programme.

On the last day we gave each child a letter of encouragement to take with them. The children could not stop saying how sorry they were that Holiday Club was over.

I’m sure everyone is excited to know that there will be another Holiday Club when the next holiday starts. I know I am. So watch this space!

My Testimony

It all started the day I had my accident ... I thought I’d never be saved/delivered from feelings of blame/anger/judgement/fear – but couldn’t believe the things I have achieved with Christ on the 21 June.

It started out as a normal Tuesday when I went to ‘girls group’ – but that is when it all changed – because I was going to be prayed for!

During prayer it was explained to me how important it is to forgive myself and that this was what God wanted and as I closed my eyes it felt as if I was free from being so harsh on myself and holding myself accountable for the accident. I am not afraid of being in moving vehicles nor walking when a car drives past ... before (and after the accident) I was terrified - now I feel relaxed.

My left leg is MUCH better and it almost feels ‘normal’ – when I walk it is not as painful as it was before and the best result of the prayer is no more nightmares. I used to have nightmares constantly – the night after girls group when they prayed for me I went to bed as I usually did – and had no nightmares! They had completely gone away by the grace of God!

Now I can officially say that I feel free .... I have a clear mind, soul, body and mind.

Thank you Jesus!

Tiffany Orji
**YPC—Activity Report (so far!)**

**One Life programmes**

June 16 was youth day and St Luke’s hosted an event where they invited St Augustine’s, Andrew Murray Gemeente and Maria Kloppers to a fun filled day of activities. On the day we had special guest from Life Line come and share with us about teenage pregnancy and issues that every teenager faces every day. About 50 kids attended the event and had loads of fun and lots of questions. There were different types of games where we had team building and getting to know one another from other churches and communities.

One Life hosted a ‘stay awake’ and they invited Thaba Sthwane Youth of Pretoria to join us for the evening of fun and games. The night consisted different programmes such as games, movies and lots of snacks. The evening was a real success and we had to chase Thaba Sthwane Youth home because they enjoyed it so much they did not want to go home.

**Our First Family service**

On the 12 June YPC hosted a family service and the children were part of all the different activities in the running of the service. One Life did worship and welcoming, and helped with serving the Chalice and Lighthouse prepared the reading of scriptures. What really stood out in the service was that young children could partake in sharing with the congregation in a ‘normal’ service. After the service the Lighthouse kids presented a flash mob dance on the grass for the whole congregation which was really impressed with the amount of energy they had!

**Lighthouse Camp**

From 3—5 July YPC hosted an Admission to Communion camp for Lighthouse at the Waterberg Lodge in Bela Bela. 17 children and 10 adults attended. The camp was really a success due to the different programmes we had and also through the participation of all the kids who gave their full attention to understanding what Admission to Communion is all about. The children enjoyed their time because they could get to see different types of animals like giraffes, hippo and the funniest of all warthogs. One of the highlights of the camp was the service we had with our Priest, Janette Ross, where she shared about Admission to Communion and where she also prayed for all the kids during the service. Special thank you must go out to all the members who sponsored the children and also to the St Luke team who assisted in making everything possible for the Lighthouse camp.

**Extra lessons**

Extra lessons have really improved with the purchase of the tablets from the iLearning Centre which are loaded with the whole curriculum for children in Grade 1 to 12. At the moment we have about 12 regular children coming on a Wednesday Thursday and Friday for extra lessons. The teachers involved are Jenni Gous and Victoria Bright who facilitate during the lessons with the tablets. We are really blessed to have this programme for children who need extra lessons—it’s also a good opportunity to do ministry work.

**Boys Group and Girls group**

So far the Boys and Girls Groups are really doing well with the teaching of Peter Horrebin of Ellel ministries on DVD with the assistance of Margie Southey. At the moment we have two breakthroughs whereby they could pray for forgiveness and could share with the groups on it. The power of prayer carries strength in these sessions and all glory goes to God.

**Confirmation**

We have started the Confirming my Faith programme in confirmation and we have 17 teens who have joined so far. At the moment we are focusing on faith and identity in Christ. Hopefully we will be having a confirmation camp together with St Michael’s and St Thomas from 23—25 September in the Magaliesberg.

*Michael Wyngaard*
Events and services NOT to be missed

Corporate Prayer @ St. Luke’s

Corporate prayer is an important part of the life of the church, along with worship, sound doctrine, communion, and fellowship. The early church met regularly to learn the doctrine of the apostles, break bread, and pray together (Acts 2:42). Corporate prayer edifies and unifies us as we share our common faith. The same Holy Spirit who dwells within each believer causes our hearts to rejoice as we hear praises to our Lord and Saviour, knitting us together in a unique bond of fellowship found nowhere else in life.

Please consider joining one or all of the Prayer Meetings that take place in our Church weekly. You are welcome to join for all or part of the meetings, so don’t not come if you can’t commit to the full hour.

Monday—Friday:
08h30—09h00 Morning Devotions
16h30—17h00 Evening Prayer

Monday
17h30—18h30 Prayers for St. Luke’s

Thursday:
13h00—14h00 Prayers for our Country

Saturday (2nd Sat of each month)
09h00—10h00 Prayers for St. Luke’s

All Welcome

"CITCHIN COOK-UP"
on the first Friday of each month (unless otherwise advertised) — @ 6pm
to cook for the Thursday stew kitchen

Bring:       * R120 for stew ingredients
             * Liquid refreshment (for you)

Come and enjoy supper, songs and good company; ~ no experience necessary!

Dates to Diarise

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23/24 Jul</td>
<td>Missions Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Aug</td>
<td>Citchin Cook up</td>
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<td>9 Aug</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>17 Aug</td>
<td>Holy Spirit Refreshment</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Aug</td>
<td>Baptisms (09h30)</td>
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<td>27 Aug</td>
<td>Quiet Morning</td>
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<td>4 Sept</td>
<td>Sea Sunday</td>
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<td>5—11 Sept</td>
<td>Simon Reed Visit</td>
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<td>17 Sept</td>
<td>SAINTS with Bishop Steve</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>St. Luke’s Day</td>
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Holy Spirit Refreshment

As we move towards Spring— set aside time to put God first and let Him refresh you.

In the Lighthouse Hall,

Wednesday 17 Aug @ 7 p.m.
All Welcome!