

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

HATFIELD Christian Church and its family of churches is a community for everyone, a place to love God, belong, and grow. Prayer has been a cornerstone since the inception of our churches.

It has been foundational in establishing our vision and mission of seeing God's Kingdom in hearts, homes, and beyond.

Prayer and seeking the Lord have brought us from humble beginnings in the early 1900s in South Street, Hatfield, to where we are now – a family of churches.

The pastors who lead our church communities are:

- Louis Kotzé, senior pastor of Hatfield; Christian Church Pretoria East and Hatfield Christian Church South;
- Natasja Kotzé, who leads Hatfield Christian Church South;
- Letsholo and Anne Pelesi, senior pastoral couple of Hatfield Shere; and
- Luis and Lupita Lancho Perea, pastoral leaders of the Iglesia Christiana Latina, which gathers on the Pretoria East premises.

God gave us a promise many years ago, when we still gathered in the Anderson Street building:

"This city will bring Me renown, joy, praise and honour, before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it." (Jeremiah 33:9)

We give God all the glory for His faithfulness through the years and for using us to establish many entities still active in our communities and beyond:

- We launched the Hatfield Christian School, the Hatfield Training Centre, and Impact Radio;
- The Christian Network (TCN) was established as a vehicle for like-minded churches to cooperate and work together for kingdom purposes.

TCN is linked to networks in other parts of the world; and

- Year of Your Life is a one-year, full-time Christian gap year that focuses on preparing young people for life.

Many other departments have been established, including the outward focus of missions, community ministries and church planting for a multi-generational and multi-cultural church.

In this edition of SA Challenge Newspaper, you will read personal testimonies of God's faithfulness to women involved in some of these community service and community development initiatives.

Their stories will demonstrate how God's transforming power has worked miracles in women's lives who now live for His glory.

God uses ordinary women to instil hope in the hearts of others, changing their lives to influence not only other women, but the families and communities around them.

Some of these women and transformational projects include:

- Mariette Bossert – SMILE Impact: Mooiplaats, Education and Skills development;



GOD'S KINGDOM IN HEARTS, HOMES AND BEYOND

- Linky Siwelane – Olievenhoutbosch, Kids Paradise and Women in Faith Ministry;
- Carla Bezuidenhout – Missions in Romania;
- Meleney Kriel – VIVA Foundation;
- Katinka Pieterse – Abba Specialist Adoption and Social Services;
- Ellen McColl – Jesus4Real Ministries;

- Kimberly Singh – Jesus4Real Ministries;
- Yvonne Mabuza – Berakah Education Foundation;
- Zanele Nene – Fundanani Afrika;
- Lupita Lancho Perea – Hatfield Christian Church – Latino Church;
- Syson Kunda – Ping Lady; and
- Annelie Jacobs – Sports and ministry.

Hatfield Christian Church has prioritised community culture and we have adopted the apt slogan **"Community on a Mission"**.

This lends itself to our efforts to reach beyond the inner circles of church attendees.

We want to reach others with the message of salvation through

practical endeavours that promote engagement with those who will not necessarily walk into a church building.

As part of the church in Tshwane and South Africa, we, His people, believe that as we do all He instructs us to in 2 Chronicles 7:14, He will heal our land.

We are honoured to be a part of that healing process through practical ministry.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Looking ahead with hope

Kim Singh was the only child of a disabled, single mother.

She grew up struggling to make ends meet, so when a woman approached her with a promise of a great job, she jumped at the opportunity.

An interview was arranged with a potential employer in Sunnyside, but when Kim arrived and phoned the number given to her, there was no answer.

A man passed by each time she called and advised that it was too dangerous for her to start looking for a taxi to go home, so he invited her to stay with him till the morning.

She agreed to this since he said they wouldn't be alone, and that his friend and girlfriend would also be there.

The man took care of her, fed her, flattered her, and made her feel important.

However, this pseudo-saviour, would, without her knowledge, become her gateway to drugs and prostitution. She describes it as being like his "slave."

In 2017, she encountered the woman that would introduce her to her real Saviour.

Mama V found her shivering on the street with a high fever. She took Kim into her home and then to the hospital. After staying in hospital for a month, Kim returned to her same pimp.

In the meantime, her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter went home with Mama V.



*Before: Kim was addicted to drugs and worked as a prostitute.
Now: Kim is clean, sober, and healthy.*

Kim stayed with her pimp for another 18 months before she realised that she really needed help. One morning, she told her pimp that she could not carry on with that life. It was all too much.

Mama V came to fetch her that afternoon and took her to Our Home, a safe haven in Pretoria run by Jesus4Real Ministries, which is dedicated to aiding individuals who have survived human trafficking.

It has been seven years since then. Kim is now clean, sober, and healthy.

She says she always knew about God but never had a real encounter with Him.

She went to Church every Sunday as a little child, but coming into Our Home and learning about God's love for her changed the way she saw herself.

Kim reads her Bible while cooking and cleaning, and, in difficult moments, she reads the Word and cries before God.

She proclaims that God has granted her His peace and has always been there to comfort her. God has opened the door to a life for her at Our Home.

She says even calling out the name of Jesus has changed things when circumstances have been too hard for her.

God has blessed her with a new family and home through Our Home, where she feels a sense of belonging and love.

"I have a new reason to live," Kim declares. "God has filled me with energy, and I am truly alive."

"Jesus has given me purpose and hope. It is amazing to look forward to the next day without fear."

The ultimate choice

Meleny Kriel was five years old when her mother found her staring at a painting of Jesus knocking at a door.

Her mother bent down and told her, "That is the door of your heart. It has no handle on the outside. Only you can open it from the inside. Jesus is a gentleman, He doesn't barge in. He knocks and it is your choice to open or not."

She then stood up and left Meleny with the overwhelming thought that this Jesus, Who was celebrated at Christmas and for Whom there are churches built all over the world, respected a five-year-old girl so much, that He would wait for her to open her heart and then be her friend.

Not long after this, tragedy followed. Her parents got divorced and, when she was sent to stay with her uncle and aunt during the divorce proceedings, she was molested by her uncle.

After she returned from this "holiday", she went to school a year too early as her mom had to work.

During this time, the Lord was there for her.

"I needed a friend and here was Jesus, the most amazing Friend a child could dream to have. Yet I had a say in it. I had a choice.

"I went to my bed and cried bitterly and told Jesus that He can come in.

"I opened my heart to Him. That day a friendship started that carried

me through the darkest and happiest times of my life. Companionship. Conversations. Prayer prayed and prayer answered. I was elated and felt secure."

Throughout her teenage years, there were Gospel messages on Sunday nights with an altar call [an invitation to give your life to Jesus] each weekend. These altar calls produced a circumstance that taught Meleny a profound lesson.

"I so often responded to these, because I did not understand that when you sinned, you don't lose your salvation. I kept on responding until I finally got it explained to me, that I am a child of God, and nothing changes that.

"I can confess my sins, but I don't need to re-commit my life to Him every time I lose my temper!"

When Meleny was 11, she had a profound experience that started her on the path to her future ministry. A prophecy was spoken over her life that God was calling her as He called Samuel in the Bible.

She knew from that day on that she wanted to be a missionary.

After finishing school, she completed mission training programmes.

There she met her husband, Leon, and immediately embarked on their ministry together, travelling and preaching in Southern and Central Africa.

They later moved to Germany where they kept on ministering and started a church. In 2005,

they returned to South Africa and started Viva Foundation and have ministered in community upliftment since then.

Her role in the Viva Foundation focuses on leadership, management and administration, including fundraising and donor relations.

However, her great passion is music. She has been singing in church since she was a little girl and throughout her ministry life, including evangelistic campaigns in Africa and Europe.

Today she leads the Viva Choir and, during the past few decades she has produced two albums.

The aim of the Viva Foundation has been to minister to the poor and vulnerable.

Viva is a faith-based community development ministry with several focus areas, including children, poverty alleviation, development of the arts and prevention of sexual violence.

Meleny became the CEO of Viva in 2013 and has been ever since.

"It is in prayer that I make my requests known to God, that I hear His voice, receive guidance, and receive strength for tasks and the calling I am entrusted with," Meleny shares. "Prayer is a choice. You can



VIVA Foundation chief executive Meleny Kriel.

choose to struggle along in your own power, or draw from a well of strength, wisdom, comfort, and friendship with God.

"I would highly recommend you choose the latter."

"I was elated and felt secure."

Two prayers God always answers

BY MARILYN ADAMSON

THERE are two prayers that God will always hear and always answer. And they are connected to each other. They are:

- Asking God for His forgiveness
 - Asking God to come into your life and start a relationship with Him
- It doesn't matter what wrong you have done in this life. There are no limits to what God is willing to forgive.

The Bible is clear: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16,17)

Jesus fully paid for your wrongs by dying on the cross for those sins. He was whipped and tortured. His body was literally nailed to a cross of wood, and then the cross was erected, where Jesus hung until death.

He was buried and then three days later, Jesus physically rose from the dead, just as He said He would, proving his deity.

Why did He go through all of that? He did this out of love. He paid for the sins of the entire world. He offers everyone complete and permanent forgiveness. All you need to do is to believe in Jesus and begin a relationship with Him.

He doesn't just want to forgive you. He wants you to know Him now, in this life, rely on Him, be guided by Him, and experience His love for you. Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Jesus also wants to give you eternal life. By starting a relationship with Him now, it is a relationship that lasts eternally. He will never leave you.

Do you want God to forgive you? Do you want a true relationship with God that lasts forever? Then here is your opportunity to believe in Him and receive Him into your life. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock [the door of your heart]. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him..." (Revelation 3:20)

You can ask Jesus into your life right now. You can use your own words, or here is a suggested prayer:

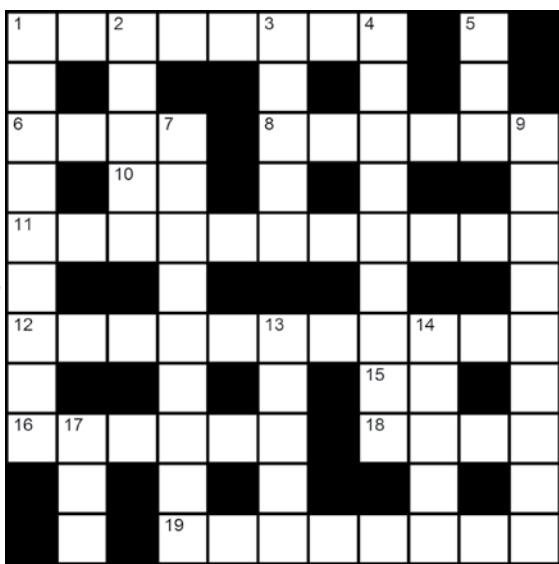
"Jesus, you know everything about my life. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Forgive me for my sins right now and come into my life. I want to know you and learn to follow you. Thank you for giving me an eternal relationship with you. Amen."

This is an excerpt of an article that was first published on EveryStudent.com and is used with kind permission

Coffee Break CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

ACROSS

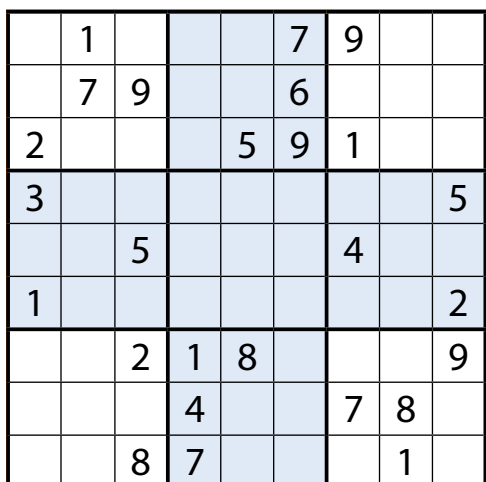
- 1 Pasta tubes
- 6 Baltic and others
- 8 Mix of mural work
- 10 In consequence (2)
- 11 Kill prominent person
- 12 Provide lodgings for
- 15 "Deal ___ No Deal"
- 16 First born
- 18 Agreeable
- 19 Follower



DOWN

- 1 Poorly administer
- 2 School group
- 3 Desert sight
- 4 Large dinosaur
- 5 British broadcaster
- 7 Never-ending story (4,5)
- 9 Strain, exhaust
- 13 Game, set, ___
- 14 Get out of bed
- 17 Chem class

SOLUTIONS PAGE 7



"Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer." – Elisabeth Elliot

Pray for South Africa

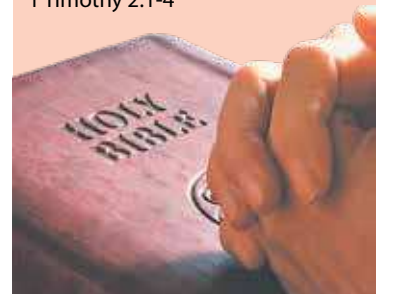
THANK You, Father God, that we can intercede for our country, South Africa. Thank You for the plans You have for our nation.

We pray that we will be the salt and the light in our country. We pray for peace in our land, for justice and righteousness to overcome every threat of corruption and injustice. We trust in You for the growth of our economy and for an increase in employment opportunities for our people. We pray for Holy Spirit-filled leaders to be in positions of authority, to see Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in our country, in Jesus' name. Amen.

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place."
2 Chronicles 7:14, 15

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2:1-4



THE CORNERSTONE OF MY LIFE IS PRAYER

PingLady founder Syson Kunda.



Since Syson Kunda was just nine years old, a strange feeling came over her whenever there was an altar call [an invitation to give your life to Jesus]. She felt compelled to move to the front of the church and surrender to God. At the age of 12, she finally did and, 14 years after that, she was baptised [a symbol of dying to your old life] at Hatfield Christian Church.

She believes Christian values have always guided her moral compass and helped her to clearly know what was right and wrong.

It helped her to associate herself with the right friends in school and it guided her decisions on what she could and couldn't do, even when people around her were doing it.

Later in life, after an extensive career in the information technology sector, she began her journey as social techpreneur.

God called her to start PingLady in October 2016 and a year later, to start PingTech Academy.

PingLady is a non-profit company that uses technology to advance the welfare of women by equipping them with digital skills and exposing them to careers in tech. It has also created employment in the tech industry.

PingTech Academy is a social enterprise that incubates innovation in children and young adults. The PingLady and PingTech Academy programs together aim to prepare women, children, and youth for the future of work.

The programmes are aimed at equipping women, children, and young adults with coding and robotics skills.

It also empowers women and young people's technical abilities with personal and employability skills required for the future of work. PingLady and PingTech Academy targets unemployed women and youth with the aim of restoring their hope and dignity while also addressing the gender parity gap in the technology industry.

In 2023, God compelled Syson to ask the team of ladies in their company to pray for their clients, business partners, parents, and the whole PingTech Academy clientele. PingTech Academy needed to scale in 2024 to meet all the operational and growth requirements.

They identified that for parents and other business clients to afford their services, they needed to pray to God before the year began.

They trusted in God to create opportunities for their clients to get promotions, new jobs, and business opportunities.

They had daily goals and prayed from October 2023, hoping to see God move.

They were trusting for God to double their number of learners in their coding clubs, for a new school, and for their numbers to stay up throughout the year in all their coding clubs.

In addition, they were also trusting in another partnership for their young adult digital skills programmes.

"God came through for us in abundance," Syson attests.

"We filled up our classes to the brim – we had more learners than

we had computers. We are running an IT Support Learnership as part of the young adult digital skills programmes.

"In addition, we also have acquired another company for web hosting and web development. This has led to the hiring another lady, an alumna of the PingLady programmes, that joined in order to accommodate our growth."

The whole team's faith has been uplifted as they saw God move and saw Him answer prayers.

"I see a renewed belief in God and what He can do in our lives and in our staff," Syson shares. "We are also more resilient, and we trust in God for everything we go through."

Syson adds, "Everything I am and

that have achieved in my life, including family and my career, has been a result of prayer and obedience from the revelations God has showed me through prayer.

"I could confidently say prayer is the cornerstone of my life. You want to achieve anything? Pray. You wonder what should be your next move in your career? Pray. You wonder which sport to pursue for your child amidst the number of sports they could play? Pray. Are you facing a challenge in life big or small? Pray!

"God hears our prayers, and He loves it when we seek Him earnestly even about our agony, frustrations and of course our highs and lows. He yearns to be your beginning and end in every aspect of your life!" •



Change on the inside and out

Ellen McColl grew up in a dysfunctional home. Her parents divorced and remarried while she and her siblings felt rejected and alone. Ellen smoked cigarettes and drank alcohol since she was 12 years old. She was also only 12 when a man first took advantage of her.

Heroin was the first drug she ever used. She was just 13 years old.

After using heroin the first time, she started to crave more.

She joined an escort agency to pay for this craving and six years later, she was sold to a drug dealer and pimp who Ellen believed was the love of her life.

For 17 years she lived in the psychological hell of being pimped out by her own "boyfriend" who paid her with heroin and crack.

"Imagine being 17 years old and standing on a street corner to sell your body for your next fix," Ellen shares.

"The fear of who was behind the steering wheel and what he wanted to do with me was nothing in comparison to the fear of not having a fix of heroin before withdrawals would hit me with full force."

She was a prostitute for 23 years. At 36, she was finished.

After about 80,000 clients, 42,000 grams of heroin costing R17,000,000, and two years in prison, one year in rehab, one abortion, one miscarriage, one adoption and one child that she could not raise and was kept away from, she was not broken but shattered and barely alive.

Little did she know, someone was coming to change her life.

One night, when sitting against a lamp pole in the street, Mama V stopped and asked how she was.

Mama V was known as "the church lady", who walked the streets and handed out donuts to the ladies, the pimps and even the clients. Ellen saw her as different from other people. She didn't want anything from them. She was there to show them love.

Ellen started crying when she saw her, and Mama V looked into her eyes with so much understanding.

Ellen told her she was scared and asked her for help. Mama V told her she would pray for her and try to help her.

A month later, she gave Ellen a box of donuts and told her to wait. Ellen gave Mama V her methadone, which she describes as: "A type of surety that I was serious about getting out."

A few days later, she was trafficked to Johannesburg but managed to phone the police a month later. After



Ellen, before and after her stay at Our Home, run by Jesus4Real Ministries.

talking to the police, her ex-pimp paid for an Uber to take her back to him.

"That night I sat on an electricity power box waiting for a client so I could stop the pain," Ellen recalls. "I was terrified as I believed that the guy from Johannesburg was about to come back to kill me.

"The next moment a car stopped, and my heart started racing. When I looked up it was Mama V and some ladies with her. I mustered up the courage to get into her car and started my journey of restoration."

It has almost been five years since then, and God has given her a place where she is loved called Our Home, which is run by Jesus4Real Ministries.

She has also discovered the love of Jesus and has surrendered her life to Him.

The Lord has also opened doors for her to have a better relationship with her son.

"I am learning to love, myself and others," Ellen attests. "Jesus has been the major source of strength and healing in my life. Recently, I went on a biblical fast. The aim was to break stubbornness and rebellion in my life. I was also excited to spend time in prayer and I wanted to get closer to The Lord.

"It has changed me completely... The Lord changed my hard heart to a soft heart. I started forgiving myself and I have also forgiven the many people who have hurt me in my life.

"I am no longer a girl on a program in the home, but I am now a proud volunteer. I suffered years of complex post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and will never be able to be reintegrated into society.

"Jesus4Real Ministries has given me a forever home. We are completely dependent on God and we see miracles all the time."

Her advice for those struggling with change is: "Don't wait for one day... Make today your day one." •

Pray for families

FATHER God, thank You for the gift of family. Lord, may we be a beacon of hope.

We trust You to work in us to reflect Your grace and mercy to those around us. In every difficulty we may experience as a family, we speak Jesus! Fill our home with Your love, peace, and presence as we welcome others into our family to experience You. Make us sensitive and give us a heart of compassion for our friends and their families, in Jesus' name. Amen.

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15b

"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
Matthew 6:9-10



"This hard place in which you perhaps find yourself is the very place in which God is giving you opportunity to look only to Him, to spend time in prayer, and to learn long-suffering, gentleness, meekness – in short, to learn the depths of the love that Christ Himself has poured out on all of us."
– Elisabeth Elliot

Strength for the battle

Carla Bezuidenhout was 11 when her parents stopped going to church. There was consistent fighting at home and she became bitter. But she kept going to church without them. She says that this was more out of habit than trying to know God.

She had no self-confidence, and she was lonely and insecure. Things started to change when she was 17, and she started getting to know the real Jesus. A friend invited her to a youth group, and she felt God's love through the leaders. They were her 'escape' from her home.

"They loved me and accepted me for who I am," she recalls.

When she went on a mission trip (an opportunity to travel to another community to provide assistance and tell people about Jesus) to Soekmekaar, South Africa, Carla encountered the Lord's power, witnessing the victory He won when people got saved from demons.

Some of the students brought Harry Potter books them with on the mission trip. Carla describes a heaviness that was there during the whole trip which they did not understand. When the leaders found out about the books, they decided to throw the books in the fire. Immediately the heaviness disappeared.

On this mission trip, she discovered the spiritual world. There were unknowns, but when the Lord revealed Himself, she decided that she wanted to serve this Almighty God for the rest of her life.

She found her family in Christ and started attending her friend's church. She was eager to learn more about Jesus.

The youth group leaders also encouraged her to serve in different areas of the church. "I started to believe in myself but more in what the Lord can do through me," Carla shares.

Carla now serves as part of a Christian education ministry in Romania. The school is Adamant International Center of Education, and it uses the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) curriculum.

Her journey to this ministry began at an ACE school in South Africa, where she worked for 10 years. While she was there, a friend prophesied that one day she would work in missions using the curriculum.

At her last training in South Africa, Carla asked the Lord to be able to train teachers in ACE. She had South Africa in mind, but little did she know the Lord envisioned Romania.

In July 2018, she saw an advertisement on Facebook that read, "Do you want the adventure of your life?" and felt the Lord wanted her to serve in Romania.

Currently, not only is she training new ACE teachers, but she is also serving alongside churches in the community, in mission trips, teen ministry, and street evangelism.

Throughout her six years in Romania, the ministry has experienced challenges. They have realised their dependence on God to open and close doors.

"During Covid, when the schools were closed, our school more than doubled in number," Carla says. "By the grace of God, the school is continuing to grow to the point where a new building is needed. The government pressures private schools and homeschooling in Romania, but the Lord has protected us."

Through prayer, some students who rejected God have grown and are still growing in faith. Students who were bullied in other schools are healing and excelling. Two of the students were accepted into universities, which is an achievement because public schools are very much preferred in Romania.

The Lord has provided financially as well. Whenever there was uncertainty about covering costs, the Lord would provide through someone's giving. There wasn't enough money for renovation, yet they decided to step out in faith before finances were procured, and with every project, money was received without taking out debt. Now, during the accreditation process, the Lord has placed the right people on their path to help them.

The Lord has answered prayers and Carla declares with joy: "If not for Him, I don't think we would be here today."

She emphasises prayer, saying: "Prayer is an essential. The battles are real; without a dedicated prayer life, there will be struggle. We also need the support of praying together in groups. And although we do not always get the answer that we want, we must know God is in control. Prayer is precious humility before the Lord. Without space to pray, we open ourselves to pride. But this is easier said than done. The mission field can be a very lonely place, even if there is community. With that comes personal struggles and insecurities, and at times it might feel like, 'Lord, where are You?'"

"As Christians, we constantly need to lay down our heart's desires and focus on what Jesus desires for us. And to be dedicated to this, we need prayer. We cannot be lukewarm Christians. Lukewarm Christians receive a lukewarm presence of God." ●



Carla Bezuidenhout

TRUSTING IN UNCERTAINTY

Lupita Lancho Perea was raised in a traditionally religious household in Mexico. Her parents were very young when they married and had five children, of which Lupita is the eldest.

Growing up, Lupita thought as long as she didn't harm anyone, she could do anything. Small things like stealing an extra teaspoon of sugar in her coffee, as well as unforgiveness and lying, weren't a big deal.

"We would just go to the priest once a month and he would tell me to pray 10 times the Our Father prayer and 10 Hail Mary prayers and, after saying the prayers, my conscience was clear again."

When she told her family she didn't agree with their views, they didn't want to know her anymore.

At 18, Lupita left Mexico and went to California to learn English. One day, when she was driving to visit a family friend, she saw a Christian Latino Church in Hollywood and went in.

She didn't end up visiting her friend and stayed in the church. The next weekend was Father's Day, and she went to visit her friend again. Lupita convinced them to go to the same



Lupita Lancho Perea

church she went to. They all gave their lives to Jesus there.

"The following week I got baptised [a symbol of dying to your old life] and got into mission courses," Lupita explains. "After a year I finished an intensive course as missionary and the church sent me to Peru as a missionary, I worked there for five years and planted a new church called Pan de Vida (Bread of Life)."

She learned to trust Him completely

in every way, especially economically.

"When you are in a foreign country and you are not able to work and the church is not a church yet, you depend completely on the One who sent you and wait for His supplies on His time."

She recalls praying and fasting when she didn't even have the money for bread.

Lupita has passion for young people, and always wanted to be involved with the youth. In 2008, she started thinking about how she could work with youth but it took her around 10 years to make it happen.

"I thought it was my idea, but it was always God's idea," she says.

In 2018 she organised the first Miss Latina South Africa where only South African women can participate.

This unique event focused on inner beauty. The participants received training in the principles of inner beauty, moral values, public speaking, the importance of education and setting goals, some Latin languages (Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and French), and an introduction of Latino culture.

All this was done with the purpose to encourage the women to continue their studies and dream big because there are many opportunities waiting for them.

"In December 2024 we will be hosting the fourth Miss Latina South Africa where young students from Mamelodi will participate."

When asked about the importance of prayer in her life, she says, "Through prayer I found myself and discovered who He is. I put my trust in Him every day, in every letter to sponsors, in every school that we are invited to participate, in every decision to make; I am nothing without Him."

"I need Him like fish need water, like trees need soil and sun. During my prayers is when I believe Him about what He said of me: 'You are an eagle, I created you to fly high,' because when you look from high, you can see better. Of course, prayer is what we need to live, it is like the air we breathe. Prayer is talking with a friend. I talk to the Holy Spirit when I do the dishes, when I wake up, when I am driving even. I tell Jesus to put His seatbelt on. Prayer is time with my friend." ●

Empowering future generations

Zanele Nene grew up in a single-parent household where she lived with her mom and sisters.

Growing up without a father was not easy for her, especially when other children at school talked about theirs. Embarrassed to talk about her home situation, she became withdrawn and shy.

She struggled with a lot of unforgiveness towards her father and became bitter.

Zanele grew up in a Christian household, and her mother used to take her and her sisters to church every Sunday. Despite always hearing about God, she could not relate to the idea that He was a loving father. She thought God was distant from her life and struggled with ideas of perfectionism.

Things changed when Zanele's mother tried a new strategy to reprimand her.

"She told me to go speak to God and tell him what I had done," she recalls. "It makes me laugh when I think about it as I would go out into the garden and just sit there. After some time, I would start talking to God, telling Him how life was unfair and why I was angry. After being told to do this a couple of times, I started to hear responses for my questions."

Zanele's first major experience with God was at a missionary conference when she was 16. She went to Sunday school that Sunday and one of the missionary children shared her testimony [a story about what God had done in her life]. After that, the Sunday school pastor invited people to surrender their lives to God.

That is when she re-committed her life to Jesus. She forgave her father, and her bitterness and anger faded.

She says she overcame her perfectionism through prayer and by relying on God's hope and strength rather than human willpower. Zanele started Fundanani Afrika during

the Covid-19 lockdown. While studying and doing research for an honours assignment, she prayed and asked God what the purpose of her life was and the Lord spoke to her.

"At first, I did not want to start it because I always wanted to be rich and famous. I then told my family what I wanted to do, and they prayed over it, and they all agreed that I should start this organisation. I then spoke to my spiritual father about it, and he also agreed."

Fundanani Afrika started with a menstrual hygiene campaign for teenage girls. There were partnerships with different schools and organisations to present a workshop and provide girls with sustainable methods to fight period poverty. They provided kits with reusable pads, disposable pads, panty liners and a small booklet explaining God's love. Another workshop was then introduced aimed at fighting teenage pregnancy and helping girls and boys to make the right decision when it comes to sex, identity, and relationships

When asked about the power of prayer, Zanele says, "Prayer is a big part of this ministry, and it has helped us to minister in difficult places where we never thought we would go. Prayer has also given us wisdom and understanding of the different needs of the youth that we help, and, through prayer and the Holy Spirit, we are able to minister effectively."

"I think prayer is very important because it leads you and directs you. It also brings you closer to God and, when you are tired and hurting, it gives you peace. Prayer is not something we do two times a day or once day in the morning or before a meal, but it is a continuous conversation with God, throughout the whole day. Prayer will change your life." ●



Zanele Nene

Pray for women and children

FATHER God, we bring the issues surrounding women and children to You concerning these areas:

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Healing of HIV and cancers
- Gender-based violence and discrimination
- Domestic violence
- Trafficking of women and children
- Addictions

We ask, Lord, that You intervene miraculously for women facing these problems. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life Jesus! Come and make a way where there seems to be no way out. We seek Your face and Your wisdom.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

A BLESSED WOMAN

Naomi had ___ (3) daughters-in-law. They were both _____ (2). One was Orpah. The other was _____ (4). Both of Naomi's sons died. Orpah _____ (6) back to her own people, but Ruth would not leave _____ (9). Ruth wanted to _____ (5) Naomi's God. Their sadness turned to joy when Naomi's relative _____ (1) married Ruth. He had _____ (8) Ruth very well. She became the great grand _____ (7) of King David.

• To complete the puzzle, unscramble the words in the baskets, and enter them across the appropriate line of squares. Read the clues given above. Be careful to match the numbers on the baskets with the correct line of squares. When the puzzle is complete the name of a town will appear vertically in the "water pots". This is the town where Ruth met and married Boaz.

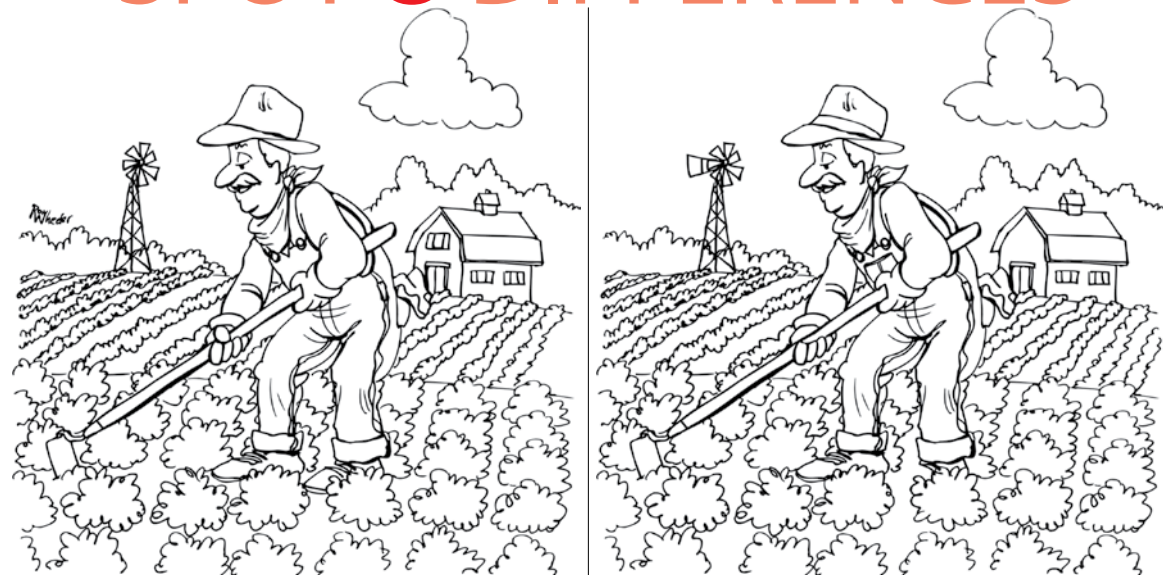
Do you know the name of the special baby who was born there, in a manger, many years later? _____

ainmo (9) oabz (1)
 detraet (8) oegfrin (2)
 remtoh (7) otw (3)
 ntew (6) hutr (4)
 llwofo (5)

maze Help Naomi and Ruth find their way from Moab to Bethlehem. Follow the string lines.

START

SPOT 8 DIFFERENCES



FROM RUTH 1:16

START HERE ↓ Follow the grid carefully and write down each letter as you come to it

	Y		L		B		
	O		L		E		O
U				H			G
		O		A			M
R		G		D		S	
						Y	
							D

wordsearch

The remaining letters will spell out a saying attributed to a man named Cicero, a Roman who lived about 100 years before Jesus.

- AFFECTION BETHLEHEM BOAZ DAVID FAMINE GATHER GOD**
GRAIN GRANDFATHER HARVEST HARVESTERS HOMELAND
HUSBAND ISRAEL JOURNEYED KING LOYALTY MARRIED MOABITES
NAOMI OBED ORPAH OWNER RELATIVE RUTH WORKERS

E L O Y A D L H T H D S R E K R O W I
 H V Y I I S O Y M A H E W H Z A O M N
 U T I V H M T E G R A T Y A W R O O D
 S E A T E L H O A V R I O E P A I E F
 B D U L A E S W T E V B E A N T I A E
 A R A Y L L K N H S E A H I C R M N N
 N N O H G K E E E T S O F E R I U I R
 D L T I E O I R R E T M F A N N A O D
 R E H T A F D N A R G F M E S R H I J
 B I S R A E L P G S A + + + G O B E D

SUDOKU

			R
		H	
	T		H
		T	

← RUTH
BOAZ →

		Z	
O			
			B
	A		

Fill so that every row, every column, and every 2x2 box contains the letters

EASY MATH

Each square is the total of the numbers in the two blocks below it.

7	4	3	9	2	7

6	3	7	7	4	9

I have everything I need

Growing up was difficult for Yvonne Mabuza, the youngest of five siblings. Her mother was a single parent and worked extra to compensate. She sold second-hand clothes, grew and sold vegetables, and did other people's laundry, all to provide for her family.

"I grew up knowing about God," Yvonne shares. "Jesus was automatically a part of our lives because we went to church."

She was taught to memorise verses and about the ways of Christ. She enjoyed going to Sunday School because, despite it all, she learned that Jesus was always with her.

"Growing up the most difficult thing for me was the peer pressure to do things that my mom wouldn't approve of and things I knew that were not God's way," Yvonne recalls.

"I would chase after boys and chase after other things that I thought would make me happy. I would just do these things because everyone else was."

Yvonne tells us she moved in with her husband at a very young age and they hurt each other in many ways, including her husband cheating on her. Yvonne didn't know who to turn to.

Things changed after she surrendered her life to Jesus Christ.

"A new confidence came into my life. I now know the power of God. I know the power of what God can do in a person's life. I have never gone back to the old ways of doing life. It doesn't satisfy. It doesn't bring peace. I don't even have a desire to live for myself or what the world says will satisfy. God has been my hope and my strength."

Yvonne had to reinvent the Lord into her marriage to fix it. They had to trust Him and come together in Him. And now, they can discuss their issues with calmness and love. They pray together and work out their problems together before God. They aim to set the example for their children.

God had not just saved her marriage, but also her life and the lives of her children. Years ago, there was a fire that took away everything they had.

"We lost everything," Yvonne shares. "But God protected and rescued myself and my children! I experienced the power of Almighty God during this tragedy. My husband was away, but God gave me supernatural courage and power. God was there to give me the strength that I needed to pull the security bars off the window to get my boy out of the room he was trapped in. Even

though we lost everything, God gave me a deep hope that we could start afresh, and He would be with us. We are alive! My kids are still alive! Our lives have purpose. I am grateful!"

After that, she started volunteering at Berakah Education Foundation Early Childhood Education in Mamelodi East, where her children attended there.

That is where she discovered a passion for children's ministry. The children were drawn to her, and she had a passion towards helping them. She discovered a deep passion and realised it was something she needed to pursue. Another part of her ministry started when her brother and his wife passed, and she took in their orphaned daughter.

"I took her into my home, which wasn't easy because I have four children of my own. I am so thankful to my husband because he supported me throughout the process of us taking in a child that was not our own. At the time, neither of us was working. An additional mouth to feed was so difficult. But we prayed and trusted God to do wonders! Everything she needed, God provided, again and again. Today, I am a mother of five. We adopted her."

Yvonne now says, "I encourage other women to have faith in God. Pray to God and strive not to question His will. We go through trials and tribulations in life, but He is always there. Life is struggle after struggle, but God will never leave us. He watches over us. He wants what is best for us. Everything will be okay."

"God says we must, 'Cast all our burdens to Him, because He cares for us.' (1 Peter 5:7) I will encourage all women to be strong in prayer, to be faithful, to be courageous, and to have hope. When you have God, you have everything you could ever need!"



Yvonne Mabuza from Berakah Education Foundation, with her husband.

I FOUND A SENSE OF PURPOSE

"When I was 12, my mother experienced a profound spiritual renewal and dedicated her life to Jesus, which deeply impacted me," Katinka Pieterse shares. "Inspired by her transformation, I also made a personal commitment to follow Jesus."

Katinka's childhood was marked by the constant reminder of God's mighty love and a mother's unwavering faith. This instilled in her a deep respect for spiritual growth and the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus.

From a young age, Katinka attended Hatfield Christian Church, where she learned what it means to live a life as God intended. The early exposure to faith laid a strong foundation for her spiritual journey. However, she states that it was not so simple.

"While I didn't always get it right, over the past 25 years, my relationship with God has grown, and I now have a deep love and dependence on Him.

"The journey involved many lessons in humility and grace, teaching me that God's love is steadfast even when I faltered."

The biggest change for her happened at a youth camp, when she realised that her life should be about serving and loving God.

The overwhelming sense of peace and purpose that washed over her as she publicly declared her faith is something she says she will never forget. The camp environment, filled with supportive peers and mentors, provided the perfect setting for this transformative moment.

"I felt whole and safe, knowing this is why I was created. There was a newfound clarity and assurance in my identity as a child of God. This sense of belonging and purpose has continued to anchor me throughout my life."

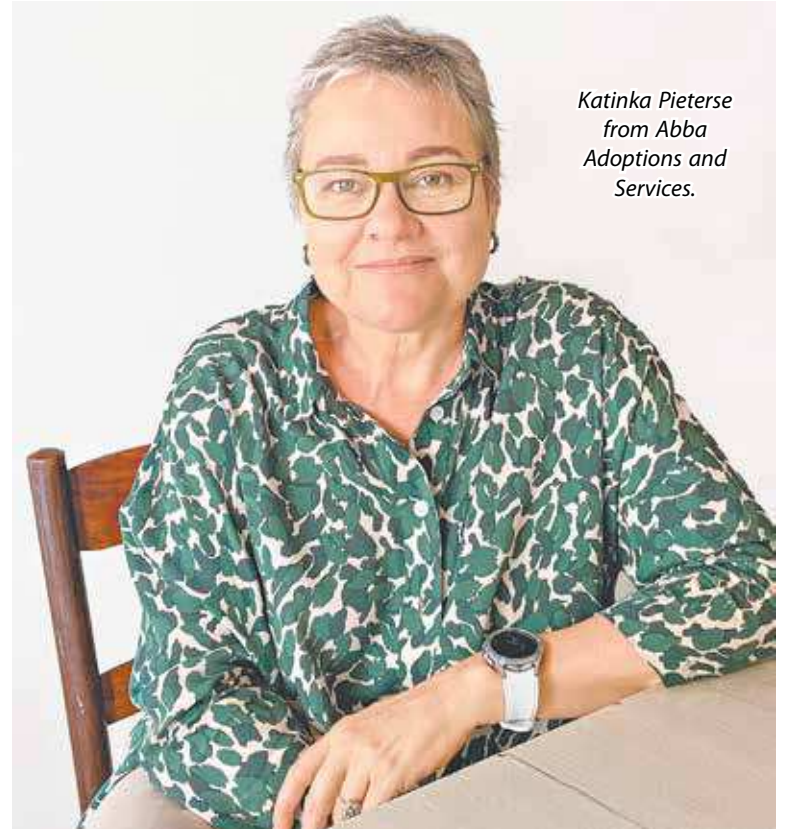
Since committing her life to Christ, she has realised that God is not just a part of life, but is the centre of it. Through difficult and trying times, she has come to know God as a loving and faithful Father.

"My life is now less about me and more about who He has called me to be. This shift in perspective has brought a deeper sense of fulfilment and joy. I cherish the message that we need to live His love and share His messages in all aspects of our lives, seizing every day as an opportunity to impact people for His glory. Whether in my personal or professional life, I strive to reflect His love and compassion in every interaction."

As a second-generation member of her ministry and a qualified social worker, Katinka believes that social work chose her rather than the other way around.

"Looking back, I can see God's hand guiding me."

Katinka is now the CEO of Abba Specialist Adoption and Social Ser-



Katinka Pieterse from Abba Adoptions and Services.

VICES. The organisation was founded in 1993 in response to the legalisation of abortions and the need for counselling and support for women facing unplanned pregnancies. Over the years, Abba has expanded its services to include accommodation, resource linkage, skills development, counselling, and training for women and families in crisis. Each service they offer is designed to provide comprehensive support, addressing both immediate needs and long-term well-being.

In the late 90s, the HIV/AIDS pandemic led to an increase in orphaned, vulnerable, and abandoned children, prompting the establishment of their child protection service. Abba later affiliated with the AFM Executive Welfare Council, allowing them to extend child protection, prevention, and early intervention services to six provinces. This expansion was driven by a commitment to ensure that every child has a safe and nurturing environment.

In 2016, Abba co-founded the Courage Child Protection capacity building programme to empower communities to address child protection challenges. They also developed a sex education and option counselling programme and an adoption training programme in collaboration with North-West University. These initiatives have been instrumental in equipping communities with the knowledge and tools needed to protect vulnerable children and support families.

When asked to describe Abba's mission, Katinka says: "At our core, we believe that children belong in permanent, loving, and stable families, and that families are the primary protective factor for vulnerable children. Abba is committed to prevention, protection, and permanence for at-risk children and families. Our work is underpinned by the

belief that every child deserves a loving and stable family environment."

She adds an encouragement for fellow believers to pray in their ministries and lives.

"Make prayer your top priority from the moment you wake up. Seek God's presence first thing every day. By starting each day in prayer, we can align ourselves with His will and draw strength from His presence to face the challenges and opportunities that come our way."

Pray for education

FATHER God, we pray for our education systems. We pray for early childhood development programmes, schools and the higher learning, tertiary institutions. We pray for all our schools from pre-primary to tertiary education. We trust that government funding will reach our children's education fairly and justly. We pray for skilled educators and good management of our learning centres. Thank You, Lord, that we can call on You to give our learners wisdom, creativity, ingenuity, and critical thinking minds to excel and fulfill their callings, in Jesus' name.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6



A heart to serve the poorest of the poor

Mariette Bossert lost her father when she was 11 years old, leaving her and her three sisters to be raised by her single mother.

"Those were very difficult times," Mariette shares.

"Sometimes I remember going to school in the winter without a jersey, but God was always there and always protected and provided."

She believes good came out of her struggles including learning to think for herself, being careful with money and being strong, no matter what. It produced many qualities in her life that shaped her into the person she is today.

Despite all the difficult times though, Mariette recalls that God was always part of her life.

"I can remember sleeping under the church pews since I was very small. My parents laid the foundation for me to follow Christ. My dad preached in townships and both parents were very engaged and involved in the church. So, I had the privilege to know and see God in my parents since I was very young."

She was 10 when she gave her life to Jesus, during a church Easter conference. "At children's church, we were invited to give our lives to God and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I responded to the call, and I never looked back."



Mariette Bossert (second from the right) with women from SMILE Impact's Skills Development program.

She describes feeling washed and clean. In 2008, the church she attended, the Hatfield Christian Church South, invited people to attend a mission trip to Mozambique with Iris Ministries.

It was on this trip that God touched her heart and she "could not stop crying the whole time."

Mariette asked God why she was so emotional. "He said that He was, 'Breaking my heart for people.'"

Mariette was still running her own design studio at the time of the outreach, but the following year she felt called to close her business and to serve God by serving the poorest of the poor.

This door to reach out to the

poorest was opened through a social worker who introduced her to the community of Mooiplaats Informal Settlement in Raslouw, Centurion. She met with SMILE Impact, an initiative of the Hatfield Christian Church South that is involved in community service and community development, and their community leaders.

They pointed out their biggest needs including issues around the lack of running water, waste removal and basic education, and Mariette embarked on a journey of addressing these issues. Through donations, JoJo tanks were provided for water issues, waste removal programmes were started, trainings were started for members of the community and food and facilities were provided. SMILE Impact started with a creche of 22 children. Now they have 67 children and eight staff.

They also introduced skills development, operating as Ekuphumuleni Garden and Studio, to Mooiplaats Informal Settlement.

The garden supplies fresh produce to the daycare daily, ensuring the best possible nutrition to children who often face malnutrition, while Ekuphumuleni offers skills development and income opportunities for local women through training

sessions. This includes how to make educational toys from recyclable materials, how to make hand-made items, and beading. These initiatives are more than just services; they are lifelines that foster lasting change, dignity, confidence, and pride within the community.

"Prayer is the cornerstone of my life and I cannot be without the guidance and wisdom I so often ask and receive," Mariette attests. "Working in a community, different than your culture, different language, and other socio-economic challenges keeps me on my knees and the verse becomes so true: *Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults,*

hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10)

"Prayer is key. Prayer brings God into the picture instead of your own ideas and plans. Prayer brings God's perspective, which usually is different than ours. After all, He knows it all. Prayer keeps us humble and dependant on the only source that keeps us and sustain us. Prayer declares we need a Saviour. Prayer gives guidance which I have often seen bring beautiful opportunities to reveal God into any difficult situation. Prayer is the rain that softens the heart of people."

I found the light

Linky Siwelane describes her younger life as "full of pride". "I thought I knew it all," she admits. "I was involved in a girls' gang which called itself the 'Don't Touch Group,' and we gave ourselves 'Tsotsi' names. The name I chose for myself was 'Mancus,' meaning knife, because I used to say I was dangerous. We were a group of young girls who were always together. We used to tease everyone else, and our attitudes were terrible because we thought we knew it all and no one could tell us anything."



Linky Siwelane

She believed there was no God, and that white people wrote the Bible to prevent black people from stealing. One night, however, while she was preparing to go to bed, she asked her cousin if it was true that white people wrote the Bible.

She told her: "No, the Bible is the truth." She mentioned a 'sangoma' (traditional healer) who died and rose again and said that, after his resurrection, he took his Bible to church and threw away all his ritual materials. That is when Linky decided to go to church. It was February of 1980.

But it was at a revival crusade that she surrendered her life to Jesus. "I was at the revival crusade, and my spirit was already yearning for God. I had started going to church and was eager to be baptised [a symbol of dying to your old self]. Every evening, when they called for people who wanted to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, I raised my hand and went to the front, making sure I was first. I also added my name to the list of people who wanted to be baptised at the end of the crusade."

After giving her life to Christ, she felt very happy. That same night, she had a dream in which she saw a full moon following her wherever she went. She told her pastor about the dream which he explained as: "God is going with you; you are in the light."

Years later, Linky started Kids Paradise and an aftercare program after realising that the government had removed God and religion from schools. While she was concerned about this, God told her that she could start teaching children Godly principles while they are still young.

Together with her husband, Bishop Simon, they also started a church ministry where she leads the women and children's ministries. Later she founded Women In Faith Ministry to teach mothers and youth about the love and grace of God as well.

"As a child of God, prayer is our life," Linky declares. "Even Jesus Christ Himself indicated that He is the vine and we are the branches. Without Him, we cannot do anything. In prayer, we invite God to lead us. He continues by saying that in all our ways, we must acknowledge Him, and He will make our paths straight. Therefore, prayer is my sustenance. It has changed me and taught me to recognise the voice of God, to hear Him when He speaks to me through His Word or drops an idea in my heart."

"I pray for my family, the ministry, and the church. Whatever I need, I know that I will receive it from God when I pray and ask in the name of Jesus."

"The Word of God is clear that He wants people who pray. In Jeremiah, it says that women are to teach their daughters to pray and walk with God so that the death that wants to enter by the windows must stop. It also instructs us to pray without ceasing. Jesus says to pray that we do not fall into temptation. There are many things we might not have to face if we were praying. Prayer makes us strong, keeps our trust in God, and reminds us that our God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He should change His mind. Our God is a covenant-keeping God. In any difficult situation, keep praying; He will fight for you. He said the battle is not ours but His."

The Lord's Prayer

"IN THIS manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen."
Matthew 6:9-13



M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	B		5	1	6	3	4	7	9	2	8	
I	L	A	G	B						8	7	9	2	1	6	3	5	4	
S	E	A	S	T	U	C	O			2	4	3	8	5	9	1	6	7	
M	S	O	I	A	V					3	9	4	6	2	1	8	7	5	
A	S	S	A	S	I	N	A	T	E	6	2	5	9	7	8	4	3	1	
N	P	O	R							1	8	7	5	3	4	6	9	2	
A	C	C	O	M	M	O	D	A	T	E	7	6	2	1	8	3	5	4	9
G	P	A	O	R	X					9	5	1	4	6	2	7	8	3	
E	L	D	E	S	T	N	I	C	E	4	3	8	7	9	5	2	1	6	
A	R	C	S	R															
B	A	D	H	E	R	E	N	T											

HOW DO I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Anyone can gain the eternal life offered through Jesus Christ

We read in God's word: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

OUR PROBLEM: **Separation from God**
"Everyone has sinned. Nobody is good enough because God's standards are perfect" (Romans 3:23) **ADMIT**

GOD'S REMEDY / SOLUTION: **Jesus died on the cross**
"God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) **BELIEVE**

OUR RESPONSE: **Trust Jesus by receiving Him**
"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12) **COMMIT**

Here is an example of how you can pray.

Dear Father in Heaven. I come to you now because I want to be saved. Please, forgive me of my sins. I believe that you sent your Son Jesus Christ to die for me and that you have raised him from the dead. I now ask Jesus Christ to come into my life as my Saviour and Lord. Take control of my life. Please make me the person You created me to be. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen

The Lord Jesus says: "I tell you the truth. Everyone who believes in me has eternal life." (John 6:47).
He gives life of a wonderful quality that continues forever.

What now?

1. Tell someone - either a Christian that you know or email us at info@challengenews.org
2. Check out the YouVersion Bible App to find a Bible, reading plans and more information regarding Christianity.
3. Keep praying. Talk to God anywhere, about anything. He is always listening, and you don't need a formula.
4. Reach out to the ministry that distributed this paper (see back page) and/or find a Bible-teaching church to attend.

AS A NEXT STEP: Please send me: Bible Some 'starting off' literature Information on a helpful church

I have prayed the prayer [ABOVE]

* Please tick and write clearly *

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Email to:
christabritz@challnews.onmicrosoft.com
OR sachallengenews@gmail.com

Out of South Africa enquiries are referred onto someone in their own country

WITH THE FINISH LINE IN MIND



Annelie Jacobs was born in a Christian family with parents that served the Lord wholeheartedly. They committed their lives to God and promised to raise their children according to the Word of God, showing them what it was like to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

They taught them to pray anywhere about anything. They have been part of the Hatfield Christian Church family since the 1980s.

At the age of seven, Annelie became aware of the need for a Saviour and committed her life to Jesus. She then developed a desire to be like Jesus but found herself struggling with selfishness, anger and jealousy. She realised she needed something or someone stronger than herself.

“My parents told me about the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us and I prayed and asked Him to help me on my journey to become more like Jesus.

“That made me realise that my journey with God is not a lonely road but with His strength, help, guidance and leading I could grow to overcome obstacles and challenges.

“The Holy Spirit became my friend, encouraging me in my race to the finish line. Hebrews 12:1 compares our life’s journey to a race we run to receive the prize at the end.” Sport was always part of Annelie’s

life, and she was raised to live a balanced life with God at the centre.

At school, she participated in different sports and experienced the privilege of having supportive people around her.

She competed at provincial and national levels in tennis and athletics.

“My parents set an example of healthy living and at the age of 87 they still go for their daily walk, hand-in-hand, enjoying God’s blessing of health and strength.

“When I was 34 years old, my older sister started to train for Comrades, and I decided to join her and four other friends.”

They got up early in the mornings to go for their training runs and completed many races in preparation with discipline, courage and encouragement.

On Comrades day, there were many lessons to learn.

“You start your race with the finish line in mind.

“As the race progresses, I met other runners on the road that



Annelie’s daughter-in-law, Kyla, (right) was the 2023 5000m SA champion.

shared their stories and experiences with me.

Everybody is equal and we all had the same goal in mind. We all had to overcome exhaustion, pains, mental blocks, and persevere.

“In the race runners can join a ‘bus’ formed by runners that help each other complete the race successfully and on time. That became a motto to live by and I realised that on all levels in life we need to spur each other on to achieve our goals and finish the race.”

Annelie’s daughter-in-law, Kyla, was the 2023 5000m SA champion, who makes it a priority to pray before a race to thank God for the opportunity she has to compete for His glory.

In her journey of recovering from an injury she obtained at SA Champs, she prayerfully focuses on God’s guidance, wisdom and healing to take her through this challenging time.

Together they trust for healing and a testimony that will glorify God.

Outside of sports, Annelie works as a speech therapist with a deep passion for helping and supporting other people.

She has also been involved in children’s ministry since she was 19.

“Seeing the hurt and struggles children have these days, I developed a heart for one-on-one ministry and teaching,” Annelie shares.

She is encouraged by Isaiah 50:4, which says: “The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.”

“God called me to encourage children and parents to never give up and to hold on to the hope we have in Jesus.

“I enjoy walking a road with them

“ You start your race with the finish line in mind. ”

Annelie Jacobs and her sister after an athletics competition.



Annelie Jacobs displays some of her athletics medals.

to help them discover the Holy Spirit as a guide and helper in their race to the finish line. My running is also a way of getting alongside fellow runners and encouraging others on our way to the finish line and to finish well.”

When asked of the importance of prayer in one’s life, she adds: “Prayer is the link between us and God.

“While listening with a prayerful

heart the Holy Spirit reveals the Father’s heart toward a person.

“Healing comes when the Holy Spirit touches our hearts and opens our spiritual eyes to see the truth. On life’s journey we all experience hardship and challenges in life.

“As followers of Jesus we know the only hope for this world is Jesus. Our prayer must be that God will use us and give us boldness to share our story with others.”

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 GOD’S KINGDOM IN HEARTS, HOMES AND BEYOND

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