



# LADIES LANE

COL 2:2

Life together in the Christian lane

That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge  
Colossians 2:2

## Ladies Breakfast

### A JOYOUS CELEBRATION

By Marion E-S

As the Ladies' Ministry teamed up planned this year-end event the dreaded word had to be dealt with – loadshedding. Contingency plans were put in place and with good reason as that's exactly what took place!

On Saturday 19 November 2022 when the ministry team members arrived at 7am to begin putting up tables, placing chairs, decorating and placing table settings there was an atmosphere of joy. This continued through the morning until the last light was switched off. Yes, the power did show its face half-way through the morning.

Helen Moore began our programme with a prayer committing the morning to our LORD. We then sang one of my favourite Christmas hymns, "Mary, did you know?" led by Helen van Heerden on the keyboard. Marion Bassett demonstrated how we can take household products or broken decorations to make centre or show pieces for Christmas. I'm sure as we visit with one another in our homes this Christmas season we might recognise something.

A delicious, tummy-filling breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, chippolata's and a croissant was served. A special thanks to Sam Williams who

selflessly stepped in to cook the eggs to help. Thanks Sam.

Anneli van Rooyen, our guest speaker, was introduced by asking her a few fun questions; the final question being what superpower she would choose as a woman who serves alongside Quinton at Cross Central Church? She went on to explain that she too has responsibilities at CCC, runs an event company with her sister, as well as seeing to her family's needs. Alongside these, she is a wife and a mother (and a mother-in-law of two!). No guessing that her superpower of choice was to add more hours to a day. She then proceeded to give a challenging talk on the subject, "Lies the world tells us", referencing 2 Timothy 3:1 – 7 & 10 – 17.

We ended the morning with yummy milk tartlets baked by Colleen.

There are so many people that can be named for the wonderful ways they used their gifts and abilities to make the morning praiseworthy. I want to thank Mitch Flawn for being on sound, our husbands who stepped in to do some heavy work. But all thanks to our Father who favours us with bounteous gifts.

**Thank you LORD.**

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# 2022 Playback



## REFLECTIONS

By Tania

**A**nd so we roll into the final stretch of 2022. Quite incredible! I found this year a gruelling year, but I wonder if this is not the case for everyone as it is the first normal year we have had post COVID and it has been hard work to get back into our old ways of doing things. And what a blessing the book of Nehemiah is proving to be – rebuilding. Yes, hard work indeed rebuilding our lives after COVID.

### With grateful hearts

We are also grateful to the Lord, to André, the staff, the elders and all the leaders who are working hard to rebuild the work at CCT.

I am also very grateful to the Lord, that He has sustained the Ladies Ministry Team over these past 2 years or so of COVID. We managed to keep the ball rolling, often having to think outside the box to reach and minister to the ladies at CCT and our partner churches. In actual fact, this newsletter is a new innovation that sprung from COVID, which we plan to continue with as it allows us to reach you in your home.

### Our Bible Reading groups

Another wonderful initiative that started during COVID, was our Bible reading groups which started in June 2020. The need to connect with other ladies, and especially around God's Word was the reason for these groups, they have been and are still enjoyed by so many ladies in and outside of our church that we will continue with this as long as there is a need.

We started off by reading the book of Esther, then 1 Peter, then Micah, then 1 Thessalonians, then Proverbs, then Hebrews, then Jeremiah. We have just started the Gospel of John. For those

who do not know, every evening you will receive your reading for the next day via a WhatsApp group that you are allotted to. The day of the reading you will receive a short paragraph about the text read as well as a short prayer. You are able to comment about the reading if you wish, but there is no pressure to and most ladies do not comment often. Looking back over the past 2 ½ years, I can see how God's Word has sustained, challenged and fed me over this time. Often you do not remember what you read a day or so ago, but on that day that Word fed and sustained you.

I like to remind myself of 2 scriptures when I am tempted to think that this is a meaningless exercise.

The first one is 2 Tim 3:16-17, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

The second is Isaiah 55:10-11, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

What a challenge and encouragement to be in the Word daily and I would like to encourage you to join one of our groups or start a group with you friends and we will connect you to our leaders group where you will receive your readings. Let's make every opportunity to take in the Word of the Lord.

### On a personal note

From a personal perspective, I look back and can say that this has been a tough year in my life. My dear mother died in April and I was diagnosed with breast cancer in May. As you probably know, the rest of the year has been filled with surgery and will hopefully end with radiation and the end of my road with breast cancer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you who prayed for me, who sent me loving and encouraging messages and who sent me delicious, nourishing meals for me and my family when I had my last surgery. Mostly I want to testify that the Lord is good and He is faithful. May He be glorified in my life and in yours.

### We need your support

This year has seen a sad decline in the support of our Ladies Ministry activities and therefore we put out a survey to ask you to tell us what you would like to see in Ladies Ministry. If you have not yet completed the survey, please will you take the time. Our heart is to love, serve and minister to each lady at CCT and our partner churches. I am happy to see that our Christmas brunch was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended. A big thank you to the Ladies Ministry Team who ran with the ball in my absence. You are a dream team and I love you all.

As the year closes I pray that you and your family will have a blessed Christmas season and that you will experience our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in a deeper meaningful way this Christmas. We are praying as a team that the Lord will lead us into next year and that we will find new and exciting ways to connect with you. DV we will see you in 2023.

### Much love

# The lies the world tell us

## THE TRUTH THAT WILL DEFEAT IT

By Liezl

To conclude the Ladies' Ministry's activities for 2022 it was our pleasure to treat the CCT Ladies to a breakfast with a Christmas theme and to have Anneldi van Rooyen as the guest speaker for the morning. Anneldi is well known for her work at Cross Central Church in Parow alongside her husband Quinton.



The theme of her talk was "*Lies that the world tells us.*" Anneldi illuminated four lies present in our everyday lives, against the background of 2 Timothy 3: 1-7 & 10-17. In this passage Paul, at the end of his life, warns Timothy about godlessness in the last days, but the truth is that the human heart has not changed, it is the breeding ground for sin.

### **LIE #1 | You are the master of your own destiny**

In short – you can choose. You have the choice to be what you want to be, do what you want to do, go where you want to go, decide what direction your life will go in. However as created beings, we are the paintings of our Creator but – by believing that we can choose our own destiny we are taking the artist's paint brush in our own hands. The "painting" wants to tell the Painter how it should complete his masterpiece. It is an ungrateful heart that is not satisfied with the way God created him.

Maybe you have plotted your life out for the next 10 years. You

have planned where you will go, what you will do and what you will do to achieve that goal. What is the one thing that is consuming all your energy? Is your life all about achieving your own dreams and goals? Do you have time left for God's Kingdom?

### **LIE #2 | If you van dream it, you can achieve it**

There is nothing wrong with having something to look forward to. But the moment your dreams come in the way of your walk with God, you are on at risk of losing the plot. Are the choices you make just for our own worldly good?

In Corinthians we are reminded that we are jars of clay. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV). When we believe we can do anything we forget that we are limited. Limited in time, energy and wisdom. If we tell ourselves that we can do anything we are denying the fact that God's sovereignty is controlling our lives. Even if you worked hard for what you own, always remember that it is not of your own doing. God has placed you where He has because He wants to use you there.

### **LIE #3 | You're worth it!**

A slogan often used in media and that is so ingrained in our minds. But what is wrong with this idea of self-love? The problem is that we are measuring our worth with the wrong measuring stick! You are not worthy because of your upbringing, your education, your beauty or your career.

You have worth because Jesus died on the cross for you.

The question is, will the "things" you reward yourself with because "You're worth it" really satisfy you?

### **LIE #4 | You are just not good enough**

The classic lie – My life is just not that great. We don't believe these lies when we feel on top of the world and everything is going according to plan. It is in those days that we struggle to keep afloat that we hear this soft whispering lie in our minds. In Psalm 139 we read that God chose you. He knitted you together in your mother's womb. He wanted you to walk this earth. You are good because you were created in the image of God. We all have our own struggles but remember - God has called you by name to live for His honour and glory

### **We are walking wounded because of the worlds' lies that delicately seep into our lives**

To conclude Anneldi then took a word from each of the lies to give the ladies hope and to counter the lies of the enemy

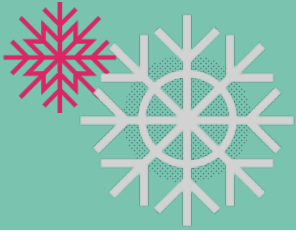
**Destiny** ~ our destiny is heaven. We should turn our hearts towards heaven

**Dream** ~ we should have Kingdom-dreams. Dream about the work that the Lord still will do in family's and friends' lives.

**Worth** ~ we are created in God's image. Where you are in your life is where you need to be to make a difference for God.

**Enough** ~ we were bought with the precious blood of Jesus. You are more than enough !

[Click here](#) to listen to the full talk or visit the CCT website to view



# Craft Corner



## DÉCOR WITH A PURPOSE

By Marion B

**K**ee your Bible close to the Christmas table this year. By adding verses to our table décor we hope to spark curiosity to know what they are saying. We can read them in God's Word and hear some wonderful truths. Adding verses is a wonderful way to remind everyone of the real meaning of Christmas and draw people closer to the Lord Jesus.

**Here are some simple ideas to centre the conversation around what really matters this Christmas...**

### HOME-MADE MODGE-PODGE RECIPE

Mix together...

- ½ cup (210 grams) flour
- ¼ cup (56.25 grams) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (225 milliliters) cold water
- ¼ teaspoon olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon vinegar

### DECORATE CANDLE JAR

1. Paint the home-made modge-podge onto the jar/candle
2. Roll in Epson salts with glitter
3. Seal with hairspray

### THE BOX

Find a box or holder to place and arrange all your decorations in. Give it a brush-stroke of your favourite festive colour



### ADD GREEN LEAVES

Use Ruscus, a long-lasting greenery

### PAPER CHRISTMAS TREES

1. Use kebab sticks and printed paper (magazine/music sheet/newspaper)
2. Cut into triangles
3. Fold back and forth and finally skewer
4. Attach to base or press firmly into arrangement

### RECYCLED ITEMS

Refurbish/use broken Christmas items to press into the box arrangement

### SERVIETTE / NAPKIN

1. Peg name of guest to double as a name place-card
2. Add a verse or Christmas picture

**Tip:** Use old Christmas cards or draw/print suitable ones



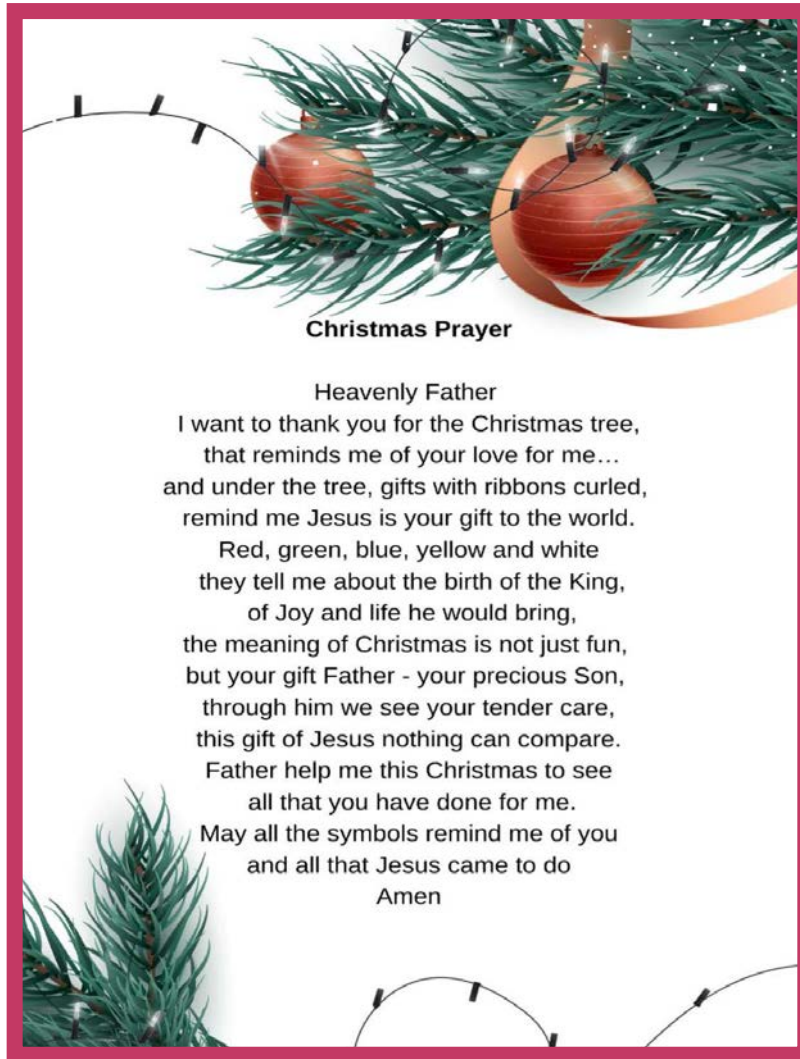
### PLACEMATS

Print out or write a prayer or verse for each of your guest's.

See the prayer example and some verses on the next page...



## AN EXAMPLE OF A CHRISTMAS PRAYER...



### Christmas Prayer

Heavenly Father

I want to thank you for the Christmas tree,  
that reminds me of your love for me...  
and under the tree, gifts with ribbons curled,  
remind me Jesus is your gift to the world.

Red, green, blue, yellow and white  
they tell me about the birth of the King,  
of Joy and life he would bring,  
the meaning of Christmas is not just fun,  
but your gift Father - your precious Son,  
through him we see your tender care,  
this gift of Jesus nothing can compare.

Father help me this Christmas to see  
all that you have done for me.

May all the symbols remind me of you  
and all that Jesus came to do

Amen

## SOME VERSES TO ADD...

### John 1:29

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

### Psalms 34:8

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

### John 1:9-10

"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him..."

### Galatians 4:4-5

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

### Isaiah 40:28

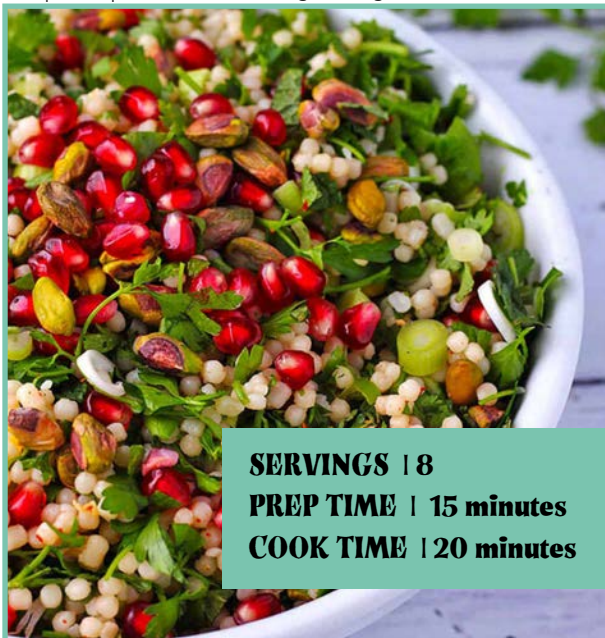
"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

# The Ladies Kitchen

## FESTIVE POMEGRANATE COUSCOUS SALAD

By Sandra

Recipe adapted from: [www.veganwithgusto.com](http://www.veganwithgusto.com)



**SERVINGS** | 8  
**PREP TIME** | 15 minutes  
**COOK TIME** | 20 minutes

### Ingredients

- 2 cups (300g) Pearled couscous or regular
- 3 cups of water
- ½ - ¾ cups of pomegranate seeds
- 4 Spring onions chopped (white and green parts)
- 2 cups of flat leaf parsley roughly chopped
- ½ Mint leaves, chopped
- ½ cup pistachios (Optional)
- 1 cup lemon juice
- 2 tsp. grated ginger
- ½ tsp. chilli flakes
- ¼ tsp. ground black pepper

### Instructions

**STEP 1** | Prepare the Couscous. Consult the instructions on the packaging.

**STEP 2** | Mix the dressing. In a small bowl whisk the lemon juice, ginger, chili flakes and black pepper.

**STEP 3** | Finish the salad. Add the cooked couscous to a medium salad bowl, pour the dressing over the couscous. Now add the rest of the salad ingredients and mix well.

**STEP 4** | Serving suggestions. Serve the salad at room temperature or cover the bowl with cling wrap and store it in the refrigerator to serve the next day.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Pomegranates are mentioned in the Bible mostly as an inspiration for decorations.



In Exodus 28 God gave instructions to Moses to make the garments of the priests. "On its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet yarns arounds its hem, with bells of gold between them, a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate around the hem of the robe." Exodus 28:33-34

Brass pomegranate designs were also featured prominently in the building of Solomon's temple: "The capitals were on the two pillars and also above the rounded projection which was beside the lattice work. There were two hundred pomegranates in two rows all around and so with the other capital." 1 Kings 7:20



# From the Soil



## POINSETTIA - A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS DECORATION

By Liezl



The poinsettia often symbolises love, hope and goodwill over the Christmas period and can be gifted to represent Christmas joy. In religious communities, the shape of the poinsettia flower is thought to symbolise the Star of Bethlehem, with the red leaves of the poinsettia symbolising the blood of Christ.

**BOTANICAL NAME:**  
**Euphorbia pulcherrima**  
**FLOWERING TIME:**  
**Mid-November to January**  
**ORIGIN:**  
**Mexico**

The most widely available poinsettia is red. The tiny yellow berry-like flowers are often overlooked as the red leaves are thought to be the flowers. Poinsettias have the reputation to be tricky to care for, but here are some tips to keep your poinsettia in tip-top condition for the holidays and to make it last until the next season.



### When choosing a poinsettia

Be careful to buy a plant that has been standing close to a very cold part of the store. The plants originate from Mexico and like warmer temperatures. The damage to the plant won't be visible but the plant can drop its leaves after taking it home.

Look for healthy flowers - If the yellow flower buds between the red leaves look tight you'll know the plant is of good quality. Check the soil before buying. It should be not too dry and not too wet.



### At home

Poinsettias need warmth and light. Place it in a position that has lots of light and is not too draughty. Keep the plant out of direct sunlight to protect the leaves from burning.

Poinsettias don't like a lot of water. The plant's roots should neither be dry nor drenched. Water the poinsettia when the soil is noticeably dry. Every 2 to 3 days.

Newly purchased poinsettias typically don't need fertilising during the flowering period because they are usually sold in pre-fertilised soil. If you replot the plant or plan on keeping it longer you should give it a liquid based fertiliser once a week, four weeks after purchasing.

Prune the poinsettia in April and keep it in a light, sheltered place for the winter.

"CONSIDER THE LILIES, HOW THEY GROW: THEY NEITHER TOIL NOR SPIN, YET I TELL YOU, EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY WAS NOT ARRAYED LIKE ONE OF THESE. BUT IF GOD SO CLOTHES THE GRASS, WHICH IS ALIVE IN THE FIELD TODAY, AND TOMORROW IS THROWN INTO THE OVEN, HOW MUCH MORE WILL HE CLOTHE YOU, O YOU OF LITTLE FAITH!"  
LUKE 12:27-28

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Flowers in the bible symbolize beauty, fragility, and love of God, yet, they also represent the fall of humankind. The beauty of a flower fades and eventually dies.**

**Flowers are therefore key for reminding us of the beauty of God's creation and Jesus' redemption for mankind. In contrast, while the flower eventually fades, Jesus' love for you never does.**

Source: [www.bibleverses.com](http://www.bibleverses.com)





# Kids Crafts



## SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

By Aldré

Get creative this holiday and fill an afternoon making salt dough ornaments. Salt dough is a fun craft to do with the kids and it doesn't get easier than this. **This three-ingredient recipe will add some charm to your Christmas décor.**

**MAKES** ± 30 ornaments | **PREP TIME** 10 minutes | **COOK TIME** 1 hour |  
**TOTAL TIME** 1 hour 10 minutes



Photo Credits: wholefully.com

### YOU NEED ONLY 3 INGREDIENTS

**4 Cups:** Cake wheat flour All-purpose flour

**1 Cup:** Table salt

**1 ½ Cups:** Warm water

### TOOLS YOU WILL NEED

- ~ **Mixing bowl and large spoon**
- ~ **Rolling pin**
- ~ **Cookie cutters**
- ~ **Baking tray**
- ~ **Straw or toothpick**
- ~ **Ribbon**
- ~ **Glitter, glue, paint**

### FOLLOW THIS EASY METHOD

- 1.** In a large mixing bowl add the flour and salt. Stir until well combined. Slowly stream in the warm water while stirring. Keep stirring until you've added all the water.
- 2.** You'll get to a point where it is too hard to stir with a spoon. Put it down and use your hands to get in there and mix it well.
- 3.** Once the dough starts to come together, keep kneading with your hands for a few minutes until the dough is smooth.
- 4.** Your dough is ready.
- 5.** Roll out the dough until 3-4mm thick. Try to get it even. Too thick, and the ornaments tend to split.
- 6.** When you are finish cutting out the shapes, take a drinking straw, and poke a hole in the top of each ornament for a ribbon to hang from.
- 7.** To add texture to the ornaments using forks, steel wool or rubber stamps.
- 8.** Bake the ornaments at 180°C for approximately 45 minutes or until they feel hard. The time may differ. They are done when they start to turn light brown.

# Now for the fun part!



## PAINTING AND DECORATING YOUR SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS...

If you prefer the classic look of the salt dough, you can hang the ornaments as-is.



Photo Credits: Wholefully.com

But if you are feeling creative reach for the paint and glitter. Decide on a colour scheme for your decorations.



Photo Credits: Wholefully.com

Nothing is wasted, use the cut out shapes for smaller decorations.



Photo Credits: thebestideasforkids.com

String up the ornaments using pretty ribbon or string and then put those beautiful new ornaments on your Christmas tree! These also make wonderful, thoughtful gifts.



Visit the [U-tube](#) link to watch the fun!

"SALT IS GOOD; BUT IF THE SALT BECOMES UNSALTY, WITH WHAT WILL YOU MAKE IT SALTY AGAIN? HAVE SALT IN YOURSELVES, AND BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER." MARK 9:50

# Reading Room



## LEADING LITTLE ONES TO GOD

By Tania

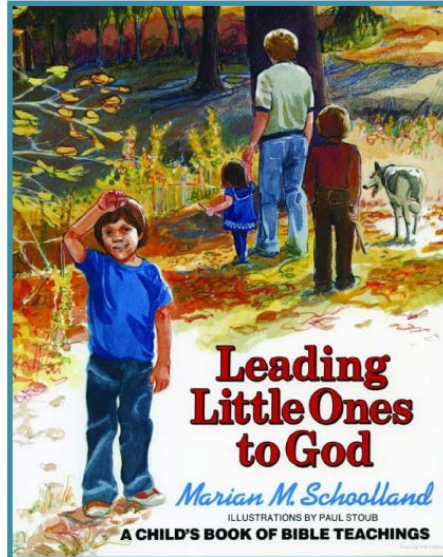
This book is essentially a devotional for children. The wonderful thing about it is that it can be used for children from as young four years old up to eight or so years old. A lovely book that parents can read to their child and a great alternative to Children's Bible storybooks that often tell the story but fail to teach the truth or precept behind the story. Instead of a quick devotional, which seems to be typical of our times, it provides for a meaningful time of biblical teaching and fellowship for young families.

### Simple and relatable

The book does not shy away from deep theological concepts but rather takes them head on but in a way that is understandable and relatable to young children. The language that is used is simple and clear, using vocabulary that a young child will understand. This alone makes this book a gem.

### How it works

Each devotional, has a few paragraphs explaining the topic or truth in a way that is easy for young children to understand. This is followed by questions which help to facilitate good discussion in the family unit. A short Bible verse follows which very succinctly encapsulates the concept discussed. This is so important as children need to know that this is what God says, not what we as parents say. The author suggest that the child memorises the verse from each section and possibly to revisit all the verses at the end of the section. This is then followed by a suggested reading from the Word which just manages to underline this concept of going to the Bible, even more. A little song, with the lyrics is given for each



devotional. I have to admit that most young parents may not find them familiar. However, I am sure the creative and musical parents could ad-lib a tune if needs be or simply treat it as poetry. Each devotional ends with a prayer, which could even be read by older children once they are able to read.

### An example

To give you an idea, the first section is titled: 'Looking for God' broken down into the following devotionals:

1. Our hearts ask for God
2. We cannot see God
3. We see God's works
4. God talked to people long ago
5. God talks to us
6. God sent His Son

As you can see this is not your typical Children's Bible Storybook covering Noah's Ark, David and Goliath or Daniel in the Lion's den. It goes right to the heart of the matter, namely the Sovereign God of the Universe.

### A note from the author

The opening paragraph of the author sums up well what the book is about.

"This book is intended to be a guide to parents who desire to teach their little ones about God. Parents are the child's best teachers, and perhaps there is nothing more important in his spiritual development than quiet talks with Mother or Father about the great God who made us and loves us."

### On a personal note

I can recommend this book as I found it very useful when my children were young and I am hanging onto my copy until the day when the Lord blesses me with grandchildren and I will certainly be using this book with them or I will pass it on to my children to use with their children. As a young home-school mom, my children were required to memorise large portions of scripture from a young age. Looking back I believe this has helped to build that Biblical warehouse in their minds. Often they will smile at me in church when the pastor is dealing with a passage that is familiar to them. After all, God tells us to hide His Word in our hearts.

### Make time

In this rushed day and age, we need to make time to spend with our children from a young age. Older parents will tell you how quickly the time passes. Use the time well and wisely. In this competitive world of ours where everyone is pushed to achieve in school grades and on the sport field, let us as Christian parents not forget what is most important. In the end, all that matters is whether your child knows the Lord or not! I challenge all young parents to get this book.

The book is available from CBD, LOOT and Takealot.

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR TO SUCH BELONGS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN." MATTHEW 19:14



# Testimony

## A PERSONAL STORY OF LOSS AND HOPE

By Alex

**M**y name is Alex Fernandes and I have been married to Carlos for 29 years. We have two children, Daniella aged 19 and Angelo aged 14 years. I was raised as a Catholic and was a practising Catholic until about sixteen years ago, when our family was struck by a tragedy which changed the course of our lives forever.

### Eager campers

It was May 2006 and at the time we had two children, Leandro, age 7 and Daniella age 3.5 years. Leandro had just begun grade 1 in January, and he was an intelligent boy exceling in Maths and reading beyond his years. The school where Leandro had attended grade R, had organized a camping trip to Yzerfontein for the first weekend in May. Our family were eager campers at the time and had attended many camping trips, so we packed all our camping stuff in our bakkie and headed for the West Coast. It was our son's 7th birthday on that Friday, so we were looking forward to some nice quality family time and time with our fellow campers.

### Setting up camp

We arrived at the campsite between 5pm and 6pm and started to set up camp as it was going to get dark quickly. Most of the campers had already arrived early and were settled in, however we were one of the last to arrive. We had just set up our tent when an incredibly strong wind came up and it started raining hard. As we were still setting up my first instincts were to get us out of the rain. I told the children to run into the tent and Carlos and I followed. Leandro ran in first and Daniella was with me holding my hand and Carlos was just behind us. It happened so quickly we didn't even know what had hit us.

### Tragedy strikes

As soon as I ran into the tent I felt a blow to my head, I thought the tent had just collapsed but when I stepped back, I realised what had happened. The tree that we had pitched our tent next to had fallen over and crushed our tent. I got Daniella out but immediately called out to my son, Leandro, screaming his name at the top of my voice but he didn't answer. As people had run for shelter there was no-one around but soon people heard my screams and started to come towards us. I think at this time the full extent of what had happened hadn't hit me yet. Carlos and some of the men tried to lift the tree to find Leandro but it was no use, the tree was too big and too heavy and he was trapped underneath it. After what seemed like forever, they were able to release Leandro and by then an ambulance had arrived and the paramedics were working on him, however they were not able to revive him and proclaimed him dead.

**Leandro Carlos Fernandes**  
05.05.1999-05.05.2006



**"God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way."**

My son, whom I loved with all my heart and would give my life for, was dead, I couldn't believe it. I remember giving out a loud animal like scream and my legs just collapsed and I fell to my knees when they told me there was nothing more they could do. My world was shattered; life would never be the same again. I would never see or hold or kiss my son again. How could he be gone, on his 7th birthday, it just could not be true?

### Lost and betrayed

The next days, weeks and months went by, and I felt like a robot, I was in shock. I felt empty; I felt that God had abandoned me. I had tried to be a good person and went to church so why did God allow this to happen to me? I remember thinking that there are so many evil people in this world, why did this not happen to them? I felt lost and betrayed. Time went by very slowly after this. I felt as if my heart had broken into a million pieces. I tried to pull myself together for the sake of my daughter who was only 3.5 at the time and my husband who were also grieving, but it was a daily struggle.

Every little thing that I had to do was hard, even the simplest things like brushing my teeth or taking a shower. I had to go back to work and it helped me forget during the day but coming back home was hard, the house felt so empty and so quiet and the weekends were the absolute worst. Our daughter had lost her best friend and playmate and we had lost our firstborn, life just didn't seem worth living anymore. There was many a night that I would wake up in shock, and the reality of my loss would hit me all over again and I would just cry and cry. A parent is supposed to outlive a child, not

bury one, this was just impossible to make sense of this or anything at the time.

### Hope springs up

Six months later I had an unexpected and traumatic ectopic pregnancy, my body just wasn't ready for another baby, I was not strong enough physically and emotionally. It was around this time that our family had started attending CCT as regulars and we received a lot of love and support and had many people praying for us during this time. We continued to attend church every Sunday and I know that this helped carry us when we felt we could not go on.

I remembered the verse in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 that I once heard Andre preach on, that Christians do not need to mourn like unbelievers as we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that God will take back with Jesus all those that died believing in him. After hearing this I had the assurance that my son was in heaven and with the Lord. I clung to that and slowly but surely, I started to change my thinking. If I wanted to see my son again then I would need to make some changes in my life and accept

the Lord Jesus Christ into my life as my personal saviour. For this first time it became clear to me that Jesus really loved me and accepted me as I was, and it was only by his grace that I was saved not by my good works or attending church every Sunday like I used to do when I was a practising Catholic, trying to earn my salvation. I realised that I was a sinner and needed to repent. One Sunday after church, I came home and committed my life to the Lord and my outlook changed and I was filled with hope again.

### A God of second chances

The following year I fell pregnant again and this time I was happy, a new life to look forward to, was God giving me a second chance? When I found out I was having a boy I started to feel that there was hope and perhaps life was worth living again. I thanked God for a new opportunity to be a parent again. A year later we welcomed Angelo into our family. He was such a blessing and I thanked God for his safe arrival.

### Jesus is the only way

Our Son's death was tragic, and I will never get over it, but I have learned to live with it with God's help and the love and support of

my family and church. One of my favourite verses is Romans 8 v 28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." I have really clung to this verse over the years. We live in a fallen sinful world where bad things happen all the time, even to Christians, but that was not that way God designed it to be.

Jesus Christ came so that he could show us that he is the only way to God. He never abandons or forsakes us even in our darkest moments. We need to trust him and rely on him in difficult times, especially in times of suffering and loss and praise him in the good times.

I still grieve the loss of my son and every year when the anniversary of his birthday and death come round it's still hard for me and us as a family. In closing, I would like to leave this lovely quote with you:

**"God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way."**



Photo: Angelo, Alex and Carlos celebrating Daniella and Connors wedding day

**"BUT WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO BE UNINFORMED, BROTHERS, ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ASLEEP, THAT YOU MAY NOT GRIEVE AS OTHERS DO WHO HAVE NO HOPE." 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13**



# A moment of Gratitude



LADIES AT WORK@CCT

By Colleen

## To ALL the CCT Ladies

The Ladies Ministry Team would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful ladies who have been involved either in a particular ministry or have just seen a need and met that need with unselfish love and understanding.

Some have made meals for others in need or when sickness makes it difficult for the family / person whilst others have visited lonely old folk and spent time chatting and showing love.

Others, in the quietness and stillness of their homes have lifted many up to God in prayer asking Him to undertake for those around them that they see or know are in need.

Remembering a birthday and sending a message or phoning to wish someone is so appreciated by them, so Ladies, we would like to applaud you for serving God so selflessly and showing to others God's love in your actions.

May you be mightily blessed as you serve Him.

## The Ladies Ministry Team



Insert: Tania  
Ladies Ministry Leader

*A Blessed  
and Joyous  
Christmas from  
all of us!*

From left to right: Liezl, Colleen, Marion, Lana & Aldré