

Maseru United Church Monthly News

Maseru United Church

February, 2009

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Focus Your Eyes on God — Be Ready for His Coming

Luke 21: 29-37 "Then Jesus told this story: 'Look at the fig tree and all the other trees. When their leaves appear, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that God's kingdom is near. . . Be careful not to spend you time feasting, drinking, or worrying about worldly things. If you do, that day might come on you suddenly, like a trap on all people on earth. So be ready all the time. Pray that you . . . will be able to stand before the Son of Man.'"

The coming of God's Son is the real hope of the believers. . .The early Christians constantly looked forward to it. The Church in its first love waited for its Lord, How often too Jesus Himself and His apostles admonished us to wait for His coming and to hasten to meet Him! The return of the Lord is not a theme with which certain specialists occupy themselves, but it is the great theme of Scripture and it must also become ours. We are all deeply aware of the fact that our congregations need a spiritual renewal. "How can this take place?" I asked a missionary. "When the hope of the Lord's return becomes living in our congre-

gations," he answered. . .

Think of a congregation of three hundred in which there were thirty who really were waiting for the Lord. What holiness and what light these could give to a congregation! John says, "Everyone that hath this hope set on him purifieth himself even as he is pure." He that does not have this hope, does not cleanse himself. Those who are really waiting need not be exhorted to cleanse themselves; they do it without outward prompting. They do not need to be urged to press forward, to deny themselves, to humble themselves; they just naturally strive to be like the Lamb. . . As long as we do not have this Hope, we are really without home; and the state of such persons is known to us all. . .

Hitherto many of us have been like the brother who once said: "for many years I have known that I was converted, but I did not know for what purpose. I have long known that I was sealed with the Holy Spirit, but not to what end. But I understood it when I Thessalonians 1: 9-10 and Ephesians 4:30 became clear to me: we are converted to serve the true and living God, and to wait for His Son from Heaven."



"The Church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord."

Exodus 1

The children of Israel suffer in Egypt.

INSIGHT

God's control over the world need never be questioned. God intended to bring Israel back into the Promised Land. He had spoken it, and He would do it. When that seemed least likely, it was closest to happening. In the dark hour of Israel's enslavement, God was working to deliver them-through the birth and miraculous preservation of Moses. Before Moses would die, Israel would be back on the doorstep of the land which had been promised to them. To many today, the fulfillment of God's promises seems unlikely. Christ's return may be scoffed at, but God has spoken it, and God will do it. **The day is drawing nearer. We must watch - and be ready.**

PRAYER

In the words of this psalm, praise the God of the impossible:

When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, .Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice (Psalm 63:6-7).

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Question from Kids:

Did the Bible stories really happen , or are they like fairy tales?

Answer:

"All these events happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us, who live at the time when this age is drawing to a close." I Corinthians 10:11



GETTING TO KNOW YOU Florence Mangeni

Florence Mangeni is a gentle, quiet somebody with a big heart for young children.

Born in eastern Uganda in the town of Mbale, she was the 4th of 10 children in her family. Many aunts, uncles and cousins were in and out of their parents' farm home as well. There were often as many as 35 people eating and sleeping at their house. This meant lots of chores, including looking after the many younger children. Because of babysitting her younger cousins and siblings she developed a passion for carrying and caring for young children, and hoped, someday to become a teacher. She was raised in a Christian home. While the nearest church was very far away, they would still go regularly, when their dad was home from Kampala with the car. Florence's dad was very devout and gave a

piece of his land to the church. His large extended family and his farm workers were all active in fundraising for building the church. St. Andrews Anglican church is now a large, active congregation. Florence learned about the Lord Jesus throughout her growing up years, but really met Him in high school through a teacher's home Bible study and a Christian club which met after school.

Florence studied and became a teacher. She married an engineer working for Uganda Airlines and they had three sons. With her husband traveling so much, they began to have difficulties in their marriage. For a time he would not support his family. She came to Lesotho in 1993 and worked as a preschool teacher at Unity English Medium. She enjoyed working with the young children so much, but the curriculum was very rigid and there was no Bible taught to the children. In 1998, she jointly taught and ran a preschool at the Maseru

Club. There she was able to develop her own curriculum (which included Bible stories and spiritual instruction) and use her knowledge of teaching methods for very young children. When they raised the rent more than 100% she was forced to look elsewhere for a place for a school. She opened Trinity Preschool at MUC in 2002. From just one or two students, the school has grown to stretch the capacity of the small Sunday School room she rents upstairs above the pastor's office. She has earned a reputation for providing loving, high quality, spiritual and academically sound education for preschool children – and she is having to turn families away now. She so appreciates being in ministry together with MUC (her church home since 1993) and looks forward to strengthening the spiritual outreach to the little ones in our community and their parents. She believes in the power of prayer. It is prayer and hard work, that has seen her through many family and financial crises. But God has seen her through all the ups and downs. Her eyes are on Him.

DEVOTIONAL—A Daily Prayer: Even So, Come, Lord Jesus (A.W. Tozer)

The People of God ought to be the happiest people in all the wide world!

Fellow Christian, consider the source of our joy and delight: redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, our yesterdays behind us, our sin under the blood forever and a day, to be remembered against us no more forever!

God is our Father, Christ is our Brother, the Holy Spirit our Advocate and Comforter!

Our Brother has gone to the Father's house to prepare a place for us, leaving with us the promise that He will come

again!

Don't send Moses, Lord, don't send Moses! He broke the tables of stone. Don't send Elijah for me, Lord! I am afraid of Elijah — he called down fire from heaven. Don't send Paul, Lord! He is so learned that I feel like a little child when I read his epistles.

O Lord Jesus, come yourself! I am not afraid of you. You took the little children as lambs to your fold. You forgave the woman taken in adultery. You healed the timid woman who reached out in the crowd to touch You. We are not

afraid of You!

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
Come quickly!

"He who testifies to these things says, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
Revelation 22:20

CLASSIFIED Ads

1. An MUC family is urgently looking for a 3-4 bedroom accommodation in a secure area in Maseru. If you have some ideas please contact Mr. Vipya Harawa 59147438 (cell) or +27-824338710 (SACell) or +27-519245551 (H)



2. **MUC Centennial Calendars** are available at the back of the church following each service. Please ask an usher if you don't see them. They cost M40 each, and the proceeds will go into the new capital campaign for church improvements. Thank you for supporting this small fundraising effort.



“Heart to Heart” — Reflections from the Interim Pastor

On the first Sunday of 2009, we reflected on Joshua, chapter one. Moses, the great leader of Israel, has died. When the man of God dies, the purposes and plans of God still continue. It is now Joshua who stands in the place of Moses. Moses led Israel out of Egypt. Joshua's challenge was to lead them into Canaan, to take possession of the Promised Land. We find in this book the story of God's people as they cope with a very different way of life. They were familiar with “pillar and clouds”, ready to move their tent from one place to another in the wilderness. But now they have to occupy towns and villages and adopt a far more settled existence. Our Christian life also can be like this. God wants us to be thrilled with his love, deliverance and power revealed to us in Jesus' death on the cross for our sins and in his resurrection. But like the people of God under Joshua, God also wants us to press on, to discover his purposes for our lives and to learn to live them out. Often, we may feel overwhelmed, as they did. But the book of Joshua teaches us that despite these daunting challenges, God will continue to equip and sustain us to grow through such a period in life, pressing on and tackling them. What a wonderful Savior we have!

I believe, the secret is to begin! Begin! What an important word it is. Often, we dream about doing something. Perhaps spending time in prayer, reading the Bible, getting the bedroom cleaned up, catching up with the laundry etc. Then there is this habit we want to break in this New Year 2009. It is very easy to dream about it. Isn't it? It's a lot harder to do something about it. All we have to do is to “begin”. Begin. Don't look at the whole task and get discouraged. Just start. Start praying – don't just keep on attending seminars about prayers and keep on reading books about prayer. Just start. Even if it means a few seconds. It is amazing what happens when we begin. You will be amazed at what you accomplish. Just begin sharing Christ with someone. Just begin attending a church prayer meeting. Just begin attending Men's /Ladies breakfast at the church. Begin to share generously your finances, talents and time. Begin to tithe as the Lord leads. Begin reading a book. Just begin doing some exercise to keep your body fit. Just begin tackling your habits of laziness, procrastination, eating too much, not being punctual, not keeping our word, not asking Jesus to forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness, to be your Lord and savior. Do it today. Don't procrastinate. Don't delay it. Just begin to do it. What about that mountain that grows big before you? That lingering problem you cannot face. Take a step to go after it by

the grace of God. Everything happens with that first step, however tiny, insignificant it may look. As someone rightly said, “a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step outside the house”. I challenge us all to begin to get out of our comfort zones this year. Begin to take that first step, to get to know someone. To visit someone whom you don't know that well in the church. Go for it! Just begin and see what God can accomplish through your decision to begin. When God begins to use you, then take that step to share that in the church and in our monthly new letter. Let us begin.

In Deuteronomy. 2:24, 25 God says “*Set out now and cross the Arnon Gorge. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, King of Heshbon and his country. BEGIN to take possession of it and engage him in battle. This very day I will BEGIN to put the terror and fear of you on all nations under heaven.*”. What a great promise to us today. When we “begin” God will “begin” to honor those little steps, making them more significant in his sight. He is a promise keeping God. Wow!

God told the children of Israel to begin to possess the land. They faced giants, fortified cities and high walls, but they began. They took the step of faith. We have to follow them. We too have to go beyond our normal routine. We too have to get out of our comfort zones. In Exodus 23:29-30- God says “*But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land will become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. LITTLE BY LITTLE, I will drive them out before you until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.*” The challenge is to begin. When we begin well, half the job is done. Just begin, and then tackle the task, the vision or that giant problem, LITTLE BY LITTLE. Little by little, God will enable you to finish the task. Little by little we shall overcome. I am reminded of that poem – *It Can Be Done*, by Edgar Guest. It says “Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you'll never do that; At least no one ever has done it!” But he took off his coat and he took off his hat, And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.”

Once you begin, don't stop until you conquer and win the victory as God gives you strength. It may be hard work. We will face battles. But remember, God says “*Begin to possess it and engage in battle.*” The children of Israel did not win any victories without first fighting a battle. But the final victory starts with that tiny verb “BEGIN.” May God help us to begin, to take that first step as He

leads and empowers us as the Church this year. Remember, our God is a God of new beginnings. It is the season of new beginnings at MUC.

May God bless you and your families.

Have a great and wonderful month .

I will be praying for you.

NEWS and NOTES

- 1. Ladies' Breakfast:** please mark your calendars for **February 7 at 8:00 a.m.** for a time of fellowship and worship.
- Immediately following the Ladies' Breakfast will be the **Leadership Seminar at 10:00 a.m.** This is for all ministry team leaders and home cell group leaders — to promote better coordination around the vision of the church. Please come. Your participation is vital to setting the direction of the Church's ministries in 2009.
- We are looking for people to commit themselves to **mentor our youth**, including having home Bible studies. Please contact 'Me Fungai Shava (63058650), elder for Discipleship, if you are interested.
- We still need someone to **coordinate the Home Cell Group ministry**. Please listen carefully for God's call in this regard. Also, the Interim Pastor needs volunteers to join him on home visits. Please contact Dr. Prithi at 63097068
- The **Men's Retreat** is being organized for March 13-15 at Moederpoort. Take time out from the “rat race” for study, fellowship, discussion and worship. Please contact Henry Ababio at 62772953 if you are interested.



MUC Calendar—February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sermon: “The Marks of Community” - Mike Kruger Worship leader: Brad Westom	2 1:00 Women in Evangelism prayer meeting with Mike Kruger 6:00 Elders+ Deacons Supper fellowship at ‘M’e Victo-	3 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall = “Focus on the Family” theme 5:30 AA/AIAnon	4 4:30 Soup Kitchen—Kim Shumlansky	5	6 1:00 Women in Evangelism lunchtime prayer meeting with Mike Kruger	7 8:00 Ladies’ Breakfast Fellowship 10:00—4:00 LEADERSHIP SEMINAR 1:00 AA/AIAnon
8 Sermon: “Community, Magnified and Multiplied” Mike Kruger Worship leader: Delrine	9 5-6 p.m. MUC prayer meeting to pray for MUC families	10 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall— Focus on the Family 5:30 AA/AIAnon	11 4:30 Soup Kitchen—Nancy Dimmock	12	13	14 1:00 AA/AIAnon
15 Sermon: “Are we still growing?” - Dr. Prithi Worship leader: Brad	16	17 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall: focus on the family 5:30 AA/AIAnon 6:00 Council Mtg.	18 4:30 Soup Kitchen— Lemohang Sekamane 6-7 p.m. Sweet hour of Prayer	19	20	21 7:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast 9:30 Workday (Men stay and join. We need you!) 1:00 AA/AIAnon
22 Sermon: Family Service Worship leader: Bart Vanderplaetse	23	24 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall: focus on the family. 5:30 AA/AIAnon	25 4:30 Soup Kitchen— Constance Ateka 5:30 Material Aid committee mtg. at church	26	27	28 1:00 AA/AIAnon 5:00 p.m. Meet at church following day of Prayer and Fasting.
March 1 Sermon: Begin series on “Purpose Driven Life”	2	3 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall. 5:30 AA/AIAnon	4 4:30 Soup Kitchen — Emilia Sikaundi	5	6	7

HIGHLIGHTS from the AGM—by Edith Anozie, MUC Secretary

The AGM was held at MUC sanctuary after the church service on 25th of January 2009.

1. **Report from the chairperson council of elders and deacons:** The chairperson noted that the church is engaged in the empowerment of the communities through various donations to orphanages, funeral, prisons and less privileged, and also through farm projects and scholarships. Members of the congregation volunteered to donate blood during the December festive season when there was a blood shortage at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital. Mike Kruger who is an MUC friend and co worker in the Lord's vineyard, will be starting a farm project to help the needy in the community.

2. **Reports from various ministries were read and the following suggestions were given.**

Material Aid : The parents of children on MUC scholarships should be involved to enable the children to develop a proper attitude of respect to their parents and to the church. The benefactors should also be fed spiritually. They should be taught to be tomorrow's giver. The criteria for scholarships should emphasize those that are bright at school. The Mentorship program should be reinstated for these children as well as the youths of the church.

3. **Financial report:** The financial report indicates that new capital projects like developing the "House of Prayer", toilet extension, church renovation, and church fencing can only be done through fund raising — because the church is not in a healthy financial state. It was suggested that tithing should be encouraged and weekly offerings should be announced to encourage members to give. Planned giving should be revived and the money should be separated from the offering. The AGM approved the transfer of M300,000 into a 6 months central bank treasury bill. The AGM approved operating expenditure of 788,096.00 from which 443,146.00 will be used to fund pastoral upkeep, while 344,950.00 will be for operating expenditure. The AGM agreed to support the fundraising of 340,000 for capital expenditure. The selection of candidates for the future full-time MUC pastor has been narrowed to 3 people. This means that MUC may have a new pastor soon.

About Alcoholic Anonymous ---- by Neville Khabanyane

Who we are

We in A.A. are men and women who have discovered, and admitted, that we cannot control alcohol. We have learned that we must live without it if we are to avoid disaster for ourselves and those close to us.

With local groups in thousands of communities, we are part of an informal international fellowship, which now has members in 146 countries. We have but one primary purpose: to stay sober ourselves and to help others who may turn to us for help in achieving sobriety. We are not reformers, and we are not allied with any group, cause or religious denomination. We have no wish to dry up the world. We do not recruit new members, but do welcome them. We do not impose our experience with problem drinking on others, but we do share it when we are asked to do so. Within our membership may be found men and women of all ages and many different social, economic and cultural backgrounds. Some of us drank for many years before coming to realization that we cannot handle alcohol. Others were fortunate enough to appreciate, early in life or in their drinking careers, that alcohol had become unmanageable. We have come to a point where we realized that we could not live without alcohol. Through A.A we have learned a number of things about alcoholism and about ourselves. We try to keep these facts fresh in our thinking at all times, because they seem to be the key to our sobriety. For us, sobriety must always come first. MUC has kindly opened its doors to us. We meet twice a week: Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. Thank you, MUC, for sharing in this important ministry.

Please Pray for LIFE MINISTRY 's Mission Project Rwanda—Allan Koki

In March 2008, Campus Crusade for Christ-Southern & Eastern Africa (CCC-SEA) launched the Emerging Leaders Initiative (ELI), a four cycle training program to develop new leaders within CCC-SEA. The first two cycles were held in Pretoria, South Africa. Lesotho is represented by Allan Koki, a missionary from Uganda serving with LIFE Ministry-Lesotho. During the 2nd cycle in September, 2009, a DVD was shown-Stories of Forgiveness from Rwanda. As the group of 25 emerging leaders shared their reflections in response to watching this DVD, it was decided that the third ELI cycle be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 10th – 19th March 2009 followed by a short-term mission project involving students and professionals from across the Southern & Eastern Africa region, hence the birth of **Mission Project Rwanda**. Mission Project Rwanda will be a training and evangelistic thrust to boost the ministry of CCC-Rwanda as it seeks to build spiritual movements everywhere in post-genocide Rwanda. Different segments of society will be reached including, University students, Professionals, Executives (through an outreach Dinner), Family Life Seminars, sports ministry through Athletes in Action, Pastor's meetings and community visits. The In country costs will be M.1, 455 whilst the return air fare is approximately M.21, 051. Prayer is requested for this project that God will use the missionaries to continue the work of healing, reconciliation and restoration in Rwanda. Even though it is 14 years after the genocide that killed close to One million Tutsi's and moderate Hutu's, there is still need to pray for complete reconciliation amongst the two tribes and God to transform Rwanda into the country He wants it to be. Pray that the hearts of people in Rwanda will be open to the life transforming message of Jesus Christ. So far one person (a university student/ professional), Mokhothu Neo has signed up for this project and is in the process of raising mission support for the same. Prayer for him and others across the region that are planning to take part in this mission is highly appreciated. Pray that God will provide for them. For more details on how you can pray or send someone to Mission Project Rwanda, please contact Allan Koki on 58832214.

Maseru United Church

Palace Road
P.O. Box 365
Maseru, 100
LESOTHO
Phone: +266-63097068
E-mail: prithidel@gmail.com

**To God be the Glory, great
things He has done!**

Our vision at Maseru United Church is to grow into a vibrant interdenominational church with a holistic response to the Great Commission (Matt. 28) focusing on transforming the local and expatriate populations in Lesotho and its environs into a Godly, compassionate and caring community, to the glory of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our mission at Maseru United Church is to seek to glorify God and further the expansion of His kingdom by providing facilities and a caring environment for pursuing religious activities aimed at discipling people of all walks of life and bringing many to a deeper knowledge of the saving grace of His Son, in conformity with our vision.

From the Word — Ephesians 4:13-30

And so I (Paul) insist — and God backs me up on this — that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They have refused for so long to deal with God that they have lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to very sort of perversion.

But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything — and I do mean everything— connected with that old way of life has to go. It is rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life — a God-fashioned life, and life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry — but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

Did you used to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work.

Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.

Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

(from: The Message)

