

TESTIFY MAGAZINE

June 2025



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TESTIFY MAGAZINE

JUNE 2025

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*Praise
THE Lord*



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Nestled in the serene surroundings of Nigel, Gauteng, Freedom Recovery Centre (FRC) stands as a beacon of hope for individuals grappling with substance abuse. Established in 2008 with a mere R128 in the bank and an unwavering faith in God's provision, FRC has grown into a comprehensive rehabilitation facility, serving over 140 clients across three centers. Its mission is deeply rooted in Christian principles, emphasizing holistic healing—body, mind, and spirit—through the transformative power of Christ.

Freedom Recovery Centre: A Christ-Centered Path to Healing



A Holistic, Faith-Based Approach to Recovery

At the heart of FRC's methodology is the integration of professional medical care with spiritual guidance. The center's multidisciplinary team includes psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists, general practitioners, social workers, and HPCSA-registered counselors. This diverse team collaborates to address the multifaceted nature of addiction, ensuring that each resident receives personalized care.

FRC's programs are designed to foster:

- * **Spiritual Growth:** Daily application of Christian values, spiritual group work, and optional pastoral counseling sessions.
- * **Psychological Healing:** Individual and group therapy sessions led by qualified professionals.
- * **Physical Well-being:** Recreational activities, sports sessions, and health and nutrition education.
- * **This comprehensive approach** ensures that residents are equipped to overcome addiction and lead fulfilling, purpose-driven lives.



Family Involvement and Community Integration

Recognizing the pivotal role of family in the recovery process, FRC actively involves loved ones through:

- * **Monthly Family Seminars:** Held every second Saturday, these sessions offer education, counseling, and activities aimed at rebuilding trust and communication.
- * **Ongoing Support:** Post-program, families receive guidance on

maintaining a structured, faith-centered environment to support the resident's continued sobriety.



Structured Programs for Lasting Transformation

FRC offers a range of programs tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual:

- * **Intensive Care Program:** A 21-day program focusing on orientation, medical assessment, and the introduction of program objectives.
- * **Continuative Care Program:** An extended in-patient program providing additional support through group sessions, individual therapy, and spiritual development.
- * **Halfway House Program:** A secondary care option emphasizing employment, family restoration, and daily application of God's Word, ideal for those transitioning back into society.
- * **Skills Development Programs.** We now also offer further training in subjects like agriculture, baking, sewing, computer training, plumbing, wood & metal work and

entrepreneurial skills to help residents create a sustainable life outside of rehab.

- * **GAP Year & Volunteer Program:** For residents who have completed six months of recovery, this program offers opportunities to serve in various capacities within the center, fostering a sense of purpose and community.



Here are some benefits of the Intensive Care Program

- * Strong emphasis is put on the importance of continued education.
- * Class / Group participation is compulsory as this is part of the program.
- * Light work responsibilities.
- * Recreational activities.
- * Attendance of Art and Craft Classes and Project Work in the afternoon must also be participated in (Two hours per day).
- * Sport Sessions in the afternoon from 4 pm to 5 pm.
- * After completion of the Intensive Care program, residents are

encouraged to focus on further Education and training via Correspondence Courses e.g. Hospitality, Small Business enterprises, Travel & Tourism, Catering etc. (Own cost).



Our Dedicated Staff:

The staff at Freedom Recovery Centre pride themselves in helping reshape the lives of those who need it most. Our amazing team is dedicated to helping everyone who comes through our doors, looking to change their lives for the better.



Embarking on the Journey to Freedom

Freedom Recovery Centre embodies the essence of Christian compassion, offering a sanctuary where individuals can rediscover their identity in Christ and reclaim their lives from the grips of addiction. Through a blend of professional expertise and unwavering faith, FRC provides a path to lasting healing and restoration.

For more information or to begin the journey toward recovery, visit www.frc rehab.co.za or contact the center directly at 078 465 4243.

Accolades and Recognition

FRC's commitment to excellence has been acknowledged through several awards:

- * Best Practice Treatment Centre (2018): Recognized for exemplary service in addiction treatment.
- * Best Drug Rehab Centre in Gauteng (2022): Awarded by MEA Market Magazine UK, highlighting FRC's outstanding contributions to rehabilitation services.



www.frc rehab.co.za / freedomrecoverycentresa@gmail.com
Contact Derick on 078 465 4243 / 082 506 7890

**We have strong focus on
Prevention, Rehabilitation and
Skills Development!**

**Our 12-step program is based on
Christian values and we remain
one of the cheapest rehabs!**

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Having wrong friends landed him in jail.

I am Marthinus de Wet, a 45 year old recovering drug addict and living proof of God's mercy. In school I was an avid sportsman and part of the school's marching band. I wanted to do my LLB after school, but Life had other plans.

I worked as a restaurant manager where the hours are long & gruelling. I was introduced to CAT in 2006, when one of the waiters used in the bathrooms, and I wanted to try and feel the "energy boost" that it apparently provides. I started using CAT recreationally, "just on weekends," but before I knew it, I was using daily.

I changed jobs and I was a "functional" addict, being able work long hours - until my "hobby" was discovered by my employer. Within the space of two months, I lost my job, my flat, and my car. I had to move in with my parents in a retirement village, but I just couldn't stop using.



In 2013 received the opportunity to go to rehab. I ended up going, because my parents expected me to. Rehab felt more like a paid holiday and the day after I left, I used again, but learned how hide it well.

In Jan 2016 my mother passed away and while I wanted to quit using, but I was so deep in addiction, that I moved from CAT to crystal meth.

With addiction comes wrong friends, places and things and in Dec 2016 I was part of an armed robbery with the person who introduced me to crystal meth. We made the mistake of robbing a lady seeking a lift. The next morning, we were arrested by the police, as a case of armed robbery was opened by the lady, as she remembered the car's number plate.

I was granted bail, but with my family taking the Tough Love approach didn't pay my bail. During the time that I was in prison, my dad became ill, and in Feb 2017, he bailed me out of prison. I got to spend time at

home with him, after which he was admitted to hospital and never came home.

I was now on the streets, as I had nowhere to go. I spoke to a friend of mine that is a Warrant-officer in the SAPS, who offered me ONE opportunity to fix my life.

FRC offered me a "free bed" that same day. That day God showed me that HE has never left me.

I was serious about my recovery and in my 2nd month of the program, I requested to extend and completed a 6 month program. I became a volunteer at FRC, on 1 Oct 2017.

My court case for the armed robbery still lie ahead and FRC supported me throughout, making sure I attended court. In Nov 2018 I received the biggest shock of my life - I was found GUILTY. I cried and shouted in anger, because I have changed my life, and in the blink of an eye, everything was swept away from me. I was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment, of which 7years were suspended. A lot of thoughts went through my head, suicide being one of them.

At a church service in prison, one of the Ministry Team ladies prayed for me. She also read Jeremiah 29:11 to me. After that I was back to being furious with

God, 'cause I changed my life, I accepted HIM in my life, but still I was sent to prison, why did HE turn HIS back on me ? Not knowing He had a plan with me there. It was tough staying sober in prison, as drugs are available, but with God, and the support of family and FRC in my life, I made it through. I was a part of a church group in prison, and was able to offer help to those who wanted to become sober.



In June 2022 I was released on parole, and came back home to FRC, which is my parole caregiver, given a second chance in life to prove that with God in your life, RECOVERY is possible. I am proud to say that I recently celebrated 8 years being clean.

A special thanks to Pastor Derick Matthews (CEO & Founder), Precious Mlilo (My social worker) and Pieter Stols (Counsellor & HR Manager) for the opportunity you have given me for a second chance in life.



www.frc rehab.co.za / freedomrecoverycentresa@gmail.com
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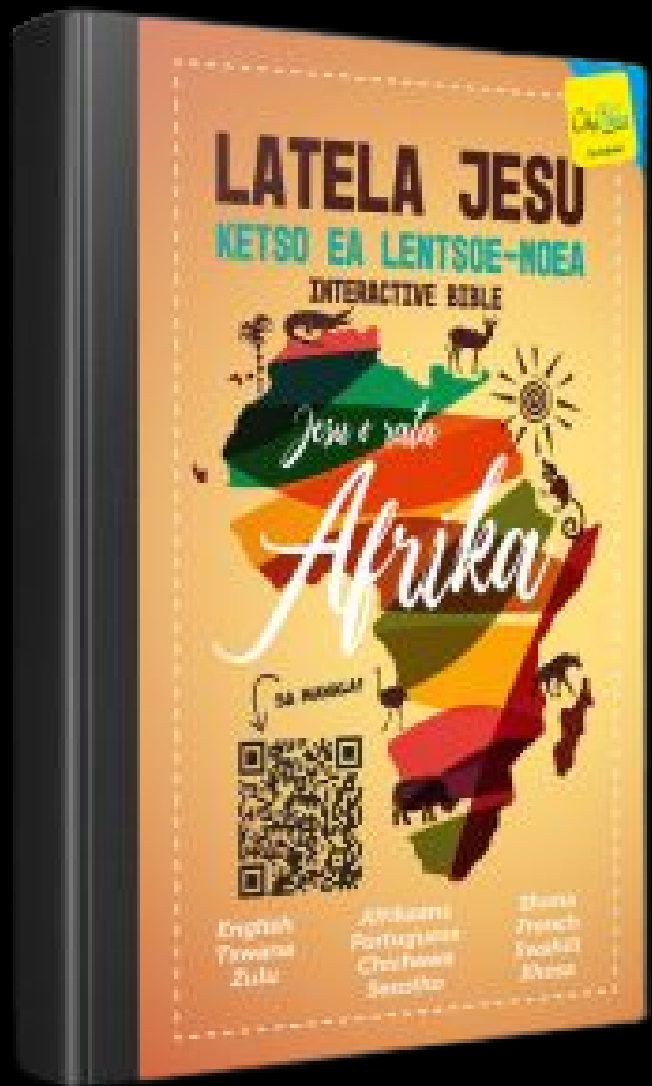
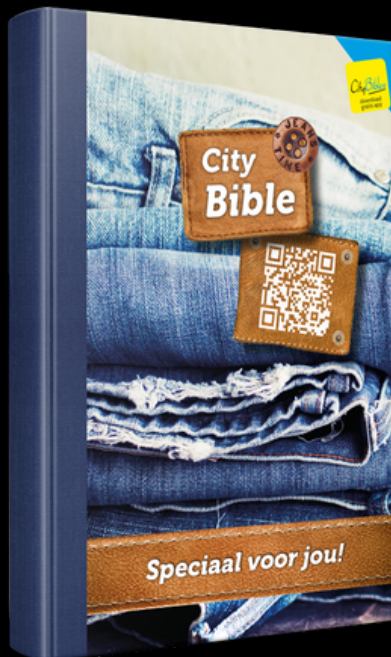
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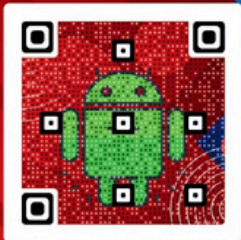
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PASTOR MIKE GOBEL

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Finding the Truth to Biblical
Interpretation according to God's Word
(Part 1)*

*"16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and for training in righteousness,..." — 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)*

Introduction

Over the coming months, I will be presenting a doctrinal teaching series in Testify Magazine — a work the Lord has laid heavily upon my heart. As a servant of Christ, I urge every believer, especially those who earnestly desire to grow in spiritual maturity, to approach this series with reverence and discernment. It is intended to sharpen your understanding of God's Word, enhance your ability to discern the voice of God, and equip you to speak with divine authority on the doctrines of our faith.



We are living in an age where truth has become a rare commodity. Nearly every stream of information — from the media to pulpits, classrooms, and even digital platforms — is subject to manipulation. Artificial Intelligence (AI), metadata algorithms, and human agendas subtly shape the way information is interpreted and delivered. Whether through social media, television, entertainment, or even religious content, what is presented to us is seldom neutral. Instead, it is filtered to support the worldviews and objectives of a powerful minority.

This is not the realm of conspiracy theory, but rather the reality of our time. Since the Garden of Eden, the enemy has sought to twist truth and sow deception. Scripture bears testimony to how even religious leaders, entrusted with the oracles of God, became tools of distortion. We find an example of this in Matthew 16:1–12, where the Pharisees and Sadducees attempted to manipulate truth to maintain their own influence and agenda. Their leaven — that is, their doctrine — was not rooted in divine revelation but in self-preservation and spiritual blindness.

““Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came and testing Him [Jesus] asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; 3 and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.

5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have taken no bread.” 8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? 9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? 11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”” — **Matthew 16:1-12 (NKJV)**

The Leaven of False Doctrine

The Pharisees and Sadducees were sects deeply entrenched in the religious and political life of Israel. The Pharisees claimed Mosaic authority for their rigid interpretations of the Law, while the Sadducees — defenders of temple authority — often dismissed supernatural truths such as the resurrection. Jesus rebuked both groups not for ignorance, but for deliberate unbelief. They could interpret the weather, yet they were blind to the signs of the Messiah standing before them.

Jesus warned His disciples, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” At first, they misunderstood, thinking He referred to bread. But soon they realised He was cautioning them against the doctrine —the subtle, corrupting influence —of these religious leaders. (Matthew 16:12)

What was their real problem? It wasn’t a lack of evidence. It was a lack of honesty, humility, and faith. They had hardened their hearts against divine truth.

“37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,

38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.” — **John 12:37–40 (NKJV)**

And sadly, that same spirit is alive in many modern religious circles today. There are multitudes who profess belief in God yet deny the divinity of Jesus Christ, choosing instead to worship a version of “God” that suits their personal or ideological preferences.

False gods, False gospels

We live in a generation not unlike that which Jesus described as “wicked and adulterous” (**Matthew 16:4**). This was not a charge of physical adultery, but of spiritual adultery — the betrayal of the covenant with God in favour of man-made ideologies, traditions, and philosophies. As Isaiah warned, “They have forsaken the Lord...they are estranged and backward” (**Isaiah 1:4**). And James echoes, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” (**James 4:4**)

Today, many have fashioned for themselves false gods out of religious hype, worldly entertainment, and motivational speaking devoid of biblical truth. Even within so-called Spirit-filled churches, worship has often been reduced to performance, while doctrine has been compromised for popularity. The true Gospel is not about appeasing culture — it is about confronting sin, calling for repentance, and pointing to Christ.

One glaring example is the Church’s silence or outright compromise on the matter of same-sex unions and the LGBTQ+ movement. Rather than standing firmly on the Word of God, too many have bowed to cultural pressure. This is not simply a “social issue;” it is a doctrinal one, a spiritual battle over the integrity of Scripture and the Lordship of Christ. It is therefore critical that the church and its leaders preach and teach a message from the Word of God that is not misinterpreted or watered-down but that is accurate, biblical, and doctrinally sound.

As the Apostle Paul warned, *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers.”* (**2 Timothy 4:3**).

We are sadly already living in those times. Because of this, the wisdom of God and proper discernment is severely lacking within the body of Christ. People are confused, swayed by worldly opinions, and unable to differentiate between truth and deception. They click the ‘delete’ button on what they don’t like, including the hard truths of Scripture and that applies to both believers and non-believers alike.

Understanding the Source of Truth

Before we can interpret Scripture correctly, we must ask: *"Who is God to me?"* If we do not know Him intimately, if we have not submitted to His Lordship, then we approach His Word with carnal minds and worldly filters. We risk becoming like those Paul described in **2 Timothy 3:7**:

"Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." True interpretation begins with reverence. **Proverbs 1:7** declares, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." Without that fear—that holy awe and submission—we will always distort God's message to suit our desires.

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is the divine Interpreter of God's Word as described to us in **John 14:26** and **1 Corinthians 2:10-14**).

26 But the [a]Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you"
— **John 14:26 (NKJV)**.

And again, in Corinthians:

"10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the [a]Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" — **1 Corinthians 2:10–14 (NKJV)**.

Without His illumination, even the most educated theologians or religious leader can become blind guides. The Word must be spiritually discerned.

The Consequence of Compromised Doctrine

When the Church abdicates its prophetic role, society suffers. Our cognitive reasoning, beliefs, and behaviours become increasingly shaped by secular ideologies rather than by the eternal truth of God's Word. We crave convenience over conviction, entertainment over edification, and motivational speeches over anointed preaching.

Yet Jesus made it clear: it is the *doctrine* of the Word — properly understood and rightly divided — that will set us free (**John 8:32; 2 Timothy 2:15**). That freedom cannot be found through casual reading or surface-level interpretation. It requires a relationship with the Author of the Word.

Without a deep, living relationship with God, our interpretations remain subjective opinions rather than Spirit-illuminated truth.

Rediscovering the Right Starting Point

For much of my Christian life, I was taught that if we simply read the Bible and prayed, the Holy Spirit would reveal its meaning. While that is indeed a part of the process, it is incomplete. What was often neglected was this essential truth: Our understanding of Scripture is only as accurate as our understanding of God Himself.

We cannot interpret divine truth apart from knowing the Divine Author. Without intimacy with God — without reverence, obedience, and ongoing transformation — even Scripture can be misunderstood or misused (**2 Peter 3:16**). Biblical interpretation must begin and end with God, not with man.

Our position or understanding of who God is, is vital (key) to the effectiveness and accuracy of the interpretation or even understanding of God's Word. Biblical doctrine could never be truly understood if we do not have a fundamental understanding of the Source of that Truth. Without that relationship to our Creator, that information simply becomes misguided opinion. The power lies in the proper interpretation to the nature of its origin, as is written in **John 1:1** "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" This must be the starting point of our faith and trust in God and His Word.

The Power of Authenticity and Truth

I recently read an article in which the writer made the following rather profound statement: *"Being authentic takes no energy – it's all the pretending that wears us out."*

At first, I nodded in agreement. Of course, authenticity should be effortless! But then I thought about that statement again...and something didn't quite add up. If being ourselves were truly effortless, why does it often feel so hard to accomplish?

In an ideal world, authenticity would be our 'natural state'—no second-guessing, no filtering of words, no adjusting who we are, and no putting on masks to fit into our surroundings. But is this not the reality we currently live in? Many of us have spent years (even decades) absorbing messages, reading books, going to religious conferences, listening to sermons on a Sunday and watching the odd podcasts about who we are, or should be. What we should want, and how we should behave. Over time, we adapt to meet these expectations, suppress even parts of ourselves to avoid judgment, and bend to fit into the "right" mould that meets the needs and desires of others.

These patterns don't just disappear overnight. They become *layers*—invisible walls between us and our true essence of who we are and of who we were meant to be in Christ. Peeling away some of those false narratives, untruths to who we are as children of God and what we should believe? That's the real work of a believer. And let's be honest—sometimes, it's exhausting. The irony of it all is that we find ourselves sometimes in a world that is less real and less truthful to what God wants and expects of us as His children.

As a result, we work so hard on our spiritual self-image which is something that should have come naturally. It is as though we are climbing a mountain just to get back to our own backyard (our 'inner self') – the spirit-led part of us that God had created before it all became influenced by the things of this world and yet when we accept Christ, we become a 'new' creation in Christ. We are meant to open ourselves up to the acceptance that it is Christ that now comes to live inside of us, and we are meant to then be led by the Spirit and not by the flesh as the Bible so eloquently denotes, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" — **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**.

The Journey Back to being Spirit-led

If what you have just read convicts you in some way, trust me you're not alone. Some days, the journey of rediscovering yourself will feel liberating—like breathing fresh air after being stuck in a room full of smokers for too long. Other days, it might feel overwhelming, filled with self-doubt, like having to deal with some of those old wounds that we so easily seem to try and cover up but never try to root out the cause of the pain, and then having to deal with the invisible force of resistance that comes from being led by the flesh and not by the Spirit.

How often have you not read your Bible and beyond the reading of its words you received no response, no revelation or move of the Spirit? How often have you prayed and asked God for some kind of divine intervention and it never came? I don't think there is a single believer out there that can with honesty say that they haven't felt the same feeling.

But here's what I've come to learn through trial and error: It doesn't have to be so hard. For me, discovering the priorities of life and placing God first before anything else in my life has been life changing. Of course, I accept that maybe my situation is slightly different to a normal citizen or child of God, in that I have surrendered my entire life to Christ to be His disciple and to take up the call of becoming a servant of the Lord. In some way that could be different, in that I previously needed to depend on my own strength, power, and ability to accomplish my personal and career goals in life.

Prior to going into ministry, I needed to perform and achieve some level of corporate success to be able to live a certain lifestyle and now I am comfortable with much less and rely entirely on God's mercy and grace for whatever He decides to bless me with. This form of commitment, submission and dependence has given me a gentle and humble way to release old patterns of self-dependence, reconnect with God on a deeper level, and to move forward even under the strains of daily struggles and natural obstacles or difficulties with a hope and an inner peace and joy for whatever tomorrow might bring.

However, come to think of it, it is no different from someone that is living a life that is dependent on a job, a salary, business turn-over, profit and loss, etc. These are not or should not be the things that determine or govern our connection or relationship to God. They are merely patterns of daily living, routines of survival and existence but what matters most is how these patterns control and shape our daily lifestyle and our existence as children of God.

Are these core patterns of existence shaped and moulded around our family, children, businesses, jobs, social routines, and our wealth or are they shaped and moulded around, first and foremost our relationship to God. That is the fundamental question we need to establish. Ultimately, the answer to this question will determine the outcome of our guided or misguided understanding or interpretation of God and His Word. Instead of forcing myself to perform various religious routines or change various bad habits or distractions, I began to allow the Holy Spirit to transform my inner man; my thoughts, actions, and behaviour by concentrating more of God's Word.

I began to read less of worldly books on philosophy, self-enrichment, motivational books by so called gurus of wealth creation, science fiction and all kinds of philosophical rubbish that drew my attention and focus more and more away from the things of God. I began to filter my mind with more of God's Word and suddenly I noticed an immediate change in my decision-making processes.

My speech, actions and behaviour became more spiritually orientated rather than worldly focused. This conscious decision to draw nearer to the things of God allowed for my transformation to happen naturally. No pressure. No burnout. No false expressions or expectations. No manifestation or falling down in church and rolling around like a crazy person being possessed by demons. Nothing like that, just a steady, supported journey with the Holy Spirit that I now walk with God and not alone.

Entering a New Season as the Body of Christ

I strongly believe that the body of Christ is entering a new season in which God is calling on His church to move into a higher level of devotion and obedience in our faith and trust in Christ. We cannot as the body of Christ simply be content with the status quo if such position or level of devotion is not fully committed to the principles and laws of God.

God cannot use us effectively for the extension of His Kingdom or bless us with the fruit of the Spirit if we are not willing to walk in obedience to His Word. To do that we need not only to embrace His Word, but we also need a clear and accurate biblical interpretation, revelation and understanding of God's Word to be able to transfer or translate the Message of the Gospel to a broken and lost world. The Bible tells us in **Psalm 119:34** "Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart."

God also says through the Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NKJV)**:

"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you [hold fast] that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,..."

Our Heavenly Father has purposefully given to us His Word (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) that we may not only receive the 'gift of our salvation' through Christ but that we also "hold fast" (believe/trust/adhere/apply and 'share') to the entirety of Scripture (meaning, believe in and adhering to both the Old and the New Testament) *"for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."* Clearly, from the key-note passage of Scripture in **2 Timothy 3:16** we can determine that God is saying that there must be a progression, a transformation, a 'moving forward' so to speak to a greater and more powerful understanding of God's Word.

We should be continuously filling our 'spiritual well' (our heart, mind, body, and spirit) with the 'refreshing water' ('water' is a multifaceted symbol representing purification, cleansing, spiritual renewal, and the Holy Spirit, as well as God's grace and life-giving power) from the 'well of our faith,' (the Source of Life) which is Christ.

Do not allow this life-giving water from your spiritual well to become stagnant and undrinkable because of all the social, cultural and yes even unwanted religious toxins and polluted particles that float all around us, or worse, allow your spiritual well to dry up because of the lack of maintenance (maintaining a healthy foundation to the principles and doctrines of our faith in Christ). Make sure that there is a consistent and continuous flow of fresh “living water” running in and out of your spiritual well – feeding and nourishing not only yourself but flowing into the lives (spiritual wells) of others who come to drink and be filled by your knowledge, wisdom and understanding of God’s Word.

This analogy of ‘feeding the spirit’ (our own ‘spirit’) and ‘being fed by the Spirit’ (the Holy Spirit) symbolises the words in the Bible that says, “making fishers of men.” A phrase from **Matthew 4: 19** where Jesus calls Simon and Andrew to follow Him and promises to make them “fishers of men.” As a devoted believer and child of God, one of the desires of your heart should always be to want to get to know God more, wanting to continuously be filled by His Spirit and wanting to draw nearer to Him in mind, body and spirit. **Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** says, *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* The primary purpose of us drawing nearer to God is that He may fill us with His Holy Spirit that we can become through Him that beacon of light and hope unto a very dark and sinful world.

Conclusion

In the months to come, I will explore foundational principles of biblical interpretation: context, covenant, Christocentricity, and the role of the Holy Spirit in hermeneutics. We will examine church history, doctrinal divisions, and why unity in the church and in the Truth matters.

But for now, I leave you with this: If we are to become effective interpreters of Scripture, we must not merely seek knowledge but pursue holiness. We must draw near to God; only then can we proclaim truth with authority in a world that so desperately needs it.

Pledge for Ministry Support

If you wish to support this ministry to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost or in helping the efforts of my registered 'non-profit,' public-benefit organisation called Planting Hope Foundation NPC to offer humanitarian aid and relief to many struggling widows, orphans and vulnerable families and individuals suffering in the community as a result of poverty, unemployment, or various addictions, feel free to contact me on the details below.

We urgently require the assistance of like-minded people to help us fund a rehabilitation and transformational initiative where we will be implementing and facilitating an Advance Restorative Justice Programme called 'The Honour Programme' in various prisons across South Africa.

I wrote this programme with the primary objective to assist in reducing the high level of 'recidivism' in South Africa and to implement a rehabilitation intervention that will bring long-term, effective transformation to those offenders that have been led astray or negatively influenced by wrongful association to gangsterism, corruption, lack of moral principles, drug addiction, violent behaviour, or mental disorders. We thank you in advance for your sincere consideration to donate and support this initiative and ministry.

In God's love,

Pastor Mike & Jada Gobel

Contact No.: 071 018 0768

Email: michaelgobel14@gmail.com



AN APOLOGY TO MYSELF

By Toni

An Apology to Myself

I owe myself an apology—for enduring what I never deserved. For years, I poured kindness into others, even when they didn't earn it. I forgave too quickly, understood too deeply, and handed out second, third, and fourth chances, believing in their goodness. But each time, I handed them the knife, only for them to drive it deeper.

I've spent so long prioritizing others' feelings that I neglected my own. I let boundaries blur until they vanished. I smiled through disrespect, whispering, "It's okay," when it wasn't. When my truth was dismissed, I stayed silent. When lies were told to my face, I waited quietly for a truth that never came. I stood by as so-called family and friends spoke of me without ever stepping into my home. Broken promises? I took them on the chin, falling back into a groove I couldn't escape.

I still see the red-faced anger looming over me. The bottles piling up, emptied by breakfast. I hear the harsh edge in your voice, the cashier's startled glance when I dared ask for something, only to be mocked like a naughty child. "Just joking," you'd say. But when I called out the cruelty, you played the victim: "Fine, I'll just shut up then."

In protecting others from pain, I lost myself. I took verbal punches silently, shattering under the weight of "jokes" and "just sayings."

Now, I see it clearly: I deserve an apology—to myself.

I carried their pain while shielding them from feeling any. I gave pieces of my heart to those who didn't cherish them, leaving me empty. They took those pieces, tossed them aside, and remembered only my flaws—not the actions that broke me. I endured mistreatment to keep the peace, but it was never okay. Not for me.

Kindness wasn't the problem. The problem was giving it endlessly without boundaries, loving others so fiercely that I faded into nothingness. I failed as a mother, daughter, sister, wife—not because I wasn't enough, but because I forgot to love myself with the same ferocity.

Today, I apologize to myself—for every tear I ignored, every boundary I let slide, every moment I chose others over me. I'm sorry for tolerating what no one should. For shrinking to fit their expectations, always making room for their wants, their needs.

From now on, I'll protect myself the way I've protected others. I'll reclaim the pieces I gave away, knowing they were never truly valued. Kindness starts with me.

If I don't stand up for myself, who will? The words carved into my soul don't fade, even as I rebuild with faith, forgiveness, and tears. Those scars become my strength, a roadmap for others lost in their darkest hours. I share my story not for pity, but to be a light for those who need it.

I am enough. Me, myself, and I—always.

#Toni

#SelfLove #BoundariesMatter #EmotionalStrength #KindnessToYours



LEADING WITH LIGHT

Dr Frank Benade

Leading with Light: How to Stay Positive and Faithful as a Christian in Top Management

In the fast-paced, high-pressure world of executive leadership, staying grounded can feel like an impossible task. Competition is fierce, expectations are high, and decisions carry the weight of teams, finances, and reputations. For Christians in top management positions, this challenge comes with an added layer of responsibility: leading not just with excellence, but with faith. How does one hold onto Christ while navigating corporate storms? How can a Christian stay positive in a world that often values power over purpose, and results over relationships?

The answer lies in intentionality. By anchoring leadership in biblical principles and a daily walk with God, Christian executives can lead with clarity, purpose, and integrity even when the pressure is overwhelming. Here are ten foundational ways to stay positive and rooted in Christ while occupying a top management position.

Start Your Day with God

The most powerful strategy is the simplest: begin every day with Jesus. Whether you lead a multinational corporation or a startup team, setting your heart right before the day begins is essential. A few moments of prayer, reflection, or reading Scripture each morning can re-center your focus from fear to faith.

Matthew 6:33 reminds us, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." When we give God our first attention, we allow Him to order our priorities and decisions.

Lead with Integrity

Integrity isn't just a buzzword; it's the foundation of godly leadership. In Proverbs 10:9, we read, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." In top management, the temptation to cut corners or bend ethics for results can be strong. But true leadership shines when it chooses the narrow path.

Your team will take cues from your character. When you make decisions based on

values rather than outcomes, you create a culture of trust. That trust, in turn, leads to loyalty, transparency, and long-term success.

Choose Servant Leadership

Jesus flipped the leadership model upside down when He said in Matthew 23:11, "The greatest among you shall be your servant." This concept is countercultural in the corporate world, where status and titles often dominate. But servant leadership is not weakness it's powerful.

As a Christian manager, serve your team. Empower them. Invest in their growth. Take time to understand their personal and professional needs. You don't lose authority by serving; you gain respect and build community.

Guard Your Heart and Mind

Romans 12:2 advises, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Leadership can be isolating and mentally exhausting. Negative news, office politics, and high expectations can wear down even the strongest heart.

Protect your thought life. Don't let stress, cynicism, or fear take root. Instead, practice gratitude, spend time in worship, and engage with other believers. Fill your mind with truth, not just data. A positive, Spirit-filled mind is a powerful leadership asset.

Handle Conflict with Grace

In every leadership role, conflict is inevitable. But how you handle it defines your leadership. Proverbs 15:1 says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Stay calm under fire. Listen before reacting. Don't seek to win arguments, but to find understanding and restore peace. When others see you choosing grace over retaliation, they see Christ in you.

Stay Humble, Even at the Top

James 4:6 reminds us, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Pride is a subtle danger in top management. Titles, salaries, and influence can puff up even the most well-meaning leader. Resist the urge to place yourself above others. Admit when you're wrong. Celebrate your team's wins more than your own. View your position not as a reward, but a responsibility to steward with humility.

Speak Life

Proverbs 18:21 declares, "The tongue has the power of life and death." As a leader, your words carry weight. They can uplift or crush. Speak life into your team, your projects, and even your competitors. Avoid gossip, sarcasm, and negativity. Instead, use your platform to encourage, bless, and guide. Your words can build a culture of positivity and faith in even the most competitive environments.

Stay Positive in Pressure

Pressure is a constant in high-level leadership. But Philippians 4:13 offers this promise: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." When the weight is heavy, remember where your true strength comes from. Choose positivity, not because the situation is easy, but because your faith is strong. Positivity isn't denial; it's defiance against despair. It's a declaration that God is still on the throne, even in the boardroom.

Make Time for the Word

The Bible isn't just a Sunday book. It's your daily strategy manual. Keep it on your desk, read a verse during lunch, meditate on Scripture during breaks. Let it shape your decisions and remind you of your calling. When the noise of deadlines and meetings grows loud, the Word of God grounds you in unchanging truth. It becomes the compass that keeps you on course when everything else feels chaotic.

Remember Your Calling

Finally, never forget why you are where you are. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." You weren't placed in leadership by accident. Your job is not just a career it's a calling. You are a light in your industry. Your boardroom is a mission field. Your leadership is a ministry.

Let that truth shape your goals, your values, and your impact. Let it remind you that success isn't measured by profit margins alone, but by eternal significance.

Conclusion: Leading with Faith and Excellence

Being a Christian in top management is not about preaching from your corner office or quoting Scripture in every meeting. It's about living in such a way that Christ is seen in your actions, your attitude, and your integrity. It's about staying positive because you know that your hope does not rest on markets, numbers, or outcomes but on the eternal, unshakable love of God.

So lead boldly. Lead kindly. Lead faithfully.



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Counselling Psychologist
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Dr Frank Benade (PhD)

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- Depression counselling and coaching
- Anxiety coaching
- HIV Trauma counselling
- Marriage and family therapy
- Life coaching (I am a Master Life Coach)
- Teenage therapy
- Cancer patient counselling and support
- Weight management counselling in conjunction with a dietician
- Hospital Visits



THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

SHARE

NOW

SHARE

IT

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS
CHRIST?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thin king about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"

NASB

This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

= Everlasting Punishment

= Destruction

= Shut Out

= No Godly Presence

= And no Glory at all

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

NASB

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, Go gas made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

John 1:12-13

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

NASB

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

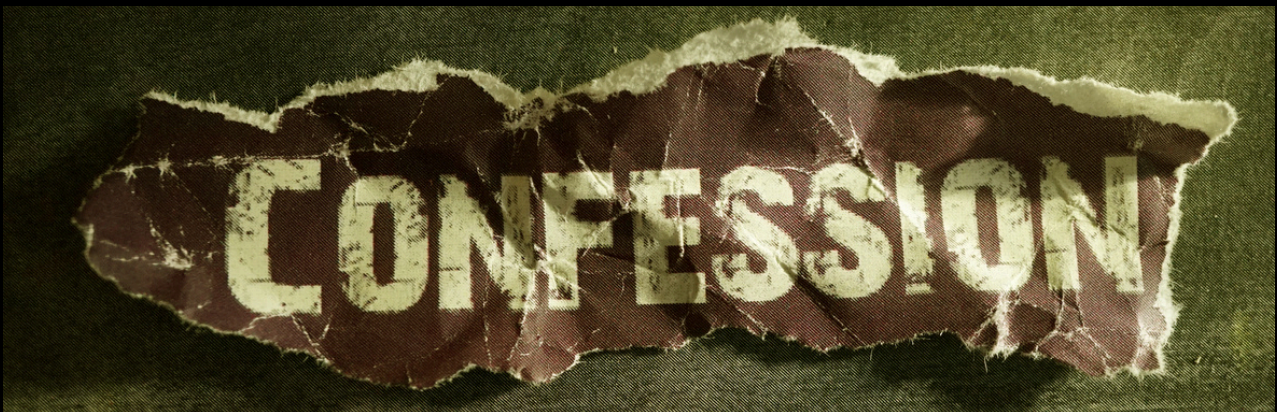
So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

Romans 10 vs 9-10

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

NASB

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.



Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.

BELIEF

And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.



ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING! PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen!

Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, prayer all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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NEWS ZONE

2025

Pastor Sakkie and Louda Roux

Contact No 074 977 0937

If you want to assist us with a financial donation, it can be deposited into the following bank account.

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Update Time!

Hi Mark. I trust you are blessed.

Just an update on Arukah Evangelisasie last outreach.

Due to my stroke I experienced, I could not take part in the outreach.

Arukah Evangelisasie had a blessed outreach on 10 May to Jerigo Upliftment camp in Eloff close to Delmas.

Attie & Bianca Lategan took charge, and Emmanuel PPC Church sent Pastor Juan to bring a word of hope and a word to the mothers in the camp. The people were spoiled with curry and rice and fruit salad with ice cream. Leon Le Roux from Jerigo camp said it was a blessed day, and the people enjoyed it.

Leon's tel number is on one of the photos if people are interested in assisting them to take care of the poor that ends up at Jerigo camp.

God bless.



RESTORATION

GERDA POTGIETER

EXCLUSIVE

Remarkable women who positively transformed the lives of thousands of young people!

May brought the warmth of Mother's Day, a heartfelt occasion dedicated to honouring the remarkable women who shape the future through their nurturing spirits. Among these inspiring figures, we highlight two formidable women in ministry, Lidia Dube and Esther Bornman of the KwaSizabantu Mission. Their unwavering devotion and profound impact resonate not only within their communities but also in the hearts and lives of the next generation they guide and uplift.

Serving others unconditionally is a calling that requires a unique kind of person. This



often leads them to engage in missionary work that can be both demanding and frequently overlooked. Over the years, I have volunteered at various mission stations, immersing myself in their critical efforts and bringing attention to missionaries' remarkable selflessness and profound impact.

One mission that has left a lasting impression on me is KwaSizabantu, nestled in Kranskop in the landscapes of KwaZulu-Natal, established over 55 years ago by the visionary Reverend Erlo Stegen, who passed on in 2023. During my numerous visits to KwaSizabantu, I encountered two extraordinary women of faith who had initially sought assistance from the mission during challenging times. Inspired by the care and support they received, they chose to dedicate their lives to the mission, working alongside the team to uplift others in need. Their stories are just two of many demonstrating the transformative power of compassion and commitment in this community.

LIDIA DUBE, SPIRITUAL MOTHER TO MANY

To truly appreciate the incredible impact of the late Reverend's work, one could fill a book recounting his journey since his life was restored and he sought a revival in his ministry. This revival has left a lasting legacy. Another key figure in this movement is Lidia Dube, an inspiring leader from the isiZulu community where Stegen began his mission. Since her own life was transformed, Lidia has been unwavering in her support of the Stegen ministry, dedicating herself especially to guiding the youth toward a deeper relationship with the Lord. In a true act of obedience, Lidia initiated a youth conference that celebrated its remarkable 50 years in 2024. These gatherings have brought thousands of young people twice a year to KwaSizabantu to encounter the Lord, many for the very first time, igniting hope and faith for generations to come!

Lidia spearheaded the CYPISA (Concerned Young People of SA) restoration program. Although she has never married and has never enjoyed being a mother, she has become the spiritual mother of thousands of young people. Now in her late seventies, she lives a pious life as a missionary at KwaSizabantu, providing help and counselling to many who face life's challenges. Her counselling is widely recognised, and countless people, including royal households, come from near and far to seek her guidance and messages of hope. She never allows anyone to leave her without a message of hope.

But Lidia's childhood was not without challenges, and the constant arguments

between her parents initially hurt her outlook on life. She was constantly involved in fistfights but and her experience in street fights led her to become a gang leader, often instigating fights at school. Her behaviour caused significant problems for her parents and the teachers who crossed paths with her.

Lidia's mother became involved in the ministry of the late Rev Erlo Stegen, and she sought help for her daughter's bad behaviour. Lidia eventually got involved in the ministry. She and her mother were some of the few co-workers who played a role in starting the KwaSizabantu Mission over 55 years ago.

ESTHER BORNMAN, SOFT-SPOKEN BUT STRONG IN MINISTRY

Esther Bornman is truly a remarkable missionary at KwaSizabantu. She embodies the spirit of a loving spiritual mother to many young boys who come seeking guidance and support. Every conversation with this inspiring woman is uplifting, and walking alongside her throughout the Mission grounds is a beautiful experience. You can feel the warmth and admiration from everyone who stops her to express their gratitude for her heartfelt dedication and kindness.

Esther has certainly faced her share of challenges and heartache. She moved to KwaSizabantu on December 23, 1986, with her husband, Daniel, and their three young children. It was Daniel's dream to work there, and he became the headmaster of the Domino Servite School at the Mission. Tragically, just weeks later, on January 12, 1987, he passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack, leaving his missionary aspirations unfulfilled. Yet, Esther's resilience shines brightly as she has stayed committed to KwaSizabantu, continuing her work with grace and determination.

While two of her adult children have ventured on to explore their own paths, Esther's loyalty to KwaSizabantu is unwavering. Her eldest daughter, Hanna, remains a vital part of the Mission, working at the school. I had the joy of meeting Hanna's three wonderful daughters, who, along with their husbands, are actively contributing to the Mission's efforts. They are such talented and lovely individuals who passionately embrace the incredible work being done here.

Esther says the people at KwaSizabantu accepted her and her family with open arms. They were there for her and her family when her husband died and in all her hours of need. It never changed over the years. Esther said, "Ever since my

husband died, the house of the late Erlo Stegen (on the Missio's grounds), has been a natural haven for me. The Stegens became like my family. Kay Stegen was my precious friend, our school principal, and an outstanding counsellor. I learned a lot from her. I helped her prepare food for countless youth and ministers' conferences when she was still alive.

“Only after Kay's death did I get to know Lidia Dube, who started the youth conferences and CYPISA programme at the Mission, better. She became the person I started going to for advice and prayer. In 2009, I started working with Lidia at CYPISA. I helped set up our office and helped with administration and counselling. I still assist with devotionals and counselling for the men who come for help. I am also involved in counselling after the services in youth services and during the bi-annual youth conferences.”

My conversations with Ester were heartwarming and uplifting. She cares deeply for the broken and the needy. Her family at KwaSizabantu and the other residents speak highly of her. Despite her age, she still makes a huge difference in society and changes the lives of people rejected by their families and society.

OUR JOURNEY THEIR STORY

The KwaSizabantu Mission's CYPISA program has made a remarkable impact, transforming the lives of over 20,000 young individuals. I'm excited to share a short version of one of the heartfelt testimonies from a young man whose journey has inspired him to positively contribute to society. The CYPISA restoration program is a treasure trove of uplifting stories, and I'm thrilled to announce a new video series, Our Journey, Their Story, available on YouTube.

Our goal with the series is to inspire others and showcase the incredible transformations that happen when you engage wholeheartedly with your faith and effort. Let's celebrate these journeys together and uncover the profound work that can be achieved! I will provide a brief description of Adam's story, already published, and the link for those eager to get the full story as it was told by those who have restored their lives after addictions.

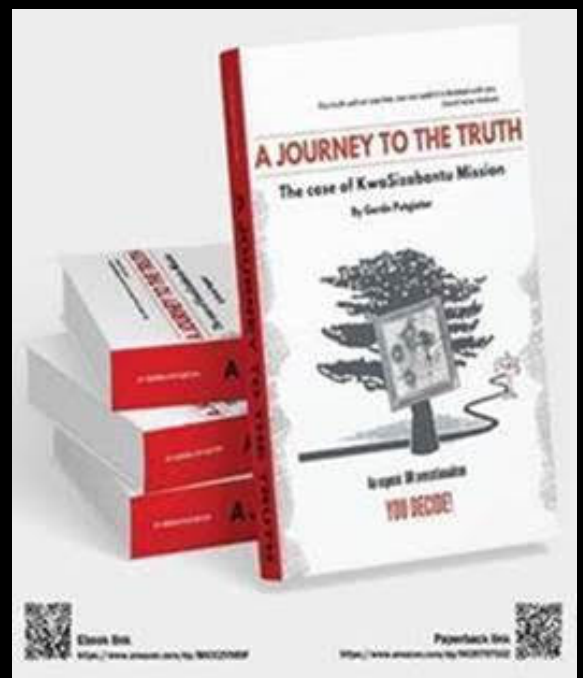
Adam Mickleburgh is married to the eldest daughter of Esther Bornman, Miriam, and the couple was blessed with a cute little girl who stays with them at KwaSizabantu. Adam has a lovely testimony, which I have forwarded with his

permission to many publications. This is a short version of his testimony:
“For over 10 years, I have experienced the unceasing kindness, love, selflessness and patience of the co-workers, mentors, and seniors at CYP SA and the KwaSizabantu Mission. These people have surrendered their lives completely to help people like me and rescue them from the gates of hell. My father also met the Lord and now lives and works at the Mission, partly because of the change in my life. I married a young lady whose life is also dedicated to Christ and His work, and we serve the Lord together. We have been blessed with a beautiful baby girl.”

Note: Since 2009, the KwaSizabantu Mission has been running a restoration program (not a rehabilitation program) called the CYP SA restoration program to help those with addiction issues and social ills. CYP SA stands for the Concerned Young People of SA, and the program stands firm against the devastation caused by drugs, immorality, HIV/Aids, human trafficking, crime, prostitution, pornography and abuse. It raises awareness for these issues by visiting schools, communities, and prisons. Over 20,000 young people have been helped through this program since it was founded. CYP SA has, in collaboration with the KwaSizabantu Mission, started a skills development program to give them a better chance to obtain employment. For more inspiring stories and testimonies about restored lives, see the following websites: www.devotedmag.co.za and www.cypsa.org.za

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GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS HYBRE KIVEDO

The Beauty of Holiness, Hope and Worship

Worship the Lord in His holy splendour. Tremble in His presence, all the earth! (Psalm 96:9)

As I stepped into Prince Albert on April 30, 2025, for a five-day stay, the moment my feet touched its soil, I felt the weighty presence of God. It wasn't the kind of feeling you can explain—it's one you encounter.

Like holy oil poured fresh, the Spirit of God hovered over this picturesque town, nestled beneath the towering Swartberg Mountains. The very landscape cried out with reverence, echoing Psalm 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."

But it wasn't just the mountains. It was the people. The streets. The spirit of unity. The laughter of children. The hope dancing in the eyes of those who've seen hardship, yet still stand—rooted in faith, clothed in dignity, and rich in love. Prince Albert, like Nazareth of old, may be easily overlooked on a map—but what flows here is divine destiny, waiting to be unveiled.



At the heart of this divine appointment is the Prince Albert Journey to Jazz Festival—a gathering that has become more than just a celebration of music. It's a movement. A declaration. A modern-day Upper Room where sound becomes ministry, where community becomes family, and where worship isn't just sung—it's lived.

Through the tireless work of the Prince Albert Community Trust (PACT), the festival rises beyond entertainment. It becomes a lifeline. Jobs are created. Dreams are restored. Young artists—many from under-resourced communities—step into their callings. The festival whispers the message of Matthew 25:35–36, as it serves the hungry, the thirsty, and the stranger with open arms and open hearts.

One cannot mention this event without recognizing the orchestra of women in leadership who orchestrate it all with excellence and grace. These are our modern-day Deborahs—wise, bold, spirit-filled.

Executive Mayor Linda Jaquet leads not with ego, but with empathy—a mother of the town, guiding with vision and compassion.

Azuke Ntapane and Ingrid Wolfaardt, directors of the Journey to Jazz Festival, brought their full selves to the table—strategic, creative, prophetic. They didn't just plan an event. They hosted God.

Renicha Mooneys, leading the PACT J2J Youth Crew, nurtured the next generation with both strength and softness, empowering young men and women to stand firm in their purpose.

And while worship filled the air, security and service held the ground.

Captain Carlia Vosloo, with Warrant Officer Elise Frey, stood as watchwomen on the wall. With quiet authority and spiritual awareness, they stewarded safety—reminding us of Isaiah 62:6: “I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night.”

EMS Coordinator Zubiada Abelson, ever watchful, mirrored the heart of the Good Samaritan, ready to respond in love and care.

One unforgettable highlight was the performance by the Outeniqua High School Jazz Band. Under the watchful eye of their dedicated music teacher, these young musicians released a sound that stirred the spirit and silenced doubt. Their harmony was more than notes—it was evidence of purpose, passion, and prophetic release. Their music wasn't just heard; it ministered.

And then, just when the audience thought they had seen it all, the unexpected happened — Swartberg High School stepped onto the stage, not just as a school group, but as a freshly-formed choir that had only come together five days earlier. Yes, five days — and yet, what followed was nothing short of heavenly. Their collaboration with the Outeniqua High School Jazz Band was a match made in musical glory. In just under a week, these students forged a spirit-filled synergy that lit up the room. The music started, and heads began to bob, feet started tapping — you could feel the rhythm crawling up your spine, urging you to dance. The piece was original, yet deeply familiar in feeling, as though each note had been waiting for this moment to be born. Their voices blended like seasoned performers, rising like incense, pure and passionate. It wasn't just a performance — it was worship, it was joy, it was soul. They were like angels on that stage, delivering a moment that no one saw coming, but no one would ever forget.

As I stood among the crowd, watching the children dance, something within me broke open. Joy spilled into the streets. Hope lit every face. These children—so full of life, so unbothered by status or circumstance—reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 19:14: "Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Despite hardships, there was a tangible joy in Prince Albert. It wasn't superficial. It was holy. This town, though small, gives much—hospitality, honour, and humility. As Hebrews 13:2 teaches, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it." I have no doubt I encountered a few during those five days.

The festival ended, but the oil keeps flowing.

The community of Prince Albert left an imprint on my spirit. Their resilience is not of this world—it's rooted in heaven. Their leadership is not about position—it's about posture. And their worship is not about performance—it's about presence.

This isn't just a town. It's a tabernacle. And I believe God is building something lasting here—brick by brick, song by song, prayer by prayer.

As I left, my heart overflowed. Not with sadness, but with a holy awe. I came to witness a festival. I left having encountered a revival.

Let this be a call to the nations: From the Karoo to the corners of the earth, may the beauty of holiness, the power of hope, and the freedom of worship arise. And may God's favour rest upon Prince Albert and every person who carries the fire forward.

In the name of Jesus,
Amen.



FOR THIS CAUSE BISHOP OT WHITTAKER

The Dying Generation

Let Us Feed Our Children (Mark 5:43)

According to Mark 5:43, following the miraculous resurrection of Jairus's daughter from death, Jesus entrusted the vital responsibility of her care to her parents. In the same vein, we as parents have been given the directive to "feed our youth" which may extend beyond the immediate physical needs. The term "feed" could be applied in various ways like: "to literally nourish; to provide financial sustenance; to educate and cultivate academically, emotionally, and spiritually." This feeding can also encompass nurturing their social skills. These aspects play a significant role in shaping well-rounded individuals who can navigate the complexities of life. To truly feed our youth, we must provide them with rich, engaging learning experiences that stimulate curiosity and critical thinking. Encouragement of open dialogue about their feelings and thoughts can foster emotional intelligence, allowing them to understand and manage their emotions effectively. Moreover as parents, it's essential to cultivate a supportive environment where they can develop strong relationships and learn the value of community. By modeling empathy and



cooperation, we equip our youth with the tools needed to build connections that last a lifetime. In parallel, fostering independence by involving them in decision-making can enhance their confidence and responsibility, aiding them in becoming capable adults. Through these holistic approaches, we can better fulfill our role as parents in their development journey. It calls for a nurturing environment in which our youth can thrive and develop their potential. This responsibility implies that the parents must engage in fostering their inner life, instilling values, and guiding their moral path. It brings forth the significance of surrounding them with love and support, which cultivates a sense of belonging and identity.

Train Up A Child

Proverbs 22:6 also instructs us to steer our children toward the paths that they ought to go. The scripture does not advocate that individuals should simply embark on the paths of their preference; instead, it emphasizes the singular journey that God has predetermined for them. There is a significant difference between “ought to go” and “wish to go.” Additionally, Proverbs 14:12 conveys that there exists a way that appears correct to man, yet its outcome is one of ruin. Our younger generation is often captivated by routes that seem acceptable to them; this is what I refer to as the way they “wish to go.” At present, these paths may seem attractive, while all else is viewed as a hindrance to their enjoyment. They often adopt the belief that they will commit to God when they are older, as they feel the necessity to savor life’s pleasures in the meantime. Disturbingly, one may even encounter parents bolstering this perspective by stating, “I do not impose my values; I grant them the liberty to choose.”

Parents Needs To Be Intentional

I have observed that as parents, we are deliberate in numerous aspects of our children’s lives, such as their education, hobbies, and sports. However, when it pertains to their spiritual development, we often relinquish this responsibility, allowing them to navigate it independently. We fail to be intentional about nurturing their spiritual well-being. One of the most poignant verses in the Bible is Judges 2:10, which reveals that

‘after the previous generation had died, another generation arose that did not know God or the deeds He had performed.’ If we neglect to cultivate our children’s spirituality, they may grow up devoid of any knowledge of God and a sense of purpose. It is our duty as parents to create an environment that fosters conversation about faith, encouraging our children to explore their beliefs and understand their significance in the world. This proactive approach can help embed spiritual values in their lives, equipping them with the tools to face challenges and uncertainties.

Ways Cultivating Our Children

To cultivate this aspect of their development, we can develop habits that encourage spiritual growth. Regular family discussions about faith can illuminate our beliefs and values, showing children how these principles apply in everyday life. Additionally, involving them in community service or church activities can deepen their understanding and connection to faith through real-world application. Moreover, it is beneficial to lead by example. If children witness their parents engaging consistently with their own spiritual practices—be it prayer, reading scripture, or attending services—they are more likely to develop similar habits. By integrating spiritual discussions into our routine and demonstrating the importance of faith through our actions, we empower our children to make informed choices about their spiritual journey, ensuring that they do not grow up ‘without knowing God.’ Furthermore, nurturing our children’s spiritual lives requires us to be attuned to their unique journeys and challenges. As they grow, it is essential to instill a sense of purpose and responsibility that extends beyond their personal desires. We must encourage them to apply their faith through action, guiding them in understanding that their capabilities can serve others. As parents, we should be vigilant in recognizing the societal pressures that may distract them from their spiritual commitments. The world often presents enticing alternatives that can lead to apathy or disconnection from their faith. Therefore, it is crucial to address these influences head-on, reaffirming in our children’s hearts and minds the importance of knowing God as a reliable anchor in tumultuous times.

In cultivating a rich spiritual foundation within our families, we not only

enrich our children's lives but also strengthen the fabric of our communities. By passing down the values we cherish, we pave the way for future generations to build upon our commitment to faith. Embracing this role vigilantly and lovingly will ensure that they shall know God, and in turn, make Him known to others.



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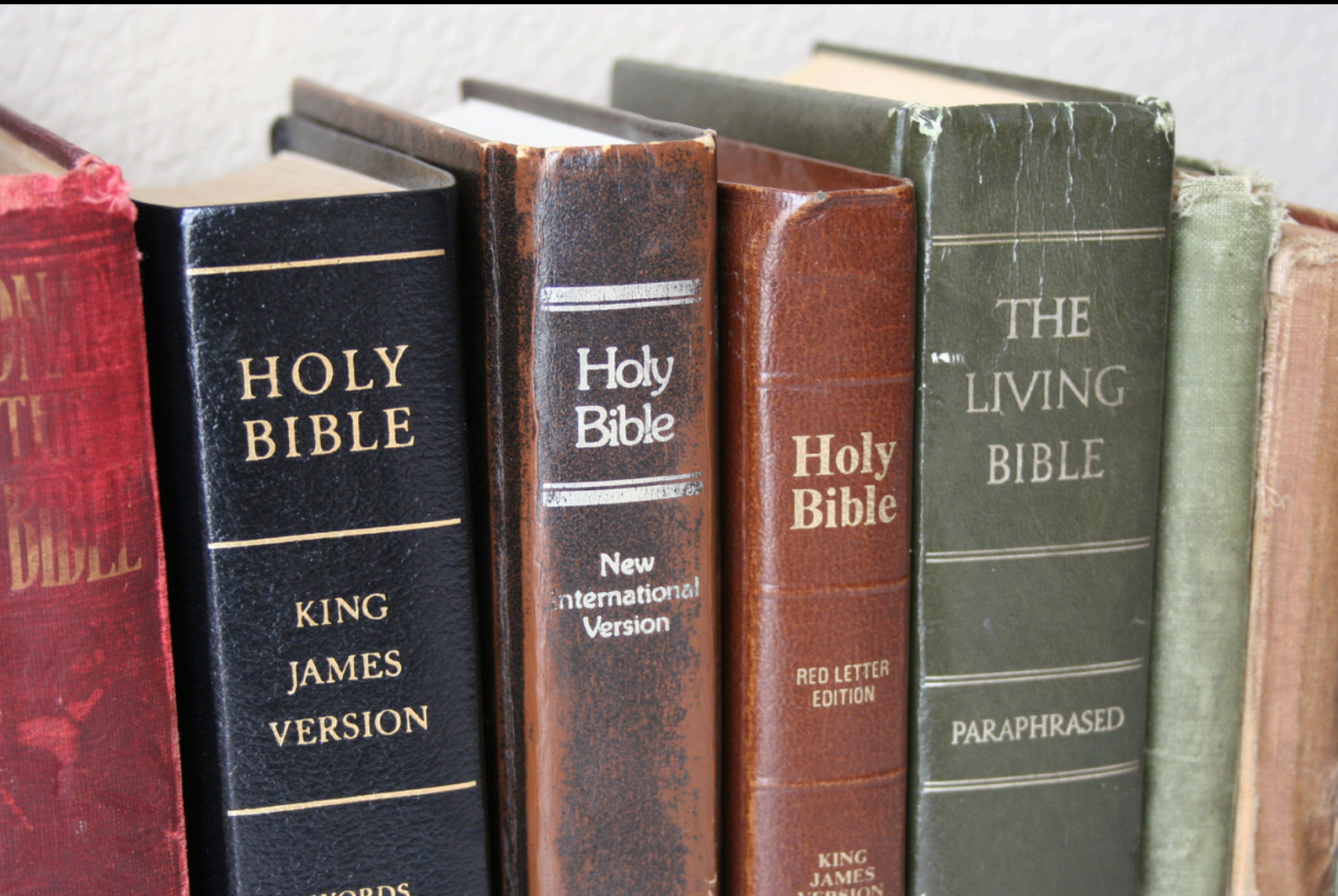
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- 1. Office:** Is located in Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa with Mark Page running the office full time with the title of ITI City Bibles Operations Manager.
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