

Maseru United Church Monthly News

Maseru United Church

November, 2008

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"Built on the Rock, the Church does stand."

"Submitting to God's Purpose"

"I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some:

(1 Corinthians 9:22).

A Christian worker has to learn how to be God's man or woman of great worth and excellence in the midst of a multitude of meager and worthless things. Never protest by saying, "If only I were somewhere else!" All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them. Unless we have the right purpose intellectually in our minds and lovingly in our hearts, we will very quickly be diverted from being useful to God. We are not workers for God's choice. Many people deliberately choose to be workers, but they have no purpose of God's almighty grace or His mighty Word in them. Paul's whole heart,

mind, and soul were consumed with the great purpose of what Jesus Christ came to do, and he never lost sight of that one thing. We must continually confront ourselves with one central fact — ". . . Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2) .

"I chose you. . ." (John 15:16. Keep these words as a wonderful reminder in your theology. It is not that you have gotten God, but that He has gotten you. God is at work bending, breaking molding, and doing exactly as He chooses. And why is He doing it? He is doing it for only one purpose — that He may be able to say, "This is My man, and this is My woman." We have to be in God's hand so that he can place others on the Rock, Jesus Christ, just as He has placed us.

Never choose to be a worker, but once God has placed His call upon you, woe be to you if you "turn aside. . . to the right or the left. . ." (Deuteronomy 28:14). He will do with you what He never did before His call came to you, and He will do with you what He is not doing with other people. Let Him have His way.

(from My Utmost for His Highest, by Oswald Chambers)

Letter from the Editor:

Dear Friends,

The green color font in this newsletter is called "rain". I used it with the intent of asking for concerted prayer that rain would soon fall on our dry, parched land. But the Lord answered the prayers of thousands, on the evening of October 26 (before this went to press). May the rains continue and facilitate a good harvest. And let's not neglect our responsibilities in the spiritual realm to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways — so necessary to hear from God and receive healing.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Sincerely yours, Nancy Dimmock

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Special Point of Interest:

Did you know that the Lesotho Evangelical Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year? French Protestant missionary, Eugene Cassalis, was sent by God and welcomed by Moshoeshoe I in 1833. Prayers and speeches were held at Thaba Bosiu and Morija. And 7,000 were served communion at a midnight service at the Morija Pitso grounds. To God be the Glory!

WELCOME TO NEW COVENANT MEMBERS!

The following 12 New members were given certificates and the right hand of fellowship on October 12, 2008. We look forward to their active involvement in the life of the church.

Jeroen Oostenbrink—“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

August Oostenbrink — “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you.” Acts 18:9-10

Lawrence Anozie — “For the Lord God moves about in your camp to protect you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.” Deu-

teronomy 23:14

Edith Anozie — “Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10

Bart Vanderplaetse — “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10

Lieve Vanderplaetse — “For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.” Deuteronomy 20:4

Jethro Dube — “All your sons will be taught by the Lord and great will be your children’s peace.” Isaiah 54:13

Doris Dube—“Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, have I set my face like a flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.”

Isaiah 50:7

Mellisa Jakola — “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers I will not sweep over you. For you are honoured in my eyes and I love you.” Isaiah 43:2-4

Loida Castro — “Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell!” Psalm 43:3

Seithai Mable Mokhomo — “Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it unto completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

Dhang Rabino — “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with the power of his spirit in your inner being.” Ephesians 3:16

DEVOTIONAL—Live for Christ? Then Die with Him First (E.W. Tozer)

Do you realize that many, many persons now take it for granted that it is possible to live for Christ without first having died with Christ? This is a serious error and we dare not leave it unchallenged!

The victorious Christian has known two lives. The first was his life in Adam which was motivated by the carnal mind and can never please God in any way. It can never be converted; it can only die (Rom. 8:5-8)

The second life of the Christian is his new life in Christ (Rom. 6:1-14). To live a Christian life with the life of Adam is wholly impossible. Yet multitudes take for granted that it can be

done and go on year after year in defeat. Worst of all, they accept this half-dead condition as normal!

Another aspect of this attitude is the effort of many to do spiritual work without spiritual power. David Brainerd once compared a man without the power of the Spirit of God trying to do spiritual work to a workman without fingers attempting to do manual labor. The figure is striking but it does not overstate the facts.

The Holy Spirit is not a luxury meant to make deluxe Christians, as an illuminated frontispiece and a leather binding makes a deluxe book.

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.”
Romans 6:8

The Spirit is an imperative necessity. Only the Eternal Spirit can do eternal deeds!

CLASSIFIED Ads

1. ‘Samson’, a 7 year-old Maltese is in need of a new home. Please call the Peters at +266 22316216 for more information.



2. A 2002 Landcruiser GX diesel is available for sale. It is in excellent condition with lots of extras, going for M285,000 duty paid/M265,000 duty free. If interested, contact Frank Dimmock 58566990.

“Heart to Heart” — Reflections from the Interim Pastor

NEWS and NOTES

We just finished another MUC Family Retreat. I salute the Family Care Team members who tirelessly and sacrificially worked towards planning and executing this retreat. We reflected on themes such as “How to receive and give grace to one another”, “The Importance of forgiveness”. These themes regarding how we are to relate to one another in the body of Christ are the same ones we are exploring together from the pulpit ministry of the church these days.

For many of us, a retreat is a spiritual high that quickly disappears when we reenter the world of routine and mundane work and relationships. Within a week or two the new energy and the Christian perspectives gained during the retreat seem very far away and unrealistic. We don't want that to happen to us. The relationship we have with God is too important and crucial for us to let it happen. We are also aware that the Christian life is not something that is meant to be lived just a few days a year in Moderpoort in a special quiet setting. Jesus calls us to a total way of life, to be lived on a daily basis in this hurting and fragmented world. Reentry into such a world can often be very painful and exhausting. A couple of reflections might be helpful:

1. We cannot maintain ourselves at our present level of feelings and excitement all the time. Accepting this disappointing fact is the key to peace and serenity. Retreat is a privileged time in which God encounters us in a special way. The lights go on for a moment. Then we return to our ordinary living, which is walking by faith, and not by sight- 2 Cor 5:7 Remember the parallel in the transfiguration experience Jesus and his disciples had on the mountain – Mark 9. So great were the experience that the disciples wanted to build tents and stay right there. However Jesus led them down the mountain to face the crowd of needy and broken people.

2. It may be a while before we see the effects of the retreat. Don't expect instant miracles. We all change slowly and gradually even though we would like to change quickly. Old habits die slowly. There will be failure while the process of growth takes place within us. So let us not get discouraged.

3. We all need support. Home cell groups can be a good place to keep the retreat ideals alive and growing. It is my desire for the new covenant members to be part of the existing small groups in the church or to start new

groups where ever they come from. I do sense the need to link these groups with the life of the church. I would like to receive more input from the cell groups in order to strengthen the pulpit ministry of the church. Ramahooana has agreed to help us coordinate the small groups within the church to be more focused and connected to the church life. Let us remember him in our prayers. We hope to organize a seminar, on “how to lead a cell group” for all those who would like to provide leadership. My prayer is that the new covenant members will rise up to the challenges within the church. While we are working towards that end, let me encourage you to meet regularly to keep the spirit of the retreat alive. Let us have regular quiet times with God in the midst of our busyness. Let us hold one another accountable towards developing and maintaining important spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting and consistent Bible studies.

Let me also suggest some action points to make your retreat last:

Choose one important insight you gained during the retreat and bring it back to mind during your time with God or when you get up or on your way to work or before you go to sleep

Decide on just one change you are going to make in your life. Pick just one thing and begin.

Expect God to continue to speak to you.

Resolve to attend the MUC Family Retreat every year for annual encouragement. You can ask any family care team members to find out the days for the next retreat and block it in your diary.

In the mean time let us continue to commit ourselves to relate to one another in the body of Christ in the way Christ wants us to relate. Let us pray, encourage and support all the ministry teams and the leaders within the church to be led by God to minister Life to all people. Pray for the pulpit ministry as it continues the theme of “How do we relate to each other in the body of Christ?”.

As William Carey said “Let us expect great things from God and attempt great things for God. Let us learn to do that on our knees.

1. **MUC FAMILY FUN DAY** in celebration of 100 years of ministry will be held on **Saturday, November 8**. It will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a PRAYER WALK through the city. At 10:00 we will return to our venue (still to be determined) and have organized games for both adults and children. Then a short formal program will include awards given to the 4 children whose logo designs were combined into a great celebration LOGO, followed by brief speeches about MUC's history and where we go from here. Then comes the FOOD. Meat will be provided by the church. Please bring dishes and cool drink to share. Following lunch there will be entertainment, including a “live mike” for the children to make dedications, etc. It should be a LOT of fun!! Hope to see you there. (P.S. Great T-shirts with the logo on it, will be on sale for M30.)

2. The **Ladies' Fellowship Breakfast** will be held in the Hall on November 8th at 8:00 a.m. Please come and enjoy the delicious breakfast, the teaching and the fellowship. All ladies are welcome.

3. There will be a **Prayer and Fasting workshop** starting at 9:00 a.m. on November 15 at the Church Hall. Please come prepared to learn and be encouraged in this important aspect of spiritual warfare and welfare! Our regular evening of Prayer and Fasting for the church will be the last Saturday in November at 5:00 p.m.

4. This month's **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** is on November 22 at 8:00 a.m. at the Pastor's house (across from the American Embassy) on Half Moon Road. They are currently being challenged by the booklet, The Tyranny of the Urgent. Come and join the discussion!

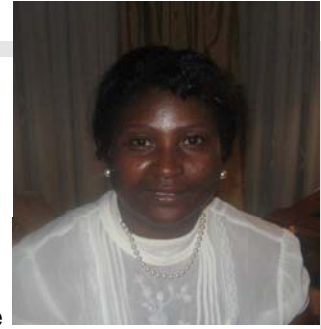
5. **ATTENTION:** While it is understood that we are both a culturally diverse and an economically diverse congregation, it is still NOT appropriate to beg from each other. If you have a financial need (such as rent or food), please make your need known to the Material Aid Committee of the church (Neville Khambanyane is the chairman). And if someone asks you for help, please direct them to Neville, while directing your giving through the church. This is treating one another with mutual respect.

MUC Calendar — November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Sermon: "God's Multi-cultural Church—Romans 15:7-13	3	4 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall. 5:30 AA/AIAnon	5 5:00 Soup Kitchen—'M'e Lemohang	6	7	8 Ladies Breakfast 8:00 a.m. in the MUC hall. MUC FAMILY FUN DAY from 9:00 a.m
9 Sermon: Encouragement Important Mtg: ministry team leaders + cell group leaders	10	11 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall. 5:30 AA/AIAnon	12 5:00 Soup Kitchen—Stephanie Greathead	13	14	15 9:00—1:00 Prayer and Fasting Workshop 1:00 AA/AIAnon
16 Sermon: Generosity	17	18 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall. 5:30 AA/AIAnon 6:00 MUC Council Mtg. at John Matolosa's house.	19 5:00 Soup Kitchen—Dhang Rabino	20	21	22 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast at the Manse. 1:00 AA/AIAnon
23 Sermon: Inspiration	24	25 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall. 5:30 AA/AIAnon	26 5:00 Soup Kitchen—Tello Potjiri 5:30 Material Aid Committee Mtg.	27	28	29 1:00 AA/AIAnon 5:00 p.m. Regular prayer meeting at church
30 Sermon: Servant Leadership	December 1	2 1:00 Lunchtime fasting + prayer in the Hall. 5:30 AA/AIAnon	3 5:00 Soup Kitchen—Emillia Sikaundi	4	5	6 .

Getting to Know You—Victoria Diarra

Victoria Diarra was born in 1958 in the Gambia. Her early years were split between her mother's family and her father's family. Her earliest years were spent in the rural area with her mom's family. Her mother's father was a "circuit riding preacher" in the Methodist tradition. She remembers the household routine of early morning Bible reading and prayer followed by sweeping, eating and getting ready for school. She then spent two years in Banjul, the capital, with her paternal grandmother, but returned to her mom in the rural area for primary school.



She went back to the city for high school, sharing a house with an elder brother and being looked after by various aunts and uncles. She got involved in the Junior and Senior "guilds" of the Methodist church, learning the teachings of Jesus and the doctrines of the church. Her dad was sent to England on a diplomatic mission when she was 12 and she accompanied him. She did two and half years of high school in England, then returned to Banjul to complete her O levels.

She married at the age of 19. After marriage she remained involved in the Methodist church, becoming a Steward and joining the Women's Auxiliary. She and her husband had 4 daughters. She began training in statistics and moved upward in both her career and her training. Victoria started with a degree in demographic statistics. She found herself in demand and moved up to becoming a senior statistician in the government of the Gambia. She later completed a Masters degree in Social Sciences with an emphasis in Statistics. She came to Lesotho in 2002 as a UN Volunteer. She served in that capacity for 5 years.

In 2007 she was asked to join a project under UNDP. She agreed, but discovered that the paperwork for such a transfer was very complicated. She worked for 8 months without a salary, and found her faith stretched to its limit. She looks back now and sees God's tender faithfulness and great growth in her own spirit, and would not trade the experience for the world. Here is the story of that time, in her own words:

My walk with God

The presence of God in my life; It has been more than I ever expected, beyond my imagination. I know that He loves me I am sure of this, he showed me so.

I am convinced that God brought me to Lesotho to build my relationship with Him. His hand has been on my head with loving care since I arrived to this day. Many times when things don't go the way my human mind expects I feel like throwing in the towel, then He manifests Himself and puts me straight (believe me, it is not always easy).

I can see his love as I look back. He is always there at the right time. He provides me with the right gifts and blessings at the right time. During the eight months that I had been in Lesotho without a salary (January to August 2008) He allowed me to take up my responsibilities, He made it possible for me to attend the one year anniversary of my mother's death; visit my children some of whom I had last seen in 2001. He showed me that I did not need a contract or salary to get shelter, food or participate in the daily activities that I usually do (He who feeds the raven...).

During these trying times he sent me verses and people who prayed with me. He told me that He is my portion. In Isaiah 41: 8 - 16 God assures Israel of His help, and I knew it was an assurance for me as well.

Throughout my walk with Him, I have been asking for the virtues of a Christian; patience, not to be quick to anger; not to participate in gossip and many more. Some days I manage to do pretty well, and other days it goes haywire. Still He comes and lifts me up and says "in your weakness I am made strong". I am still learning that as long as I am alive His promise is that he will never leave me nor forsake me. That is all I need.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

Mission statement: Sunday School at MUC

Why do we need a mission-statement?

- it creates **unity** (1Cor 1:10)
- it shows **guidance** (Prov. 29:18)
- it helps the team to reach the **goal** (1 Cor 9:26)
- it helps to blow away doubt and to stay **objective** (James 1:7and 8)
- it helps to see where your **time** needs to go to. (Isaiah 49:4)
- it helps the team to **focus on God** (Prov. 19:21)
- it helps to **reorganize** if needed (Luc 5:36, 37)
- it helps to built a good **spirit** in the team (Phillip. 1:27)
- It allows us to measure **development**.

Aspects that are involved in the children's ministry:

Love: Love through Christ, love for each other and love as part of teaching

Serving: Why do you teach, what do you want to accomplish and do you want to serve really?

Praying: Do we pray together, for the kids, in church; do we teach the kids how to pray?

Evangelism: Do we reach out?

Discipleship: Whose disciple are you; kids need to learn to follow Jesus.

Our Purpose, Mission and Values

Purpose: (Why?)

To build a children's ministry in Maseru United Church that enables children to discover God's Word, to learn about His love and to share this love with other children and families. They need to know the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, (According to 2 Timothy 3: 14 and 15) so that they will be formed as disciples who knows their spiritual gifts and practice them in their everyday lives.

Mission: (What are we going to do?)

The teachers of Sunday School want to serve the children of this congregation by teaching God's Word and helping the children understand their purpose in His world.

Values:

We value **teamwork** and through a **servicing** team we want the children to be **loved** unconditionally.

We value **prayer** and trough praying we want the children to learn to pray and to be prayed for by the church and by the team.

Kidz-News

The kids of Maseru United Church are very happy to have such great Teachers for Sunday school; we are doing a lot of good stuff!

This term the teachings will be about:

Jesus Heals (Mark, Luke and Psalms)

God's call and promise (Genesis)

God comes to His people (Luke and Matthew)

We are more a part of MUC now because we can take part every 3rd Sunday of the month, it makes us feel valuable in the church to show our parents and the congregation a part of what we have learned, thank you for listening to us!

The 7th of December will be a very exiting day in the history of MUC, please keep that Sunday open for our Christmas play, soon we will practice a play that has been set up by our assistants, thanks!

We value **evangelism** and through teaching we want the children to be equipped with knowledge and skills to spread the message of life through Christ.

We value **discipleship**, and want the children to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Tools:

- *reading the Bible*
- *praying*
- *Singing*
- *leadership education*
- *stories*
- *drama and role play*
- *crafts*
- *games*
- *discussions*
- *reaching out to others*

Please pray for our ministry to children. And if you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact: Mariecke Haak.

Celebrating our Families: Crafts for kids

Family Place Mats (20-25 minutes)

Materials: Several magazines with a variety of pictures (showing animals, foods, sports, etc.) poster board in a variety of colors, clear self-adhesive paper (laminating sheets), glue sticks, scissors, measuring stick.

Preparations: cut poster board into 9x12 inch (22.5 x 30 cm) mats — two for each child. Cut self-adhesive paper into 10x13 inch (25x32.5 cm) rectangles — four for each child. Look through magazines and tear out appropriate pages.

Procedure:

- Cut out magazine pictures of objects that tell about a family member (such as hobbies, interests, favorite animals, favorite food). Medium-sized pictures work best — 8—12 pictures for each family member.
- Arrange cutouts for the family member on a poster board mat of his or her favorite color. Lightly glue cutouts in place. Cut out letters or write name of family member in marker on the mat.
- With help, if you need it, peel adhesive backing from clear paper and place on front of place mat. Then, peel adhesive backing from second piece of clear paper and place on back of place mat.
- Cut edges of self-adhesive paper as close as possible to edges of place mat.
- At home, place the mat at the place where your chosen family member sits. He or she will love it!

Family Talk: What is your (mom's) favorite color? What is your (dad's) favorite food. Find out! Each member of your family has different likes and dislikes — that's what makes us special! Your place mats can help you remember how each family member is special. Talking at mealtimes is one way of learning about other family members' interests.

***FAMILIES ARE
SPECIAL!!***



GET TO KNOW YOURS!!



Maseru United Church

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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 — Psalm 42



As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

These things I remember as I pour out my soul; how I used to go

with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.

My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon — from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me — a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about morning, oppressed by the enemy?: My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.

(NIV)