

# HEFSIBA NEWSLETTER

from

**Kruger en Antoinette**

**September 2009**

Dear friends,

## **FIGHTING FIT**

We are 'fighting fit' for Hefsiba and His Kingdom. Our 'sabbatical' is at an end and tomorrow we leave our house in Parys to return to Hefsiba. We will definitely miss all the things we have grown accustomed to again like our good friends, family, fresh milk, ice cream, chocolate and chips...and Afrikaans on the radio, rugby and cricket....

Petria has informed us that it is currently very busy at Hefsiba and we would need to take our places without delay. We are so aware of the many demands that campus 'life' has on your life and that we need to take the time for in-depth Bible study and also to take time for ourselves.

## **Suffering & Pain**

Christina Landman wrote a book about suffering and pain which would be worthwhile to read if you battle with suffering in your life. I wrote the following thoughts during the past two month's cancer treatment, which helped me to keep focussed and to fight against depression and hopelessness. I start with a verse from the Bible:

- Ps. 22:25 " Die nood van die hulpelose het Hy nie verontagsaam en gering geskat nie, Hom daarvan nie teruggetrek nie, maar die hulpgeroep na Hom het Hy gehoor"
- Don't put your suffering on 'central stage' while it should actually be a 'side show'!
- Be open for the help and love of others to assist you during this time.
- Speak Life!
- Humour stretches the soul and laughing moves the pain a bit further away. Laugh a lot! Laugh at 5 jokes. Laugh with other people, not for them – and laugh at yourself!
- We always have a choice – we choose to take control of our lives.
- Steer clear of denial. Do a 'reality check' on your heart, on its sufferings; look it in the eye and do something to make it better
- Somewhere between pain and amen meet we God as Healer (Sheila Cussons)

- In suffering, one should not ask what is the reason for the suffering, rather what meaning can you give to the suffering - Daniël Louw
- One should not ask 'Why do I suffer?', but rather 'Whereto do I suffer?'
- God does not cause suffering – He 'leads' suffering
- One should not just endure suffering and try to make sense of it, one should rather embrace it with joy – the Holy Spirit gives us hope.
- You have to give meaning to suffering in order to work through it –make it a challenge! Deal with the suffering with maturity to reach the meaning of your life.
- Some people are 'volunteers' for suffering, rather than 'survivors' or 'victors'. We should not like to suffering so much that we do not want to part with it.
- Retain your playfulness – especially for times when you will need it. Love your life and love the God who is Life – it is the best cure for pain and suffering!
- Personally I like to following the best:
  - "I am too blessed to be stressed"
  - For some people, God gives sudden health, but for other people, He provides other miracles, like good friends and/ or family and children (Antoinette was indeed a star during this time)

Thank you to all for your continual prayers and for still praying for my complete recovery. The prayer of the faithful is indeed powerful! *A luta continua mas a vitória é certa!* (The battle continues, but victory is certain!)

### **Missionary Conference:**

I have attended a missionary conference in Potch and it motivated me anew to fight in the right way for His Kingdom.

Rev. Richard Verryne discussed how the missionary field comes to us. Breakthroughs are made under the unreached groups and the post-modern people in Europe; in native groups there are many churches; community field (every congregation is in a missionary field where there are also post-modern groups, people like drug addicts, clangs and poor people). And then lastly we see how many people groups come to us – a global Diaspora – how thousands of people from Somalia, China, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Mozambique stream into our country. What do we do to bring the Gospel to them? Are we doing enough?

Frans Hancke views a church with a missionary focus as one where there is movement from:

- Programmes to processes
- Demographics to discernment
- Attraction to incarnational
- Uniformity to diversity

- Professionalism to passionate
- Seating to sending
- Decisions to disciples
- Monuments to movements

Pastor Johan Carstens focussed on the fact that we need to be missionaries in the work place. We also need to be entrepreneurs like Josef – not to enrich ourselves, but to be able to help others become financially independent and also enjoy satisfaction from being employed.

Rev. Peter Malan from Kingfisher is of the opinion that the following elements act as hindrances in letting the Gospel take its free course:

1. Legalism;
2. Tradition;
3. Too much talk and too little doing
4. A strange spirituality
5. The need for control
6. Exclusivity

He asked that we should move from:

1. The church as a mere institution **to** the concept of God's Kingdom
2. Making people part of a congregation **to** making disciples of people.
3. Programmed ministries **to** empower people to transform the world

We should help people to live:

1. With a Kingdom vision – people should realize their 'significance, we are much more than on-lookers!
2. According to Kingdom norms and customs. Be available, pray, listen en be useful!
3. According to a Kingdom lifestyle. Show your devotion, do well and be a servant.

### The battle at **HEFSIBA**

1. It seems that the dust has settled on Hefsiba. We would like to thank everybody that has prayed for us and has made donations to cover the penalty fines, although we still need quite a bit...
2. Please pray for the water situation at Hefsiba. Dirk Smit is battling with the electrical problems of the pump. The lecturers and students suffer without water.
3. Eduard Schoch and his organization undertook to supply Hefsiba with 10 computers and will take it to Hefsiba early 2010. These computers will be

used to teach the students English, but will also be used as a tool to bring the Gospel. Praise the Lord for this initiative.

4. My research had a few “hick-ups”, but is more or less on-target now.... I received a bursary from NetACT to visit various Theological schools in different countries next year. This will require good planning and prayer!
5. We plan our return to Hefsiba via the Pantological conference in Potch on 24 September. We want to go via Maputo and ask for your prayers for the border post at Komatipoort en for a safe journey. We plan to be home again on 26 September.

### **End: BORN FOR BATTLE**

It has been said that when battle started in England, The Prime Minister asked for Lord Mountbatten and told him that he was no loner the ‘ Head of Defence’, but rather ‘the head of Attack’!

We also need to be ready for the battle in the missionary field! “You are born for battle!”

*CRISTO ACIMA DE TUDO! CHRISTUS BO ALLES!*

*Kruger & Antoinette du Preez*

#### **BANKBESONDERHEDE:**

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