

Anticipation builds as Kwela's "Dorp van die Jaar" prepares to host next Mighty Men Conference.



The first Eastern Cape MMC – in March this year.

Jeffreys Bay, Kwela's "Dorp van die Jaar 2018", is bracing once again for the biggest Christian gathering the Kouga region has ever seen: the Mighty Men Conference Eastern Cape.

The previous conference, held in March 2018 near Humansdorp, was met with much praise from thousands of attendees. The next conference has been confirmed to take place from March 8 to 10 2019 on Farm Mooi Uitsig, just outside of Jeffreys Bay.

Tickets are available online from www.mightymeneasterncape.co.za/tickets. Attendee numbers are expected to increase significantly. As with any event of this scale there is a lot of planning and preparation that needs to be completed in the months running up to "D-day".



The organisers are relying heavily on the generosity of others in order to be able to host the event and have extended the following invitation: “ We are thankful to the Lord that He has been so faithful in providing for us financially (up to the last cent) for our previous event hosted in 2018. We pray that by His will, our 2019 event will be blessed with the same generosity that was bestowed on us in 2018.

“We know that many men, women and children accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour during this event. We want to thank you for your participation in ensuring that a Godly impartation has been made, which has a generational impact on families right throughout South Africa.

“We are thankful for the opportunity to extend an invitation to you so that you may consider partnering with us in our upcoming event. Our Heavenly Father is directing our ways and we thank you for your consideration to lend your support with the organisation of this godly gathering. We would be grateful if you were to become involved in this community and life-changing event that will take place in the Kouga Area over the next six years”



The Kings Mounted Men were at this year's event.

Men who have attended previous Mighty Men Conferences, and continue to travel the country to do so, attest to the fact that the experience can't be explained to someone else, it can only be experienced for oneself.

The Eastern Cape Mighty Men Conference also presents attendees with an opportunity to share their testimonies (or simply listen to testimonies in awe) while seeking the face of God. Guest speakers and live Gospel music entertainment add to an amazing atmosphere throughout the conference.

The weekend will heal, it will inspire and it will affirm your role as man in your most intimate relationship with our God Almighty. Wonderful things happen at Mighty Men Conferences!

If you would like to buy tickets, make a donation or volunteer any assistance, please visit www.mightymeneasterncape.co.za for more info or email info@mightymeneasterncape.co.za. You can keep also keep informed by following the Facebook page www.facebook.com/mightymeneasterncape, which is updated regularly.



Worshipful moments at MMC EC 2018.

Struggle icon Zondeni Sobukwe was humble ‘mother of prayer’



FILE PICTURE: Nelisa Sobukwe (left), Zondeni Veronica Sobukwe and family friend Vaida Sokopo during the handover of land for a memorial

museum to Robert Sobukwe in Graaff-Reinet. Image: BRIAN WITBOOI/The Herald via [Sowetan Live](#))

Liberation struggle icon Zondeni Veronica Sobukwe – widow of PAC founder Robert Sobukwe – died at her home in Graaff-Reinet at 2am yesterday, aged 91, following a long illness.

The Sobukwe family will remember “Mama Sobukwe” for “her humility and the simplicity with which she approached and viewed life”, the family said in a statement released yesterday.

Zondeni Sobukwe, a nurse and resolute anti-apartheid activist who supported her family for decades while her husband was incarcerated and targeted by authorities, was belatedly honoured by the ANC government when she was awarded the Order of Luthuli earlier this year, 40 years after her husband’s death.

Paying tribute to her memory, Rev Jacob Freemantle, Bishop of the Grahamstown District of the Methodist Church of South Africa, said Zondeni “was indeed the mother of prayer who continued to pray even at the time when Father Sobukwe, finally handed himself over to the police after the protest against the dehumanising Pass Laws on 21 March 1960.”

He said: “Mama Sobukhwe was a very committed Methodist Christian who worshiped regularly in the Methodist Church of Graaff-Reinet.

“In the Methodist Church she belonged to Mothers of Prayer Union called Women’s Manyano, a committed group of women who regularly meet, preferably on Thursdays, to intercede for the country’s leaders, the poor, the hungry, the Church, etc.

“Apart from above, her husband was a fully-accredited preacher of the Methodist Church. We have now lost a humble lady of 91 years, a spiritual visionary, a fearless mother of our times

who wrote numerous letters challenging the state injustices and corruption. Blessings to such a dear soul.”

Expressing condolences to the Sobukwe family he said: “We continue to pray for the family at this sad time.”

PAC secretary-general Narius Moloto told City Press that although the party was saddened by her death, it was happy and proud of the role that she had played in the liberation movement.

When Robert Sobukwe and Zondeni met in 1949, he was the president of the student representative Council (SRC) at Fort Hare University while she was a trainee nurse at Victoria Hospital in Lovedale. She was expelled from the college for her leadership role in a labour strike that year. The couple married in 1950.

The PAC leader was arrested after he handed himself over for his role in leading nationwide protests against pass laws in 1960. He was subsequently sentenced to three years in prison for incitement, but the government refused to release him after his jail term ended, instead enacting a “Sobukwe Clause” which allowed it to keep him in jail indeterminately.

Considered a threat by the government, he was moved to Robben Island in 1963. There he was kept in solitary confinement to keep him from influencing other prisoners. When his health deteriorated in 1964 the government turned down an application for his release.

After his sudden release from jail in May 1969, he was placed under house arrest in Kimberley. The authorities refused to allow him to go overseas to receive treatment for cancer or to take up lectureships in the United States.

He managed to complete his law degree and started his own practice as a lawyer in Kimberley in 1975. He died of lung cancer in 1978.

Appearing before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 1997, Zondeni testified about how authorities had refused her husband access to proper and independent medical examination. She also said that during one of her visits to him on Robben Island he complained that he had been served food that contained broken glass.

According to the statement released by her family yesterday: "Mama Sobukwe fiercely challenged the regime on the unjust conditions surrounding Robert Sobukwe's incarceration under the draconian Sobukwe Clause" and "remained a backbone for her family and sacrificed her life for freedom and the vision of a liberated Azania (SA)".

The family said it will release details of the memorial and funeral services once they have been finalised.

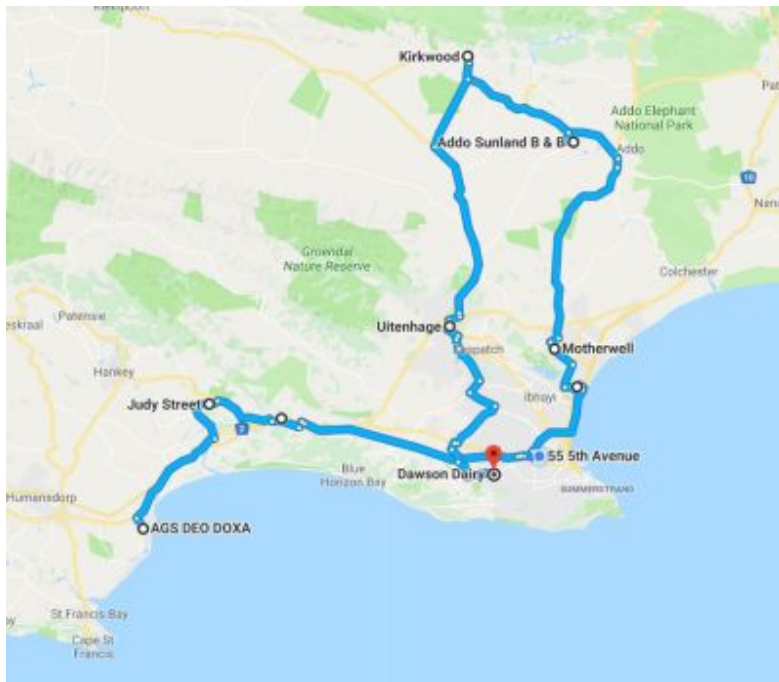
Amazingrace rides on to share Gospel, support radio station



The Amazingrace ride is back again – this time with cyclists pedalling a 300km route, starting in Jeffreys Bay on September 8, to raise funds for Kingfisher FM's signal and to tell people about Jesus at towns along the way.

This year's ride will start on September 8 and include stopovers in Thornhill, Loerie, Port Elizabeth, Motherwell, Bluewaterbay, Addo, Kirkwood, Uitenhage, and will end at the [Kingdom Manne Camp](#) on Dawson's Dairy farm, on the outskirts of PE, on September 14. Each day's ride will be approximately 45km.

Last year a team of seven Amazingrace riders rode 360km from PE to the Karoo Mighty Men Conference near Middelburg, raising approximately R25 000 towards the repair of Kingfisher FM's signal.



The 300km Amazingrace route.

Johan Meyer, who initiated the event last year after being inspired to do so while praying, said with the Kingdom Manne Camp taking place on Dawson's Farm in September, God had placed it on his heart to cycle again this year, ending at the citywide men's camp.

Anybody interested in being part of the Amazingrace can do so by praying for it, joining the ride, evangelising with the team, sponsoring cyclists or donating material needs for the campaign. Cyclists may join at any town along the route. Riders will wear T-shirts displaying the logos of companies which donate R1 000 or more.

Cobus Fourie of Evangelism Explosion, which is partnering with Amazingrace said that together with local churches they plan to hold evangelistic meetings at night in each town along the cycle route, and see an outpouring of the Holy spirit.

Cyclists will undergo evangelism training to equip them to win the lost (*Mark 16:15 – He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*)

All funds raised will go toward Kingfisher FM's 103.8 signal

to enable the Christian radio station to spread God's further than is currently possible.

Donations can be made directly to Kingfisher FM's bank account, which is FNB 261010 (Branch), 52430058602 (Account), AGR SOS (Reference).

For more information contact Johan Meyer at 064 751 0774, Cobus Fourie at wcjfourie@gmail.com, or Allan Verreyne at 084 959 7876. See also <https://www.ee3.org.za/amazingrace>.

They have faith for crazy miracles and they carry radical love



Micah Corbett with a young child at Stoney Drift.

Micah Corbett leads a team of young people who are so full of faith that they look for the most difficult cases during their

weekly visits to the Frere Hospital in East London – and they see salvations and healing miracles every week.

Most of them had never shared the Gospel or prayed for the sick when they first joined the team, said the young missionary from New Zealand.

“But now it’s their lifestyle. They are complete fireballs who carry radical love,” she said of the young people from various city churches who join her on a weekly outreach to the hospital.

One of the areas in which they are experiencing breakthrough at the moment is in seeing stroke victims healed of paralysis.

In an interview Micah told me that after she encountered God in a very real way in her small hometown in New Zealand, she completed three years of ministry training at Bethel Church in California.

During her third year at Bethel she visited South Africa on a missionary trip.

“I absolutely loved it and saw the most crazy miracles I had ever seen,” she said.

After completing her training she was ready to go anywhere God sent her as a missionary. She had a dream about East London and a mission at Stoney Drift, a squatter camp next to an old rubbish dump.

She knew God was calling her to East London for a season and He also made it clear to her that she should go immediately, depending on Him to support her.

“I literally had enough money for a plane ticket to East London. It was such a fast transition that I did not even know where I was going to stay when I landed,” she said.

She had an idea to help Josh and Rachael Minter who lead

Global Mercy Missions which serves the squatter community at Stoney Drift.

“I wanted to lift up their hands like Moses’s hands were lifted in battle – so that they could be victorious in the city. I came very much with a heartbeat to serve. And I thought: ‘If that looks like cleaning toilets, I’ll clean toilets. If it’s changing diapers, I’ll change diapers.’”

But she said God was so good to her that within a short time of her arrival in South Africa a lot of her own dreams started to come alive. One of her passions is evangelism and within her first month she was asked by the mission to pioneer various outreaches.

One day while driving in the city with Josh Minster she heard God tell her that He was giving her a big building that they were passing. She asked Josh what the building was and he said it was Frere Hospital, the local provincial hospital.



Frere Hospital, East London, which Micah heard God say He was giving to her.

In obedience to God’s promise about giving her the building, she, together with a few friends, visited the hospital for the first time just before last Christmas – taking candy to give to patients. A friend Ashleigh, who is a nurse, opened doors

for her to start ministering at the hospital.

She kept on visiting the hospital week after week with her friends. Friends invited friends and she met new people on the team every week.

The hospital outreach ministry was completely new to most of the people when they first joined the team and she stayed close to newcomers on their first visit to ease them into the ministry.

Four months ago a friend, Carl, who had never shared the Gospel or prayed with sick people joined the team. There were so many newcomers on the team that day that she had to split the team into groups and Carl was put into a group led by somebody who had only done about three hospital outreaches.

Carl's group prayed for a woman with severe arthritis that had locked her knees so that she could not bend her legs. As they prayed for the woman she was instantly healed and was able to flex her knee joints. It was the first miracle Carl had ever seen and he has joined the team faithfully on Thursdays ever since.

Recently Carl shared the gospel with a hospital patient who had a collapsed lung. He led her to the Lord, taking her through repentance and forgiveness and in the process her lung was healed.

"Most of the people [outreach team members] have got stories of how 'I had never done this [shared the Gospel and prayed for the sick] and now it's my lifestyle'.

"And a lot of them go and do it [healing evangelism] in their own communities, which is so amazing."

She said there were even some people who they had prayed for while they were patients hospital who had joined the outreach team after they recovered.

ABOVE: Short video of a man who was completely paralysed from the waist down from a car accident. In the space of two hospital visits both legs received movement back, and he was completely healed

She believed the anointing for the breakthrough that they were experiencing with the healing of paralysed people, was a result of contending with God for the healing of a young child at Stoney Drift who became paralysed from the neck down as a result of a stroke at the end of last year.

She and a few colleagues at the mission prayed with the young boy, Enzo, now 2¹/₂, in his shack when they learned of his plight. Nothing happened and they just held him and cried over him.

Thereafter she prayed regularly for Enzo with her home group. Sometimes a few of them would end up on the floor in tears until the early hours of the morning.

“We would cry out: ‘Jesus this is not okay. This is our community, this is our boy. Obviously if You were in the room, Jesus, this child would be healed .And You are inside of us and You have given us all authority, but we also understand the role we have.’

“So there was just this beautiful heartbreaking fight that was going on – and we saying: ‘God give us authority over strokes, over the paralysed.’ ”

She said they did not see an immediate change in Enzo’s condition but from the following week they started seeing healings of hospital patients who were paralysed from strokes.

Then one day Enzo’s mother brought him to the creche at the mission and, to their great joy, one side of his body was healed and there was slight movement in the other side.

“We spend a lot of time sitting with him, singing over him, massaging his muscles. He’s going to get his full freedom. But at the same time we are regularly seeing paralysed people healed at hospital – and it has come from this heartbreak.”

She said that the week before my interview with her they prayed with a man in the hospital with a paralysed arm. They stayed with him for 20 minutes, in contrast with many other prayers which were over in a few seconds.

“With the paralysed I’ve really learned to fight – just to stay and wait for the miracle. And so we prayed [with the man], and nothing happened. We prayed again and nothing happened. We started massaging his limbs.”

She asked the man to try and move his hand but he could not. Then she asked him to try his shoulder and he was able to move it a little, which he couldn’t before.

“By the end of his time with us he was holding our hands and having little arm wrestles with us. Gripping us. He was a happy man – smiling from ear to ear,” said Micah.

She recalled how a member of her team who was only with them for the third time heard that they were having breakthroughs with praying for paralysed people. So he set out with some of the team members to find a paralysed patient and found a man, called Miracle, who had no movement from the chest down as a result of a car accident.

The team prayed with Miracle for an hour but there was no change in his body.

“I ended up coming in at the end of their hour and the whole team was there, all gathered around this one man and they were all crying out to Jesus and they were all still full of faith, and just loving this guy radically.

“And they all left with smiles, saying we know though we

didn't see anything in the natural, we know this guy is going to get up. It reminded me of fighting for Enzo – the same fire.”

She said she told the team to continue to fight for Miracle in their bedrooms for the whole week, and to pray for him again during their next visit until there was a breakthrough.

She said she had a high regard for the medical profession and believed God used medicine to heal people. But there were times when He chose to heal supernaturally.

The team had a great relationship with the nurses at the hospital and they often directed the team to patients who they said needed a miracle. The nurses also often asked for prayer for themselves and a lot of them had been healed.

The team always preached the Gospel and gave away Bibles during their outreaches. It was like planting seeds. Some people said: “No” but many accepted Jesus. Five people came to salvation during their outreach the previous week.

They had seen people delivered from suicide and starting to attend church.

During their last hospital visit a patient said to one of the young people on the outreach team: “Because of the love you've shown me today, I now believe Jesus is real.”

Roar of revival expected at international 'Breakthrough'

prayer gathering in PE



Repentance, revival, unity and healing of the land will be in focus at the “Breakthrough” prayer gathering in Port Elizabeth from Thursday August 9 to Sunday August 12, say hosts Arthur and Michelle Coetzee.

City leaders, churches and intercessors are invited to join intercessors and prophets from around South Africa and the world at the event at Cape Recife High School, in Admiralty Way, Summerstrand, say the Coetzees who are passionate about inspiring and equipping churches in SA to participate in strategic 24/7 prayer initiatives.

International speakers at the gathering are Jeanne Lee of Global Prophetic Ministries in Singapore, who will talk on “Rebuilding Nations”, Suzy Bushra from Alexandria, Egypt who will share on “Revival Fire from Cape to Cairo, Jerusalem and the Nations”, and Joel Legrand from Brussels, Belgium, who will share a testimony on “Prayer in the Economy Gate”.

From Port Elizabeth, Pastor Joan Keeling, prayer coordinator for Transformation Christian Network will talk on “Arise and

Shine”.

Other highlights will include teaching and equipping on praying 24/7 for the eight gates of society.

Michelle Coetzee said this week she had got a word from the Lord for the prayer gathering – “The Lion of Zion roars from Port Elizabeth.”

Psalm 2:4 – He who sits in the Heavens laughs, the Lord has them in derision

(and in supreme contempt He mocks them) – Amplified Bible

“The sound that will be released will break sound barriers. Come ready with shofars and release the sound of revival,” she said.

More information is available from Arthur and Michelle Coetzee (083 727 9182, 060 303 7947, 072 582 2050, michelle.globalharvest@gmail.com), Pastor Joan Keeling (084 766 2270), Pastor Sabelo Stuurman (064 726 1708) and Apostle Donovan Swarts (072 506 2159).

[Click here to view a pamphlet](#) about the Breakthrough prayer gathering.

The event will run from 7pm to 9.30pm on Thursday August 9, and from 9am to 9pm on Friday August 10 and Saturday August 11. The Sunday session will be for leaders of the 24/7 prayer movement.

PE's respected Bishop Bethlehem bows out with call for biblical integrity



Bishop Bethlehem Nopece says goodbye at a special farewell service in Nangoza Jebe hall in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth last Sunday.

Port Elizabeth's outgoing Anglican leader Bishop Nceba Bethlehem Nopece has ended his 17 years in office in the city with a call for uncompromising adherence to the Word of God.

The Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Port Elizabeth, who has earned the respect of his peers across denominational lines because of his faithful and effective engagement with many challenges and crises in the city, made the call in a farewell letter to the diocese.

Over recent months Bishop Bethlehem has visited many parishes and organisations to say goodbye and the diocese bade him farewell with a gala dinner in the Feathermarket hall on Saturday July 21, followed by a service in the Nangoza Jebe

hall in New Brighton on July 22.

His final service will be in the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin in Central on Sunday July 29 when he will lay down his staff (the shepherd's crook a bishop carries as a sign of being the leader of his flock). This service will be open to anyone who feels they would like to attend.

For a time such as this

Who is Bishop Nceba Bethlehem Nopece? He came into the diocese from the Diocese of Grahamstown and let it be known that he believes that the Bible is the Word of God and is not to be compromised.

When a practising gay bishop was ordained in the Episcopal Church (Anglican) in the USA, and other liberal decisions were being made within various sections of the Anglican Communion, he spoke out against them.



Bishop Bethlehem Nopece, centre, surrounded by city leaders at a recent farewell function.

He became involved in the Global Anglican Future Conference (Gafcon) which was birthed to look at the way forward for Anglicans who believe the Word of God cannot be messed with.

He has just returned from the third global meeting of Gafcon which was held in Jerusalem and wrote this about it in a

farewell letter to the diocese: “The Global Anglican Future Conference (Gafcon) we attended recently in Jerusalem has made for the third time yet again a call to ‘Proclaim Christ Faithfully to the Nations!’

“In a broken Anglican Communion and the broken world the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible must be proclaimed in accordance to his Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations; baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching and nurturing them till the end of time (Mtt 28:16-20).

“More than ever before the kerygma or proclamation must be vigorous and passionate, to keep our breaking Communion united together in the Truth of the gospel that Jesus Christ is Lord as revealed in the Scriptures. The Bible is the Word of God proclaiming the Word from the beginning, who is Jesus the Christ, calling the world and all people to repent from sin of unbelief and humbly turn to God, walking in humility with him daily in all our doings.

Therefore, what the Bible says is sin remains so until we repent.

“Reason is part of our exercise and a tool to use in applying Scripture to our daily lives in conformity to the demands thereof, not to twist what the Bible says in gratifying our desires, likes and lusts and so bless sin and sinful living (Gal 5:16-17ff)”.

Compassion and justice

Bishop Bethlehem also believes that the Church must be seen to take a stand within civil society to bring relief to the poorest of the poor and to speak out against and challenge any injustice.

He earned the respect of many of the Christian leaders within the NMB Metropole who spoke about his role among them when they paid him an emotional farewell at their monthly Bishops’

Breakfast meeting on Thursday July 12.

Apostle Neville Goldman thanked him for his presence when he walked into a chaotic meeting on taxi violence and brought the meeting to order with a few words.

He spoke of Bishop Bethlehem's involvement in education, service delivery, unrest and so much more, where the leaders could rely on him to come at short notice whenever needed.

Supported Trevor Jennings of Transformation Christian Network (TCN) spoke of the first gathering he called to initiate TCN, where he was challenged by the then chair of SACCEC, the late Canon Mcebisi Xundu, who said they did not need another umbrella body. Others said their churches did not belong to the SACC.

Jennings said that Bishop Bethlehem walked in and challenged Canon Xundu, and agreed with him that a gathering of Christian leaders from all churches within the Metropole was needed.

United front

"In response to an invitation to some Christian leaders to meet me for breakfast Bishop Bethlehem and five others met with me and we discussed a vision of Christians working as a united front. Bishop Bethlehem suggested we move to Hoogland Church and pray – and from there, the monthly Bishops' Breakfast meetings were inaugurated," he said.

From that beginning more leaders came on board, said Jennings. At one stage, when a leader challenged the others about starting things that do not last, Bishop Bethlehem replied: "If this is of God it will be around in the future. If not, it will disappear like the wind."

Bishop Bethlehem encouraged key leaders to join him in being a "presence" in the city, where he gained a reputation for interventions such as bringing peace during taxi wars, disruptions in the Northern areas and #feesMustFall unrest.

Many times Bishop Bethlehem was late for – or missed – diocesan engagements because he had been called to intervene in a situation.

Man of God

Jennings said, “Bishop Bethlehem’s absolute, uncompromising belief in what is right and what is wrong has made others realise they are in the presence of a man of God. The unity we enjoy today is thanks to his laying the cornerstone all those years ago.”

Bishop Bethlehem is retiring to Cove Rock in East London. However, according to Bishop Ebenezer Ntali of Grahamstown: “There is nothing about retirement in the Bible so, like the apostle John, who was still working at 90 on the island of Patmos, Bishop Bethlehem will still be involved in ministry.”

The dean, Mark Derry has been licensed as vicar-general by the Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba. He will oversee the smooth running of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth until a new bishop is elected and installed.

East London couple helping people whose only hope is Jesus



Matthew and Marion Peake, of East London, who are helping tens of thousands of desperate people as God once helped them.

Last week Marion and Matthew Peake led a Mandela Day outreach in which they fed around 4 000 children and shared the Gospel in a poor and notoriously dangerous township area in East London.

Children responded by laying down firearms and knives, and the day was marked by miracles, as has so often been the case in the 19 months since the couple began to help destitute and broken people, just as God had delivered them from a place of extreme desperation.

“We want to help people who have no other way out than Jesus, because if He could do it for us, how much more could He do it for other people?” said Matthew, who estimated that they have fed and ministered to between 50 000 and 100 000 people since they started their “Helping Those in Need” campaign in January last year with no funds and just a Facebook page offering help to anybody in desperate straits.

Breast cancer battle

I interviewed Matthew during a recent visit to East London. Marion, who had undergone a double mastectomy the previous week and is now having chemotherapy for breast cancer, was not able to join us. The Peakes are fighting a tough faith battle for Marion's health. She amazed hospital staff by how quickly she was back on her feet after major surgery and is not letting up in her inspirational caring ministry, for which she has been recognised as a finalist in a regional businesswoman of the year award campaign – on top of other accolades she has received for her service.



Marion Peake at last week's Mandela Day outreach which she took on with enthusiasm despite having recently started chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Matthew told me they endured many years of a “living hell” as addictions, infidelities, poverty and more, brought them to point where they hated one another. They often found themselves in great need with no helping hand available – something that would later inspire them to reach out to desperate people.

Things got so bad that they nearly killed each other with a knife and Matthew made several attempts to end his life.

One day he cried out to God to show Himself if He was real.

“And that’s exactly what He did,” said Matthew.

He said he was filled with awe as he heard Jesus speaking in an audible voice, saying: “‘Matthew, I have been chasing after you since the day that you were born. When are you going to surrender to me? You have heard my voice many times but you have avoided me.”

Yielding to Jesus

He then ended up on his knees, giving his life to Jesus – and his life was changed forever.

The next 18 months were a struggle as he and Marion, who battled to forgive him for the years of pain he had caused her, continued to fight frequently.

He tried on his own to figure out what it meant to follow Jesus. He believes the Lord used the hard time to teach him lessons about being a husband and father to their two young daughters.

He eventually started attending church and began a Bible college course. But one day, while visiting another church, he heard a message about “how much Papa God loves us as sons”.

He wept as he realised he did not know Jesus that way but rather as someone to whom he had to make amends and prove his worth.



Children enjoy meal at an outreach.

Then he heard the Lord ask him why he was studying to be a pastor, as He had not called him to be one.

Shaken, he gave up his Bible college course and then his life began to change.

One day at the end of 2016, Marion, who despite her struggles had a longstanding relationship with Jesus, and who had often fed neighbourhood children – even when they were struggling financially – suggested that they should bless kids at a children's home with Christmas gifts and party packs.

Blessing children

God had also been growing compassion in Matthew's heart and a burning desire to see people set free, so he readily agreed to his wife's proposal. They committed to blessing a children's home before they discovered there were 105 children there.

Realising they would need help to buy so many gifts, Marion posted an appeal on Facebook. To their surprise people responded so generously that they ended up buying gifts and party packs for all the children at two homes.



Marion Peake gets into the spirit at a school outreach.

Marion and Matthew so enjoyed spending their Christmas day loving on children that they decided to start a Facebook page offering help to anyone in need. They only had R100 at the time but they believed people would assist as they had done with the children.

They launched their [“Helping Those in Need” Facebook page](#) in January last year and within a week they were inundated with requests for assistance.

“Please, we need food desperately. Our kids haven’t eaten for days.” “Please you need to come and see this house next door – the father is sexually molesting the children.”

Cries for help

The cries for help were so overwhelming that they considered closing their page. But one plea from a desperate family touched them deeply and Marion said they should buy food for them with their last R100.

Marion cooked a meal which they took together to the family's home, praying for them before leaving.

Understanding that their ministry was to take the Gospel and hope in Christ to desperate people – and that meals were a tool to get into people's homes – they kept on responding to pleas for help.

But after several weeks they were struggling to make ends meet and did not have the resources they needed to feed people. But then God started to open doors and various stores began to donate food to their mission, providing enough to feed about 20 families of five who they were helping at the time.

They often went out at night to counsel and pray with people struggling with difficulties. During these times they saw Jesus heal people of physical problems, deliver people from addictions, restore broken relationships and experience love for the first time.

Big dream

They started doing street evangelism and community outreaches, often partnering with local businesses and churches. They now have ministry branches in Queenstown, King William's Town and Berlin. They recently started holding Gospel crusades and despite ongoing financial struggles and Marion's cancer, they have a dream of establishing a shelter to house and disciple people who have nowhere to go, and to provide them with daycare, school and skills training facilities.

Last week's Mandela Day event at "Durban Flats", in partnership with various businesses and ministries, was their biggest community outreach to date. They had expected to feed about one to two thousand children but ended up feeding about 4 000.

Their sound equipment, which was critical to their mission, failed but then a company truck arrived out of the blue as the driver and crew were attracted by the outreach activity on the

township field. The truck happened to be carrying sound equipment which they used during the outreach.

Commenting on how some young children at the outreach responded to the Gospel message by laying down firearms and knives, Matthew said: "It was heartbreaking and encourages us to go back soon to do a crusade in the area."

To donate to Helping Those In Need or to find out more about this NPO, call 072 348 4528, email helpingthoseinneed.el.sa@gmail.com, visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/OUTREACH.EL.SA> or the website <https://helpingthoseinneed.co.za/>

National prayer conference taking place in East London at critical time for SA



South Africa is at a critical time of transition which requires the Church to respond in prayer and action, says Intercessors for South Africa (Ifsa), ahead of its national prayer conference in East

London from Thursday September 6 to Saturday September 8.

With an eye on the general election in April next year the aim of the conference will be “mobilising intercessors throughout the nation to envision, equip and strengthen them to carry the burden of prayer for the nation”, says Ifsa in an invitation to its annual summit.

Laban Jumba, an apostolic church leader from Uganda, founder of Intercessors for Uganda, and co-founder of the continental prayer movement Intercessors for Africa, will be the main speaker at the summit.

Jumba also spoke at the founding Ifsa conference in Bloemfontein in November 2016 when prayer movements from throughout South Africa formed Ifsa as a vehicle for united, national prayer initiatives.

He has been invited to speak at the conference again because of the effectiveness of Intercessors for Uganda in transforming cities and the nation as a whole. One of the highlights of the Ugandan prayer network has been dealing with insecurity in the land due to terrorism, etc, said Ifsa administrator Donovan Richter.

Jumba has ministered in every continent over the past 40 years. Currently he is spearheading equipping and uniting intercessors in the nations of Africa to corporately carry the burden of prayer for the transformation of the continent according to prophecy.

Registration for the September East London conference costs R200 and can be done online by [clicking on this link](#) on the Ifsa website.

The conference will take place at Downtown Christian Centre at 233 Oxford St, Southernwood.

More information is available from Donovan Richter at

ifsaprayer@gmail.com or +27 78 097 9752.

Pro-life Christians rise to challenge of international pro-abortion conference in Grahamstown



Protesters

Last week the government (Department of Social Development) and several pro-abortion organisations hosted a five-day international conference with the ominous name of “Abortion and Reproductive Justice: The Unfinished Revolution” at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

The gathering of 285 delegates from 26 countries, whose “unfinished revolution” is about making legal abortion-on-demand more accessible and socially acceptable all over the world, was arranged without much fanfare, catching pro-lifers

slightly off guard. But a number of Christians in Grahamstown and from elsewhere in South Africa who value the sanctity of life, scrambled to make a stand for life during the event.

Out-of-towners included Peter Throp of Value Life, from Cape Town, who parked his “pro-life mobile” which is covered in pro-life slogans and scriptures, outside the conference venue daily, and a five-man team from Family Action SA, who travelled from Ladismith, Western Cape, to pray and protest peacefully outside the venue.



Bernard Tuffin.

Family Action SA mission

Bernard Tuffin, project manager of [Family Action SA](#) filed this report: “The proposed abortion conference in Grahamstown was already attracting attention toward the end of 2017. At the time we sent out some feelers regarding possible protest action, but with the pace of life as it is and so many other issues, it slipped off the radar screen. It was also clearly not being aggressively promoted by the organisers which would have certainly kept it in the public eye! It was then with much concern and misgiving that we suddenly became aware that this abomination was upon us...

“What to do? There are so many Christian organisations in South Africa, but our voices are just not being raised, or perhaps not heard. At moments like this that profound maxim rises up before one – ‘we were not born to fit in, but to

stand out!’

“It was with this in mind and the conviction that we could not be idle in the face of the ‘culture of death’ being so brazenly and boldly professed, that on 9 July, a five-man team from Family Action South Africa took the road from Ladysmith to Grahamstown. Their mission: a public rosary rally and peaceful protest against the international “Abortion & Reproductive Justice: The Unfinished Revolution III” Conference being held at Rhodes University from the 8th to the 12th of July.

“The goal of the Family Action SA mission was threefold: to make a public act of reparation to Almighty God for this stain on our land, to pray for the frustration of the conference’s goals and for increased resistance from the various sectors where the abortion lobby is meeting opposition/inertia/rejection. In addition, we sought to pray for the mercy of God upon our country, make the public aware of the seriousness of the conference and give some fraternal support to others in the trenches – in this case notably, Peter Throp of Value Life, who himself had courageously taken the long road (870km) to Grahamstown.

“Hoot for the Unborn’

“Armed with an assortment of classic ‘sidewalk placards’, we sought an ideal spot to be seen and heard! ‘Hoot for the Unborn’, ‘Women Need Love, Not Abortion’, ‘Real Doctors don’t kill Babies’, ‘Abortion stops a Beating Heart’ and ‘Abortion offends God’, were some of our attention-getters.

“We finally established ourselves at a crossroads close to the venue, strategically positioning ourselves with the various placards. We simultaneously unfurled our three-metre wide rosary banner inviting the public to join our prayer effort. We were also joined by Peter for this action.

“The weather was perfect and the response was very encouraging

to say the least. The rally lasted for an hour and a half during which time there were over 200 hoots! It is not often that one appreciates and enjoys the discordant sound of hooters! But this was music to the ears!

“In fact, I was encouraged and pleasantly surprised by this unusual manifestation of support for the plight of the unborn. And this was in a time of relatively mild traffic flow... This type of manifestation is common in America but here in South Africa we do not have a culture of such protest action, so it was interesting to gauge the level of support for life – which the media narrative would have us believe to be irrelevant.

Enthusiastic public support

“There were enthusiastic and vibrant reactions of support from passers-by and motorists alike. One lady walked past making a hoot motion with her hand and said: ‘I’m hooting! I agree with you.’

“Towards the end of the rally, a Zimbabwean lady came by and asked if she could take a picture with us. She mentioned that she and her husband were attending the conference, but that she personally was against abortion and her husband (a gynaecologist) was not actually in the business of abortion! It was a good lesson to us not to write off participants per se as sometimes there are circumstances which would place such people actually on our side! It was evident to us that we were also seen and heard by other conference participants.

“There was some opposition of course, but very little in comparison to the support we received. Several people drove past and made rude finger signs, which have become such knee-jerk responses from certain quarters. One woman walked by and having read our ‘Abortion offends God’ sign, said: ‘You offend me.’ A little while later, two young Malawian women engaged one of our party for a good while on the merits of being ‘pro-choice’, after which the respective parties parted ways agreeing to disagree. While our team member was talking with

the two women, a man walked up and swore in his face and asked the women if they agreed that we should be thrown off the campus. It was pointed out that we were on a public intersection, after which the man swore again before walking away.

“The SABC was covering the conference and honed in on our banner and posters. They also conducted an interview with us, which was aired the following morning on SABC Morning Live.

“It must be abundantly clear that a lack of respect for the rights and life of the smallest, vulnerable and most defenceless inevitably seeps into the bigger culture and can only cheapen notions of the sanctity of life.

“The joy of publicly manifesting one’s rejection of the ‘culture of death’ and putting action to words was great! We were not many but we were there – standing up for the unborn and making a public act of reparation to Almighty God against a conference promoting those sins which cry out to Him for vengeance...

“One of the stated aims of the conference was to ‘destigmatise’, on the social, political and religious planes, easy and unfettered access to abortion – in other words to change mindsets, cultures, sensibilities; to numb consciences as to the awful reality constituting the ‘termination’ of life in the womb!

Encouraging reality

“The one encouraging reality is that seemingly, within our own country, our neighbours and indeed our continent (where the family institution is so strongly entrenched in the culture), there exists considerable and profound obstacles to ‘easy access’ – be these from governments, institutions, communities, nurses or doctors...

“Prior to the trip we had sent out an email to thousands of our friends and supporters and we felt palpably the presence

of these who joined us in prayer and spirit.

“May this conference – which was very far-reaching in its goals, discussion and scope – goad us into a more spirited and energetic defence of the plight of the unborn. For this we need much courage, determination and prayer! May Almighty God have mercy on us for the violation of His precepts and may He give us the grace to grasp that life – all life, from conception to natural death – is sacred. Without adherence to this basic premise, society will only unravel, leading to total moral collapse and increasing disregard for life – already so clearly evident all around us!”



Peter Throp.

Peter Throp's report

Peter Throp filed this report on his mission during which he – assisted by some volunteers – distributed 10 000 pro-life flyers.

“Dear pro-life brothers and sisters,

“I have returned home safely. I would like to share testimony as to my experience during the seven days visit to Grahamstown with the Holy Spirit.

“In November 2017 I was alerted to an evilness that was to be hosted in this community in the form of an international conference, namely ‘End abortion stigma now, unfinished revolution.’

"My observation and reflection is that this infiltration of the 'death peddlers' to promote a revolution in the destruction of innocent life, was repelled as it was not well attended.

"I had discerned with our Lord and prayed for guidance since being alerted, and the 'pull' to lift up the TRUTH was driven in me by the power of Almighty God. With my dear wife's support, I left Cape Town for East London to include a visit to my sister, planning to arrive in Grahamstown in time for the 4 days of the conference, on the Saturday. As it happened, the 'pull' was so strong that my visit to family was cut short and I arrived in Grahamstown on the Wednesday, 3 days early, thus the pro-life message was present and viewed for a full 7 days.

"The Holy Spirit then brought me to divine meetings with some of His other sheep and now that they were aware of this demonised intrusion, I was privy to seeing the increase in prayer group activity including prayer for my wellbeing. One prayer warrior even made room for me at the 'Inn'. Praise the lord.

"These prayer warriors were offended at the powers that had brought this evil to town. This prayer activity had power as the message ABORTION IS EVIL was the subject of attack by what is becoming known as intolerant liberals i.e. totalitarians. A local Facebook page was shut down after displaying 160 blasphemous comments. (See attached photo that was posted by someone on said Facebook).

"Shut down by the power of praise to our King.) A read of 2 Chronicles Chapter 32 could be beneficial to people of the Word. Take note of Verse 21. God will not be mocked !

"The age old truth is that ABORTION kills babies. These unique individual lives are all a gift from God made in His image. So is it so difficult for us to apply Genesis 6:6 to our present

day??

“In conclusion, I was graced to deliver a message and I believe that God has placed a warning on the good people of Grahamstown to raise up and be heard in their disgust that this intrusion of the secular death peddlers should be allowed to infiltrate their hamlet.

“I add that I was allowed to see the positive force of to “EXPOSE LIES, LIFT UP TRUTH” by the direction of the Holy spirit and I am at a comfortable peace in hope.

“God bless

“Peter Throp, a messenger who’s only desire is to serve our Lord. Isaiah 5:20.”

Local helpers

A Grahamstown pastor, Buyisile Geelbooi, came to the support of Throp’s mission by helping to distribute several thousand flyers. Asked by Gateway News why he helped with the pro-life campaign he said: “The Bible instructed me.”

A Grahamstown businesswoman who also lent support to Throp – and who did not want her name to be published – had this to say: “I have been fighting this evil [abortion] for many years. I was so humbled by Peter’s passion for the cause. I have distributed most of the tracts and have placed some at the state clinic.

“The conference had one objective, and that is to give women more power to make a decision on their own behalf to terminate pregnancy. They do not believe life starts at conception, therefor the baby or foetus has no rights. I have not heard of many women claiming that they are pregnant with a foetus. Most of us say that we are pregnant and expecting a baby! This is very, very sad indeed.”



Leanne Kelly.

Leanne Kelly's prayer report

Leanne Kelly, who has lived in Grahamstown for 16 years felt compelled to respond to the hosting of the international pro-abortion conference in the city. After considering the most appropriate and effective response, she decided to mobilise a group that would commit to sustained prayer throughout the conference period. This is her report: "I only heard about the conference the week before. It was obviously something that stirs one – especially because it was stated in the media brief that there would be no pro-life representation at all in the conference. It just seemed to me that the conference was a very one-sided affair. And Grahamstown really does pride itself in its liberalism, and is a town of boundary-pushing and boundary-defining – and boundary-destroying. Some of that is a good thing and some isn't. Some boundaries shouldn't be broken and when I read about this conference I thought about what the Christian response in the town should be.

"I know from living here a long time that the town has some measure of 'protest fatigue' – there are often protests here about all kinds of things.... It was also the university holiday period, meaning campus was going to be very quiet, meaning that any kind of a public protest was going to be even less effective. So in thinking about it, I knew that prayer is always the most effective thing we can do. It is also something we can do without our flesh getting in the way, so we don't need to be defensive or retaliatory or reactive when

we pray...

“So I sent a voice note out to friends who I know are serious about praying and feel the same about the issue of abortion... I encouraged people to choose slots that spanned every day so we would be covering each day of the conference consistently...

Rebuilding walls

“One of the stories that God brought to mind as I was thinking about what to do was Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after they had been broken down – and the responsibility placed on people to rebuild the section in front of their own home. And because this conference was happening in our town I felt it would be inexcusable not to take some responsibility for bringing it before God and interceding very intently about the issue.

“...I believe there was enough of a number gathered that it was an effective and a sincere prayer effort by some very unassuming, and humble and faithful saints...

“It was nice to have Peter Throp in town. It certainly raised a lot of hubbub on social media, The Grahamstown social media group was ringing with all kinds of things – most of it pretty insulting and awful, but for the most part I think the Christian responses on the group were good.

[Later when she felt the content of the threads were getting demeaning she reported it to the administrator who wisely removed them.] ... Although one feels offended when one reads terribly blasphemous things on a thread like that, I think in the end I was feeling more fearful for the people who were saying them – realising they were speaking out of an incomplete knowledge and no personal revelation of the realness of Jesus. I really felt Jesus’ prayer echo in my mind – ‘Father forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing.’ ... I think we were just praying for mercy as well for those who were saying those things.

Spiritual impact

“It didn’t feel like a particularly noteworthy thing to me, but one just trusts that these things in the spiritual realm are more significant than we know. God has given us the gift of prayer and He has told us that our prayers avail much – the prayers of a righteous man. And because we understand our righteousness is wholly received from Jesus, we also stand in this amazing hope that our prayers avail much.

“So I really trust that those prayers were like sweet-smelling incense to our Father and they were effective in ways that we will only see one day in eternity – or maybe never see – but I think any acts of obedience and calling out to the one true authority is the most likely to bear fruit.”

Three-day revival meeting to celebrate National Women’s Day



Logos Community Church in Walmer Township Port Elizabeth will celebrate National Women’s Day with a three-day revival

meeting from August 10 to 12 and a high tea on Saturday August 11.

The day will be dedicated to the women of 1956 who took part in the historic women's march against pass laws, and also to encourage the women of today that they can change the world through the gospel, said the revival hostess Khunjulwa Kulati.

"In fact, we can start in the communities that we live in and try to be the change amongst them, so that we may be able to preach to them," she said.

The theme for the revival is "Crippled, but the Lord is not done, I still have a place at the King's table" which was inspired by *2 Samuel 4:4 – Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.*

The event will take place at Logos Community Church, 12 Mankazana Street Walmer Township. Because this is a celebration of great women, it is expected that great women will grace this event with their presence, said Kulati. The line-up of speakers includes Kulati, Noncedo Khanye from Logos Community Church, Margie Van Heerden from Legacy Life Church, and Sibabalo Mbelekane.

Women attending the high tea are expected to come well-dressed in hats and heels to celebrate their womanhood. The fee for the high tea is R100 and tickets are available for sale.

Though the day is strictly for women, it is also part of the church's fundraising campaign and men are encouraged to show their support financially.

For more information, please contact Khunjulwa Kulati on 074 410 9495.