

GUIDELINES for Pastors

The life story of Pastor Dan and Helen Nell

This book was written for Pastors and Church Leaders.

The purpose was to give you "guidelines"

Not to make the same mistakes we did

To help you in your relationship with:

God

Your spouse

Your children

People

We also wanted to share with you some great values.

Included is some of my sermon notes that made a
difference.

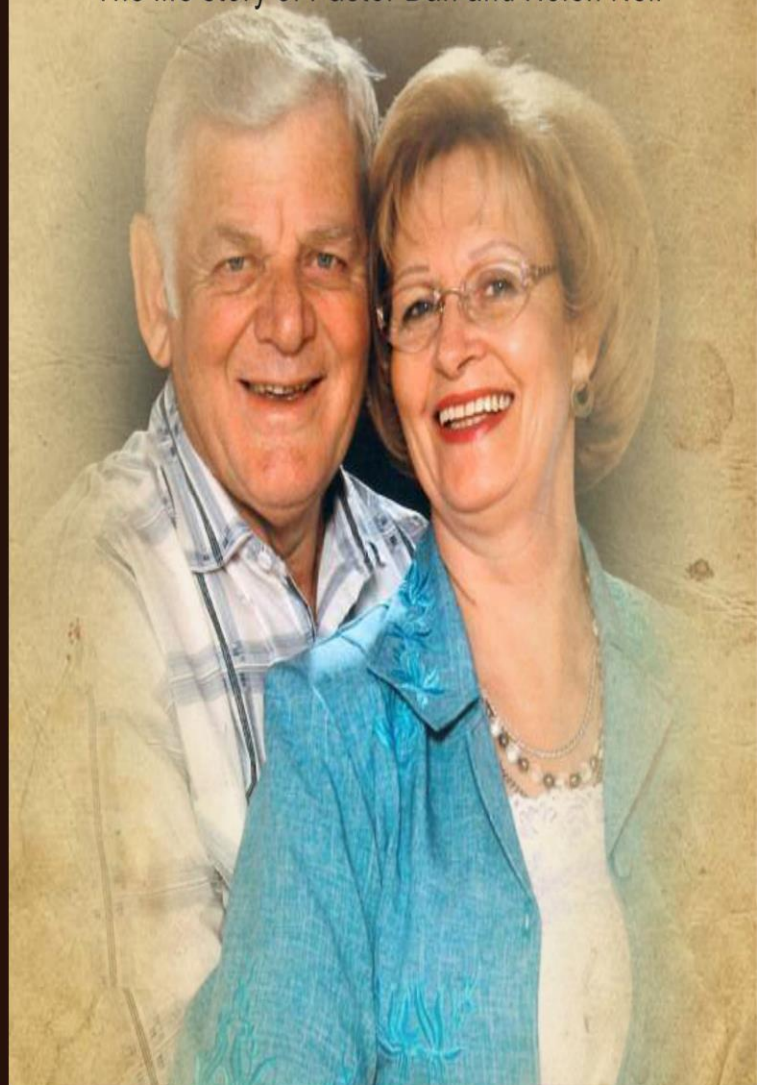
Some recommendations in this book will help your
church grow.

Yours in Him,
Dan and Helen Nell

GUIDELINES FOR PASTORS Pastor Dan Nell

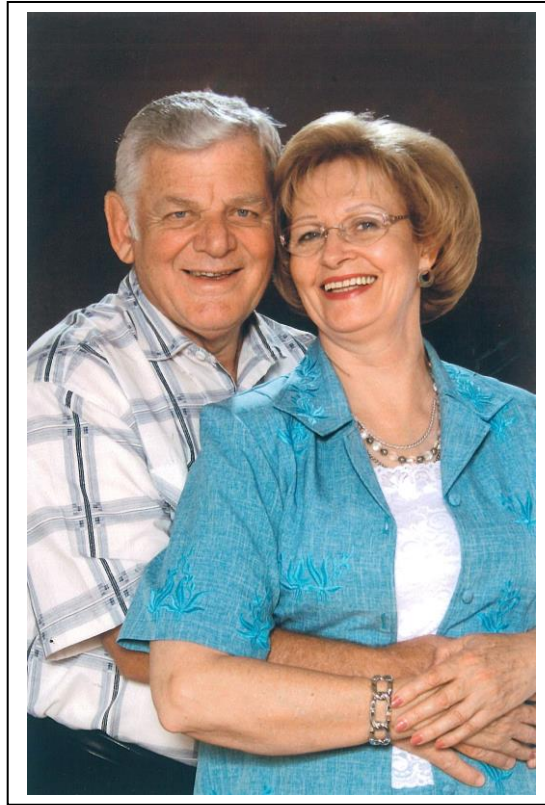
GUIDELINES for Pastors

The life story of Pastor Dan and Helen Nell



After 53 years in fulltime Ministry - February 2011 - South Africa

Guidelines *for* *Pastors*



The life story of *Pastor Dan and Helen Nell*

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures was used from the
"Spirit filled Life Bible"
New King James Version

Copyright 1991, by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Nashville. USA

"Guidelines for Pastors"

First Print May 2011

Published by the Author

Order from:

Dan Nell,
P.O. Box 1282,
Jeffrey's Bay. 6330
South Africa

Email address: dnell@inetcom.co.za

Website: www.equipministry.co.za

Copyright © Pastor Dan Nell (2011)

ISBN Number: 978-0-620-50505-5

FOREWORD

*We want to give glory to God
who made us.
With David we can shout it out:*

*“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made:
Marvellous are Your works,
and that my soul knows very well”
Psalm 139:14*

*We thank God for the four sons He gave us
and their wonderful wives.
Our nine grandchildren are a great blessing.*

*May our story encourage everyone
working for the Lord.
And may the lessons found in this book
give you much needed answers.*

*I share with you my outstanding text in
The Bible:
“Delight yourself also in the Lord,
and He shall give you the desires
of your heart.”
Psalm 37:4*

CONTENTS

HOW EVERYTHING STARTED (6)

LIFECHANGING PRINCIPLES WE HAD TO LEARN

- My first lesson was, to forgive myself **(13)**
- My first encounter with "gossip" **(15)**
- Trusting God as our Source **(15)**
- Our relationship with God **(16)**
- Our relationship with people **(17)**
- Understanding "Gods Order" **(18)**
- The four Pillars in Marriage **(20)**
- Don't do everything yourself **(22)**
- Connect with the right people **(23)**
- You must have a friend **(23)**
- Decisions are very important **(24)**
- Do not share your vision with everyone **(24)**
- How to overcome stress **(25)**
- What about fear? **(26)**
- Always be a student **(27)**
- The power of agreement **(27)**
- Ask...and you will receive **(29)**
- Do not neglect your older people **(29)**
- Always have the right attitude **(30)**
- Gods Word will Counsel the people **(31)**
- My Preaching (Some guidelines) **(33)**
- If you have a need, sow a seed **(39)**
- Testify! That's how you will overcome **(44)**
- "As a Pastor, where will I live after my retirement?" **(53)**

SOME LIFE CHANGING SERMON NOTES (54)

THE PASTORS WIFE (96)

BACK TO BASICS (100)

A SOUL WINNING STRATEGY THAT WORKS (101)

CLOSING RECOMMENDATIONS (118)

HOW EVERYTHING STARTED

Not many people could imagine that the day I was born on the 4th October 1937, as the fourth and youngest son of Thomas George Nell, that it was really planned by God.

I was not born in the "upper class" but what I call "my Nazareth" This is in a suburb called Sydwell, Port Elizabeth in the Southern part of South Africa.

One good thing about the house where I was born was that the name of the street was "Patience Street" and the house number was "number 8" God wanted to give me patience and we know that the letter "8" stands for infinite or endless.

The first three years of my life I grew up in this city.

My father worked at General Motors Company and at one time we stayed just across this motor factory.

As I said, we were not of the rich, and my father worked very hard to help raise his four sons. Today I honour both my parents.

My father died when he was 75 and mom when she was 86. Both served and loved the Lord. Helen's parents also died years ago.

My Salvation

When I was 16 I gave my life to Christ on a farm in the Northern part of our country. This was on a Sunday evening and the date was the 5th September 1954.

Oh, the joy the next morning amongst this family on the farm, when I told them what happened to me in my room and how I confessed my sin and accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

There, next to the coal stove in the kitchen, six o'clock in the morning, we praised God together with coffee mugs in our hands.

Today I understand **2 Cor. 5:17** better: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (In Greek "new" is "kainos" and means "unused and fresh")*

It is wonderful to know that God forgives us and changes our lives in such a way that we are made fresh as if we have never been used (or misused) before.

That same week, when I arrived back at my work as a locomotive fitter at the South African Railways near Pretoria Station, I realized that God had changed me altogether.

God even cleaned up my mouth from swearing when I got angry. Now I was controlled by Gods Spirit, and there was a peace over me that I had never had before.

God called me on the 5th May 1955

How can I forget Gods calling in my life?

The final calling came at a Youth Rally in Pretoria while the pastor preached on how God called Isaiah.

His Scripture was from **Isaiah 6:1-8**. Isaiah reacted and cried out to God: "*Here am I, send me...*"

While he was preaching I jump up three times telling God that He could send me. The first two times the preacher told me to sit down and I did. But the third time nobody could make me sit down again, until this day!

On the 15th May, ten days after this experience, I resigned from my work and applied at a Bible College.

They had to make some adjustments to allow me as student.

One reason was because I did not have my grade 12 and the other reason was because the new semester started on the 1st August, and I would only be 18 years of age two months later.

To get to the Bible School, I had to ride my bike for about 15 miles to the Main Station in Pretoria.

From there it was travelling by train for 40 minutes to Johannesburg. Then I had to walk fast (and sometimes run) for 20 minutes to get to the Bible School.

We were 20 students and I was the youngest.

I remember how my pastor waited at our house for me to come from Bible School in the afternoons.

I would only have time to wash my face and comb my hair before we left on house visitation. I enjoyed every moment when I had to visit the sick in hospital.

Two years later I “graduated” and received my Theological Diploma after completing 17 subjects. I even passed Greek with 74%

We had no formal “Graduation Ceremony” but the secretary of the Bible College just gave you your Diploma when you left.

But before I could receive my Diploma I first had to pay the Bible College my outstanding fee of £10.

I remember selling my .22 Bruno rifle for £10 to pay my fee.

On the 24th July 1957 – I was allowed in fulltime Ministry

That Wednesday afternoon exactly ten minutes past one I drove into a town called Klerksdorp to report to Pastor Olivier as his assistant pastor. I drove my 1940 model “Morris Oxford” car from Pretoria to Klerksdorp and felt wonderful.

I greeted the Pastor, his wife and children; unloaded my bags and left that same moment with him to go and pray for a grade eight young girl who was suffering from depression. The devil had told her (and she believed it) that if she should testify about Christ and someone was saved, she would drop dead. Can you believe a lie like this? Thank God (even if it took a few days of prayer with her) she was set free!

The day when I was called “Pastor” it felt so great!

Little did I know what this whole “package” of being a pastor involved.

But one thing that helped me through my life was that I knew that God had called me. No church board and no person had called me, but God.

The Bible says in Proverbs 18:16 "A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men."

My first church started me with a salary of £10 and a few months later gave me a raise of £7 and ten shillings. But then I received a letter from head office asking me to explain why I receive more money than all the other assistant Pastors in the church?

In October 1957 I answered the head office's letter giving them my budget, starting with my tithes; then my car payment of £12 and ten shillings; my petrol (gasoline) of £8 and what I needed for toiletries and even a haircut. Not mentioning any clothes I had to buy.

Until today (more than 50 years later) I never heard from our head office again!

I started in ministry with one suite and two white shirts for church meetings, and some casual clothes.

Those days head office gave you notice a week before you should leave the church where you were to go to the next one. You couldn't pray about this, you just obeyed. All this was for practical training. In one year and six months I found myself in three different churches and three different cities!

In Bloemfontein I met Helen, my wife

It was on the 1st May 1958 when I saw her at the youth choir of 48 members when they had their practice. As choir they received me as their youth pastor, with tea and cake.

Prior to this I considered myself a "women hater" because of two bad experiences I had had before.

But when I saw Helen in the choir, something happened in my life. She was only in grade 12, but I just knew this was the one!

Later she told me about the prophecy over her life when, as a baby, she was dedicated to the Lord. The prophecy was that God called her to fulltime ministry. Helen was born again when she was only a young girl of 14 years.

Helen speaks for herself when she says: *"One thing I knew being a teenager was that I had to protect my body for the Lord. My mother used to say that if you hit a nail in a tree; the stem will heal after you have removed the nail but the mark will be left behind. The same thing happens with our character. At 15 I started singing in the church choir and in that time gave some training for the Children's Choir. I also played the piano in church. Music and singing was my life, even until today. When I met Dan I was at first not very excited because he was a young pastor that was very reserved. But by knowing him more I realized there was a power pulling us together. The problem was, I was in grade 12 and he was the youth pastor. So we had to operate in secret and be very wise in our relationship."*

Our relationship grew in such a way that on the 4th December 1958 when Helen wrote her last grade 12 exam, that same evening we got engaged. Don't you try this!

Five months later, on the 25th April 1959, we got married.

The Pastor's message that day was from **John 2** where Jesus turned the water into wine. He talked on the "six water pots of stone" and asked us to always keep our "pots" filled by Jesus. He named these "water pots" LOVE; RESPECT and so forth. Today we can look back and say that by the grace of God our "water pots" are still overflowing!

By writing this book we hope that you will learn from our life experiences.

There were serious moments but we also experienced humor.

God was always there to see us through.

As the Psalmist in **Psalms 92** wrote: *"For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands."*

God gave us joy through all the things He had done for us.

Our whole life wasn't "moonlight and roses" and we discovered that we had to work on our marriage relationship every day.

Any day that you don't do this, you will realize that you're moving backwards in your relationship as man and wife.

Do the best you can for your life-long partner by giving respect and appreciation. As my youngest son once said: ***"Dad, a happy wife is a happy life"***

Our family

I always tell people: *"We started with two, now we are nineteen!"* God gave us four sons. I led them to Christ and conducted their marriages.

The eldest and the youngest are in business. Our second son is a pastor and the 3rd son is a medical doctor.

God added four wonderful daughters-in-law and we have nine grandchildren. Thank God, our whole family serves the Lord.

Things I'm sorry about!

As a young pastor many things were "sinful things" and actually there was nothing wrong with the most of these things.

To explain the above statement: All sport was sinful.

The moment you became a Christian you had to leave your sport behind you. Today I am sorry that I forced some of my members to step back from their sport if they wanted to serve in my leadership.

Another thing I'm sorry about is when my eldest two sons were six and four they wanted me to play with them in the ocean (we lived next to the ocean)

My second son (only 4 years old) one day asked me: *"Daddy, please put on your swimming costume and come and play with us in the water."*

Little did he know that for me it was (in those days) a sin to do that and instead I found myself on the beach in my suite (and tie) telling him that they only had a short time to play in the water, because

daddy had something else to do "for the Lord" not knowing that to play with my children was also "the work of the Lord"

Please, enjoy your children! Play with them in the water; kick the ball with them...enjoy them (and yourself) and get rid of all the condemnation that you have laid on yourself.

Life is there to enjoy! We become so "churchy" and so "religious" that we miss the good things God made to enjoy.

Sometimes when I listen to Christians talking I hear more about how they prayed and cried before the Lord, than how they rejoiced in the Lord. Life is too short not to enjoy it!

Oh yes, there may be boundries, and that I can understand. But what I am trying to share with you are not to lay burdens on yourself that God never wanted you to carry.

LIFECHANGING PRINCIPLES **WE HAD TO LEARN**

One of my first life-changing principles
was, to forgive myself

I had to learn when God forgives He remembers no more our sins.
We receive our forgiveness from God, but then when things go wrong in our lives, we condemn ourselves.

I will never forget when our first son, Daniel, was born in the town of Vryheid. That morning in hospital I held him in my arms, opened his blankets and saw he was not a cripple!

I believed until that moment (the devil told me so) that God will punish me by giving me a crippled son, because of all the sin I had committed as a young man. But thank God I now knew that the devil was a liar and the father of it! (John 8:44)

With this new born baby of four hours I ran down the hospital's passage to the room where Helen was lying, while the matron was running behind me shouting that I must bring back the baby! All the way I was crying and praising God that the devil was a liar. Helen heard this story for the first time, and I was set free.

Thank God for Romans 8:1 *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ..."*

LISTEN: If the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future...in hell!

It never takes a long time for God to forgive and to restore us into fellowship with Him. Why be hard on yourself and not accept God's forgiveness?

**Kenneth Copeland writes in his book *"Faith to Faith"*
-A daily guide to victory-
February 3**

"You don't have to live under the shadow of sin five seconds if you have sense enough to repent and receive God's forgiveness. It doesn't make any difference how you feel about it. Do it by faith. Learn to be quick to repent. Then stand up and laugh in the devil's face.

I remember one time in particular when I was in that spot. I'd missed it something awful, and I was supposed to go preach that night. I felt so guilty that I just told the Lord I wasn't going to go. 'Lord, You just have to get Yourself another preacher tonight because I'm not going over there to that service.'
Suddenly the Holy Spirit spoke up inside me. 'Did you confess that sin before Me, Kenneth?' 'Yes, I did' 'Do you account the blood by which you're sanctified as an unholy thing?'
'Oh, dear God no.' I answered.
'That's what you're standing there doing. I gave you My Word that when you confess your sin before Me, I would not only forgive you of it, but I'd cleanse it and cast it into a sea of forgetfulness. Now it's not good taste for you to keep bringing it up.'

I'm telling you, I dropped the matter right then and marched into that service and preached for two and a half hours on the forgiveness of God.
Don't let feelings of guilt and unworthiness rob you of the power of Jesus' blood. Repent and step out by faith from under the shadow of sin into the mighty light of God's forgiveness today!"

My first encounter with "gossip"

It was in the beginning of 1959 and I was still unmarried when I had a problem with some ladies in the church concerning gossip. I felt "brave and bold" and prepared myself one morning to trample on "the devil's" head that day.

So I went to the first lady that was involved in this gossip story and asked her to get into my car. I took her to the second one and by the time I had the third one in my car, I realised that this would keep me busy the whole day and I would still be nowhere. So I stopped the whole thing; dropped each one at their home and went to my home to just enjoy myself in the Lord. I had wasted my time and learnt the lesson never to run after a gossip story again!

The Bible says this about gossip **1 Tim. 5:13** *"they (some women) spend their time gossiping around from house to house, getting into other people's business."* (The Living Bible)

Also read: Proverbs 11:13; 17:9; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20

Trusting God as our Source

My first salary as an ordained Pastor.

This story will take you back to 1959, just after we got married and Helen was with me in a town called Vryheid, South Africa.

The entire church counted only 93 members and not more than ten people owned a motorcar.

Our salary should have been £75 per month. Well, that was written down in the official letter when they called me to be their pastor. Later I found out that that wasn't an agreement but only a guideline.

The most of the time my salary was £40. I had to pay a monthly installment on my Volkswagen Beetle of £14 and £14 pounds on our furniture. I could only promise Helen £5 per month for groceries, hoping that she would also buy the meat we needed.

I thank God for this wonderful wife God gave me, and because she also felt Gods calling on her life, she prevailed.

Remember this: The God that called you will supply in all your needs!

Our relationship with God

The most important thing in my life was to work on my relationship with God. I could not sleep late and allow myself to be caught up in any negative things and "small talk"

Every day we should know that we are "connected" to God in our daily walk of life.

What helped me was that on Fridays I "locked myself" in my study from 8h00 until 13h00 to be alone with God. This was not just to finalise my sermon for Sundays, but to "wait on God" and enjoy His presence.

My members knew that and appreciated it that their pastor was having a time with God in prayer and the Word.

I did not answer any phone call or any knock at the front door, and my wife protected me in this decision of mine.

It was always "funny" to see how some church members phoned me on a Friday between 7h00 and 8h00 to speak to me before I closed my study door.

Some were good calls that I had to pray for their needs before God, but others acted as if I was leaving this world altogether.

Many times God gave me my message in the beginning of the week and Friday was the time that I could prepare myself in my heart before God so that I would be ready to deliver that message on the Sunday.

Many times I just laid there before God not asking Him anything specific but just expressing my love to Him, and enjoying His presence.

As a pastor you cannot rush through the week and expect a move from God in and through you on a Sunday.

Another thing was that Helen and I had a time of prayer and God's Word with our sons every day before they went to school. It was a short time together but we tried to make it a "prime time"

After our children left our home to live their own lives as married men, Helen and I took more time in the morning to share Gods Word with each other and to pray.

Over the past few years I have not been able to sleep late, which has resulted in me getting up anytime from 4h00 in the morning. I then go to my study to read Gods Word and pray for my family and whatever God lays on my heart.

About 6h00 I make tea for both of us and get into bed with Helen again and she would read from her Living Bible and "preach" to me before we prayed together.

I must say that she is a good preacher. But the main thing was that we shared Gods Word with each other.

Our relationship with people

It is very important to have a good relationship with people you meet everyday in your life. We must remember that **aggression** and **condemnation** will not enhance the message of the Gospel. We should always remember that the "**Gospel**" is "**Good tidings**"

The first Christians in Jerusalem **had favour with all the people.** **We read these words in Acts 2:47** *"...and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were saved."*

Favour is not just a "handout" but it's something we deserve.

I believe that the Christians in Jerusalem received favour from the community because they had a good attitude and showed love to the people.

One of my sayings through the years has been: *"How can you fight love? There is no way or nor place that you can hit love."*

Understanding "Gods Order"

God sent an American Pastor in 1975 to South Africa to teach our regional pastors and their wives for a week on "God's Order"

This happened in our home town, and little did I know that God planned using Helen and I as examples.

You see it happened like this:

We had been married for 14 years and God had used me in a great way in the ministry as a pastor.

This American pastor asked us as a couple to come forward to help him explain what he was talking about. This happened in front of all these pastors and their wives.

My "problem" started when he asked Helen certain questions about our family life and she had to answer them truthfully.

I was shocked when she told everyone present that although she respected my ministry and loved me her problem was that everything, for me, was "God's work" I did not find time for her and our four sons.

By saying this she meant that I gave time and energy to the needs of all other people but not to her and the kids.

The message of "God's order" that we received at this Pastors retreat was:

God is always number one in our lives, then our wife, our children and after that our church and the community!

The next thing that happened a week later was that Helen asked me for an appointment and she wrote these words in my Dairy for the following Wednesday: "14h00 Appointment with Helen, your wife." I thought this was a joke...but my "joke" only lasted until that next Wednesday.

When we came together (that Wednesday) and she opened her heart and said that she loved me and appreciated my ministry but had a problem in that even after that pastor from America had talked to us about "God's order" nothing was done to correct anything.

After three hours of discussion in my study with Helen, I wanted to resign from the ministry. We both cried before God and there I made a decision to do something about this new found truth.

Always remember this: "Any truth always comes to you negative the first time you hear it." Why? Because the most of our time we live in a lie, but thank God, truth always sets us free!

We knelt together and cried before God, asking Him to forgive us and to help us understand Gods order for our family.

From there we went out to the kids and told them what had happened.

The first decision we made as a family was to start with a "Family evening" every Tuesday from 18h00. I asked my sons to forgive me that I did not do what God wanted from us as a family. We prayed together and promised God to start afresh.

That first Sunday morning I gave our testimony to the church and stated that I expected all of our families to have a family evening on Tuesdays and expected the leaders to set the example.

This saved marriages in our congregation! God gets the glory.

The family evening was not to hold another "church meeting" or a "Cell group" in our homes but to enjoy each other, play games etc.

**To give you more guidance concerning
your family life I want to share some "nuggets"
in Gods Word from Ephesians 5 (Next page)**

THE FOUR PILLARS IN MARRAIGE **We find them if we study Eph. 5:22-33**

THE FIRST PILLAR IS "SUBMISSION"

v. 22 "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."

Paul gives advice to the church concerning marriage and his first words are addressed to the woman. Why did he talk to the women first? Women want to know first.

Then he touches the most difficult subject for anyone to hear, and that is: "submit" The Collins Dictionary says this about the word "submissive" "If you are submissive, you obey without arguing."

"Arguing" and "communication" are altogether two different things. To submit does not mean that you cannot talk to each other about the subject. If a wife submits to her husband she puts herself under the protection of her husband. This means that he has the responsibility to lead and guide his wife.

THE SECOND PILLAR IS "LOVE"

v. 25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,"

For the husband it is a command to love his wife, whether he feels like doing so or not. He should love his wife in such a manner that he will even be willing to die for her, as Christ died for the church.

v. 28, 29 "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."

For a husband to love his wife is so important, that Paul mentioned it again.

Husband should love their wives as they love their own body. If you love your own body you won't hurt it or disrespect it.

If you do not love yourself how will you ever love others, including your wife?

THE THIRD PILLAR IS "TO LEAVE and CLEAVE"

v. 31, 32 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined (cleave) to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

To "leave" the family means to not allow the family to rule your house but be "joined" to your wife. This means "to stick to her like glue" Nothing must be able to pull you apart.

THE FOURTH PILLAR IS "RESPECT"

v. 33 "Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

In conclusion Paul wanted to let the husband know that he should really love his wife and that there should always be respect in the marriage.

When a couple loses their respect for each other, they have a major problem that can drive them apart.

Then Paul adds this for our children: Ephesians 6:1-3

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

What a wonderful promise for our children! If they do what God said in this Scripture they will be blessed and have a long life!

Remember, God's order:

God first
Then the husband
The wife
The children
The church
Then everyone else.

Don't do everything yourself!

GET YOUR MEMBERS INTO THEIR GOD CALLED MINISTRY

My problem was that I would give work to someone, but then did it myself!

Why don't we learn from Moses as the biggest leader in history? He had to lead more than two million people from Egypt through the wilderness to the land of Canaan. His father-in-law, Jethro, saw that he was trying to do everything himself, and gave him the good advice to delegate his authority as a leader to others.

Jethro said: *"What is the thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from the morning until evening?" (Exodus 18:14)*

Then Jethro told Moses what to do. (Ex. 18:19 to 23)

God told me to help my church members to find their function and ministry in the church; train them and use them. This would help me not to try and do everything myself. I also found out that every need is not my ministry.

This was when I started preaching on the subject "Discover your Ministry" in Bloemfontein in 1982. It took a series of five sermons in a sequence of five Sunday mornings.

After preaching my last message on this subject I gave every member a sheet of paper with a list of all the ministries needed in our church. They had to write their name and phone number on it and mark at least one ministry they felt God wanted them to do. My job was to go through these sheets of paper and categorize the different ministries and then train each group how to be effective in their ministry.

I appointed a leader for each ministry whose responsibility it would be for that ministry to function correctly.

This leader should also train new members in that group.

Note: People must not only be trained, but also used!

Connect with the right people

Never “connect” with losers. Only connect with successful people. Walk away from the unsuccessful that sometimes have the most to say on any subject.

A Zulu preacher, Richard Ingidi, who had raised people from death and had planted a few hundred churches during his lifetime, visited me in my home when he was introduced to me by a Missionary. I shared a Scripture with him that made him excited. Then he said these following words which I will never forget: *"Pastor Dan, I listened to a pastor who said funny things to me. I was shocked and answered that pastor that I don't want to listen to him because I only listen to successors!"* Until this day I live according to those words.

The Bible says: *"Be with wise men and become wise"* (Living Bible)

You must have a friend

Every person needs a friend.

King Solomon had many officials helping him to govern the nation of Judah. Some of these officials are mentioned in **1 Kings 4:1-5**.

Now we know that King Solomon was a very wise man according to what we read in **1 Kings 4:29-32**. He wrote 3000 Proverbs and composed 1005 songs. But still he needed a friend!

We read these words in **1 Kings 4:5** *"...Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest and the king's friend."*

If Pastors and leaders realises how important it is to have a friend, they won't be without one.

Not just someone that will pat you on your back but also a friend that will warn you of disasters that will destroy your life; your ministry and your family. Find a friend like this!

Decisions are very important

We all have to make decisions every day.

Do not be afraid to make them. Some will be right and some wrong.

President Roosevelt once said: *"The good thing about a decision is when it's the right one. The bad thing about a decision is when it's the wrong one. But the worst thing about a decision is when no decision is taken."*

Never make a decision when you are downhearted.

Elijah wanted to die when he was downhearted (1 Kings 19)

We read these words in verse 4 *"...he prayed that he might die, and said: 'It is enough! Now Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!'"* Thank God that His angel came and gave him

something to eat to regain strength for his journey (verses 5-8)

You see, God still had a lot of work for him to do.

Have courage! God still needs you and want to use you!

Only make a decision when you have the peace of God in your heart. The peace of God is like an umpire inside you.

And remember: The umpire knows the rules and his decision is final.

The Amplified Bible says in Colossians 3:15 *"And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from the Christ rule (**act as umpire continually**) in your hearts – deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds..."*

Do not share your vision with everyone

Joseph shared his dreams with his brothers and found himself as a slave in the land of Egypt.

I am a person that loves to share "my dreams" with others.

I can tell you how our church lost a big piece of land that Ford

Company wanted to give to us so that we could build our church.

But because of my excitement I told the wrong people in a hairdressing salon and the whole deal was lost.

Nehemiah teaches us a great lesson in Neh. 2:11-14

"So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode...And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work." Learn from Nehemiah and make this a principle in your life.

How to overcome stress

Collins Dictionary says: *"If you feel under stress, you feel worried and tense because of difficulties in your life."*

The meaning of Stress:

"Serious Tension Resulting in Excessive Selfdestruction"

In March 2006 I had to undergo a five bypass heart operation. One thing I remember was what the Cardiac Specialist said to me just before my operation. *"Pastor three of your veins are 95% blocked and the main vein is 99% blocked. You don't have any cholesterol problems that caused this blockage in your veins, but your problem was created because of ten years of too much stress."* In the months that followed while I was recovering I asked the Lord to help me (so that I can help others) find an answer of how to overcome stress.

This is what the Lord gave me to share with you today:

- (1) Identify your problem.
It is important to give your problem a name.
The Bible says in **Ephesians 1:22** that *"He put all things (everything that has a name) under His feet."* Only if something has a name can you do this.
- (2) Confess your problem before God.

Also tell God you are sorry that you tried to carry the load yourself.

- (3) Use Gods Word to speak against it.
Thank God for the power in His Word. Know the Word and use it as a sword against every problem.
- (4) Talk to someone about it; someone you can trust.
It is important to open your heart to someone.
Find a friend like that.
- (5) Listen to good music and don't watch aggressive movies.
God even told me to listen to "love songs"
Not all "spiritual music" was good for me...some made me nervous!
I went and bought myself love songs by Nat King Cole.
He was my hero when I was a young man, and the song that I sang for Helen when I met her. It was: *"They try to tell us we're too young. Too young to really be in love..."*
Whatever you listen to must be soothing for your soul.

What about fear?

We discovered the following:

- The most things we fear in life, never happens!
- There is something as "normal fear"
For example if you find yourself on a highway with a twenty tonner truck coming towards you, fear of being killed will help you to jump out of it's way.
- But then there is a fear that grips you around your heart when you are in bed and you cannot sleep. This is a spiritual fear that you can overcome by Gods Spirit inside of you.
The Bible says in **2 Timothy 1:7** *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*
- When you fear God (respect Him) His angels will protect you and deliver you. It says in **Psalms 34:7** *"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them."*

Always be a student

After being in fulltime ministry for 53 years I'm still a student.

The Bible says in **2 Timothy 2:15** "*Be diligent (**this means to study and work hard**) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

You will only "divide the word of God rightly" when you have studied the Word as a humble student before God.

Never be "absolute" (meaning: "total and complete")

It is only God that's total and complete!

I have found through the years that at the right time God gave me more revelation concerning truths in His Word. Therefore, never stop being a student of the Bible. As you mature in your spiritual walk with the Lord, He will reveal more of His hidden treasures in your heart.

The power of agreement

Another truth we discovered in our marriage was when we understood the words of Jesus in **Matthew 18:19** where He said: "*Again I say to you that if two of you **agree** on earth concerning (touching) anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.*"

The word "**agree**" comes from the Greek word "**sumphonea**" meaning: "**to be in harmony**"

The same thing applies to an orchestra. The musicians should be in harmony if they want to be successful.

What I like about this Scripture is that we only need to be two and not a crowd. The best two should be man and wife that agrees together touching anything they trust the Lord for. Agreement makes them powerful.

Don't wrestle alone with your needs and problems, but get someone to agree with you and you will find breakthroughs in your life.

Building of a Mission Church

The first time that **Matthew 18:19** became real was when I had to build a Mission Church in our home town.

It was in Heidelberg, about three hours drive from Cape Town.

The church had 62 members that were very poor, and only had an average income of \$5 to \$6 per month.

Through all their fundraising efforts, that took a few years, they gathered together only \$285 to build their church. The church we wanted to build could cost up to \$5000. They needed more than a miracle. Thank God for He is a God of miracles!

I went to their Pastor and explained what Jesus said in Matthew 18:19. Then we agreed together and asked the Lord to give us a miracle.

The first miracle was when that church banked \$142 the following month. The second miracle was when a farmer gave us all the money we needed for the pews.

We finished that church for less than \$3000 and the church only needed a bond of \$850 to finish the building.

The day we inaugurated the church it was packed with people that came for many miles to see what God had done.

Can I tell you about our 25 cent motorcar?

We desperately needed a second car when I was an Evangelist. We only had a Combi and I needed it when I went to conduct our revival meetings. The problem was that Helen then had no vehicle to take our three sons to school, to attend church or do any shopping.

Together we read again the Scripture we found in **Matthew 18:19**

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning (touching) anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."

On the same morning that we prayed (and agreed) together, friends phoned us and said that the Lord had told them to give us \$6 per month as a payment on a car.

I just want to say that those days you could buy a new Volkswagen for \$285. This was in the beginning of 1975.

To make a long story short: We found a very good second hand Volkswagen that we could buy without any deposit; and only \$6.25 per month! The only amount we had to add every month to the \$6 we recieved from our friends was 25 cents. Isn't this amazing!

That's why we called that car "*our 25 cent motorcar*" (*Later we gave ("sowed") this car into the life of an African Missionary*)

Ask...and you will receive!

I used to think that the Scripture in **Matthew 7:7** only applied to prayer. But I found out Jesus was teaching us about "**asking**"

The Greek word used here is "aitoo" and actually means to give a "request" or a "petition"

Never be a beggar, but share your vision and need with others and God will use them to supply in your need.

Oh yes, through prayer we may ask God what we need; but we can also ask people.

Do not neglect your older people

I want to thank God for our young people in the church.

Those that are "on fire" for God! As church we need them and appreciate their energy and enthusiasm for God and His work.

But don't neglect your older people, and let them always feel they are important in the church. Keep this in mind:

- Your older people pay the bills. Young people normally don't do this, because the most doesn't have the funds and others are not committed to help you with your budget.

- The older people will always pray for you, even at three o'clock in the morning when you are still sleeping.
- Use their expertise, because they have a lot of it!

If I'm talking to one of the "older people" I want to encourage you by telling you that you are never "too old" to be used by God.

- Moses was 80 years old when God called him at the burning bush to lead Israel out of their bondage in Egypt. They were slaves in Egypt for more than 400 years.
- Caleb was 85 years old when he conquered giants that lived on a mountain! (Joshua 14:10-12)
- Miriam, Moses' sister, was 92 years of age when she took the timbrel and led the women of Israel to dance before the Lord after they came through the Red sea. (Exodus 15:20)

I know she was 92 because she was 12 years older than Moses and at this time he was 80 years of age.

We can never be too old to lead others in praise and worship.

- Anna, the prophetess, was 84 years old when she prophesied of Jesus in the temple. The Bible says in Luke 2:37 *"and this woman was a widow of about 84 years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day."*

Always have the right Attitude

The Dictionary says: "Your attitude to something is the way that you think and feel about it, especially when this shows in the way you behave"

When Paul wrote to the Philippians we can see that he had the right attitude. In **Philippians 1:12** he writes these words: *"But I want you to know, brethren that the things which happened to me have actually turned for the furtherance of the gospel."*

He wasn't negative concerning any experience he had because he knew that all things worked together for good to those who love God (Romans 8:28)

In Philippians 1 verses 15 and 18 he goes on to say:

"Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill... What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice."

This is a good attitude!

Matthew 5, 6 and 7 is known as the "Beatitudes"

I used to teach my students that this meant "Attitudes-to-be"

Some of these "attitudes" in chapter five are:

- Be meek and humble (Matt.5:3,5)
- Have a hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt.5:6)
- Have mercy (Matt.5:7)
- Be pure in heart (Matt.5:8)
- Be a peacemaker (Matt.5:9)
- Withstand persecution (Matt.5:10-12)
- Be "the salt of the earth" (Matt.5:13)
- Be "the light of the world" (Matt.5:14-16)

God's Word will Counsel the people

I once wanted to open an "Office for Counselling"

It may be good for some, but at that time God sent a Prophet from California to me that said:

"Dan, the Lord says to you. Don't you open an office for Counselling, but let Jesus Christ, the great Counsellor, counsel your people... You will preach one sermon but God will counsel twenty people with different kinds of problems in their hearts with that one sermon."

Today, looking back, I can see that (for me) that word was the right one. You may decide otherwise, but for me it worked.

Oh yes, there were times that people came to see me with their problems, and it was wonderful to listen to them and pray with them. Every time they came God gave me a word for them. So, understand me correctly in my statement above. You get a revelation word from God and preach that word to your people. You will experience what God will do, because He always confirms His Word!

Ps. 119:130 *"The entrance of Your words gives light."*

Isaiah 55:11 *"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*

Jeremiah 23:29 *"Is not My word like a fire? Says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"*

2 Tim. 3:16 *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

MY PREACHING

In the beginning of my ministry I was very aggressive in my preaching. I wanted my people to repent every Sunday!

But when the Lord “opened” His Word written in Matt. 28:19,20 my preaching changed.

Before this revelation I preached a lot on the end times. In itself there is nothing wrong with that. I was so “good” that I could even give you the cell phone number of the Anti-Christ. (You should know that’s a joke)

But one day Helen came to me and said: *“I love your preaching, but what do I do on a Monday morning when my maid does not pitch up for work; my washing machine is broken and my baby is sick?”*

At first I had the idea that there was something wrong with my wife.

But when I pondered on what she said, God told me to read (with enlightened eyes) **Matt. 28:19,20** *“Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”*

The word “observe” means to “obey and follow it”

Whatever you preach or teach, must be things that you and I can obey and do.

I also remember that morning when my wife talked to me about my preaching she even said: *“If things go wrong and we experience pressure in our family I need Gods Word to give me answers for my problems.”*

My whole preaching started to change and became more relevant. It did not happen overnight, but it happened.

PRACTICAL ADVICE ON PREACHING

Paul wrote to Timothy as a young preacher the following words in **2 Tim.4:1,2** *"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: **Preach the word ! Be ready in season and out of season** (The Living Bible says: "whenver you get the chance, in season and out, when it is convenient and when it is not") Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*

In **2 Tim.2:15** Paul says: *"Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"*
(This means there is a RIGHT way and also a WRONG way in preaching the Word of the Lord !)

In **2 Tim.3:16,17** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOUR SERMON ?

First get a Word from the Lord.

You ask me: "How do I get a Word from the Lord?"

The best answer is: Read your Bible enough and you will get more sermons than you can use. Do not run to books to find a sermon.

Use books after God has given you a message only to fill in on your own notes.

Do not read the Bible for a sermon. But by reading your Bible sermons will come to you. You will experience the same as Ezekiel.

Ezek.1:3 "the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel"

Ezek.3:16 "the word of the Lord came to me, saying..."

Ezek.6:1 "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying..."

Write down all thoughts concerning your message.

Make notes even in the night when God gives them to you. Get up out of your bed and write these notes down. If you do not do this the devil will steal them from you.

Do good research on the Scriptures you will use in your sermon. Ask questions when you read the Scriptures. God will give you answers

Also read them in other translations of the Bible

Always ask: "What is the occasion and who is the audience?"

What is your theme? And stick to it!

What is the goal you want to achieve? Never preach without a goal!

Before you preach: Take time to meditate on your message and each scripture. Pray over your sermon. Pray over each point.

Let your sermon first preach to your own heart before you give it to others.

WHEN PREACHERS LIVE HOW THEY PREACH AND PREACH HOW THEY LIVE, THEY WILL ALWAYS BE ANOINTED AND EFFECTIVE IN THEIR PREACHING!

Your message must have a **introduction** and a good **climax**

Your sermon must have three to five points. Anything more you must put into a second sermon.

A GOOD PREACHER WILL ALWAYS TAKE NOTES OF ANOTHER PREACHER AND LEARN FROM THEIR PREACHING

NINE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF PREACHING

- (1) Sermon preparation and how to deliver it, is something we will grow in
- (2) Any skill is built by DESIRE, CONSISTENCY, HARD WORK
- (3) Work on wrong habits
- (4) Be clear on what you say if you want others to understand it
- (5) You cannot know what you are going to say if you do not put it in words
- (6) Let your preaching always be Biblical
- (7) Never use preaching to get rid of your frustration
- (8) Give good information in your sermon mixed with revelation
- (9) Be sure that you can say "Thus says the Lord"

PREACHERS STYLE:

"*Style*" is not something new. Everyone has their own style. It is there every time when you open your mouth to preach.

Ask yourself the following:

- (1) Is my style full of vitality and interesting?
- (2) Is my style boring?
- (3) Is my preaching clear and loud enough or too soft?
- (4) Am I nervous or calm?
- (5) Am I flexible or rigid?

God uses our style as we are. Do not try to be someone else. The Lord may say to you that He has someone like that already and doesn't need another one like that.

God used Paul as he was with his long sentences and Mark with his wrong grammar. His whole book is full of "And" "And when"

Use notes when you preach your sermon. But never be a slave of your notes. Good preaching takes place while you are busy delivering your message. When you open your mouth the Bible says that God will fill it.

Practise to use words in your preaching that will describe certain thoughts better.

But never try to use words that normal people do not understand. Or at least explain what you are saying when you use such words.

Effective preaching is when you preach plain as Jesus did so that everybody can understand what you want to say.

Do not shout when you preach and learn to use your breath in such a way that you will not "swallow" some of your words. And please do not "chase rabbits" (This is when you don't stick to your subject.)

Your "BODY LANGUAGE" is very important. You will not show your fist to your wife when you tell her that you love her ?

Be neat on yourself (and that includes your shoes) when you stand up to preach

Do not preach with your hands in your pockets

Do not play with your tie while you are preaching

EYE CONTACT! Do not keep looking into the sky or somewhere in the back of the building when you are preaching. Learn to make eye contact with the people while you are preaching. Find people in the congregation that are opening their hearts towards the Word of the Lord and preach to them. Ignore those that do not listen to you.

Be relevant in your preaching. Preach to meet the needs of the people.

What to do with your sermon notes:

Keep a record of where you preached each sermon (Write it at the back of your notes) Keep a filing system for all of your sermon notes Use some of them to write your books

Note: I want to encourage every preacher to write books. Start by using your sermon notes and write as if you were talking to a person.

As a preacher we need three things to be a good preacher:

The first one is INFORMATION; the second one is REVELATION; and the third one is INSPIRATION.

When using an interpreter

When you use an interpreter you must use complete statements.

Finish one thought at a time so that your interpreter can interpret correctly. Some languages will start with the verb first.

Make sure that the expressions you use are understood. You may talk of a "traffic light" and they may use the word "robot"

Make sure that the texts you use are in the same places as the Bibles of the people you are preaching to.

The Russian Bible does not have 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.

They have 1st Kings; 2nd Kings; 3rd Kings and 4th Kings

From Psalm 11 the Psalms in the Russian Bible are one less than in our Bible.

SEVEN SOURCES OF THE DOWNFALL OF A PREACHER

- (1) Poor textual study
- (2) Negative mentality
- (3) Physical tiredness.
- (4) Deadline pressure
- (5) Spiritual dryness
- (6) Laziness
- (7) Poor planning

If you have a need sow a seed!

It is a wonderful thing to give your tithes to the Lord according to Malachi 3:10. God will open heaven for the one that does what is written in this Scripture.

But Helen and I also discovered the law of "Sowing and Reaping" What became clear to us was: *"If you have a need, sow a seed"* In **Luke 6:38** we found this great truth: *"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

"Sowing and Reaping" did not become a part of our lives; it became our life.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SOWING AND REAPING?

It means that you give away that which you have – as seed which you put into the ground – so that you receive more back than what you had given.

Anything you can GIVE is seed:

Thoughts are Seeds *Your thoughts rule your life. Whatever you thought until this day made you what you are*

Words are Seed *You have the power of life and death in your tongue (Prov. 18:21)*

Love is Seed *The more love you sow the more love you will receive from others.*

Time is Seed *Use your time wisely and experience great joy.*

Patience is Seed *The more patience you give others, the more you will have.*

Mercy and Grace are Seed *The reason I give grace is because I need grace.*

Money is Seed According to 2 Cor. 9 we must give in abundance, and then God will give us enough for ourselves and more than enough to give to others.

- If you are a "Sower" there will never be a day in your life that you will have nothing.
- Something you already have to give is your Key to your Future. Use it!
- If you keep for yourself what you presently have, that is the most it will ever be
- When you let go of what is in your hand, God will let go of what is in His Hand
- Name your seed when you give it away (when you sow it)
- When you increase the size of your seed, you increase the size of your harvest
- If you have a need sow a seed (Don't just pray!)
- When God talks to you about a seed, He has a harvest for you on His mind

WHATEVER YOU SOW YOU WILL REAP:

You reap **more** than you sowed.

Sometimes you reap sooner than at other times.

Just be patient: **Gal 6:9** – "And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not".

IF YOU WANT PEACE – SOW PEACE!

James 3:18 – "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace"

The Living Bible translation says: "And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness".

Would you want to become a "beautiful aged" person?

Then you would have to plant the right seed **now**. Do not allow bitterness to take root in your life.

Try to make friends with many people – otherwise you will become lonely as an aged person!

DO YOU WANT THINGS TO GO WELL WITH YOUR CHILDREN?

Then you will have to sow the right things immediately!
Do well to other young people.

HOW AND WHAT DO YOU SOW IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

How do you speak to each other?

Men must always remember that if they do not respect their wives God will not answer their prayers according to **1 Peter 3:7**

REMEMBER: A person gets older and not younger!

PAUL, WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT RENDERING SERVICE TO FELLOW CHRISTIANS, SPEAKS ABOUT SOWING AND REAPING ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL ALTOGETHER:

Read what God's Word says in **2 Cor. 9:6-11!**

With this Scripture I want to put a key into your hands which will open financial doors.

WE READ IN 2 CORINTHIANS 8 HOW PAUL WAS COLLECTING FOR THE POOR CHRISTIANS IN JUDEA.

He started in Greece that had two regions, namely Macedonia and Achaia.

Palestine was divided into three regions namely: Galilee, Samaria and Judea. Paul was gathering material things for the poor Christians in Jerusalem and surrounding areas.

IF YOU STUDY 2 Cor. 8 and 9 YOU WILL FIND THE FOLLOWING:

That Macedonia gave to the poor Christians of Judea while they themselves were very poor.

THE LIVING BIBLE STATES IT VERY CLEARLY:

2 Cor. 8: 1,2 – *“Though they (Macedonia) have been going through much trouble and hard times, they have mixed their wonderful joy with their deep poverty, and the result has been an overflow of giving to others. (Vs 3a) They gave not only what they could afford but far more ...”.*

PAUL ENCOURAGES THE CORINTHIANS TO GIVE THEIR BEST – NOT TO BE ASHAMED OF THEM. 2 COR 9:4.

He had told them a year previously to collect funds for the Christians at Jerusalem. **2 Cor. 8:10; 1 Cor. 16:1-5.**

**ONE OF THE GREAT LESSONS WE LEARN HERE IS:
YOU MUST GIVE (YOU MUST SOW) EVEN IF YOU ARE GOING THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES**

Maybe you say as so many others: “Oh, I just wish that I had something to give for then I would gladly do so”.

Look what happened in **Mark 12:41-44** – “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans (a farthing) So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them: Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

What about the widow of Zarephath?

Elijah visited her and then asked her to first give what she had to him, and then we read these words:

1 Kings 17:16 *"The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry".*

ACCORDING TO 2 COR. 8 and 9, IF YOU SOW MONEY YOU WILL REAP MONEY!

Never forget that God will give to you, so that you can give to others.

2 Cor. 9:8, 11 – (Living Bible) – *"God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others. Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much ..."*

Do not become like the Dead Sea. It receives water from the Jordan River and yet it's without life, because there is no out-flow.

HOW MUST WE GIVE? 2 Cor. 9:7 – *"Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver"*

The Amplified Bible translates this as follows: "God loves (takes pleasure in) a cheerful, joyous giver – whose heart is in his giving."

Do you expect a harvest?

What have you sown or what are you willing to sow?

Testify! That's how you will overcome!

*In **Revelation 12:10** we read: "And they (the redeemed) overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."*

The devil will try his best to kill our testimony!
Remember the story of how Jesus raised Lazarus (John 11)

We read something outstanding in **John 12:9-11**

"Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus."

You see, the devil will always try his best to kill our testimony, because people will believe in Jesus when we testify what He has done for us!

It's a pity that our "testimony time" in our churches died away. I know one of the reasons was because some members misused this wonderful opportunity in our church meetings. But what we did is "to throw away the baby with the dirty water" Instead of this we should have trained our people how to testify.

There is power in our testimony! That's why I want to share some of my testimonies with you. Share yours as often as you can. What God has done for you will not only encourage others but also make you bold against attacks from the enemy. We used to sing a chorus: "*When I remember what the Lord has done, I will never go back anymore!*" Every time you testify it will be like an anchor that will hold you in your faith.

When I was “down” in my spirit; I would go out and find someone to witness to. I would go to the shopping mall or hospital; asking the Lord to give me someone that I can tell what the Lord has done for me, even if I didn’t feel that I was myself “on top of the mountain”

It didn’t take long for me to really get “on top of the mountain” when I shared God’s goodness with others. You should do the same.

God has done great things for Helen and me. I would love to share some of these testimonies with you. Starting with the latest outstanding one!

“Reverend, I declare you healed!”

This is one of my greatest testimonies in my life when a specialist said these words to me on the 11th May 2009

It all started when I had a lung infection and I found myself taken up in hospital.

That’s where they took blood tests that showed I had not enough white cells and therefore not enough resistance against viruses.

When the marrow test came back my specialist told me that I had “hairy cell leukemia”

This was a shock, much more than when I had to undergo the five-heart-bypass surgery in 2006.

As Gods child you ask questions like: *"How in the world did this cancer come into my marrow to make me as sick as I was?"*

Through everything that I experienced God told me that when Israel had to go into captivity in Babylon, they had to keep on working on their attitude. (Jeremiah 29:5-7)

- (1) They had to keep on living and multiply.
- (2) They had to bless Babylon and not curse it.

Whatever I had to go through, I had to work on my attitude and keep on trusting in God, always knowing that He had the last say in my life and not any doctor or man.

The discovery the doctor made was that my white cell count was very low. It was only 0.3, and should be up to 11.

You have red cells that give you energy. You have white cells that give you immunity against germs and viruses. Then you have platelets and their function is to be the "glue" in your blood.

My problem was the white cells.

The marrow produces your cells and that's where the dangerous cells were at work against my body. These "dangerous cells" are called "hairy cell leukemia"

This was the one shock I received and the other one was that I had to undergo treatment of chemo for 24/7. This will rattle anybody.

From the Internet (Wikipedia Encyclopedia) I found the following concerning this disease.

Hairy cell leukemia is a mature B cell [neoplasm](#). It is usually classified as a sub-type of [chronic lymphoid leukemia](#) for convenience. It is uncommon, representing about 2% of all leukemias, or less than a total of 2000 new cases diagnosed each year in North America and Western Europe combined.

Hairy cell leukemia-variant, or HCL-V, is usually described as a prolymphocytic variant of hairy cell leukemia. It was first formally described in 1980 by a paper from the University of Cambridge's Hayhoe lab. About 10% of HCL patients have this variant form of the disease, representing about 60-75 new HCL-V patients each year in the U.S. While classic HCL primarily affects men, HCL-V is somewhat more evenly divided between males and females. While the disease can appear at any age, the median age at diagnosis is over 70.

Treatment with [cladribine](#)

In hairy cell leukemia, the broken "hairy cells" build up in the bone marrow, which means that the bone marrow has difficulty producing enough normal cells: such as [white blood cells](#) to fight infections, [red blood cells](#) to carry oxygen, and [platelets](#) to stop bleeding.

Consequently, patients usually present with [infection](#), [anemia](#)-related fatigue, and/or easy bleeding.

Hairy cell leukemia is commonly diagnosed after a routine blood count shows unexpectedly low numbers for one or more kinds of blood cells, or after unexplained bruises or unexplained infections, such as repeated bouts of pneumonia in an otherwise apparently healthy patient.

Several treatments are available, and successful control of the disease is common.

Not everyone needs treatment. Treatment is usually given when the symptoms of the disease interfere with the patient's everyday life, or when white blood cell or platelet counts decline to dangerously low levels, such as an absolute neutrophil count below one thousand cells per microliter (1.0 K/uL). Not all patients need treatment immediately upon diagnosis, and about 10% of patients will never need treatment.

Treatment delays are less important than in solid tumors.

Unlike most cancers, treatment success does not depend on treating the disease at an early stage. Because delays do not affect treatment success, there are no standards for how quickly a patient should receive treatment. However, waiting too long can cause its own problems, such as an infection that might have been avoided by proper treatment to restore immune system function.

Cladribine

[Cladribine](#) (2CDA) and [pentostatin](#) (DCF) are the two most common first-line therapies. They both belong to a class of medications called [purine analogs](#), which have mild side effects compared to traditional [chemotherapy](#) regimens.

Cladribine can be administered by injection under the skin, by infusion over a couple of hours into a vein, or by a pump worn by the patient that provides a slow drip into a vein, 24 hours a day for 7 days. Most patients receive cladribine by IV infusion once a day for

five to seven days, but more patients are being given the option of taking this drug once a week for six weeks. The different dosing schedules used with cladribine are approximately equally effective and equally safe. Relatively few patients have significant side effects other than fatigue and a high fever caused by the cancer cells dying, although complications like infection and acute kidney failure have been seen.

More than 95% of new patients are treated well or at least adequately by cladribine or pentostatin. A majority of new patients can expect a disease-free remission time span of about ten years, or sometimes much longer after taking one of these drugs just once. If re-treatment is necessary in the future, the drugs are normally effective again, although the average length of remission is somewhat shorter in subsequent treatments.

I stayed in hospital for 24 days

In this time they moved me four times to different rooms in the hospital. Now I know that God wanted to use me in all these rooms.

I remember an older man of 83 next to my bed. He had lung problems and while I was reading the Bible one morning he asked me: "*Dan, what is that "thick book" you are reading?"*" I explained that this was the Bible. He replied that he read the Bible as a young man but because he couldn't understand it, he never read it again. This was my opportunity and I asked him if I could tell him what I was reading? He was willing to listen and I explained to him the benefits of serving the Lord in **Psalms 103**. Verse 2 says: "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.*"

The benefits are: **that He forgave us; that He heals us; that He redeems us; that He crowns us; that He satisfies us;**
(all these benefits we find in verses 3-5)

He listened and opened his heart for the Word.

On the 26th March 2009 I left the hospital.

When I had to leave the hospital, after 24 days, I could not even walk or stand on my feet. My whole body broke down of all the medication given to me.

The first morning at home I tried to shower and after washing my hair I dropped to the floor. Realising that nothing broke in my body I first finished washing myself and then called Helen to get me out of the shower and into my bed.

My arms and legs were swollen and my whole body had red rash all over it. My body itched and I lost a lot of my skin that came off my body. I had no appetite and lost more than 33 pounds in weight. In the mirror I saw an old man of 95 years of age. It was then that I had to decide if I wanted to live or not.

The prophecy a friend gave me whilst in hospital was that it wasn't time for me to die. This was as an anchor to my faith life.

I said to God that the "dunamis" (indwelling power) He gave me when He gave me His Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

I was depending on God's Spirit as a "indwelling power" to give me the strength that I needed to overcome.

At that time I wrote a "text" to my specialist's asking why I did not have any strength. His answer came back as follows: *"Tiredness is unfortunately part of the course. Give your body time to heal.*

*Remember **you have just beaten leukaemia**. Don't be impatient."*

11th May 2009 –Thank God for this day in my life!

This is the day I found myself before my specialist and heard him say these words: *"Reverend, I did everything I could for you. And according to all your records. Today I want to declare you completely healed. Write your books; do your Mission work in the Ukraine and live a full life. And don't misunderstand me but I never want to see you again in my life!"*

I jumped up and wanted to kiss him! God is a good God!!

A FEW MORE TESTOMONIES

A cripple child walked

The first time I experienced a four year old crippled boy healed was in a revival service in the City of Port Elizabeth.

Both his legs was cripple and the doctors said he had an unknown virus in both knees. There was nothing they could do for him.

His mom and dad came to Christ in these meetings and brought him for prayer. I laid my hands on him and prayed for his healing in the name of Jesus.

Then my heart said to tell his dad to put him down so that he could walk, but my mind told me not to do that. Thank God, I listened to my heart and to Gods Spirit inside of me, and said: *"Sir, how will you know that your son is healed? Put him down and let him run!"*

The next moment he did that and his son ran! Pandemonium broke loose in the audience and many came running forward to give their lives to God!

When this boy was 18 years old I met him again. He was standing before me in shorts, and I could see two strongly build legs.

He was the rugby (footbal) captain of his team and the athletic champion in his school in grade twelve. This is what God can do!

We "sowed" motorcars

Untill now we "sowed" (gave away) two cars and "reaped" five.

Let me tell you about the Mercedes Benz

In January 2001 Helen and I went to Christ for the Nations Bible School in Dallas for a semester. We went to catch the vision so that we could plant a CFN Bible School in South Africa.

When we left for America we knew that our Ford Tellstar had seen its best days, and asked our eldest son to find a buyer for us.

Much to our suprise, when we came back, someone gave us a Mercedes Benz. I felt like a rich man when we drove back home from Johannesburg to Jeffrey's Bay. This was a twelve hour drive.

We "sowed" furniture

Yes, we "sowed" furniture and "reaped" so much furniture that we could furnish at least two other houses.

Our first experience was in Johannesburg

It was one Sunday morning when I shared **Acts 4:32** with the congregation. It says: *"Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common."*

I asked the members to be of help to each other and share what they have because we were one body in Christ.

I remember saying that anything in our house also belongs to them if they needed it, not knowing what the outcome of these words would be.

The next evening a man and his father-in-law knocked at our front door. He was divorced from his wife because of drinking. Now he was serving God again; re-married his wife but they had no furniture. He took me at my word and asked if I could share some of our furniture with him?

How could I go back on my word? So they went in and helped themselves. Our problem was that when they left my two sons had no beds to sleep on or wardrobes to hang their clothes in! After this they slept on the floor for four months.

There was a time when I thought that I had lost my mind but just knowing God was in this kept me calm.

Four months later God supplied furniture in such a way that I did not know how to handle it.

One thing He showed me again was: *"You can never outgive God"*

Years after this experience I bought furniture on an auction for our holiday house at the ocean. When I wanted to pay the auctioneer, a friend that also attended this auction, came and payed my bill.

Please don't tell me that "sowing and reaping" doesn't work

When God used an organ as “seed”

Helen and I trusted the Lord to go on a Mission Outreach to the Ukraine for three months. We needed another \$400 to be able to pay for our airtickets.

We decided to sell our Hammond organ for \$800, and advertised it in a local newspaper.

The only person interested in buying our organ came to see me and offered half of our price. I accepted and he was surprised that I did. Then I explained that our real need was \$400 for our airtickets to the Ukraine, and that's why I had accepted his offer.

He then gave me the money and left, telling me that he will arrange to pick up the organ.

Standing in a line at the bank and waiting to bank this money, this man phoned me on my cellphone and asked me to meet him at our home and not to bank the money he had given me.

When I got there he said that on his way the Lord had spoken to him and rebuked him telling him to go back and give me the price I wanted for the organ.

The “bigger story” of this organ began when he said to me: *“Pastor, when you come back, give me a name of a pastor that I could sponsor monthly, in the Ukraine”*

When we came back from our mission trip I gave him a name of a Russian pastor and his wife he could sponsor.

For the last 13 years this man has sponsored that Pastor every month! What a “blessed” organ!

"As a Pastor, where will I live after my retirement?"

This may be a question you have in your heart.

We had questions like this for many years in our hearts.

I built a few parsonages in my time (some may call it "church houses") and seven church buildings. Always trying to save the local church some money. But many times this question came to us.

Then in January 1998 Helen and I moved to Jeffreys Bay to "retire" When we went on pension our "pension money" was the sum of \$200 per month. With this we had to rent a house for \$135 per month.

The real miracle took place when we wanted to build our own home. For this we needed \$8500 to buy a piece of land.

My one son that's a pastor, gave me advice to redeem some of my insurance policies. He said: *"Dad, are there any insurance policies that you could redeem; and do you still have enough insurance to help mom if you should pass away?"*

My answer to his question was positive and I therefore redeemed some of my insurance policies, so much so that I recieved \$13000. With this we bought the land to build our own home.

Someone then gave us a loan of \$22000 to build our house.

As "retired" people the bank could not give us a bond. Only after the house was built did the bank give us a bond on our house so that we could pay back the loan we had recieved.

But now it was stressful every month to pay our monthly payment. We had to do this for a few years and as a pensioner it wasn't a easy thing to do. But thank God, He stepped in again and used His children to pay our bond! Now we live in our own house, very close to the ocean, with everything paid.

You have been faithful to God your whole life. That's why I believe He can do the same for you what He has done for us!

SOME LIFE CHANGING SERMON NOTES

Discover YOURSELF

I found out that it was important to help my congregation to discover how and why God made them. When He saved them, He placed them in His church for a purpose, that's why He gave us our potential and abilities to use us for His glory.

The ministry and gifts God gave us was to serve others and give us fulfilment in our lives.

I believe God made us to enjoy life. Sorry to say, sometimes I saw more "life" in the world than in the church.

King David once wrote these words in Ps 139 verses 1 to 14

"O, Lord, You have searched me and known me.

You know my sitting down and my rising up. (Verses 1,2)

You have hedged me behind and before,

and laid Your hand upon me. (Verse 5)

For You formed my inward parts;

You covered me in my mother's womb. (Verse 13)

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."(V. 14)

It is wonderful to know that our birth did not surprise God. He knew us before we were born, and had (and still has) a plan for our lives.

I am so glad that God can change a "minus" into a "plus"

In other words; it is God that can take a negative thing and change it into something wonderful.

The Bible says in **Rom.8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*

Thank God for the book of Rick Warren: *"Purpose Driven Life"*
Definitely we have a purpose in this life. Find it and live it!

THE SPIRIT OF MAN

Discover yourself as Spirit, Soul and Body.

This is something you must understand. It will help you to get new direction in life. You are a spirit being, that has a soul and lives in a body. Stand up in your spirit-man and start making the difference in other people's lives.

A clear scripture in the Bible which shows that man is spirit, soul and body is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete and found blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE REBORN IN YOUR SPIRIT AND NOT IN YOUR SOUL OR BODY!

When God created man He made him out of a material part and a spiritual part.

The body is the "material part" and the spirit and soul is the "spiritual part"

This truth is found in Gen.2:7 "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

When one dies the "spiritual part" (spirit and soul) leaves the "material part" (that is the body) and if the spiritual and material parts (spirit, soul and body) can be united again, that person will live again on earth.

To understand the above statement better you must read

1 Kings 17:17-24 were Elijah the prophet prayed for a young boy who died.

He prayed these words "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him. Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child (not the soul of someone else) came back to him, and he revived."

Remember: The soul that came back into his body wasn't his blood, but was his spiritual part that united with his material part.

Jesus said in John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Yes, you can worship God with your body, but God wants you to worship Him with your inner man, your spirit-man.

THE SOUL OF MAN

It is not easy to separate the SPIRIT and SOUL from each other. Still the Bible tells us that there is a difference between the two and thus they can be divided.

In Heb. 4:12 we read these words "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of *soul* and *spirit*, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

A good definition for our soul will be our *intellect, emotions* and our *will*.

Prov. 23:7 "For as he (man) thinks in his heart, so is he"

You and I are what we think. Yes, the "battlefield" is our minds. It is in our minds where the enemy attacks us first.

We all have a "Philosophy" "Philo" means love and "sophy" means thoughts Philosophy is "**love for our thoughts**"

Change the way you think and your whole life will be changed!

That's why we must think things of above, things that please God.

Col.3:2; "Set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth."

Rom.12:2; "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Also read Phil. 4:8

It has been said that most illnesses are psychosomatic. In other words what we think has an effect on our physical well being. Fill your mind with the good things of life and your body will enjoy good health. In your soul you will experience emotions such as love and hate; enthusiasm; disappointment, joy and depression.

We have to work on these emotions!

What does the word "enthusiasm" mean?

It comes from the Greek word: "entheos"

And the word "entheos" is used for God.

I believe the more enthusiasm a person has, the more of God he has in himself.

WHAT INFLUENCES MY SOUL?

Meaning, what influences my: **Intellect, emotions and will?**

What I SEE (Matt. 6: 22, 23) Jesus said: "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

What I HEAR (Ps. 92:11) Decide only to listen to successful people, and shut your ears for any negative words!

What I SPEAK (Prov. 18:21) "Death and Life are in the power of the tongue."

THE BODY OF MAN

Our BODIES are important to God. **The Bible says in Rom. 12:1** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present ***your bodies*** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Paul writes in 1 Cor. 6:19,20 "Or do you not know that ***your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit*** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Discover COMPLETE FORGIVENESS

When we read **1 John 1:1-10** we find that two words "we and us" are used 25 times in these ten verses.

I found that John the apostle was not writing to the world but to the church.

Some of these verses we use to help sinners to come to Christ and confess their sins. The message of "FORGIVENESS" is not only for the sinners, but also for us that says we are Christians.

Let me share my notes on: *COMPLETE FORGIVENESS*

It was when **Daniel** confessed his sin and those of his people that God answered him. (**Daniel 9: 4-16; 19: 22**)

If you want an answer to your prayers, then you must be able and willing to confess all sin in your life.

When **Isaiah** confessed, the live coal from God's altar touched his mouth and his guilt was taken away. (**Isaiah 6: 5-7**)

And remember, he was already a prophet!

Many want God's fire, without confessing their sins.

IF YOU WANT COMPLETE FORGIVENESS THERE ARE THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD DO:

FIRSTLY: You must get forgiveness from the Lord for your sins.

Ask Jesus to forgive you and to cleanse you with His blood.

1 John 1: 7, 9 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, ***and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses from all sin.***" "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If blood does not reach a certain part of our body, that part will die. If Jesus' blood does not flow through your life, you will die spiritually. And the only way to get His blood to cleanse your soul and mind is to confess your sins with all of your heart.

SECONDLY: Forgive YOURSELF

As the devil accused ***Joshua the high priest*** before God (**Zech.3: 1 to 5**) The same way the devil accuses us before God.

Revelation 12: 10: "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven. Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." Never help the devil in his dirty work by accusing others as well as yourself!

REMEMBER: All sins that are honestly confessed are forgiven and forgotten by God.

Colossians 2:13, 14 (The Living Bible)

"He forgave all your sins, and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of His commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross."

Psalms 103: 12

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us."

Where is East and where is West? No one can determine a specific place.

In other words, He separates our sins from us so that we can never meet up with them again.

Isaiah 44: 22

"I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

Mist is something that prevents you from being able to see where you're going. When God has forgiven us, he takes this "mist" out of our way so that we can see God's way and walk in it.

Micah 7:19

"You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. "

It literally means that God feels sorry for us, tramples on our sins, and throws them into the deep sea.

Jeremiah 31:34

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

If God doesn't remember them, you and I mustn't remember them either. If God Himself can forget, He can also help you to forget. But how can you forget if you keep that letter to use against someone; or the negative notes in that book, or even that conversation on tape? Destroy all those things so that you truly can forget.

You ask: "What must I do if the old wrong thoughts come back?"

Colossians 3: 1, 2 "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things"
Fill your mind with the good things in life.

QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN AGAIN?

1 John 2: 1; "My little children, these things I write you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

As Christians we should not sin. But if you sin you can once again go to Jesus for forgiveness. Believe that His grace is more than enough.

THIS BRINGS US TO THE THIRD MATTER CONCERNING FORGIVENESS: FORGIVE ALSO YOUR FELLOW MAN.

To really be forgiven you need:

- (1) Forgiveness from God
- (2) You need to forgive yourself
- (3) But it is also important to forgive others

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to pray as follows:

Luke 11: 4 "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us "(Also read Matthew 6: 12)

Did you know that many people cannot move "mountains" of problems because they cannot forgive?

Mark 11: 23, 24 is a wonderful scripture. But just to "BELIEVE" and to "TALK TO" your mountain is not enough.

We must also read the 25th and 26th verses:

"And whenever you stand praying, *(in front of your problem that's your mountain)* if you have anything against anyone forgive them, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses "

The Living Bible translates Mark.11:25 as follow:

"but when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive you your sins too."

What happens if I forgive?

I unlock the spiritual door of the person I forgive and I release myself.

What happens if I don't forgive?

Then I am given over to the "torturers" according to what Jesus said in Matthew 18: 34, 35 ("torturers" are things that will punish you)

If I do not want to forgive, the Bible says I will be thrown into a spiritual prison, and I will stay there until I have paid what it takes to get free before the Lord. **(Matt.5:23-26)**

REMEMBER: The MAIN REASON why I forgive others is not because they deserve it, but because I want to be free. **Luke 6: 37**

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE THAT WERE HEALED BECAUSE THEY FORGAVE

A lady that was chronically sick for 40 years:

While on leave in Uvongo on the South Coast of South Africa my wife and I met a Christian woman who was previously in our church. As believers together we each decided to draw "Manna cards." (That is a little box with cards that have Bible Scriptures written on them) This woman was amazed when she selected Colossians 3: 13 for the second time in one week. It read: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." While others drank coffee I sat next to her and asked her if she realised that the Lord wanted to speak to her from this Scripture. She confirmed it. My following question was: "but you are chronically sick aren't you? " The answer was that for 40 years she had been sick with various ailments. I asked her immediately "Is it possible that there are people that you needed to forgive?" the answer was: "Yes, for 40 years!"

I felt a strong urge to encourage her to make right with these people as soon as possible. I found out that she did so during the following week! Six months later I attended her funeral.

The most beautiful testimony was from her children and friends: "She was a difficult, sick person for the past 40 years, but for the last six months she was an angel on two legs and healthy as well!" She could have been like that for 40 years.

A woman who had bitterness for 12 years got growths in her throat.

In May 1981 she went to a service in Johannesburg. Before the preacher prayed for sick people he sent them to the prayer room to get right with God and to forgive others. Then he prayed for them. That evening she went home with her husband having been fully healed in her body and set free in her spirit.

I was teaching in a Bible School in Kiev on Forgiveness.

Anna, a Russian lady, told me how her father wanted her to come and live with him and his new wife and kids in Moscow. She had three children of her own and was living with her mom in Kiev. When she turned down his offer, he had a stroke and died eleven days later in a hospital. For more than seven years she could not forgive herself because of what happened to her father. But when she heard this message on "Complete Forgiveness" she was altogether set free!

How many times must I forgive?

The Bible says in Matthew 18:21, 22 that I must forgive **70 times 7**
The Bible also says in Luke 17:3, 4 up to **7 times a day**

Discover COMPLETE FORGIVENESS and live a life of overflowing joy.

Discover your **POTENTIAL**

Genesis 1:26,27 *"Then God said. 'Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'" (Also read v. 28)*

This is one of the most important portions in the Bible.

According to this statement from God's Word we have the potential to RULE and to be a WINNER.

Live a FRUITFUL LIFE and REPRODUCE!

What do we mean when we talk of potential?

Dormant ability (ability that is inactive – reserved power)

In you there is power you have never dreamed of.

We have untapped strength and hidden talent.

You are wonderfully made by God.

Potential is everything that you can be but haven't become!
Potential is everything that you can do but haven't done yet!
Potential is how far you can reach, but haven't touched yet!
Potential is what you can become, but haven't achieved yet!
Potential is ability that is not exposed yet!

IMPOSSIBLE THINGS CAN BE MADE POSSIBLE.

Mark 9 v. 23 "all things are possible to him who believes"

Potential is latent (sleeping) power!

WE HAVE POWER TO BIND AND LOOSE. According to the words of Jesus in **Matthew 18 v.18** "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We have the authority to "forbid" or "permit"

If someone has a demon, we as believers can command the demon to leave that person, as Paul did in **Acts.16:18. Mark 16:17**
You don't need to be an Evangelist to cast out demons.
You must only have faith in the Name of Jesus Christ!

Potential is not to rest on what you have reached in life!

One of the things that hinder our potential is the word "success".
 Never be self-satisfied with the last goal that you have reached.

GOD MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING IN US WHEN HE CALLED US. Read 1 Corinthians 1 v. 26-29

There are more than 6 billion people on the earth.

Nevertheless each one is unique with his/her own set of fingerprints.
 You are therefore original and very precious.

- God looked at Gideon and saw something that was definitely different from what he saw in himself. (Judges 6 v. 12 to 16)
- God looked at Adam and saw mankind.
- God looked at Jacob (the traitor) and saw our Messiah.
- God looked at a young shepherd boy, David, and saw an anointed king.

There are three groups of people these days:

- The few that make things happen.
- Many that watch things happen.
- The majority of people who have no idea what is happening.

Have you decided to make a difference where you live?

Success is not measured in the light of what others have achieved but rather by whether I've given my best.

In our graveyards the following lie buried:

- **Dreams** that never became a reality.
- **Songs** that were never written or sung.
- **Books** that were never printed.
- **Paintings** that never saw the light.
- **Discoveries** that would make life easier.
- **Plans** that never got further than the drawing board.

Yes, great potential that's buried in the earth!!

When I was a chaplain in prison, I cried when I saw people with potential who were deprived of their freedom.

Think of what happened to Abraham Lincoln.

He lost his job in 1832; He was voted in the executive council in 1834; He lost his wife in 1836; He had a nervous breakdown in 1838; He was defeated as chief whip of the executive council in 1838; He was defeated in his nomination for Congress in 1843; Abraham Lincoln was chosen for Congress in 1846. He was defeated as member of the Senate in 1854; He was defeated in his nomination as vice president of the USA in 1856; He was again defeated for the Senate in 1858; BUT HE WAS FINALLY CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE USA IN 1860!

Matthew 25: 14 to 30 (The story of the talents)

This tells us that God has given each of us talents or abilities. Some more, some less, but everyone has received. Some doubled their talents.

Others didn't work with them but rather buried them. No wonder that they lost even the little that they had.

USE THE TALENTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.

Someone said it like this: "Failure is not the absence of success. Failure is the neglect of trying."

The source of all potential

Do not look at creation to find out who you are!

The purpose of something is only in the mind of the one that made it. Find out therefore why God made you.

The key in understanding life is in the source of life – not in life itself.

You will never discover your purpose on the earth if you use another person to measure yourself.

If I should look at you I may see what you have reached, but I will always realise that your potential is far more than what you are now!

You are what God says you are!

Please read the following scriptures in your Bible

2 Corinthians 5 v. 17 to 21

Rom. 8 v. 1; Judges 6:12; John 10:10;

John 7 v. 38 (Jesus said) "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

He that is in us is great and powerful like a river of living waters!

Think of Peter – He was "Simon" which meant: "weak; ungovernable; and like a leaf" But God changed him to be "a rock".

Accept yourself, because if you feel good about yourself you will feel good about other people.

We must have goals

Many plan their meals for the following week, but have no plans for their lives.

Stop and make an adjustment to the direction for your life.

Begin immediately and plan for the following six months, 12 months, and even two years. What do you want to be? Make a note of it and monitor it to see how you progress. Let your goals for life inspire others too.

You know Philippians 4 v. 13. "I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens** me." The word **strengthens** in Greek means: "Christ who continues to infuse inner strength into me". (Amplified Bible)

Dr Myles Munroe says: "The people who change the world are people who take the word impossible out of their dictionaries. Whenever God gives you a responsibility, he also gives you the ability to meet that responsibility."

Stay connected to your origin

POTENTIAL IS ALWAYS CONNECTED TO ORIGIN. (Gen.1:26-28)

**Plants lose their life if they are taken out of the ground.
Fish lose their life if they are taken out of water. PEOPLE
LOOSE TRUE LIFE IF THEY ARE NOT CONNECTED TO GOD.**

Your relationship with God is not optional, but essential for life.

We are people because we have received God's Spirit. (Genesis 2:7)

A person is a spirit, has a soul (this consists of, amongst other things, his thoughts) and lives in a body.

Therefore 2 Corinthians 4 v. 16 is so amazing. This is one of the reasons why handicapped people can succeed in life.

"Therefore we do not lose heart (give up hope) Even though our outward man (our bodies) is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16)

You must work out your own potential

Philippians 2: 12 – 13 "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (YES, GOD WANTS TO ENJOY YOU)

Work gives birth to your potential

Stop dreaming and do what is in your heart.

Eccl. 9 v. 10 "everything that your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

If you want to see your potential born (and grow) there is one thing you must do and that is to "work out that which God has worked in you. "

The first thing God said to Adam after He made him was: "Work " (Genesis 2 v. 15)

Work is not a curse or a sin. Genesis 3 v. 19 must not be incorrectly understood.

Fantasies are dreams without work. It is a vision without a mission. Solomon said: "he that works his own land will prosper, but he that chase fantasies will grow poor "

Success has got nothing to do with your environment, but with that which is within you.

Everyone has a philosophy. "philo" means "to love". "sophy" means "thoughts". Philosophy is to love your own thoughts.

Greek philosophers still rule the world because what they thought has been written in books. Someone said: Books are "frozen thoughts"

We are the sum total of what we have thought of until now.

Proverbs 23 v. 7 "For as he (man) thinks in his heart, so is he"

Therefore we must constantly fill our hearts with everything that is good.

Colossians 3 v. 2 "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

In **Philippians 4 v. 8** the Apostle Paul wrote that we must think on things that are just, pure, lovely and praiseworthy.

Solomon says in Proverbs 4 v. 23: "*Above all else, guard your heart, (affections) for it is the wellspring of life.*"

The Good News Bible: "*Be careful how you think, because your life is shaped by your thoughts*"

Discover your POSITION IN CHRIST

Read 2 Cor.5:17-21

In verse 17 Paul writes these words: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."

Strong's (2537) explains this word "**new**" and says the Greek word used is "kainos" **Meaning:** "unused, fresh, novel" It also means that it's new in regard to form or quality, rather than new in reference to time. **Praise the Lord, we are new creatures!**

Christians are always told what they should be like.
Many Christians don't know their position in Christ.

In The Living Bible 2 Cor.5:17 read as follows: "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun."
In Greek "new creation" means "a new human race that did not exist before"

That is why you are unique. There was no one like you before and there will never be one like you again.

Did you know that we find the words "IN CHRIST" and "IN HIM" 134 times in the Bible?

WE MUST WORK "OUT" WHAT GOD WORKED "IN" US.

Phil.2:12,13 "Work **out** your own salvation (work on the salvation God has started in your life) with fear and trembling. For it is God who works **in** you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

**ONE OF THE BEST STUDIES IN THE BIBLE TO DISCOVER
YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST IS FOUND IN EPHESIANS ONE.**

Ephesians is a wonderful book. We can divide it into 3 parts

- Chapter 1: My POSITION in Christ
- Chapters 2 to 6:9: My WALK in Christ
- Chapter 6:10-24: My WEAPONS in Christ

Eph. 1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ."*

- Salvation is a blessing
- Healing is a blessing
- The Holy Spirit is a blessing
- Financial prosperity is a blessing

Thank God for the blessing of Abraham in Deut. 28:1-14

You will see that material blessings are included in this promise.

Through Christ the blessing of Abraham became mine! Gal.3:13,14
Jesus said in Matt.6:33 "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all **these things** shall be added to you."

What things? What we eat, drink, and wear.

Eph. 1:4 *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."*

In 1 Pet.2:9 Peter wrote: *"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 marvellous light."*

The Amplified Bible says: *"He actually picked us out for Himself as His own."*

Eph. 1:7 *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."*
THANK GOD, WE ARE FORGIVEN THROUGH THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS!

1 John. 1:7 *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. **(verse 9)** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Eph. 1:11 *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance"*

WE ARE HEIRS IN CHRIST.

What does it mean to inherit? It is when we receive from a will things we never worked for. We become an heir when the person that made a will dies and our name is found written in it as a beneficiary. (One who is left a legacy under someone's will)

JESUS LEFT US HIS TESTAMENT AND IT CAME IN FORCE THE MOMENT HE DIED. (Heb.9:17)

JESUS AROSE AND BECAME ALSO THE EXECUTOR OF HIS OWN TESTAMENT.

Eph. 1:13,14 *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*

WE ARE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS GIVES US PROTECTION AND AUTHORITY.

The Amplified Bible says:(Eph. 1:14) "The Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance – The first fruit, the pledge and foretaste. The down payment on our heritage."

STAND IN THE POSITION GOD HAS PUT YOU.

"For greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world."

1 John 4:4

Someone once said: "I am bigger on the inside than on the outside"

STUDY EPHESIANS 1:20-23

You will find the following truths

Believe this and walk according to this wonderful promise in Gods word that everything is under our feet!

- ***Jesus is the Head of the Body (His Church)***
- ***We are His body***
- ***Everything that has "a name" is under our feet!***

Discover your MINISTRY

All over the world God is restoring MINISTRIES in His church.

God wants to use every member.

I BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO A MINISTRY

MINISTRY BRINGS FULFILLMENT IN OUR LIVES

Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:5

"Do the work of an Evangelist, fulfil your ministry"

THE CHURCH IS FULL OF UNFULFILLED PASTORS and CHRISTIANS. AND IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE WE ALSO FIND UNFULFILLED PEOPLE

A Bank manager that wanted to be a farmer!

A Teacher that wanted to be a motor mechanic!

THE MAIN REASON FOR MINISTRIES

- ❑ ***IS NOT TO GIVE YOU A "TITLE"***
- ❑ ***IT IS TO SERVE OTHERS!***

1 Pet.4:10 "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another"

YOU WILL NOT HAVE SUCCESS IN YOUR MINISTRY:

If you lose the anointing that God gave you.

Even Jesus needed to be anointed: Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel."

It may be that God needs you in a NEW MINISTRY

We have become too "Specialised" in Ministry

The needy we send to the Welfare Committee

The Sick we refer to those with "The Healing Ministry"

The seeking soul and hurting we refer to a trained Counsellor.

1 Corinthians 12:18 we read: *"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body (the church) just as He pleased."*

- God decided on my function the day I was added to His church.
- I have to discover my place in the body of Christ and once I've found it, I must operate in it. This will give me fulfilment.

What does the Bible say about "the body of Christ"?

The "Body of Christ is not a church denomination or a church building, but it's all those washed in the blood of the Lamb!

1 Cor. 12:27 Eph. 1:22,23

How do we become part of the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12: 13 "for by one Spirit are we baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and all have been made to drink into one Spirit."

When you are reborn, you become part of the body of Christ and associate yourself with Christ and believers. It is obvious that one cannot "join" the true church of God.

The members in the body need one another.

1 Corinthians 12: 12 and 26. Which part of your own body can you say that you don't need? You even need your little toes. You will lose your balance without them!

This was the strength of the first church. **(Acts 4: 32)**

No member is unimportant. If one in the congregation suffers, then everyone must suffer, because Galatians 6:2 says; "bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ".

We must see who is: Lonely, grieved, burdened with sin, ill, in temporary need. And then do something about it.

But also listen to this: And if one is glad, we all must be glad!

Christ wants to introduce a healthy church to the Father.

Ephesians 5: 27 "that He might present her (the church) to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish".

Communication in the church is very important

The body of Christ sometimes experiences pain due to the lack of communication. Do you know that a wound in the body only heals because the red and white blood cells fight together against any virus that attacks the body.

THANK GOD FOR THE "FIVE-FOLD" MINISTRY GOD GAVE

Eph. 4:11 "And He Himself gave (always remember that it is God that gives) some to be apostles, some prophets, some teachers, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers."

Use your five fingers to understand the "Five-fold" Ministry.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <u>APOSTLE</u> | Is as your thumb that can touch all fingers and hold them together |
| <u>PROPHET</u> | Your pointing finger that can point to the past and future |
| <u>EVANGELIST</u> | As your longest finger that reaches out to the lost. |
| <u>PASTOR</u> | As the ring finger (He is married to the flock) |
| <u>TEACHER</u> | As your little finger (Brings balance through teaching) |

Whatever Ministry God gave you was to help others find theirs and equip them to be more effective for God.

ACCORDING TO EPH. 4:12 GOD GAVE MINISTRIES TO "EQUIP" HIS PEOPLE FOR THEIR WORK.

The Living Bible says: "why is it that He gives us the special abilities to do certain things best? It is so that God's people will be equipped to do better work for Him, building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity."

- WHAT SHOULD MY MINISTRY DO FOR ME?

Verses 13-15 answers this question

My ministry should help me grow spiritually

- WHAT SHOULD MINISTRIES DO FOR THE CHURCH?

Verse 16 says that ministries will give "growth" "unity" and "love" in the church

Let's read it: *"...the whole body (the church) is joined together by what every joint (member) supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share (fulfilling their ministry) causes **growth** of the body (the church) for the **edifying** (unity) of itself in **love**."*

Other translations on this Scripture:

The Living Bible: *"under His direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way, helps the other parts so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love".*

The Amplified Bible: *"for because of Him the whole body (the church in all its various parts closely) joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with each part (with power adapted to its need) is working properly (in all its functions) grow to full maturity, building itself up in love".*

WE NEED THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH

Intercessors

Nothing in the church that we do can be successful if it is not backed by prayer. And all Christians should pray.

But we really need Intercessors that can “stand in the gap” (according to Ezekiel 22:30) and know how to do Spiritual Warfare.

Standing in the gap is a metaphor for committed intercession.

To be an intercessor is not for everyone in the church, but it’s a calling that someone will receive from God.

Soul winners

Thank God for the full-time evangelist. But anyone that declares the Gospel of Christ through witnessing and preaching is busy fulfilling the ministry of an evangelist. ***You see, it is a ministry and not a title!***

We have members in our church that have a passion for souls. Train them and use them.

Healing Ministry

We live in a sick and needy world. We need men and women that have compassion in their hearts to be bold and pray for the sick.

The first time I asked our church to fill in a Ministry Questionnaire, 24 members said that they wanted to be used in the healing ministry. Strange enough not one of my elders indicated that this was their ministry. It may have been but they did not commit themselves to be trained in this ministry.

Because I always “*move with the movers*” I got these 24 people together and equipped them in their calling. This included how they should pray for people in hospital and not try “funny stuff”

Not to pray (or speak in tongues) too loud. They should always remember that it’s God that heals and they only have to do the praying.

One housewife stood out in this ministry. Her name was Rika and God used her in a great way.

There were even times that doctors in hospital did not call me to come and pray for critical cases, but called Rika to come and pray. Once a doctor asked her to come to the ICU and pray for a man who was dying. Her reverend and I stood outside the room and was not allowed to pray for this man. But the doctors called for Rika to come and pray. She asked my permission if she could do that and then went in to pray for him. God healed that man and gave him back to his family. Praise unto God!

The wonderful thing about these trained workers was that they knew how to do this ministry and had a wonderful anointing on their lives. Great miracles took place when they prayed for the sick. Why should only the pastor pray for sick people?

Shepherds

The pastor's work to tend to the flock as a shepherd is very important, but this is not only the work of the pastor, but also that of the elders, cell leaders and even other members of the church. I believe that an elder and cell leader should be able to teach God's word and to pray for the needs of the people.

If God has called you as a shepherd to tend to His flock you should prepare yourself to be used by God! The need in God's flock is very big. God needs shepherds. We can't just plant seed; we should also take care of the "plants" (new souls) and water them. (1 Cor. 3:6)

Teachers

The church desperately needs this ministry.

According to **Matthew 28: 19** we make disciples, and baptize them, but we should also teach them.

Cell leaders, Elders and Sunday school teachers, should be able to teach the Word.

We should teach our people to observe what Christ told us to do.

If God has called you into this ministry, you should really start to **equip yourself** as a teacher of God's word.

Joyce Meyer once said to Reinhardt Bonnke (the well known world evangelist) *"You catch them and I will clean them"*

It is wonderful to see new souls being saved, but we should teach them how to get rid of all things that hinder their spiritual growth.

Worship Team

We also need an anointed Worship team in our church that will be used by God to lead His people to worship Him in spirit and in truth. A worship team is not there to show their talent, but to help the members to worship God. They will lead by example.

There is also something as "The Ministry of Helps"

Any "Administration" is a God called ministry in His church.

Anyone in the church who has administrative work to do is a gift of God to His church.

Such as: Secretary; treasurer; sound and computer; book room; greeting the people; ushers; cleaning the church; maintenance work; transportation etc.

YOUTH and CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The youth shall be as strong as their Leader.

It's not just about a Programme but about someone that will hear from God's Spirit to guide young people to give their best in serving God.

WOMEN and MEN

As for the youth it will be for the ministry among the women and men. It takes one man and one woman to make the difference in a church.

The Living Bible sums up some ministries in Romans 12:6-8

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to **prophecy**, then prophecy whenever you can -- as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. If your gift is that of **serving others**, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, do a good job of teaching. If you are a **preacher** see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. **If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it.** If God has given you **administrative ability** and put you in charge of the work of others, take the responsibility seriously. **Those who offer comfort** to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer."

MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Every member in the church should receive a *Ministry questionnaire*, so that they can have the choice to decide where in the church they want to be involved. Then train them and use them.

AN EXAMPLE OF A MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

(Change it as you need it)

A Questionnaire to help you identify yourself with a MINISTRY

Your Name_____

Your address_____

Tel:_____

"I would like to be involved in the following Ministry. Where I need training to be more effective for the Lord, I commit myself for that."

Mark with an "X"

I want to be an INTERCESSOR	_____
I want to be CELL LEADER	_____
I want to work with the YOUTH	_____
I want to help the POOR and NEEDY	_____
I want to do PRISON WORK	_____
I want to work with CHILDREN	_____
I want to be an USHER	_____
I want to help with the SOUND and MEDIA	_____
I want to PRAY for the SICK	_____
I want to be in the WORSHIP TEAM	_____
I want to do MAINTENANCE work	_____
I want to be used by God in the GIFTS of the SPIRIT	_____
I want to be a SOULWINNER	_____

Note: Any other Ministry you want to do, you can write down here:

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY?

"If you missed your children, you did not miss the boat, you missed the ocean."

George Barna wrote these words on his Website, that should underline the need for a effective "Children's Ministry in every church

Dr. Rick Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, California, one of the fastest growing churches in American, points out:

"The practice of targeting specific kinds of people for evangelism is a Biblical principal. It's as old as the New Testament. Jesus targeted his ministry... [Jesus] publicly identified His ministry target as the Jews. Was Jesus being unfair or prejudiced? Certainly not. Jesus targeted His ministry in order to be effective, not to be exclusive."

The question that is typically raised is who should be targeted?

Research showed that families with younger people, and more specifically the children, are often the best target market.

Probably the convincing argument why children's evangelism can be the most effective is because children accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour for a lifetime relationship.

Research by George Barna and the Barna Institute of over 1,000 adults in May 2001 puts the probability of young people coming to Christ at

- 32% of children between 5 and 13 years old come to Christ.
- 4% of children between 14 and 18.
- 6% of people 19 years and older.

In other words, attracting younger children to a church where they learn about the Love of God will have 5 to 8 times the impact of attracting the same number of adults.

Barna's research on faith development and discipleship also found that the moral development of children is complete by age 9.

Non-religious oriented research on children's moral and values development substantiates that the foundation for lifelong values and morals are formed at the earliest years.

The May 2001 Barna's research also showed that church attendance by children has a lifelong impact. The majority (61%) of adults who attended church as children still attend regularly, while only 22% of those who were not churchgoers as children attend church today.

Early churchgoing also has an impact on whether parents bring their children to church. For parents who were churchd as children, 63% take their own children to church. Among adults, not churchd and now have children of their own it is 33%.

George Barna states:

"The research is very clear: if Jesus is not already part of their lives by the time they leave junior high school, the chances of them accepting Him as their Lord and Saviour is very slim (6%, to be exact). The greatest evangelical window currently available is among young children."

R. S. Lee, the author of the book *"Your Growing Children and Religion"* says it this way: "The first seven years [of life] constitute the period for laying the foundations of religion. This is the most important period in the whole of a person's life in determining his later religious attitudes."

Research has clearly substantiated the Bible verse: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (**Proverbs 22:6**)

Sources Barna, George; Re-Churching the Unchurched. Ventura, CA: Issachar Resources, 2000.

Credit is given to the following website:

www.whitehutchinson.com/religiousfacilities/childrenministry.shtml

Discover your GIFTS

There are many gifts, but only 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Cor.12:1-11

There are so much ignorance these days about God's gifts. That's why Paul wrote these words in **1 Cor. 12:1** "now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant"

If there ever was a time that the Church needed God's Holy Spirit, it is today. We must desire for the Spirit to come on us just as He came as a dove on Jesus when He was baptised in the Jordan River.

It is striking to notice that the Holy Spirit is compared to a dove.

We read in Luke 3 v. 22: "and the Holy Spirit descended on Him (Jesus) in bodily form like a dove."

Why is the Holy Spirit compared to a dove?

1. **A dove is very sensitive.** Therefore we can grieve the Holy Spirit -- Ephesians 4 v. 30. The Amplified Bible translated this verse as follows "and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, do not offend, or vex (tease) or sadden Him" Ephesians 4 v. 25 to 31 tells us what grieves the Spirit.
2. **A dove has a fixed direction.** Think of carrier pigeons and how they find their way back home. The Holy Spirit will always give you direction! Believe that for those in your family who have lost their spiritual direction.

3. **A dove has no gall bladder!** There is thus no bitterness in God! The Greek word for bitterness is "pikros" **and means to cut or to stab.**

If someone tends to cut and stab others with their mouth there is definitely bitterness in their heart.

4. **A dove has perfect balance in its wings.** And did you know that the dove has equal numbers of flight feathers in each wing.

The Holy Spirit therefore brings a perfect balance between gifts and fruits in the Church.

Think also of the High Priest's clothing that he wore. We read of it in Exodus 28:31 to 35

At the bottom of the cloak there were bells and pomegranates alternating with one another.

The bells that made a noise represent the gifts and the pomegranates represent fruits. If you seek the **gifts**, you must surely seek the **fruit**.

The noise that the bells made while the priest moved continuously was an indication that he was alive.

Congregations where the gifts are not "audible" may be suffering from spiritual death.

Decide to choose life by stirring up the gifts that are in you.

1 Timothy 4 v. 14 and 2 Timothy 1 v. 6

You "stir up" your gift by doing the following:

- Pray about your gift
- Increase your knowledge about your gift.
- Make yourself available for God to use you in your gift

WRITE the gifts (1 Cor. 12) opposite to the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) and then you will see that there is a perfect balance between GIFTS AND FRUIT

THE GIFTS

The word of wisdom
 A word of knowledge
 Faith
 Healing
 Working of miracles
 Prophecy
 Discernment of spirits
 Tongues.
 Interpretation of tongues

THE FRUIT

Love (Speak in love)
 Joy (God's knowledge brings joy)
 Peace (Faith will bring peace)
 Patience (Pray with patience)
 Kindness (Work gentle)
 Goodness (edify/exhort/comfort)
 Faithfulness
 Gentleness. (Don't shout it out)
 Self-control (1 Cor. 14:32)

WHY DID GOD GIVE GIFTS TO HIS CHURCH?

The answer is: To serve others.

1 PET.4:10 "AS EVERY MAN HATH RECEIVED THE GIFT, EVEN SO MINISTER THE SAME ONE TO ANOTHER"

The Living Bible translates this verse as follows:

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other"

LET'S DISCUSS THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. A Word of Wisdom

This is not natural wisdom because there are even unbelievers who do not have the Holy Spirit but are gifted with natural wisdom. The gift of a **Word of Wisdom** is something that can only be given by the Holy Spirit to a person. Whilst natural wisdom has facts to its disposal the gift of the word of wisdom relies on a direct revelation from God.

How often has the gift of a Word of Wisdom helped a child of God when he had no answer to a difficult question!

Is there some way in which we can test godly wisdom? Definitely, namely with James 3:17 "but the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Always test a word that anybody gives you "in the name of the Lord" with this scripture.

Examples where this gift has worked are found in:

1 Kings 3:16-28 and Acts 27:21-25.

2. A Word of Knowledge

It is a gift of a **Word of Knowledge** and as in the first gift it only works when it is spoken.

In other words if it has been received but the one who received it does not make it known, this gift has not functioned as it should.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING! Therefore He can reveal to His children what is hidden.

NOTE: Often a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom work together.

For example by the Word of Knowledge John could know the situation and the condition of the seven churches of Asia and by the Word of Wisdom he could give them counsel. (See Revelation 2 and 3)

The purpose for a Word of Knowledge:

- **It warns the child of God against his enemies.**

2 Kings 6 v. 8 to 12

- **It helps a child of God to know precisely what God wants from him.**

In Acts 9 v. 11 and 12 God reveals to his child Ananias something that he didn't know, namely the place where Paul was and even what he was doing.

- **A word of knowledge helps in prevailing prayer.**

Often a word of knowledge has saved God's children from certain defeat because others have prayed for them after God revealed things to them through this gift.

I want to mention my personal experience of this on a Thursday morning years ago.

I was praying and at about 11 o'clock a vision appeared where I saw two men (one was a friend of mine by the name of Chris) in a boat in the sea in great danger! For half an hour I prayed desperately for them until God's peace came over me. That afternoon Chris told me personally how they were in danger (at about 11 o'clock) and how their engine wouldn't work.

Waves were already breaking over them when suddenly an invisible hand pushed their boat into the river mouth and they reached the bank safely!

What would have happened if I had been disobedient to this revelation from God? I thank God for this miracle.

A word of knowledge reveals things in people's lives.

Through this gift Nathan the prophet helped David to confess his sins before God.

I saw the value of this gift when the Lord showed me the sins of a worship leader while he was leading the worship. When I spoke to him personally, he was initially annoyed but later in brokenness confessed his sin and was fully restored in his spiritual life. Thank God for the Word of Knowledge.

This gift is also in the church to keep it pure!

Look what happened to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

In Acts 21:10,11 a Word of Knowledge was also used by God to show His children what awaits them.

3. The Gift of Faith

We all have faith. (Romans 12 v. 3) It is impossible to please God without faith. (Hebrews 11 v. 6)

But normal faith is different from a Gift of Faith!

Examples of the gift of faith are:

- Elijah prayed and it did not rain for three and a half years!
- Paul was bitten by an adder on the island of Malta. By the gift of faith he shook the snake off into the fire. (Acts 28:5 Mark 16:18)
- Jesus cursed the fig tree and then walked away. The following day His disciples saw that it had withered. (Mark 11:12-24)

4. Gifts of Healing: 1 Corinthians 12 v. 9

Paul encouraged Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14,15: "do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them so that everyone may see your progress."

The purpose of this gift:

- Firstly to glorify God (Acts 3 v. 1 to 9)
- To destroy the works of the devil (Acts 10 v. 38; Luke 13)
- To confirm the Gospel (Mark 16 v. 20; Acts 8 v. 5 to 7)
- To draw people to the Gospel

Through the ages God has used the gift of healing to convict people and to save them. May this gift be revived in the church so that Jesus could be exalted.

This is why Jesus came to this world (Isaiah 53:5)

Signs and wonders will make the church overflow again!

5. Working of Miracles

- Natural laws are changed when this Gift works (2 Kings 6:1-7)
- Demons are driven out by this Gift (Acts 16:16-18)
- By this Gift Jesus changed water into wine. He multiplied the fish and bread for the crowd. God wants to do even greater miracles through us
- By this Gift Ananias and Sapphira died because they lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5 v. 1 to 10)
- The dead are raised by the working of miracles

Tabitha(Dorcas) Acts 9:30-42; Eutychus Acts 20:7-12

Mel Tari writes in his book "Like a Mighty Wind" of the revival in Indonesia that they walked around a dead person singing and praying. This man was dead for three days. After singing their eighth chorus, the man stood up alive and well! This took place by the working of miracles! Through this miracle 21,000 people came to repentance in that town.

- Read Acts 13 v. 6 to 12. By the gift of miracles Paul commanded that Elymas become blind because he opposed the work of God.

6. Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14 v. 29 to 32 explains how the gift of prophecy should work in the local church. Many people have asked: "What is this gift?"

Some say that it is preaching. No, it is not normal preaching, although a preacher can sometimes prophesy while he is busy preaching! Others confuse this gift with the gift of a word of knowledge.

An example in the Bible: Acts 11 v. 28: "and one of them (prophets..See v. 27) by the name of Agabus stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

Paul shows us the following:

We must have the desire to prophesy. 1 Cor. 14: 31, 39. Unbelievers will be convicted by this. 1 Cor. 14: 24 and 25 Through prophecy the congregation is strengthened encouraged and comforted. **1 Corinthians 14 v. 3**
A prophetic word is there to build up and not to pull down.

1 Corinthians 14 v. 29. Prophecy can be judged.

Thus prophecy may never take the place of God's word. Because even prophecy will one day pass away, but God's Word will never pass away. (1 Cor. 13 v. 8; 1 Peter 1 v. 25.)
We must always be sure that it is God that speaks, so that we do not get to the point where Israel was in Ezek.13:1-9.

Question: Do you want to see your congregation experience revival? Then you must prophecy as Ezekiel did over the dry bones! (Ezekiel 37)

7. Discernment of spirits

Note: It is not discerning people but spirits.

It is not reading people's minds. It is not about people, but about spirits. And we do not need a supernatural gift to see people's faults.

We realise that we deal with spirits in the air.

Ephesians 6 v. 12 "for our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

- Fear can be a spirit! (2 Timothy 1 v. 7)
- Lies are a spirit! (1 Kings 22:19 to 23; 2 Thess. 2: 9-12)
- Uncleanliness is a spirit! (Luke 4 v. 33 to 35; Acts 5 v. 16; Mark 5 v. 2; Luke 9 v. 42).
- Sickness can also be a spirit! (Luke 13 v. 11 to 16)
Most sicknesses are not a "spirit"
- Deafness and dumbness can be a spirit. (Luke 11:14; Mark 9:25)
- Rebellion is a spirit. (1 Samuel 15 v. 23)

This gift discerns the spirits, and by the gift of miracles the evil spirits are cast out. We find an example in Acts 16 v. 16 to 18. Here both gifts worked.

8. Different kinds of tongues

There is a difference between speaking in tongues as a sign that I'm baptised with the Holy Spirit and the gift of different kinds of tongues.

But why tongues... What value do strange tongues have?

1 Corinthians 14 v. 2: "for anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit"

Therefore it is so wonderful to pray in a strange tongue.

Even the devil does not understand what you pray

1 Corinthians 14 v. 4: "he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself"

1 Corinthians 14 v. 14 "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful"

As your mind has the ability to express itself in understandable words the spirit has the ability to express himself in unknown tongues, when you pray in tongues.

When we say that our minds are unfruitful we mean that we are aware of ourselves but that the tongue (the unknown words we are saying) is not produced by our mind.

9. Interpretation of tongues

This is not the natural ability to understand unknown languages and to explain them, but in a supernatural way the Holy Spirit gives the interpretation of a strange tongue that is spoken. This interpretation can be revealed IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO SOMEONE IN THE CONGREGATION FOR EXAMPLE:

- a. **By a vision:** While someone is speaking in tongues the person himself or someone else can receive a revelation by means of a vision of the interpretation of the tongue.
- b. **By the revelation of the thoughts** expressed in the strange tongue, and then conveying them in understandable words.
- c. **Sometimes someone, moved by the Spirit, can have an urge to speak to the congregation**

This will happen after someone spoke in tongues and then this will be the translation of that tongues.

Therefore he doesn't see a vision and thoughts are not revealed to him, but inspired by God's Spirit he shall give the message God gave.

NOTE: The interpretation doesn't have to be exactly as long as the tongue. It is not a word-by-word translation! It is an interpretation!

Can interpretation be in the form of a prayer to God?

We can answer by saying that it is possible, but if God wants to speak to the congregation it will not be in the form of a prayer -- because prayer is always directed towards God

AND NOW:

These 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to the church of Jesus Christ to glorify His Name. Would it not be wonderful if these gifts were present in every congregation?

DID YOU KNOW: GOD WANTS TO USE YOU!

2 Timothy 1 v. 6 *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you..."*

THE PASTORS WIFE

It was on a sunny day at the end of April 1959 that Daniel and I got married. With stars in my eyes and love in my heart I didn't had the faintest idea of what the ministry would ask from me. I was so young but knew I was called by God and that was all that mattered.

We went on honeymoon for a week and then moved into our first home in Vryheid (meaning "freedom") Natal, South Africa. Everything was new to me. New church; new house and new town. We stayed in the church house (manse) next to the church and the reality of my new life dawned on me – responsibility. I wasn't even nineteen yet, but became a pastor's wife overnight as well as pregnant with our first child; how I coped I still don't know. But God is faithful. He carried me through.

I learned to walk by faith straight away and had to turn to Him for everything. For the food on the table; clothes for us as well as for the new baby.

There was no books around on "How to be a Pastor's wife" or anybody to mentor me. I had to trust God and be led by the Holy Spirit. For sure I was insecure and afraid.

I remember my first teaching to ladies was from the book of Ester. My text was: "*If I perish, I perish*" This scripture explained how I felt inside. Still I knew God called me and I trusted Him to guide me.

Prayer became my conversation with God every day. I had to look to Him for everything and today I am thankful for it because I learned to depend on Him totally and that's what I want to share with you as pastor's wife. Your prayer life will be your life line. Trust God for your deepest desires and needs. He knows you inside out. After all He made you and when you became His child and decided to follow and serve Him, He remade you all over, cleansed you from sin, forgave you and made you the woman you are today.

Fellowship with God means telling Him everything.

Share the good and the bad and listen when He talks back to you. Follow His direction and trust Him to guide you.

He knows when you are weak or tired through sleepless nights with babies and other church problems. Although I know worry and fear are the opposite of faith still Jesus will help you through it. Read your bible and meditate on it daily. The Word will become sweet like honey and healthy like medicine. Don't just read it but let it become revelation to your soul. Memorise it, sing it, deposit it into your inner most being. There will come a day when you want to draw from this bank inside of you, but then there must be enough deposits that you have made.

God's Word has answers to every problem or situation. You yourself should take it into yourself and not depend on your spouse. Speaking about the daily devotion with your soul mate (reading the Word and praying together) will be the cornerstone of your marriage.

Of course there will be differences between you and your husband, but love for God and for your husband will make you survive a lot of things.

Laugh a lot! Have fun together – see the humour in situations and be glad. Enjoy each other. It's not nice to live in a gloomy house; after all, the joy of the Lord is our strength. A house full of joy and laughter is what your children will remember. Not the amount of money available or the expensive presents.

Support your husband in decision making. He is very depended on you. Grown men still stay boys and please give him a message from me, and that is: *"A happy wife is a happy life"*

Walk in love and faith with the people around you

Everybody in church won't like you or even love you – personalities differ. Just be yourself – there's not another one like you. Be true to yourself – learn from others but don't be a copy of someone else.

Life cannot grind to a halt during troubled times. In an unpleasant distressing situation, we must adjust and keep moving.

When you enter times of trouble or sudden change, pray diligently and move ahead, doing whatever you can rather than giving up because of uncertainty. God knows the future and His plans for us are good and full of hope.

As long as the God who knows the future provides our agenda and goes with us, we can have boundless hope and He will see us through to a glorious conclusion.

He planned to give us a new beginning with a new purpose to turn us into new people. He's preparing us for a new beginning with Him at the centre.

Please don't try to do everything yourself!

There are people in your church that will love to help you – if they don't do it perfect the first time – give them breathing space. By the way, you also make mistakes. The secret is to get up and try again. Watch your one year old baby, he stumbles when he tries to walk, but he gets up every time and try again.

Acknowledge what some does and praise them for that. Somebody once said these words: "Catch somebody doing good and tell everybody about it" Doing this you will have a happy church.

People like to follow a leader, so take the lead and don't be afraid because the Spirit of God is there to lead and guide you. Read books, listen to CD,s and go to seminars and conferences as many as you can. You will never be too old to learn from others.

Be happy! A Scripture that really spoke to my heart recently was from Isaiah 51:11 *"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return and come with singing unto Zion, everlasting joy shall be upon their heads, they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing (sorrow) shall flee away."* A happy person is a free person!

Obtain joy and gladness! Work diligently at it – work hard to obtain it and sorrow as well as sadness shall run from you. You won't even have to chase it away, it will run from you. Don't allow anything or anybody to disturb your joy or your peace.

Listen to this:

- Happiness is perfume, you can't pour it on somebody else without getting a few drops on yourself (James van der Zee)
- Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have (Hyman Judah Schachtel)
- Laughter is to life what shock absorbers are to cars, It won't take the potholes out of the road, but it sure makes the ride smoother

When there's doubt in your heart about the future concerning your children, or what tomorrow may bring, go to 1 Corinthians 2 and know that God will reveal and confirm His word to you. Trust Him to lighten up your path, take time to listen to Him, He won't keep you guessing.

Keep on renewing your mind and don't stagnate.

Things cannot be the same tomorrow as it was yesterday. Be willing to change – I don't mean to be unstable – God said His mercies are new every morning. Be creative and ask God to help you be creative if you are not.

On the other hand be content, satisfied if you cannot live like the Jones family next door. God will meet your need, keep on asking. He will give you the desires of your heart.

Manage your emotions when people will distant themselves from you. Because your mind is renewed you will walk steadfast in the Lord. It will help you and everybody around you.

Be quick to say "*I'm sorry*" it will release a lot of burdens from you and people will learn to trust you.

Consistency has a calm effect on people.

I pray that you will be the best pastors wife ever as well as mother and lover. May goodness and mercy follow you wherever you go. May the Heavenly Father smile over you and make you shine like the stars.

BACK TO BASICS

There will always be a time in your life that you will have to come "back to basics" Even a golf player will tell you that.

When nothing works out for him on the golf course, he speaks to himself and says: *"I better get back to the basics of my golf"*

And when he does that, things will start working out again.

The same will happen in the church if you go back to the basics.

When I was a Bible School student my pastor used to tell me that if I wanted to see people healed, I should preach on healing.

- If I wanted people to be saved, I preached Salvation.
- If I wanted to see people filled with Gods Spirit, I had to preach about it. I once preached for three months on the Holy Spirit until my whole church was filled with Gods Spirit.
- If I wanted to see Gods people bless His work with finances I preached on giving. God always confirmed His Word.

TEACH ON THE FOLLOWING

How to be a Disciple and make more disciples

Faith and how it works

Grace (but keep it Biblical)

The Power of our Tongue

Forgiveness (also to forgive yourself and others)

Healing and Deliverance (body; soul and mind)

Spiritual Growth en Spiritual Leadership

Prayer and Worship

How to Discover your Ministry and Gifts

The Father heart of God and His Character

The Life of Christ

The Holy Spirit

The Kingdom of God

Marriage and Family Life

A SOUL WINNING STRATEGY THAT WORKS

Teach your people that they should be soul winners for Christ, and how they can accomplish the "Great Commission" Jesus gave to His church.

The Great commission which Jesus gave to His disciples is found in Matt. 28:19. "Make disciples of all nations"

In **Matt. 9:37,38** Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few and that we must pray asking the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest fields.

If I interpret Rev. 14 correctly, it appears that the labourers will not reap the harvest in time and that the Lord will have to swiftly put in the sickle to harvest. Is this not already starting to happen?

Rev. 14:15 "Take ***your*** sickle (the angel is talking to Jesus) and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe"

May God give us a new passion for lost souls. Some of them we work and study with every day. Others are our neighbours next door. Others are our sport friends.

Even though we may talk about all the various methods used in Evangelization, it does not mean that these techniques must first be perfected before we can start reaping souls for the kingdom of God. We need to heed the Word, which says in **Ecclesiastes 9:10**

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

There are many Christians who have never won a soul for the Lord. The main reason is that they have no burden for the lost souls.

Jesus Christ removed the burden of our sin from us but replaced it with a burden of a different kind, a burden for souls.

There is no greater joy than bringing seeking souls to a seeking Saviour, who is able to save them from their sin.

Do you want to have a burden for souls?

Realize then that every unsaved person is lost without hope, heading for an eternal hell. What will you do with this startling truth while God desires that all should be saved?

Charles Pearce of England was on his way to the gallows when confronted by the prison chaplain who pleaded with him to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. Before his execution he turned to the chaplain, looked him straight in the eyes and said, "Sir, do you believe there is a hell for the unrepentant such as I? And Sir, do you believe that God is merciful to save the likes of me?" When the chaplain was through answering these questions, Charles Pearce said to him, "Sir, if I believed it, I would cross England, even if it meant crawling over broken glass to warn the unsaved of their eternal destiny without God." These were the last words of Charles Pearce before he was hanged.

DO WE BELIEVE IN WHAT WE PREACH?

Do we really believe that my neighbour, my friend or family will be lost forever if they are not washed in the blood of Jesus Christ?

Think about this: All the treasure in the world cannot pay for one soul.

Matt. 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Try and think of the price on the cross, which Jesus had to pay for our salvation.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: *"the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)*

THE FIRST THING YOU MUST DO IS "LOOK"

John 4:35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look at the fields**, for they are already white for harvest!"

You will have compassion for people if you could **see them in their need!**

In Matt.9:36 we read the following about Jesus: "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

THE SECOND THING YOU MUST DO IS "GO and TELL"

The whole Gospel is a **"GO"** Gospel!

Jesus never said that we must wait until the souls come to our church, but He said we must **go to all nations** with His word.

He also did not say that we must only pray for the harvest, but we read these words in **Matt. 9:37,38** "**Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into the harvest.**"

In Mark 5:19 we read what Jesus told the man that was delivered from demons and wanted to stay with Jesus.

*Jesus said: "**Go** home to your friends, and **tell** them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."* **Read: Mark.16:15 and Matt.28:19**

LET US CONSIDER THE SHORTNESS OF LIFE!

1 Sam. 20:3 "But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but one step between me and death."

Psalms 103:15-16 "As for man, his days are like grass... For the wind passes over it, and it is gone."

Jas. 4:14 "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

Psalms 39:5 "You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath."

Soul winner heed this warning. We often receive only one chance to speak to someone about his soul's salvation. Let us not miss that opportunity and stand guilty before God, through neglect.

WHY SHOULD WE BE SOUL WINNERS?

Because Jesus Christ commands us to reach the world with the Gospel:

Matt. 4:19 "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark. 16:15 "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Luke 14:23 "Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full."

Matt. 10:32-33 "Therefore whoever confesses (acknowledges) Me before men, him I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

Because we are appointed to watch over one another.

Ezekiel 33:7-11 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel, so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, "O wicked man, you will surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin and I will hold you accountable for his blood. Nevertheless, if you do warn the wicked to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will be saved yourself...As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?"

We are made watchman and we are made our brothers keeper.

Today we want to do what Cain did when God asked him where his brother was. Gen. 4:9 "Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Able? 'I don't know', he replied. Am I my brother's keeper?"

We hear arguments like these:

"Why should I watch over others? They also have the Bible in their home. They themselves can also go to church, etc.etc."

Soul winner, you and I should not one day stand guilty before God!

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SOUL WINNER?

Proverbs 11:30 says that he who wins souls is wise.

You should first win people for yourself before you win them for the Lord.

- Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matt.10:16)
- Learn when to speak and when to be quiet (Matt.10:19)
- Paul gave good teaching on this in 1 Cor.9:19-23. In verse 19 he says: "*I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more*" and in verse 22 he says: "*I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some.*"

This does not mean that you must become a sinner to win a sinner for Christ! But if we want to win the world for the Lord we should get rid of our "holier-than-thou" attitude.

Yes, you should even dress differently when witnessing to a businessman than to a farmer.

A true soul winner is someone who is always ready, waiting for the opportunity to witness for Christ. His eyes and ears are alert waiting on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to assist him when the moment comes for him to witness boldly.

Consider how Jesus approached the women at the well in John 4. Jesus started the discussion asking her for natural water and ended up giving her the spiritual Living Water!

1. Jesus started with her need
2. He created a desire in her heart (v.13-15)
3. He touched her problem (v.16,17)
4. She made a decision

What happened to this woman was so powerful that she went into her city and told everyone what Jesus had done for her. The end of this story is that they all believed in Christ.

You as a Soul winner must give your best to that one soul you meet in this life, that they may be used by God to win many others to the Lord.

YOUR TESTIMONY

To personally share your testimony with someone, by telling them what Jesus Christ has done in your life, is the most important commission a Christian can fulfil.

To help us become more effective, let us look at the following guidelines:

A thoroughly prepared testimony, which is given with the backing of the Holy Spirit, will have an immediate effect. We must strive to present Jesus Christ and this wonderful salvation message in such a clear, attractive and powerful way that it still retains it's beauty and simplicity, so that people will not only desire to know Him, but will be led to have a personal encounter with Him.

God will use a well-planned testimony of three to five minutes, more than you could imagine!

HOW TO DELIVER A TESTIMONY

The listeners must sense an attitude of love, enthusiasm, devotion and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Be friendly. Don't start an argument or try to be controversial.

Avoid showing that you are nervous, such as clearing your throat, or playing with your nose or tie, etc.

WHAT TO DO:

Ask the Lord to lead you and give you wisdom. James 1:5-6

Use a 4 point scheme to get direction in your testimony.

- Before I became a Christian my life was... and I thought ...
- How I accepted Christ...
- The changes that have come, now that He is in control.
- The security; joy; peace and other benefits which are in Him.

Expand on all that has taken place now that Jesus is in control and let it all be to His praise and glory.

Keep your testimony short and captivating, remembering that it is His name that must receive the honour, not yours.

Remain positive throughout and do not relate negative tales of general problems in your church or even in your own life.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Don't compare churches. It can imply that all others are wrong and only yours is right.

Do not "preach" but speak normal; you are testifying not preaching.

Do not use words that are mere clichés. Always take time to explain words not commonly used in everyday language such as saved, born again, justified, etc.

Do not talk too long. It is unnecessary to talk on and on.

Get to the point.

WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WHO HAVE EXCUSES

We first name the problem or excuse and then the Scripture verses which can be used as a solution. Make a note of them somewhere in your Bible.

"I am too great a sinner"

1 Tim. 1:15 – "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

Is. 1:18 – "Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

1 John. 1:7 "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

John. 6:37 "the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

"I am too hard"

Ezek. 36:26 – " a new heart also will I give, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

"It is too difficult to keep God's commandments"

1 John. 5:3; Matt. 11:29,30 satan's yoke is heavy and hard !

Prov. 13:15 "...but the way of transgressors is hard."

"I will be persecuted if I become a Christian"

Matt. 5: 10-12 " Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

2 Tim. 3:12 " yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Read for yourself what Paul had to endure because he decided to follow Christ. 2 Cor. 11:24-28

But thank God it will all be worth it!

John. 16: 33 "These things I have spoken unto you; that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

1 Peter 4: 12-16 " beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange things happened unto you. But rejoice, in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you; on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

Look at what others had to go through.

Acts 5: 40-41 tells us: " And to him they agreed; and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go, and they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his Name."

"What will my family and friends say?"

Matt. 10:37 "He that loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he that loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

Matt. 19:29 "and every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sister, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

John. 21: 19-22 "This He spoke, signifying by what death He would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him: 'Follow Me'. Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also leaned on His breast at the supper, and said: 'Lord, who is the one who betrays You?' Peter seeing him, said to Jesus: 'But Lord, what about this man?' Jesus said to him: 'If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? **You follow me.**"

"I am afraid that I will not be able to persevere"

John. 10: 28-29 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

1 Cor. 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Gal. 5:16 "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

2 Tim. 1:12 "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day."

Jude verse 24 "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy."

Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Amplified Bible: "*Him who infuses inner strength into me (that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency)*"

Pray that souls will be saved, but also add this: "**AND SEND ME!**"

"Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone"

HOW TO WIN and KEEP SOULS IN THE CHURCH

This is what we need to do:

- During every church service we should invite people to receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- There must be trained Workers that can pray with these people.
- But we should also have "*Follow-up Workers*" that can visit the new converts and guide them in God's word.
- If you have "Cell groups" the next step will be to introduce them to a cell group where they can feel they belong to God's family. In these cell groups they will be cared for.

THE ALTAR WORKER

(Use these notes in training the Altar workers)

Explanation:

I will use the words "*Altar Worker*" when I talk of the workers in the church that pray with new souls that come for Salvation in our church services. Some churches may call them "*Counsellors*" but a counsellor is more understood as someone that is trained to give specialised counsel to people.

The word "*Altar*" comes from the time we used to talk about the place in front of the pulpit where people came to pray.

The words "*Follow-up Worker*" explains itself. These are the people that "follow up" the new Christians to guide them in their spiritual life.

Some notes to underline:

- He or she must be a person truly committed to the Lord, living a dedicated life. One cannot help another if one needs spiritual help yourself. It is thus necessary to read the Bible faithfully and to spend time in prayer
- The Altar worker must be a person who is worthy of the trust put in him/her. What is said to them must be treated confidentially. When a person confides in you, he does not want to hear all about it in town the next day.

- The worker should always be neatly dressed. Attend to your breath, hair and nails, so that a searching soul will not be embarrassed.
- Come to church prayerfully.
- Allow visitors to feel at home by welcoming them in a friendly manner.
- When the invitation is given by the preacher, pray earnestly for the harvest to come in.
- As soon as the invitation to come to Christ is given, get up and move forward. Your movement may often encourage someone sitting next to you, to stand up for the Lord too.
- Brothers pray with men and sisters with ladies.
- Introduce yourself and ask: "What do you need from the Lord?" (This is how you will determine a person's need).
- Never talk or pray out loudly. Someone might be disturbed. See to it that you do not speak or pray directly into the person's face.
- Never be in a hurry! Rather spend quality time with one person than attending inadequately to a number of persons.
- Do not attempt to counsel a person without your Bible. Chose your verses beforehand. Do not search around for them in front of this new soul, seeking the Lord.
- Allow the person to read the verses of Scripture with you.
- You should always have an altar card and a pen with you to write down the name and address of the person.
- Refrain from the habit of placing your arm around the person.
- If the person is unknown to you, introduce yourself and find out who the person is.
- Determine the need of the person by asking: "What do you need from the Lord?"
- The guidance of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential because very often people are shy and not even honest with themselves so that their real need is not mentioned.

THIS IS HOW YOU LEAD A SOUL TO CHRIST

Make sure you memorize all these Scriptures and where to find them.

Explain to him/her that we have all sinned.

Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

1 John. 1:8 & 10 "If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives."

If a person realizes this and consents to it, there is hope that he/she can be saved because Christ said in **Luke 5:32** "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

He/she must now confess his/her sins to Christ.

1 John 1:7-9 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His son, purifies us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Is. 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be as red as crimson, they shall be as white as wool."

And when God forgives, He also forgets and says He remembers it no more.

The person must pray himself and confess his sin. (He doesn't need to confess them one by one, but only what the Holy Spirit lays upon his heart). Now he must accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and believe that the Lord has heard him because this is a step of faith. He should not depend on his feelings. We are being saved because the Word of God declares it and not because we feel that way. This does not say that there is no emotion attached to serving God.

On the contrary, he will most definitely feel better because his burden of sin has been removed and his debt has been paid! If God has forgiven him, he must forgive himself also.

If he is not able to pray himself, you should help him by praying ahead of him, allowing him to repeat after you word by word.

The prayer said by him should include two vital points:

- a) He must confess his own sin
- b) He must accept Jesus as his Saviour.

The Scripture used to accept Jesus is found in:

John. 1:12 "To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

Having accepted this truth the new convert should be told to confess that He is a child of God.

Rom. 10:9-10 "If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

How can a new creature in Christ remain silent?

Now you pray for him and congratulate him.

Write down his name and address using block letters.

State clearly whether it is Mr., Mrs. or Miss.

In case of a child, make use of the first name.

HOW DO WE HELP CHILDREN ?

Use the same Scriptures as above but explain the Word to the child on his/her level.

Make sure that the child knows what it is all about.

Pray separately with each child and not in a group.

THE FOLLOW-UP WORKER

Follow-up work is one of the things that has been neglected in the Church and must be restored again. We will not be successful when people visit our services and even make commitments to the Lord, if they are not properly followed-up.

WHERE AND HOW SHALL WE START ?

Trust the Lord to put His hand on the right follow-up workers. Train them with a course for follow-up workers before using them. These workers must be willing to get together each Monday evening for prayer and to do visitations. Each new convert should be followed-up within 24 hours after his/her commitment.

PROGRAMME ON MONDAY EVENINGS

At 18h30 the workers get together for prayer and planning. Not later than 19h00 they depart for visitations. Most of these visitations should be arranged by making appointments with these persons during the day. The church office is responsible for these arrangements. The worker(s) can arrange additional visits.

It is always advisable to send an experienced worker with a new one.

The names and addresses of the persons to be visited will be given to you on a memo.

The following information will be found on the memo:

- The date when a person made a commitment to Christ
- His/her age
- Who the person was who led him/her to Christ
- Their specific need, etc.

Study the memo beforehand and use this information during the home visit.

Because of the fact that many people become nervous when seeing you at their doorstep with a Bible in the hand, do not take one with you. Should you need a Bible you can ask the person(s) you are visiting to help you with that.

It is also wise to select carefully and first read the literature that you plan to leave in the home you are visiting. Poor printing and mistruths in literature will do much harm to well-meaning souls.

What does one do when arriving at a home?

After knocking at the door or pressing the doorbell, inquire about the person you have come to visit. Then introduce yourself in a friendly manner and convey the purpose of your visit.

One should never embarrass a person by talking about his/her spiritual condition in front of others.

Set people at ease by first having a "preamble" by discussing common events or topics. One should, however, stay conscious of one's real aim and switch over to the spiritual aspect as soon as the time is right.

Do not just accept that the worker before you has completed their work effectively. Always find out from the person what their spiritual experience was and in this way determine at what spiritual level they are. From this point you can proceed, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide you further.

Do not overstay your welcome – stay for as long as they are interested. It doesn't benefit to speak to people when they are tired.

Avoid arguments! **2 Tim. 2:23** "But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife."

Rather lose an argument and win a friend. An argument can result in you losing track and so you will miss your aim completely.

Pray before you leave. If someone in the home is sick, it is of course a wonderful opportunity to pray for the sick person, and therefore also for the whole family.

Always pray with great wisdom, and if another worker is visiting with you, he/she should never agree in prayer too loudly – please be wise in this. When the situation is not positive to pray, do not force a prayer on them. Should you promise to remember them in your prayers when at home, you must keep your promise.

Very urgent cases must be handed to the Pastor telephonically the same evening. Feel free to ask counsel from the Pastor when needed. Let the church office receive your report the next morning.

Evaluate your own work – it will enable you to concentrate on weak points with your next visit. If you find that your knowledge on a basic spiritual subject is not good enough, it is important for you to read about this or ask someone's counsel.

Remember: It is your responsibility to keep on praying for the persons you visited.

CLOSING RECOMMENDATIONS

The following statements are so important that I also included them in by book "Guidelines for CHURCH GROWTH" because this will help a local Church to grow

- *Sermons must be relevant for our everyday life.
Preaching should be need orientated and biblically sound.
Any other kind of preaching will challenge nobody.*
- *The Worship should be lively, led by a committed worship team that is willing to give a mixture of "old" and "new" songs.
It is not about "fast" and "slow" songs but the worship in the Church should be an inspiring experience for the people.*
- *There should be systematic Leadership training. Leaders that are needed are: Soul winners; Cell leaders; Leaders in music; Leaders in Children's ministry; Leaders in Youth ministry; Leaders in Women's ministry; Intercessors and whatever else is needed in the Church.*
- *Members must be helped to find their ministry and also be used in their ministry. We should preach about the different Ministries that are needed; equip them and then release our people to fulfil Gods calling in their lives.*

- *New Christians should be equipped in the foundational doctrine of God's Word so that they can live a victorious life and fulfil their calling*
- *Mentorship of younger leaders by more mature ones so that they will have a spiritual covering.*
- *Every Christian should be filled with God's Spirit to be more effective as a witness according to Acts 1:8. We must have a new "thirst" for the Holy Spirit to be in us as a fountain as it is written in John 7:37-39*
- *Cell groups are very important as caring groups where everyone should feel safe and be allowed to develop in their gifts.*
- *Evangelistic outreaches to the community are important so that we will make disciples for Christ.*
As Tommy Barnett of Phoenix, Arizona said: "Find a need and fill it, find a hurt and heal it":
- *Youth work that focuses on the needs of the young people.*
- *Have a Children's ministry that can teach children spiritual values and help them to know and serve the Lord.*
- *We should live a life of fellowship with other Christians and share what we have with those in need. (Acts 4:35)*
- *Sunday's Preaching is not enough Word for our people! Create more opportunities for Word teaching.*

LISTEN TO THIS

*Life is like taking a picture. If you miss it,
you have missed it.*

*None of us live in isolation.
This life is a group outing.*

*Life is decisions.
Never make a decision when you are downhearted.
Only make final decisions when you have
the peace of God in your heart.*

*Life is connections.
Never connect with "losers"
Only connect with successful people.*

*Life is giving.
What you cannot give will control your life.
If you have a need, sow a seed.*

*I've learned....
That making a "living" is not the same as making a "life"*