

Newsletter



DECEMBER 2025

ISSUE 261

Thoughts to ponder

What is in a name? What does your name mean and how does your name reflect your character? Many people in the world practice the “giving of names” to reflect a significant event that takes place. Even so with God.

In Isaiah 9:6 we read about the prediction of the Messiah and the significance of His name – “... **And He will be called, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**” **Before Jesus was born, the Angel said to Mary that when the baby is born they need to name him Jesus, “... because He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21).** This was in fulfilment of another prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 that refers to his name as “**Emmanuel**” meaning “**God with us**”.

God progressively revealed who He was throughout the Bible. His final revelation however came through Jesus, His Son (Heb. 1:1-2) His name not only indicated who He is, but also what He came to do.

It is therefore a privilege for the child of God to know His name, to abide by His name, and to lift up His name. His name never changes. His name reflects the greatest need of humankind – to be saved from sin. But His name also gives us the greatest hope for redemption - freedom from sin and shame, and an eternal perspective on life.

This **Christmas season**, may the Name above all other names, remind you of God’s love for you and your loved ones. May it remind you of your privilege to be called a child of God. May it inspire you to live for His glory alone, allowing Him to become greater as you surrender to Him.

Have a very blessed Christmas season and may 2026 be a year filled with a greater discovery and awe of the God we serve! ~ George Sander

Bible School update

The SCBS is not just about formal Bible Teaching. In September we were privileged to host the second Marriage Retreat. It was indeed a special occasion



Daniel Madziba said: *“Last year’s Marriage Retreat saved my marriage! When we came I have lost hope, but God stopped us, and we could renew our vows to each other. For the first time our marriage has been a blessing and everyone who knows us, even our children have taken note of the change. Thank you for initiating these retreats. We are learning a lot and that is why I want to attend whenever I can.”*

11 Couples attended and the theme was **“Loving my Spouse Extravagantly.”**

Topics covered focused on loving with words, actions, intimacy, through conflicts, setting healthy boundaries, and loving my spouse with the family in mind. Nico and Alma Leonard and George led the sessions. As always, the separate husbands’ and wives’ sessions were a favourite where issues are discussed without pretence.

On the Friday night a “romantic dinner” was hosted by the Nell’s, who also did the catering for the event. From the picture you can see that people dressed in their finest for the occasion. Of course, taking pictures and later some dancing, ended the night off.

We praise God for this very much needed ministry. Please continue to pray for these precious couples.



The last Bible School week for the year commenced towards the end of September. It was also the farewell of our Higher Certificate students who finished their 4 years of study with us with writing their final exams.

One of the students’ spouses, Sim, commented on how much his wife grew in this time and thanked the SCBS staff profusely for continuing to encourage her through a very difficult period in her health. His wife, Nella also testified on how the Lord had set her free from her belief in the “ancestor spirits” and how she had been healed in the past few months after praying for her. (She was unable to walk and basically wanting to die as the ancestors were calling her.) We praise God that He is in the business of changing lives!

To God alone be the glory!!

The Certificate Students ended the year on a high note as well. One student finished and a few others are due to finish early next year. We are so grateful for each of them taking time to attend the Bible School, and looking forward welcoming them back in the New Year.

We will start the next Higher Certificate in Bible Teaching with 5 students in March. We praise the Lord for them.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry of teaching God’s Word. We are excited about what the future holds!

Retreat Update

Let the little children come to Me

CfC was blessed with a **Short-Term Mission team from Northcliff Union Church (NUC)**, the Sanders' sending church, early in October. The team of 8 arrived ready for the challenge of a **4-day Holiday Bible Club at Gcelima Baptist Church**. Though we were all very excited, the cross-cultural and language barrier made us a bit nervous. The outreach kicked off with George preaching at GBC on Sunday morning. The team surprised the congregation with a beautiful Zulu song. Very soon everyone was praising the Lord together.

A few from the CfC staff plus the team went out to Gcelima the Monday morning. We were pleasantly surprised to find about 80 kids already at the church. A lot of singing and games took place for the next 4 days, with more kids arriving every day. By Thursday about 120 kids enjoyed not only the fun and messages about Daniel and his 3 friends, but also the delicious sandwiches and snacks offered by the ladies of the church. Pastor Khulekani (SCBS graduate and the pastor of GBC) was true to his name, very patiently there every day. He danced and played with the children and helped to make the message clearer. He was so grateful and truly encouraged by the outreach.

Before the NUC team took on the long journey back home, they helped with a few practical tasks on site. The ladies helped to decorate and lay tables for the 50-year celebration, while the guys helped to harvest bananas. They ended their last visit to the beach on a "high" note with the youngest on the team falling out of a tree. Fortunately, a visit to emergencies proofed that all was well.

During our fellowship times in the evenings, the Lord reminded us that "He was singing over us in His love, and with us." (Zeph. 3:17). We had wonderful times of sharing many testimonies. All glory to the Lord for His faithfulness in and through His people.



Skills 4 Life

It has been a productive last quarter of the year for Skills4Life. The Lord has opened doors for new off-site ministry and also provided the right people to make the most of these opportunities. In September we ran a first ever off-site sewing course at Margate Baptist Church. What a special time it was both for the students and the trainers. The Lord was clearly working in the students' lives and at graduation there were testimonies of His goodness. MBC is planning on incorporating similar skills training into their ministry at the church in 2026. This is great news as part of the aim of this course was to inspire and model a Skills4Life course with the hopes that they would continue this important type of outreach into the future.

SIYAKWASI

Another great opportunity to equip people and share God's Word has come through an organization called Siyakwazi (School- readiness organization) located in KwaNzimakwe. We are currently running English lessons for 6 of their staff with retired teacher Joelle facilitating the lessons on our behalf.



We are grateful to have Joelle on our volunteer training team

LASTEST SKILLS NOV

On the 14th of November, 24 more students graduated. It is always encouraging to hear the impact these courses have on the students' lives, and what it means to be equipped with the necessary skills to gain employment.

One such student is Simtha, a food tech graduate, who just a few days after the course was able to gain employment. She mentioned that the CV and job interview training really helped to prepare her.

We praise the Lord for His grace and providing the necessary volunteers to facilitate both the practical and life skills training.



TESTIMONY FROM SIMTHA

"Skills4Life has really made me a better person. The Skills and knowledge I obtained during my training has helped a lot in shaping my future and my career path.

After the completion of the course and obtaining my certificate, I made copies of my CV and sent it to different companies which received it with warm and welcoming hands.

I am now hired by a restaurant in Margate. I wouldn't have achieved it without having been trained at Skills 4 life. I know and can feel that I am going very far because of Skills4Life."



Fun walk highlights



On the 25th of October Mac Banana, a popular local establishment, hosted a fun walk fundraiser for Skills4Life. Together with a generous donation from Mac Banana the funds raised amounted to R12 000. These funds will be going towards the Skills4Life Seed Capital Fund established to help Skills4Life graduates gain the needed equipment to start their own businesses. S4L purchase the equipment and they pay it off in interest free instalments. The event was well attended and enjoyed by approximately 130 people.

50th Celebration

All glory to God alone!



This theme rang out on the occasion of the **50th celebration of Crusade for Christ**.

Speaker after speaker focused on the amazing things God has done through this mission since its inception in 1975. We all sat amazed as we heard how CfC started in a garage and is now running from a 4 ha campus with many buildings. Ron and Sally faithfully obeyed the Lord to carry the good news of salvation to rural households. Now hundreds are trained and exposed to the Gospel every year through the various facets of ministry.

Wesson Family at the CfC Wall of Remembrance.



[Click to view a photo slideshow of the celebration](#)

[Click to view our 50 year photobook](#)



God was praise and honoured for the many faithful donors, prayer partners, volunteers, friends and staff, who gave of themselves to see the message of hope spread through this ministry. The impact was felt worldwide, but especially in the Southern Africa region.

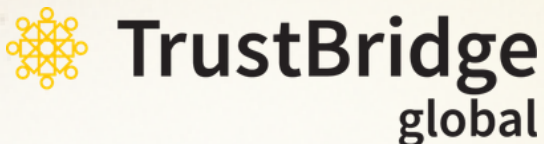
We praise God for everyone who supported this event. Hopefully you were able to rejoice with us through the photobook and the special newsletter sent by e-mail! Let us continue to work together so that in the next 50 years more souls will be impacted with the Good News of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!

Praise & Prayer

1. We praise the Lord for the wonderful Golden Jubilee celebration. New friendships were formed and others renewed, as God's glory was extolled. Of course there was good food as well!
2. For the many lives that were touched and changed this year through the ministry.
3. The safe arrival of baby Emma Proctor, and for the Nell family that joined us in August.
4. For His absolute wonderful and miraculous provision this past year, in spite of the testing of our faith.
5. The wonderful way that we as a team function in unity in our various roles and responsibilities.
6. Please pray for the staff who are exhausted after a very strenuous year. Pray for a peaceful time and rest over the holiday season.
7. Pray for God's continuous provision despite the economic hardships faced by all. Pray also for the support of all ministry staff that are raising their own daily support. May God open new doors to each one.
8. For each and every donor / partner who have given sacrificially in obedience to God to keep this ministry running. Thank God for them, asking Him to pour out blessings and His peace on them.

We pray for you that you will have a very blessed Christ-centred season and that the God of all peace will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus!

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