



Calvary Chapel 1000 Hills



Newsletter July / August 2008

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matt.5:14)



Hi again. Wow, another 2 months have flown by, and even Spring has sprung for 2008. It has been another couple of months of meetings, teachings, visitors, and visiting, filled with both delights and difficulties, but all with the joy of the Lord, because it is such a joy to know Him and serve Him. *"For the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh.8:10)*. The Lord gives us joy in many ways.....

➤ News

The Joy of Friends: *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12)*

The month started with a lunch and get together in Pietermaritzburg with some friends from Cape Town. Pete Smuts, one of my ex-Bible College lecturers, visited KZN, and myself and two other ex-BI students joined him for lunch and many laughs. We then had Mike with us from Cape Town, met with new friends from up the road, met with old school friends, Tich and Jenny came from Cape Town, we went to family & friends in Johannesburg, and then lastly we had old friends with us from Dubai. It was wonderful seeing so many friends and family again.

The Joy of Marriage: *"As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you". (Isa.62:5)*

Mike and Penny, from Calvary Chapel Cape Town, traveled all the way from the Cape to KZN to get married on the 12th of July, and I had the privilege of doing the wedding for them. Mike stayed with us for the week while he finalized all the arrangements. We hired a church building in Berea and we all had a wonderful day with Mike and Penny and their family and friends, many who had traveled from as far as Cape Town and Kenya for the special day.



The Joy of God's Word: *"Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors". (Ps.119:24)*

On the 16th of July we started our Wednesday evening **Mid-week Bible Study**. We had flyers printed and distributed and had five people respond. We are doing a 13 week course called



"Understanding the Bible", which is an overview of the story of the Bible and then focusing on ten foundational doctrines of the Bible. I am writing up the course myself so this has been rather consuming each week, but it has helped me as the teacher. One of the ladies from the Wednesday evening joined our Sunday morning meetings and has become a good family friend. She has now left for a few months to the UK; we will miss her while she is away.

The Joy of watching God Work: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain". (Ps.127:1)*

I had approached one of the local newspapers for advertising costs and through our correspondence the newspaper offered to do a newspaper article on the church and the work we are doing here. The article was given, printed, and distributed to about twenty thousand homes in the area, only God could pull this off – and for free!!

The Joy of Brotherhood: *"a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus". (Rom.15:5)*

We are slowly making new friends here and for me it is mostly with the other pastors in the area. I was invited to the local 'Ministers Fraternal Meeting' in July and feel I have now officially joined the local team as they have all welcomed us and embraced us. In our August meeting we discussed the centrality of Christ in our churches and the critical importance of teaching God's Word. I was very

blessed by the heart of all these men and as I drove home I praised God that he has brought together a group of pastors in one community that are all totally committed to Christ and to the teaching of God's Word, this is what changes lives and communities. I have met regularly with one of the pastors who is ready to retire (at 70 something!), he grew up in the area and started the first church here almost 30 years ago, he has been a great encouragement for me and has given me a lot of insight into the area and the history of the area, which is important to know.

Calvary Chapel Johannesburg:

In August we went to Jhbg for a week. Despite our combi breaking down on the second day we were there, we had a great time with family and friends. On the Sunday I preached at CC Jhbg and we spent the rest of the day with Chad, Heather, and the kids. CC Jhbg is doing great and God is using them in a wonderful way. Chad is very involved with a Christian drug rehab ministry and it is clear that he is an absolute blessing to this ministry. They have found a great premises for the church to meet and the Lord has added to their number, they are probably about 40-50 people now, many of whom are brand new Christians. Please keep them all in your prayers.



Calvary Chapel Africa Conference 2008:



A few people have been asking us if we are coming to the Africa Conference this year, until about a week ago we would have said no as we do not have the finances. However, someone has blessed us and bought us tickets to fly to Cape Town for the conference. So, we will be arriving on Monday the 20th of October and leaving the following week Thursday the 30th. We will be staying in Kommetjie (with Tich & Jenny) after the conference.

Financial Support:

Calvary Chapel Kommetjie has faithfully been our source of financial support for almost the last four years now. We have however reached a crossroads in our ministry as we have been advised that, due to financial constraints of CCK, we may lose as much as half of our current financial support by the end of September. This is obviously a concern for us, so after much prayer and consideration we have decided, for the first time, to try and raise some of our own support. This would be to replace what we will lose and secondly, to alleviate some of the financial pressure from CCK. So, we are now making an appeal to any of you who feels lead to financially support the ministry here in Natal. Please consider this prayfully, if the Lord lays it on your heart you can either contact us or just contribute anonymously into our church bank account (details below). We see this step as our first option but if we cannot raise support over the next month then our next step will be to seek secular employment. Whatever happens, Calvary Chapel 1000 Hills will continue and we trust that we are in God's hand and He will work it all out according to His good will and purpose.

General News:

Sunday morning meetings are going ahead and the school ministry is great. I am now also going into the local primary school every Thursday, directly after the high school ministry. Our website is also under design - 'calvarychapel1000hills.co.za', so watch this space for details! Thank you for your



love and support. Please join us in prayer for all these things. Yours in Christ – the Strauss clan.

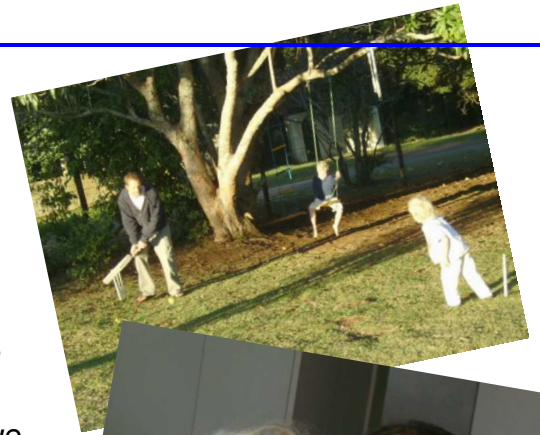
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➤ On the Home Front

Hello once again, we are back on track with our schooling and taking one day at a time – the best way. Shaun has wanted to start "Sports" with the two little guys on a weekly basis so they love this very much. After everyone left in June our home seemed very quiet and we all felt a bit sad and lonely. But! Our Father is always right there ready to carry us in His hands and lead us to our next step... or the next bunch of visitors whom we so embrace. Our baby, Jude, who is sadly not a "baby" any longer



but a boisterous 5 year old now, celebrated his birthday. Like most boys we took to the park and any other climbing apparatus that looked challenging, to spend his special day. He is a total "Buzz lightyear" fan so all gifts were of this nature and most of the play, so by the end of the day we were all "Buzzed" out! We all had a wonderful time. These children are really such a wonderful gift to us from our Lord. We had the wonderful pleasure of having Tich and Jen come and share some of their precious time with us. They got to know "Buzz" first hand and I can now say they are true fans, ha. The



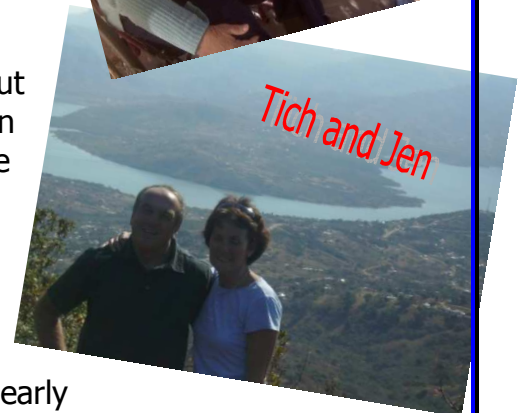
fellowship and time shared was wonderful, thank you guys for coming. With much prayer we were financially blessed to make a trip up to



Johannesburg in the beginning of August. This trip was two fold, firstly to spend time with Shaun's family whom he has not seen for a long time, and to meet up with Chad, Heather and family who have planted a Calvary Chapel there. Family time was wonderful and restful, and fellowship with the Naaktgeboren's was both encouraging and motivating. The work they are doing is challenging but they know the Lord is their leader and they are amazing servants in



Him. All the children had an amazing time with one another regardless of age differences. Lastly but by no means the least is the wonderful visit we had with some very dear friends of ours that have relocated to Dubai. Our time together was priceless and dearly cherished. Thank you Brandon, Leanne and girls for your time with us in your very busy and demanding holiday schedule.



"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

Much love and blessings to you all, Gail and the kids. xxxxx