

TESTIFY

MAGAZINE

August 2025



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Plus

Erlo Stegen

KEEPING JESUS BEFORE PEOPLE!

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IN THIS EDITION

Issue 3
August 2025

FRONT COVER PICTURE



Rev. Erlo Stegen

The legacy of Rev. Erlo Stegen is a testament to the remarkable success he achieved in his ministry and at the KwaSizabantu Mission Station he founded in KwaZulu-Natal. He passed away in 2023, but his legacy continues through the transformation brought about by God's grace. Fondly known as Baba Mfundisi among the Zulu people, he cherished and built a legacy over seven decades that will positively impact future generations for many years to come. From the moment he felt called to work among the Zulu community, he sought to obey Jesus and His

teachings as revealed in Scripture. He dedicated himself to supporting those in need, providing a source of healing and restoration. The Bible served as the guide and foundation of his life and ministry, leaving an inspiring mark on all who knew him.

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FRONT COVER

ERLO STEGEN



**Rev. Erlo Stegen's legacy is truly one of profound
love and unwavering commitment.**

By Gerda Potgieter

FRONT COVER

ERLO STEGEN

The legacy of Rev. Erlo Stegen is a testament to the remarkable success he achieved in his ministry and at the KwaSizabantu Mission Station he founded in KwaZulu-Natal. He passed away in 2023, but his legacy continues through the transformation brought about by God's grace. Fondly known as Baba Mfundisi among the Zulu people, he cherished and built a legacy over seven decades that will positively impact future generations for many years to come. From the moment he felt called to work among the Zulu community, he sought to obey Jesus and His teachings as revealed in Scripture. He dedicated himself to supporting those in need, providing a source of healing and restoration. The Bible served as the guide and foundation of his life and ministry, leaving an inspiring mark on all who knew him.

The Stegen legacy began in 1952 when young Erlo, then only 17, was called to ministry, specifically to missionary work among the Zulu people. By 1955, he was ready for full-time ministry at the height of Apartheid in South Africa. There was distrust on various fronts, and, in addition, the Zulu people saw Christianity as a white man's religion. Against this background, the young preacher started his ministry in Maphumulo, near Kranskop in KwaZulu-Natal. He did not make much progress initially, especially as he couldn't speak the Zulu language and, for years, struggled to build a more vital congregation. The lack of progress bothered him.

EARLY YEARS

FRONT COVER

ERLO STEGEN

The early years of the small ministry were not easy. The community struggled to make ends meet. Challenges such as the distances to the cities, lack of infrastructure (electricity and running water), and insufficient job opportunities made it difficult for the locals to earn a decent living or farm successfully to provide for their needs. They became dependent on the Mission. The community had limited knowledge about farming, and Rev. Stegen, a farmer at heart, began teaching them how to farm. He showed them how to utilise their resources to make a living and build a missionary that could help the community.

Over time, the congregation grew slowly and then experienced a revival in 1966, after which it expanded exponentially. “We were desperate for God Himself to work and save the heathen. To our surprise, God began with us. As we repented and made right with God and our fellow man, the Lord sent revival to us and then the heathen,” Rev. Erlo said.

He acquired a farm in 1970 and established the KwaSizabantu Mission. He began farming to feed the ever-growing number of churchgoers. The humble vegetable gardens which they started with evolved into the highly successful Emseni Farming, which now produces sweet peppers and export-quality avocados, among many other crops.

They bottled the spring water they discovered at the farm, which evolved into the multiple award-winning aQuellé brand. It is this water brand and farming projects that helped the Mission become self-

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ERLO STEGEN

sustainable, providing financial support for its missionaries, as well as countless humanitarian works and community outreaches.

The Missionary needed accommodation, and he started building projects. Over the years, he built and implemented numerous projects to sustain the ministry's work, reach out to, and uplift the community. He even started a school, teaching college and community radio station, among others, to broaden the gospel's reach. The current auditorium can accommodate approximately 10,000 people, and it is regularly too small for the visitors. Overflows are accommodated in a massive tent at the back of the auditorium.

From the beginning, God's grace was given to the KwaSizabantu congregation in unmerited favour, and Rev. Stegen was awarded many times for the impact of his work in the communities he served. He made a significant impact in educating communities. Through grace, God continues to effectively change the hearts and lives of the community, both those who see it as a calling to help others and those who are being helped.

NOT ALWAYS PLAIN-SAILING

KwaSizabantu still grows despite numerous challenges, including onslaughts on the founder's life's work by individuals and the media. Although Rev. Erlo's ministry originated in South Africa, KwaSizabantu has expanded to include several centres across the continent and in

FRONT COVER

ERLO STEGEN

other countries. It also has several branches in South Africa and continues to grow.

KwaSizabantu reaches out to people of all racial and cultural backgrounds, bringing a message of repentance and hope, and providing spiritual guidance, educational support, and counselling. It is hard to imagine what KwaSizabantu looked like in the early days. Today, it boasts a 10,000-seater auditorium, water bottling plants, numerous hectares of farmland featuring avocado orchards, a variety of vegetables, nut trees, a dairy, and over 12 hectares of greenhouses dedicated to growing peppers and other vegetables. It has become self-sustainable, and the income from the products sold sustains the ministry, enabling them to continue with their humanitarian work and numerous community outreaches, which they have implemented over the years and still maintain.

It is not hard to believe that millions of people have visited KwaSizabantu over the more than 55 years since its founding, and that many of these individuals have been positively impacted by their experience. The numerous positive feedback and testimonials from visitors are proof of the excellent experience they had at the Mission.

To this day, people continue to come in their thousands to share in the abundant grace found at KwaSizabantu and hear the messages preached there firsthand. The celebration of the ministry's 70th anniversary in 2023 attracted more than 10,000 people. The Ministers' Conference in

FRONT COVER

ERLO STEGEN



FRONT COVER

ERLO STEGEN

March 2023 was also well-attended by Christian leaders from across the country and abroad. The recent youth conference in July drew over 12,000 people in attendance for the Thanksgiving Service.

There is work that God calls all of us to do, and it is laid out for us in the Bible. God calls us to love others, care for the poor, and live our lives so that we inspire others. As you read about the exciting journey of Rev. Erlo over the more than seven decades of his ministry, I hope you will also be encouraged and inspired to fulfil what God has called you to do. “For no one can lay any foundation other than the already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:11)

NOTE: KwaSizabantu’s confession of faith and other information is available on its website (www.ksb.org.za). It is thoroughly mainstream theologically.

SIDEBAR:

The Stegen legacy in a nutshell:

Over seven decades of ministry among the Zulu people.

The KwaSizabantu Mission was established 55 years ago.

An auditorium which can seat approximately 10,000 people.

Diverse agricultural projects: peppers, avocados, cabbage, artemisia, paw-paws, dragon fruit, mangoes, dragon fruit.

Dairy farm and making yoghurt, maas and butter.

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ERLO STEGEN

A bakery and pasta producing facility.

Bee-farming and honey production.

Building projects: hostels, dormitories, houses for missionaries.

Education: a pre-school, primary school, high school and Cedar Academy International.

Community radio station: Radio Khwezi.

Three water bottling plants.

Skills development centre: pottery, building projects, woodworking, brickmaking, steelwork.

Job creation: permanent and seasonal workers.

Several humanitarian and community outreaches.

Community clean-up campaigns in collaboration with local authorities.

Food- and water outreach programs during disasters.

Bi-annual youth conferences since 1974 (102 conferences).

Minister's conference every two years (over 100 conferences).



DANELLE VAN DER LINDE

FAITH OVER FEAR INVESTIGATES



What is LIGHT?

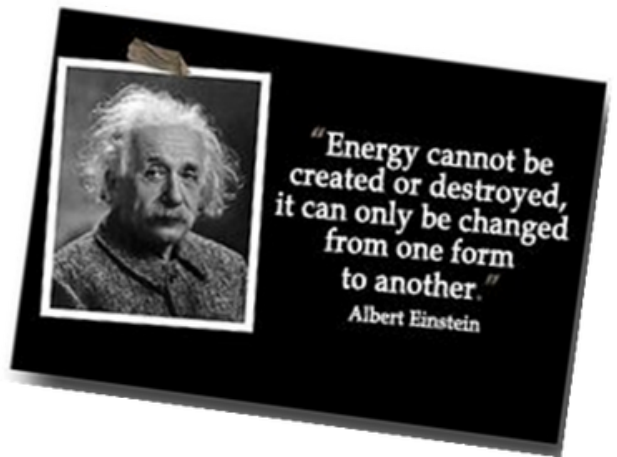
Have you ever stopped for a moment and wondered what light is and where it really comes from?

According to the dictionary, light is defined as the electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths between 380 and 750 nm, which is the only form of energy visible to the human eye.

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"Energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can only be changed from one form to another. ~ Albert Einstein

This law, fundamental to physics, implies that the total amount of energy in a closed system remains constant over time. While individual processes may involve the conversion of energy from one form to another, the overall energy content of the system is conserved, suggesting it has always existed and will continue to exist.



What is LIGHT according to the Bible?

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." (Gen. 1:1-4)KJV

The light described in Genesis 1:1-4 is not from the Sun, as the Sun was created only on the fourth day in Genesis 1:14-19.

Let's explore this further: John 1:1-5 (NKJV) "1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4In Him was

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life, and the life was the light of men. 5And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

To understand this Light, we must first know who the Word is, as mentioned in John 1.

John 1:14 (NKJV) “14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

It is clear from reading verse 14 that the WORD, is Jesus. He became flesh and dwelt among us. John 3:16 (NKJV) states that “16For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

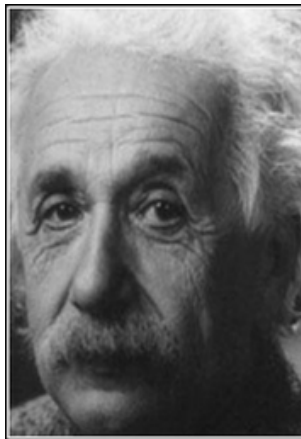
In John 8:12 - NKJV “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” we see that Jesus declares that He is the Light of the world and that those who follow Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Jesus also said in John 14:6 (NKJV) that He is the way, the truth and the life and that no one can go to the Father, except through Him. (“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”)

The Lord Reveals His Omnipotence to Job, by asking him the following in Job 38:19,20 “Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,20That you may take it to its territory,That you may know the paths to its home? (Light travels at a path or way through empty space at +- 300 000 km/s)

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What is DARKNESS?

According to the dictionary, Einstein and Professor Christopher S. Baird of West Texas A&M University, darkness does not exist as a unique physical entity; it is simply the absence of light.



God did not create evil. Just as darkness is the absence of light, evil is the absence of God.

— Albert Einstein —

AZ QUOTES

What is DARKNESS according to the Bible?

Darkness in both the Old and New Testament symbolizes everything that is anti-God: the wicked, sin, judgment and even death. God is sovereign and rules over the Darkness and the powers of evil. God knows the Darkness. He knows where it is (Job 34:22 “There is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.”) and what it contains (Dan. 2:22 “He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.”) God rules over the darkness because he created it (Is. 45:7 “ I form the light and create darkness”) God uses the darkness for his own purposes: to hide Himself from the sight of men (Psalm 18:11 “He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies.”) and to bring his judgment on evildoers (Matt. 8:12 “But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and

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gnashing of teeth.”) The time of God's ultimate judgment, the day of the Lord, is portrayed in both the Old Testament and New Testament as a day of darkness (Joel 2:1,2 “the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: 2A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness” ; Matt. 24:29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”)

In Luke 22:53, Jesus describes darkness as the world's dominant evil powers (“When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”)

Sin is portrayed as darkness in 1 Peter 2:9 (“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”)

We are children of Light

On day 6 of creation God said: “let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Gen. 1:26

In Psalm 139:1-17 we read about how wonderful and complex, God made the human being. “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your

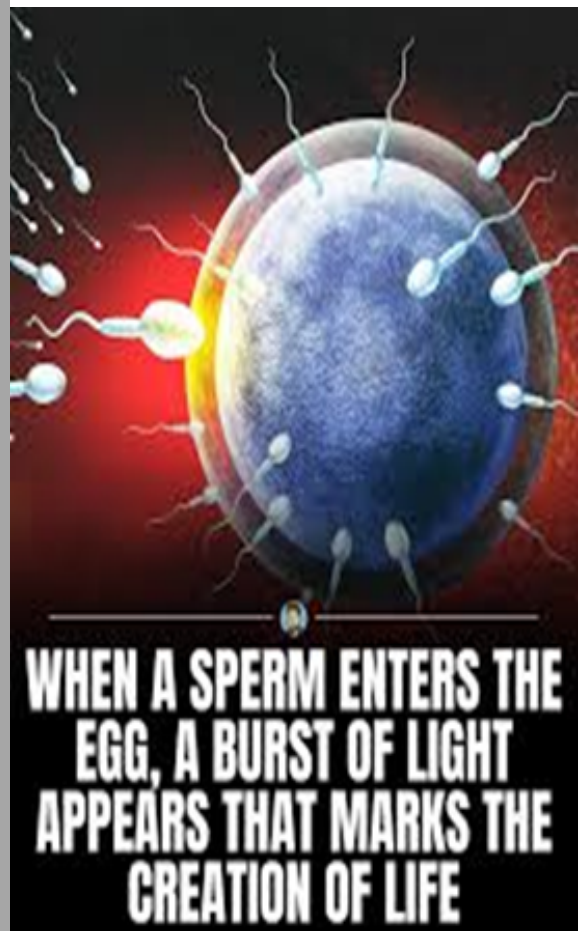
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eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. 17How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!How great is the sum of them!"

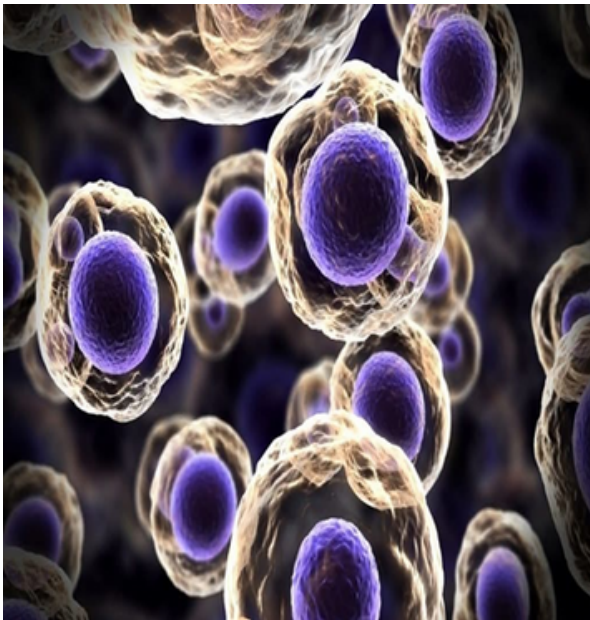
Flash of light at conception: Imagine the incredible moment when a sperm meets an egg—it's like nature's own little fireworks show! This phenomenon, known as a "zinc spark," occurs when the sperm successfully fertilizes the egg. While you won't see this remarkable flash with the naked eye, advanced microscopes can capture this stunning event.

The magic happens when the egg releases zinc ions, which ignite this dazzling display as it responds to the sperm. It's a breathtaking reminder of the intricate wonders of life right from the very beginning. In fact, this amazing event takes us back to the very first spark mentioned in Genesis 1, where God said, "Let there be light."

Both John 1:4, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men," and John 1:9, "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world," refer to the divine light of life entering the world at conception.



DANELLE VAN DER LINDE



✨ The light within our cells ✨
Science calls them biophotons—ultra-weak light particles naturally emitted by living cells. These tiny bursts of light are especially concentrated in the nucleus, where your DNA resides. Some researchers believe DNA not only emits biophotons but may also use this light for cellular communication and regulation, almost like a biological internet. But here's the wonder: from a divine creation perspective, this light isn't just random. It reflects the intelligent design within us—a sign of life woven with purpose. ✨ We're not just made of flesh and bone—we are beings of light and code. Our DNA carries instructions, yes, but it also radiates life, symbolizing the divine spark placed within us by our Creator. “God is light” (1 John 1:5), and His light shines even in the most hidden places—in every living cell, declaring His glory and craftsmanship.

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

At conception, God's marvelous light brings us to life; however, we are

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born into a sinful world that represents darkness. Jesus offers each of us the opportunity to use the God-given light within us to guide us through this darkness, back into His marvelous light. As stated in 1 Thessalonians 5:5, "You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness," and in 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV), "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

God knows us even before we are born, as mentioned in Jer. 1:5 (NKJV): "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I sanctified you." He also has a plan for our lives, as expressed in Jer. 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Satan, the prince of darkness, comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Through manipulation, lies, and deception, he convinces some people that they are worthless while leading others to believe they are brilliant and can become their own gods.

Light is always in motion, much like energy, which cannot be created or destroyed by man; it can only be transformed from one form to another. This serves as a perfect analogy for Christ. If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are a new creation in Christ—transformed into a changed person—and are encouraged to be a light in the world. As stated in Eph. 5:8 (NKJV), "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

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CONCLUSION

God is a consuming fire (Heb.12:29). Picture a campfire in the dark near a field; one spark has the potential to set the entire field ablaze. Since our DNA comes directly from God, who is both The Light and The Fire, we too have the potential to ignite the world for Christ. Satan is well aware of this and is doing everything he can to extinguish that inner fire within you, even starting as early as in the womb, through means such as abortion.

You are created perfectly in the image of God. While you may not seem perfect in the eyes of the world, that's alright because you have a purpose, and God has a plan for your life. He will use you just as you are. Don't let the enemy convince you otherwise. Shine brightly and become the person God intends for you to be.

Danellé



WILO CHRISTIAN MISSION

WILO CHRISTIAN MISSION



**Serving Christ in the Eastern Cape
In the rolling green hills of South
Africa's Eastern Cape, a quiet but
powerful work of God is unfolding.**

WILO CHRISTIAN MISSION

Wilo Christian Mission is a Christ-centered, non-profit ministry with a clear purpose: to fulfill the Great Commission.

Their vision is not only to preach the gospel but to build sustainable communities rooted in Christ—through bold evangelism, intentional discipleship, and the multiplication of faithful leaders. At the heart of everything they do is the desire to see lives, minds, and hearts transformed by the power of Jesus, bringing lasting change that reflects His Kingdom on earth.

God's Open Doors for Outreach

Over the past season, the Lord has been opening many doors for ministry. Through education, sports, and community outreach, the mission team is finding unique ways to share Christ's love.

Local primary and high schools have welcomed them as volunteer English teachers—allowing them not only to help students improve their language skills but also to build meaningful relationships where the gospel can be shared naturally.

Alongside teaching, Bible Clubs have become a place where God's Word is opened, young people are encouraged in their faith, and spiritual needs are ministered to with care.

WILO CHRISTIAN MISSION

The sports ministry—through athletics and volleyball opportunities to teach teamwork, discipline, and Biblical values.

The mission also partners with a Christian kindergarten, helping to equip and sustain the crèche so it can continue offering Christ-centered early education to the youngest in the community.



WILO CHRISTIAN MISSION

One Body, Many Ministries

As 1 Corinthians 12:27 reminds us, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” At Wilo Christian Mission, this truth is lived out through multiple ministry areas:

- Youth Ministry – Partnering with RUCC Church to disciple and equip young leaders to take the gospel into their homes, schools, and communities.
- Children’s Ministry – Planting seeds of faith through Bible Clubs, school programs, and Christ centered activities.
- Door-to-Door Evangelism – Taking the gospel directly into homes.
- Jesus Film Ministry – Partnering with the Jesus Film Project South Africa to show the Jesus Film across the Transkei, often introducing Christ to people for the very first time.



WILO CHRISTIAN MISSION

Trusting God for Every Need

The mission team knows they serve a Mighty God who makes the impossible possible. Yet, they also recognize the power of partnership in the body of Christ. They invite believers everywhere to join them in prayer for:

- English Bibles – To overcome language barriers and help new believers grow in faith.
- Financial Support – For the continued growth and reach of the mission.
- A Laptop – To support ministry planning, teaching, and communication.



A vision for a Children's Library

One of Wilo Christian Mission's heartfelt dreams is to establish a small Christian library—primarily for children and youth, but open to all.

Through this space, they hope to:

- Inspire a love for learning
- Provide uplifting Christian books and resources
- Strengthen faith and nurture hope in the community

They ask the global church to join them in prayer, asking the Lord for wisdom, provision, and open doors to make this vision a reality.

WILO CHRISTIAN MISSION

How You Can Get Involved

There are several ways to serve alongside Wilo Christian Mission:

Short-Term Volunteering (1-3 Months) –

Small groups (up to four people) are welcome to join and assist in:

- Teaching English at local schools
- Helping with Bible Clubs and after school sports programs
- Serving in youth ministry at RUCC Church
- Supporting The local kindergarten
- Joining evangelism and the Jesus Film Project

Short-Term Outreaches (1-10 Days) – Outreach teams are also welcome to participate in the same ministry opportunities as long-term volunteers, getting involved in any of Wilo's ongoing projects.



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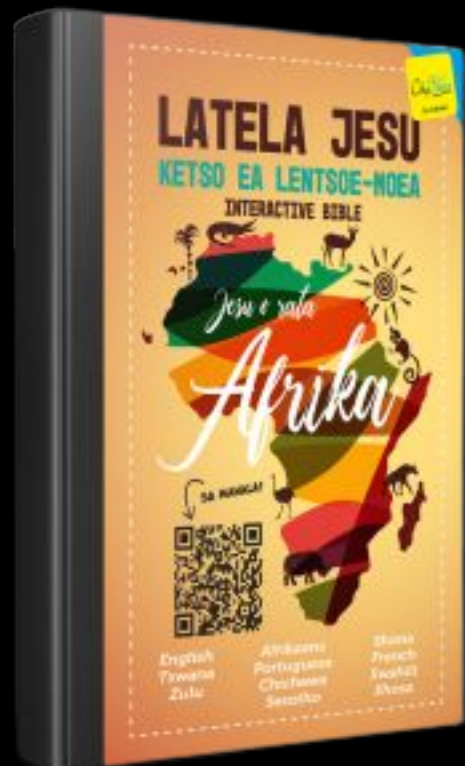
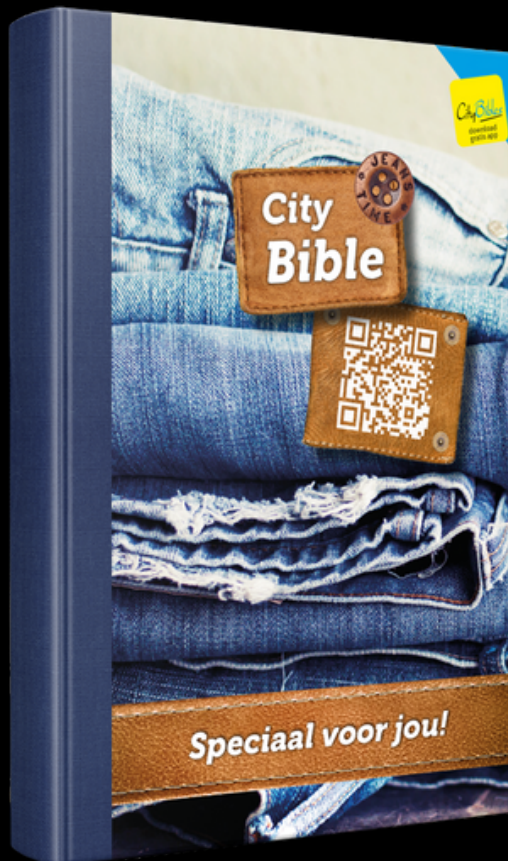


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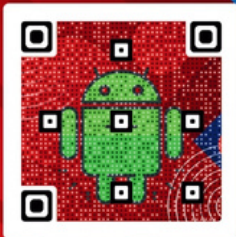
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THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

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, God has 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, pray 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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PASTOR NOMSA

THE HEART OF JESUS



Pastor Nomsa is a Prophetic Teacher and Author and also has a Healing Ministry, she is based in South Africa.

“The ancient worlds” PART ONE!

Wonderful Father of Mercy and Grace, Thank You for sending Your Son who died on a cross, to give us life in abundance, and saved our souls.

Lord, we thank you for your precious Word that teaches us how the people of old biblical times lived and what the different things. Amen.

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
- 2) “TIMES” IN ANCIENT BIBLICAL TIMES
- 3) MONTHS OF THE JEWISH CALENDAR & OUR CALENDAR
- 4) FEASTS OF ANCIENT TIMES
- 5) GEMS IN THE WORD OF GOD
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- 12) FOOD IN OLD ISRAEL
- 13) CULTURE OF THE ISRAELITES
- 14) PROFESSIONAL JOBS IN ANCIENT TIMES
- 15) TOWNS & CITIES IN ANCIENT TIMES
- 16) MAPS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL
- 17) ANNECURE A: TEACHING 000466 – “LAND OF MILK AND HONEY”
- 18) EXAM PREPARATION

1) INTRODUCTION

In this Study you will learn various things from the Word of God that people do not always understand or know about. The explanation of these things is vitally important for you to fully understand and know the Word of God. It is for this reason that it was decided to cover this Study early in this Kingdom Bible College Studies before you study genuine issues in God’s Word, like the Nature and Authority of Themes

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in the Old and New Testaments.

For example: How would do you know what “the third night watch” or what the value of “30 silver pieces” is if you do not know anything about it? Jesus spoke about “a penny” (bawbee) – do you know what that is and what it looks like? We read about “Gomer,” a “Bat” or “a day’s journey.” Then we hear about an “allowance, sabbatical trip, talents and a colocynth” – what are these? We also read about the “lotus (ruby), cornelian, hyssop, Comynes and drachma”

If you learn early in this Bible College what these things stand for, you will understand the Bible of God’s Word much better than before, and certain pieces of scripture will open to you. Do you know which ancient nation first discovered Iron? And what the most expensive metal is? Have you ever seen Chrysolite or touched gold? And do you know what the oldest metal in the world is today?

Learn how time was kept in ancient biblical times, and when Jesus was born? Do you know who created the Calendar we are using now? And what is a Julian Calendar? What was the Hebrews concept of time? When we read the Bible we often “miss” these interesting words, and because they do not understand what it is, or what it means, or what the value thereof is, they miss the whole interpretation of the Story that Jesus is telling; or the length on how far the Disciples really travelled on Foot in the Valleys and Mountains.

Do you know the Feasts of the Israelites and why they kept them; and do you know who invented the seven-day week? Or who decided on the

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names of the months we are using? Do you know what a Jewish “Halache” is? Do you know how many kinds of Professions there was in ancient Israel?

Some students might think this chapter is unnecessary, but I promise you the topics which are explained in here is especially given to those Students who want to understand the Gospel of Jesus, and His Parables, His way of Living, and why things happened the way it did in ancient times when Jesus walked the Earth.



2) “TIMES” IN ANCIENT BIBLICAL TIMES

Let us begin by asking the following Question – WHAT IS GOD’S TIME CALLED?

In Christian Theology, especially in the New Testament it is called “Kairos” which means “The appointed TIME in the purpose of God”.

It is the TIME when God acts as in Mark 1:15 The Kairos is fulfilled, and

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the Kingdom of God is at hand” - Mar 1:15 And saying, The [appointed period of] time is fulfilled (completed), and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent (have a change of mind which issues in regret for past sins and in change of conduct for the better) and believe (trust in, rely on, and adhere to) the good news (the Gospel).

God’s Time (“Kairos”) calls for action, repentance, conversion, and transformation of your soul (mind); your body (flesh); and your spirit (heart); and understanding (brain).

Rom 13:11 Besides this you know what [a critical] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality). For salvation (final deliverance)* is nearer to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah). Rom 13:12 The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armour of light. Rom 13:13 Let us live and conduct ourselves honourably and becomingly as in the [open light of] day, not in revelling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery (sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarrelling and jealousy.

*Final Deliverance – There is a Three-Part Salvation! More about that Later.

In Rom 13:11-13 God is clearly calling for a change of life. Kairos is not just “crisis timing” but also opportunity and favor from God. God helps us to discern the Kairos – a moment of Grace.

WHAT IS GOD’S PERFECT TIMING?

Sometimes we wait Years for a Breakthrough and think it is a needless

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delay. But God's Timing is always perfect. God's perfect timing does two things:

- a) It grows our faith as we wait patiently and trust in God
- b) It makes sure that when the Breakthrough come, He gets all the glory, praise, and honor.

Psa 31:16 My times are in Your hands; deliver me David knew very well to wait upon God's perfect Timing.

HOW DOES GOD SEE TIME?

God is in some third kind of "time" – one in-between position is that God is not within our timeline that we are living in today. Certainly not! He has His own timeline – in fact, I believe there is "no time" in the super-natural. We do not understand it - His life is enlightened (same as the word "rapture"). Rapture = Enlightenment; and therefore, His relation to our mortal cycle is "all at once".

WHAT YEAR WAS JESUS BORN AND WHEN DID HE MINISTER?

No-where in the gospels is a definite time of when Jesus was born and neither in any other historical reference, but most Theologians assume He was born during 6-4bC. His preaching Ministry began around 27-29D and lasted three years. Most scholars of God's Word calculate the death of Jesus as having taken place around 30-36.

HOW LONG WAS A YEAR IN THE TIME OF JESUS?

Prophetic Years of 360 days instead of our normal 365 days was interpreted as being equal to the prophetic months of 30 days or years as equal to one "time" to enable it to fit in with the interpretation of Daniel that Jesus is the Messiah – Daniel 9.

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HOW WAS TIME KEPT IN BIBLICAL TIMES?

The people of New Testament times knew nothing of our 24-hour days and nights as we live today. To them, one day was a “period” between Sunrise and Sunset. Of course, their days were longer in Summer-times than in Winter-times.

WHAT WAS THE HEBREW CONCEPT OF TIME?

Quote: The concept of time was created for humanity by God in Gen 1:14-19. ... The Old Testament biblical concept of time is communicated in Hebrew primarily by the word “et,” which can mean linear time but more often is associated with specific events and is translated Kairos in Greek (Van Gemeren 1997, 3:564-6).

Jews and Romans in ancient times, divided the night into four watches of three hours each (Benson Commentary). The first watch began at six; the second watch at nine; the third watch at twelve, and the fourth watch at three in the morning.

A relative hour (Hebrew “sha’ah zəmanit;” and hours “sha’ot – zəmaniyot” was often called halachic hour, seasonal hour/s, and variable hour. These are terms used throughout the year, in Rabbinic Jewish Law that assigns 12 hours to each day and 12 hours to each night. Notice that they do not say a day is 24-hours (which includes night); but rather, they separate Day and Night as two separate time-zones. All hours mentioned by Sages in the Mishnah or Talmud or other Rabbinic writings, refer strictly to relative hours.

DAY - Today at 12:00 we refer to our clock as “noon;” whereas ancient Jewish Traditions thought “noon” to be the “sixth hour of the day,”

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making 06:00am the first hour of the day (starting at break of dawn; or 72 minutes before sunrise) by most Lecturers of Jewish Law. At the sixth hour the sun is always at its zenith in the sky, directly overhead (depending on the hemisphere).

NIGHT – Midnight was then the Sixth hour of the night; and the first hour of the night began earlier around 06:00pm when the first three stars appeared.

Before this, the Jews detected hours by watching the position of the Sun (DAY) and the Sun was then seen in the Eastern Sky; and watching the sun set when the first three stars appeared (NIGHT). From the sixth to the twelve hours, the sun draws to the West side, until it sets. Nightfall is quicker in low-lying places than on high mountain tops. The time between when the sun is no longer visible, and the first stars appear is called “Twilight” (considered to be partly day and partly night).

They considered the following: When the first star appears, it was still day. When the second star appeared, it was unclear what time it was. When the third star appeared, it was the beginning of night (the first hour).

In Jewish “Halacha,” observant Jews recite the “Kriyat Shema” from sunrise until the end of the third hour of the day – this also determines the time for Morning Prayers, from Sunrise to the end of the fourth Hour (or Noon). On Eve of Passover (the 14th day of the Lunar month Nisan), Jews only eat “chametz” until the fourth hour of the day.

The Jewish Historian, Josephus wrote that daily burnt offerings were offered twice a day, in the morning and about the ninth hour till the

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eleventh hour [03:00pm-05:00pm] – according to Jewish Traditions prayers were made at the time of daily whole-burnt offerings.

Coins of Ancient Christianity



TABLE OF WATCHES IN ANCIENT TIMES

First Watch	06:00-09:00 pm Dawn	Lam 2:19 Arise [from your bed], cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches; pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him ... Mar 13:35 Therefore watch (give strict attention, be cautious and alert), for you do not know when the Master of the house is coming--in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning ... Neh 4:21 So we labored at the work while half of them held the spears from dawn until the stars came out.
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Second Watch	09:00-12:00 pm Evening	Jdg 16:3 But Samson lay until midnight, and [then] he arose and took hold of the doors of the city's gate... Rth 3:8 At midnight the man was startled... Act 16:25 But about midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God... Act 20:7 And on the first day of the week ...to break bread [the Lord's Supper], Paul discoursed with them, intending to leave the next morning; and he kept on with his message until midnight. Act 27:27 The fourteenth night had come and we were drifting and being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors ... Luk 11:5 And He said to them, which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and will say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves [of bread] ... Luk 12:38 If he comes in the second watch (before midnight) or the third watch (after midnight), and finds them so, blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are those servants!
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Fourth Watch	03:00-06:00 am Early Morning	Matt 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night... (3:00am) Mark 6:48 And having seen that they were troubled and tormented in [their] rowing, for the wind was against them, about the fourth watch of the night [between 3:00-6:00 a.m.] He came to them, walking [directly] on the sea... Gen 19:27 Abraham went up early the next morning [4th Watch] to the place where he [only the day before] had stood before the Lord. Psa 22:1 To the Chief Musician; set to [the tune of] Aijeleth Hashshahar [the hind of the morning dawn]. A Psalm of David. My God, my God, ... Psa 57:8 Awake, my glory (my inner self); awake, harp and lyre! I will <u>awake right early. [I will awaken the dawn]!</u> Psa 108:2 Awake, harp and lyre; I myself will wake very early--I will waken the dawn! Jos 6:12 Joshua rose early in the morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 1 Sam 9:26 They arose early and about dawn Samuel called Saul [who was sleeping] on the top of the house, saying, get up, that I may send you on your way.
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Middle Night Watch	From Midnight till 03:00am	Jdg 7:19 So Gideon and the 100 men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch , when the guards had just been changed, and they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands.
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Morning Watch	Cock-crow Time Anytime from after 12:00am to 06:00am.	Exo 14:24 And in the morning watch the Lord through the pillar of fire and cloud looked down on the host of the Egyptians and discomfited [them], Exo 14:25 And bound (clogged, took off) their chariot wheels, making them drive heavily; and the Egyptians said, let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians!
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During these many tedious and distressing hours of storm and tempest, of darkness and danger, Jesus saw his disciples, though they saw not Him: He beheld their perplexity and fear, while they were conflicting with the winds and waves, and observed how they toiled in rowing: Mark 6:48; yet He delayed all this time to go to their relief; seeing it proper so long to try their faith and patience. But in the fourth watch — When, it is probable, as the storm was not at all abated, they had begun to despair of deliverance; Jesus went unto them, walking on the water — agitated, stormy, and tumultuous as its billows were.

Thus, God often lengthens out the troubles of his people and defers the time of their deliverance. But when things come to an extremity, and they are ready to think He hath forgotten them, He unexpectedly appears for their relief and rescue; of a sudden the storm becomes a calm, and they are happily brought into a safe port. Thus, in the morning watch He appeared for Israel in the Red sea, troubled and dismayed their pursuing enemies, and delivered His people: and in all ages the extremity of his church has been his opportunity to visit and appear for her. He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps, but has constantly His eye upon them, and, when there is need, walks in darkness for their succour, support, and comfort. What a wonderful proof have we here of Christ's sovereign power over the creatures, which are all under his feet, and at His command, forgetting their natures, and changing their most essential qualities at his word! "To walk on the sea was thought so impracticable, that the picture of two feet walking on the sea, was an Egyptian hieroglyphic for an impossible thing. And in the Scripture it is mentioned, as the prerogative of God, that He alone treadeth on the waves of the sea, Job 9:8." — Doddridge.

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May you be blessed in Jesus Name, until next time, Shalom.
Prophetic Teacher Nomsa, TRT Church, Meyerton 0747747799.



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