

Trinity News

*"You have established all
the boundaries of the earth;
You have made summer and winter."*

|| June/July 2017

Psalms 74:17

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

In the early days of telegrams when they did not include punctuation in the message, a son on holiday wired his wealthy parents asking permission to purchase a very expensive item. The father wired back, "No. Expense too great." Without punctuation, the message read, "No expense too great." The son duly bought the item, much to the dismay of his parents. This silly example of mixed messages came to mind, having spent the past week at a conference devoted to an inductive study of Mark's gospel and an interpretive overview of the Old and New Testaments. Can we still believe the Bible in our contemporary world given the scathing objections of sceptics like Richard Dawkins and scholars in the academy who dismiss the Bible as an outmoded text dying the death of a thousand qualifications?

In one sense I'm tempted to agree with Charles Spurgeon, "Defend the Bible, I'd rather defend a lion. Open the cage and let it loose. The answer to every objection against the Bible is the Bible." However, we are told "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1Pet 3:15) Many argue that appealing to the Bible to underscore its own authority is self-defeating. To trust the Bible simply because the Bible tells us to, is a circular argument, a closed loop. However, our attitude should be that of Jesus, who considered the Scriptures as the very Word of God.

Not a few are suspicious of the truth claims of Scripture. They resort to an 'interpretation of suspicion.' Now this is appropriate in a world of fake news and when a human author has a particular slant or agenda to promote. We know from Genesis 1 and 2 that God's words are true and trustworthy. It is the serpent who lies and casts doubt. The irony is that the suspicion is misplaced. God is suspect and Satan believed. In Genesis 3 a misdirected interpretation of suspicion deceives Adam and Eve, and all who follow their example.

Tim Keller in *The Reason for God* poses the question, "Now what happens if you eliminate anything from the Bible that offends your sense and sensibility and crosses your will? ... Only if your God can say things that outrage you and make you struggle (as in a real friendship or marriage!) will you know that you have got hold of a real God and not a figment of your imagination. So an authoritative Bible is not the enemy of a personal relationship with God. It is the precondition for it."

We stay in Scripture not simply to prove that it is true and trustworthy but to show that the Holy Spirit who inspired the words of the Bible, indwells us and shapes our lives to become more Christlike and fruitful.

As ever with warm affection.

Until next time.

Your minister and friend.

Alan



NEXT GENERATION LEADER'S LETTER

As many of you may know, I have an immense passion for serving. I believe that it is our privilege to be able to go out and meet people where they are, to serve and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In reflecting upon the Word, I was reminded about the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20. Jesus, when addressing His disciples, says these words in verse 19, “**Therefore go...**” And through my reflection on these two simple words, I was reminded that we, as believers in Christ, are to meet His people where they are. Our ‘job’ is to discern where the Spirit is already working and join in. This is the core principle of any mission, having the understanding that God already has a plan, He already has a mission, and so we join in with what He is doing through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Understandably, this might well seem like a daunting task for many of us, and yet it is remarkably easy at the same time. And this is my prayer, that each of us within this faith community will be prompted and led by the Spirit to respond faithfully to the command of Jesus saying, **therefore go**.

In terms of the Next Generation ministry, we recently had a small introduction to outreach during our previous series on how we glorify God. We had almost 20 litres of soup which we, during an evening service, distributed to people in and around our community. This was such a blessing for all of us who were involved and as each of us returned to church afterwards, we all had incredible stories to tell. And it is our hope that this is something that we would be able to continue in the future on a regular basis.

Also, on Saturday, 22nd of July, we will be holding another movie night here at the church. We will be watching a beautiful movie called *Amazing Grace*, based on the true story of William Wilberforce and we trust that this will be a blessing for all.

And finally, the evening service will be continuing throughout the school holidays. We have just begun a new series looking at some of the difficult texts or passages found in the Old Testament and in so doing, we are looking at two questions:

1. How do we understand these texts, and
2. Is there something that we can still learn from them. Please do join us that as we journey together through this series.

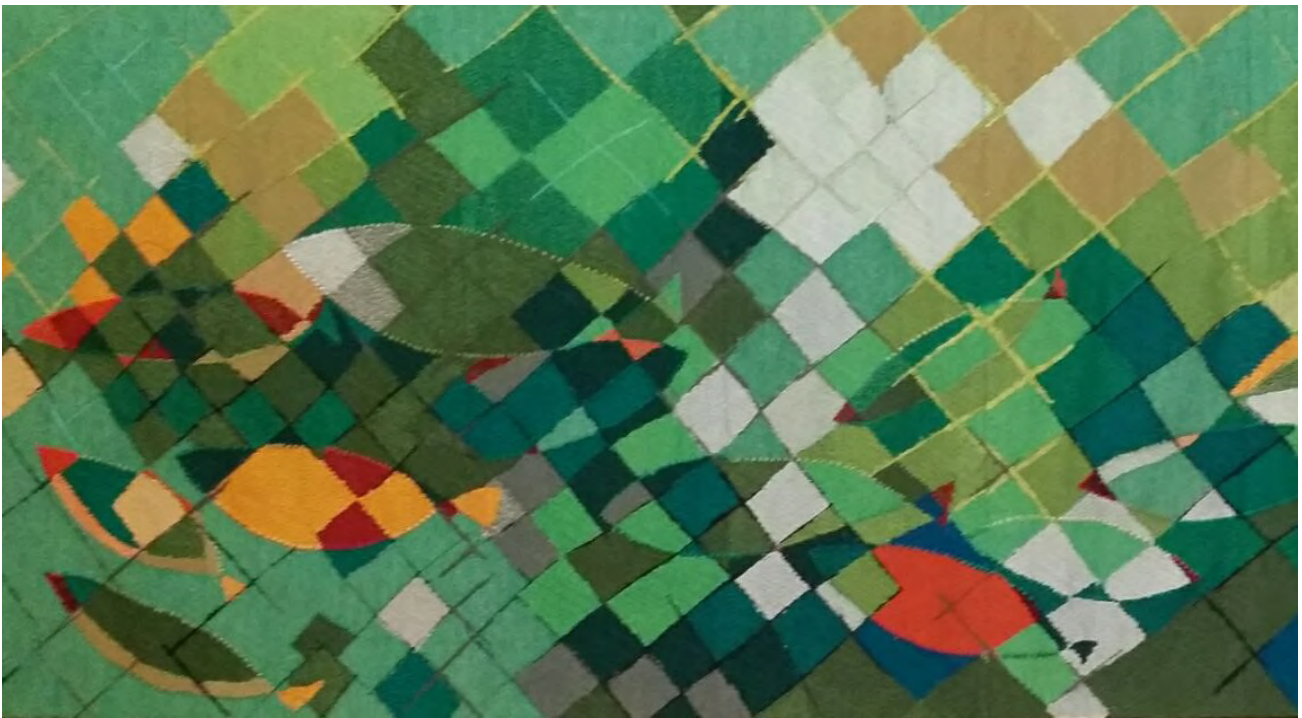
Lincon Hardouin
Next Generation Leader



TRINITY SUNDAY

11th June 2017 was Trinity Sunday.

We celebrated by worshipping together with the Trinity Anglican congregation and welcoming the Bishop of the diocese of Pretoria to Trinity. The beautiful new 'frontal' was blessed by the bishop during the service. There was a great buzz in the hall afterwards as we enjoyed brunch and an unhurried time of fellowship.



This is the new Altar Frontal. It is a creation of Philip Manser. It was the gift through a generous bequest and two donations. It is inspired by the current Diocesan Theme:

Encounter and Conversation with Jesus Christ: *"put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."* Luke 5:4.



BAPTISM OF NOAH BENNIE



Sunday 25th June was a joyful day for Trinity as well as the Roche and Bennie Families: Noah, son of George and Natalie Bennie, brother of Mika Bennie and grandson of Cedric and Angela Roche, was baptized at Trinity!

We give thanks for the gift of baptism!

CHARISMADROP-IN CENTRE NEWS

You have continued to reach out to our Drop-In Centre children in a wonderful and Godly way. The list is long: you have knitted jerseys, beanies and scarves and brought blankets for the winter; you have brought or paid for regular food parcels; you have contributed financially to sustain the running of the Centre, make Miki Maths available to the children; provide for the children by buying them school stationery, school uniforms for their comfort and dignity, and birthday gifts that have enhanced their sense of self-worth and brought them absolute delight.

Last week your generosity made it possible for us to arrange an outing for them to the Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum. They arrived at 09:00 and left reluctantly at 14:30!



They loved everything about the day – the inter-active presentations arranged by the Museum, the animals and birds, decorating candles and cooking ‘roosterbrood’ and boerewors on the fire... and of course playing their hearts out in the lovely Museum grounds!

Thank you to you all! They are a group of delightful, enthusiastic children. You have shown them the care and hope of the Lord and their young lives reflect His joy, even in their generally difficult circumstances.

Sue Hay

On behalf of the Charisma Drop-In Centre team and children.



SINGING FOR THE CAUSE?



On Sunday 25 June, Getty Music in partnership with OMF hosted the second annual #TheTaskUnfinished Global Hymn Sing featuring the Getty's new song – *For The Cause*. We joined millions of believers worldwide by singing this song during our morning service as a way to focus on the imperative need for the Gospel to go to all nations.

We were encouraged to join this Global Hymn Sing by Karen and Dale Viljoen whom Trinity supports financially and in prayer as missionaries in Japan.

Their recent Newsletter is on our noticeboard and also appears on our website <http://www.trinity.org.za>

And here is an email to us all from Dale and Karen :

SUBJECT: THANK YOU AND NEWS FROM DALE AND KAREN

Dear Alan and All at Trinity,

Thank you very, very much for your support! We are full of praise to our Lord for His provision through you!

These past two months after returning from a full but God-blessed seven weeks in California and Arizona have been difficult ones for us. Ministry-wise we are seeing God continue to work in very meaningful and amazing ways but we got back into the "thick of things" too fast so have not had enough opportunity for rest and have not fully returned to our previous good routines. Even more than this, we have been much in prayer for, and then affected and saddened by the death of two of our OMF Japan colleagues.

Last week our Field Director, David Ferguson, died after a year battling two rare blood cancers. The same week saw a Japanese worker (on home assignment) go to heaven. Their funerals were on the same day (in different places) and I (Dale) led David's Internet-feed funeral in Sapporo. (Unfortunately the first 35 minutes of the feed was nonexistent so I read and led from a Japanese draft I had received until we could link-up.) Three people I worked with when leading the church plant in Otaru are now in heaven! (Maude almost 10 years ago, How Chuang Chua two years ago and now David last week.)

This week we submitted nominations for a replacement Field Director. Please pray for this because any appointment will affect the different ministries in Japan, and, depending on who is chosen, our relationship with the Japanese pastors and churches with whom we collaborate.

We are grateful for another baptism at Central Church on Easter Sunday (when 65 people came to the service!), and for our good support, fellowship and relationship with Pastor Ozawa and his wife. (We had lunch together this week.) I will preach at Central Church on Sunday and once a month for the next few months.

Karen is busy organizing short-term workers coming to Hokkaido for the summer. We, ourselves, will join two prayer teams — one to North East Hokkaido with a Dutch couple who were part of a team three years ago, and another to North West Hokkaido with four younger people from the UK. It is exciting to see how the arrangements for these teams are falling into place!

My eldest son, Stephen and his girlfriend, will visit Hokkaido for three weeks in June (and will renew his re-entry permit so that he can continue to have Japanese Permanent Residence status).

Karen and I are reading together each morning Paula Gooder's book "This Risen Experience: The Spirit of Easter." It is good to have a book that emphasizes the resurrection of Jesus — taking us from the resurrection through to Pentecost. (There are any number of books for Lent...)

It is four and a half years since I had an operation for melanoma and my skin doctor has (finally!) given me the "all-clear" so I can stop the regular CT scans.

We pray for you as well and can remember with joy the time we spent with you.

With joy in Him,

Dale & Karen



**A Congregation of the Uniting
Presbyterian Church in Southern
Africa**

459 Lovers Walk • Lynnwood • Pretoria
Tel: (012) 348 9469 • Fax: 086 461 3810
e-mail: admin@trinity.org.za

www.trinity.org.za



@TrinityPresbyterianChurchLynnwood



@trinitypresbychurchlynnwood