



# CHRISTCHURCH

waterkloof

Dear friends

I thank God for your partnership in the Gospel as you continue to pray for our ministry here in the rapidly developing eastern edge of Somerset West.

## Waterkloof family life

At Christ Church Waterkloof we speak about and identify ourselves as a “Redeemed Family of Servants on Mission.” Christ’s death and resurrection have made this identity possible.

In Christ’s death, we were **redeemed**. The price was paid for our sins to bring us back to God our Father. We are now His children.

As God’s children, we are united together as a **family**. We are brothers and sisters in Christ and this unity is lived out in the everyday stuff of life.

As we live life together we seek to be **servants**. Serving each other and the world around us as a picture of how Christ extravagantly served us.

And as this redeemed family of servants, we have been given a glorious **mission** - “Make disciples of all nations!” Our great desire is to see more and more people come to know and love Jesus as saviour, Lord, and King.

It continues to be a great joy to see these different aspects of our identity playing out in the lives of those who are a part of the CCW family.

We have had a full and busy first few months of 2017. We continue to stand amazed at how God can use a small, ordinary group of sinners to be a part of his extraordinary work.

I know that numbers are not everything, but recently I was reminded of Acts 28:28 where Paul says that as the message of God’s salvation goes to the nations “they will listen!” Our Holy God calls us to have a Holy optimism that as we speak His truth his Spirit will open people’s ears to hear.

It is encouraging to report that we are seeing more people listening to God’s good news and over the last few months we have broken the 100 people threshold on a number of occasions. This has meant a rearrangement in the way we set up for our Sunday gatherings. At times it feels like we are constantly managing little changes, which is a good ‘problem’ to have.

As we grow numerically we obviously want to make sure that all who call CCW their spiritual home will keep growing in maturity. Please continue to pray that in our preaching we will keep using God’s Word to teach, rebuke, correct and train in righteousness. Pray too that many of our newer folk will get stuck into one of our missional communities.



## Missional Communities

We have six missional communities taking place every week, as well as a mom’s group, youth group, and kid’s club.

These groups are where we best live out our identity as a Redeemed Family of Servants on Mission together. Pray that as these groups more specifically apply God’s Word in their different contexts that they will be increasingly effective at taking the Gospel out to the world around them.

Our newest Missional Community in the Strand area has been very encouraging. This group is being led by Masimba and Fundi Yuba. There are people from Malawi, Zimbabwe and even a few South Africans who call this group ‘family.’ It is wonderful to see how the Gospel unites people from different tribes and tongues. Pray that they would have a growing Gospel impact in the Strand area. Pray too for Masimba who has had a recent scare with his health. The doctors are still trying to figure out exactly what the problem is but they suspect that it is an infection that has caused an inflammation in the heart muscle. Pray that he will get back to full strength soon so that he can continue serving, as well as continue with his studies in his final year at George Whitefield college.

Dan and Julie van Heerden who have been co-leading one of our Missional Communities are, unfortunately, having to move back to the USA in May. They will be greatly missed by our CCW family as they have had a great impact on many of us in various ways. Their wisdom, leadership and counselling skills will be greatly missed, but mostly we will miss their friendship. It is always hard when family members move away but we are thankful that in Christ we have a bond that can never be broken.

## Preaching

Since the beginning of this year, I have been preaching through Paul's first letter to Timothy. This book has been massively challenging to us as a church to keep fighting the good fight of the faith.

Because, "God our Saviour wants all kinds of people to be saved" (1 Tim. 2:3-4), as His children so should we. It is vital that we guard the truth so that we will have something to offer to the world around us. Pray that the truths we have looked at as a church will continue to impact us in the years that lie ahead.

Over the next few weeks, I won't be preaching as I'm hoping to get on top of a few admin areas that need to be sorted out before we can become a constituent church at the REACH-SA synod in September. Please pray that I will be able to get all the necessary work done.

One of our George Whitefield College students, Andre, will, God-willing, be preaching on some of the next few Sunday's. Pray for him as he prepares to preach, as well as for his studies during this final year of his BTh degree.

## Easter

The recent Easter weekend was full and blessed. On the Thursday evening, we had a formal dinner, the only formal event on the CCW calendar, where we looked at the events of the Easter week at different points throughout the evening. We had almost 120 people with us enjoying the lamb on a spit, but most importantly rejoicing in all that the events of that first Easter weekend secured for us.

Also on the weekend, we had a wonderful outdoor Good Friday service, our annual Easter egg hunt in the park on the Saturday, and Easter Carol's by candlelight on Easter Sunday. Please pray for the visitors who joined these different events. Pray that the true meaning of Easter would continue to impact their hearts and lives and pray that those who have not yet been saved by Jesus might soon surrender their lives to Him.

## On a personal note

As a family, this has also been a year of change. We have embarked on a homeschooling journey. It has been a great journey so far. Please pray for Adele as she shoulders the bulk of the homeschooling weight – pray for strength, patience, creativity and gentleness as she shapes and moulds our kids.

Pray too for me, as I lead my home and as I lead the work at CCW. I am well aware of the charge that I need to watch both my LIFE and DOCTRINE closely. Pray that God our Saviour will keep strengthening me to serve Him for His glory.

Love David, Adele, Hannah, Nathan, James, Sarah and the Waterkloof family

