



Calvary Chapel 1000 Hills

Newsletter May / June 2008



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



Hi all. It has been a busy two months for us, thus the delayed newsletter. May was filled with various meetings & teachings, and then it was off to the USA for me. The two week trip to the USA went into June, it included a stop over in Cape Town, and then it was back home to many visitors. So it has been days full of friendship and fellowship and as a family we were very blessed to have family and friends around. Despite feeding them all very hot curry, Jude forcing everyone to draw "Buzz Lightyear", and Jude (again!) calling John Roberts "Johnny-boy", they all said they will be back.

➤ News

Sunday morning Service:

The Sunday morning service is continuing as usual. We advertised in the local newspaper for 5 weeks but have had no new people join us, although we did get some interesting phone calls. Having said this, as we have had so many people staying with us we have had times of a full house & wonderful meetings. So we are continuing on and enjoy our meetings, I continue to teach through Genesis and Gail does a Sunday school lesson for Seth and Jude.

School Ministry:

It has been a great time in the high school and I have been teaching through the Gospel of 'John' each week. The kids have got to know me now and are starting to open up to me. Many are hearing the gospel for the first time and are asking really good questions. One of the girls burst out crying in class the other day as I quoted Jesus saying "Come to me, all you who are weary & burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt.11:28), I later found out that she has many problems at home. Just before I went overseas I was invited to the Forest View Primary School to help a ministry there. I will begin ministry at this school in the third term. It has been amazing to see the Lord open doors for me to get into both local schools in the area; it is an incredible opportunity to reach the next generation for the Lord. I will be in both schools on Thursdays so please remember to pray. While John Roberts was here I took him to the school with me and he got to minister to the whole school, sharing his testimony and doing his "Choices and Consequences" presentation. It was an awesome time, many kids responded and many gave their lives to the Lord. Praise God!!



Outreach 2008:

The Durban municipality did not approve my proposal to do an outreach at the Durban Beach Festival; I will have to try again next year. At this stage "Walking on Water" are not sure if they will be able to tour SA in September due to finances, they are however very keen to come some time so we will just have to wait and see for now.

A 1000 Hills Experience: Missions Trip 2008:

We have been planning a missions trip from CC Kommetjie to CC 1000 Hills for any and all who would like to come. The missions trip was to tie into the Walking on Water tour in Durban which, as explained above, is now pending. Watch this space for further details....

Calvary Chapel Senior Pastors Conference:



The trip to the US was amazing. We first visited CC Fort Lauderdale in Florida for two and a half days. We spent most of our time at the church, looking around and meeting people. We spent some time with the missions department, visited the school, the bible college, the radio station, the skate park, and of course the restaurant – all on the church property. The highlight for me was attending the Wednesday evening worship service, the teaching by Bob Coy was brilliant.

Then we went to CC Costa Mesa in California for the weekend. We spent some time at the church & some time sightseeing. Brian Broderson taught at the morning service and Chuck Smith in the evening, both services were wonderful, and I got to meet Chuck Smith (the founder of CC).



Just when I thought that the trip could not possibly get better we headed down to the Pastors conference in Murrieta, where we were treated as royalty. The theme of the conference was "Pastoring in the Last Days"



and we studied through 1 Thessalonians. The teachings were brilliant, the workshops were very helpful, the fellowship was rich, the accommodation was excellent, and the food...well, lets just say that I picked up a few kilos. A highlight for me was the one 'after-glow' service where I saw 800 pastors come before the Lord, and I saw us all leaving having been touched by the Lord in a beautiful way that only the Lord can. Praise God!

On our way back we had a few hours lay over in New York so we dashed into the city and ran around like real tourists, it was awesome to see the 'Big Apple'. Then we arrived in Cape Town, on Julian's birthday, & went straight to a birthday party at CC Kommetjie. Despite much jet-lag and only two hours sleep I managed to preach at CCK the next morning, see all my dear friends again, and then fly back to Durban that afternoon, feeling very exhausted, very refreshed, & desperate to see my family.



Looking Ahead:

We will be starting a mid-week bible study on Wednesday evenings from the 16th of July. To get started I am going to do a 13 week course called "**Understanding the Bible**". The course will be divided into 3 sections and will cover: The story of the Old Testament, the story of the New Testament, and Ten Great Doctrines of the Bible. I am going to put out 3000 flyers to advertise the course. I will be doing a wedding in July for Mike and Penny, from CC Cape Town, who are coming to get married in Durban, I am really looking forward to this as I love weddings!!



Thank you for your love and support. Please join us in prayer for all these things. Yours in Christ – the Strauss gang

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➤ On the Home Front

Hi all, as Shaun has said – we have had a house full of people over the past six weeks. Matthew and David offered to stay with the kids and I while Shaun was away at the Pastors conference in the USA. We were so blessed having them with us. Having the three guys (including Mitchel) in one room can be quite something! I won't comment further! Then my mom (and her great-grand-son, Cyrus) came to spend her three week annual leave with us. It was so wonderful to be with her



again – we all had so much fun and kept very busy sight seeing. I became a tourist in my new hometown. THEN..what felt like forever, Shaun came home. His trip was amazing and we are still hearing about all he did, saw, heard and learnt – I know he will carry it with him for many years to come. We waited at the airport from fetching Shaun as John Roberts and Brian arrived an hour later from Cape Town for a two week holiday. So, for the next two weeks the ten of us had wonderful fellowship with much

news to catch up on and many places to go to. The sad day arrived when the ALL departed on the same flight back home to Cape Town together. Our sadness didn't have time to linger as four days later Nico (and Mango, his dog) joined us for a few days, with Michael from Calvary Chapel Cape Town joining us six days after Nico left. Michael will be with us until his wedding day on the 12th July when he will be marrying



Penny, (also from CCCT). Shaun will be conducting the service for them. We also celebrated Seth's 7th birthday during this time. We just love all the fellowship... so you are all welcome to our home anytime.... Just call first, ha. Shaun is on a break from School ministry for the holidays but still very busy with the wedding planning, Sunday service studying and preparing for the new course he is starting on the 16th July on Wednesday evenings. The kids and I are busy with school daily as usual. We took our holiday

when my mom (and Brian) was here so we are currently schooling again. The winters here are amazing and other than a few sniffs here and there we have all been so well and are very blessed for it. Our days are still reaching about 24°C daily with the evening getting a bit chillier as we are much higher up in altitude than those living on the coast. No weather complaints from any of us here – the boys can still climb trees and ride bikes outside all day long which is wonderful for us all. We love and miss you all so dearly. Thank you to those who have kept in touch, your letters are warmth to our hearts. Much love and blessings from the kids and I xxxx

