



### HIS STORY vs history

*Wouldn't it be wonderful to have an idea of what God is really up to in this world? One thing we can be very sure of — that the story of the world as we find it in history books and newspapers, is not to be confused with the real story of what God is doing underneath. But what is God's story as opposed to history? What's He really up to? Must the daily diet of wars, murder and mayhem in my newspaper always get me down? Can I ever be sure something is going on underneath? Well, we can't know perfectly as "his ways are so much higher than our ways" (Isaiah 55:9). But we are afforded glimpses. For example – CHINA*

*The headlines said in June of 1989 that a terrible massacre took place. Five thousand young people were mown down by the Chinese army. The headlines all mourned the death of the pro-democracy movement. It was terrible, but what was God up to underneath? Out of that massacre came a remarkable turning to Christ among China's students for the first time in history! The headlines never saw it -it's not part of history. But "His story" went on.*

*(Ron Boyd-Macmillan of Open Doors)*

#### Rod & Glenda Thomas – OMF (church leaders in Sendei, Japan)\*\*

1. a) **Praise** for new people in Sendai church; **Pray** for the conversion of the lost.
- b) Aug 1st we have a craft event to attract the neighbours, followed by an evangelistic bible study.
- c) **Pray** for the renovation of the house the church has bought. We need to get a new roof on soon.
  
2. d) Our former evangelist, Tadimitsu, will be visiting on 25th. **Pray** for guidance for his future.
- e) **Praise** for our good health and many opportunities to tell the gospel.
- f) **Pray** for arrangements for HA in South Africa, in December 2019-March 2020.

#### Tim and Therese Galange (MTW Missionaries at Bible Institute, Kalk Bay)

**3. Praise** God for an encouraging and instructive time with a visiting mission team (14 people) from the USA (18-25 July). Our first-time visitors to South Africa gained a good overview of our ministries, as well as insight into the challenges of life in Cape Town's Townships. Tim is teaching a course on pastoral ministry at the Bible Institute. **Pray** for those in the class to embrace the "hands-on" method being used, and will pour themselves into practical learning.

**4. Pray** for both of us as we also prepare for special events in August – Tim, teaching a day seminar on financial aspects of marriage in Langa Township (17 Aug), and Therese, speaking for two women's events: a bridal tea at The Bible Institute (5 Aug) and for Women's Day at Faith Way Bible Church in Gugulethu Township. We also are planning for a larger conference to be held in November. Please **pray** for wisdom as we prayerfully consider taking on some additional roles with MTW in Southern Africa.

#### Cricket Meyer – Children's Ministry at Uyesu Unathi in Khayelitsha and with Ana A Yesu in Malawi\*\*

**5. Please pray** that I can get an earlier interview date than the 12<sup>th</sup> of September for my American visa. I can't make my flight arrangements until I have the visa. Also please **pray** for the preparations for making a trip to

Malawi at the beginning of October. **Pray** for the logistics as I juggle having my visa in with the American's and needing it back for travel to Malawi, and all that goes into preparing for the Malawi trip.

6. Please also **keep** our Khayelitsha ministry **in prayer**. They are practicing hard for their Spring Concert as well as for the graduation of their Grade R class. The teachers and children are very excited about all of this.

### **Ana A Yesu (Children's Ministries in Malawi) \*\* – Brian and Angela McClarty and Cricket Meyer**

7. **Praise** for the 15 children attending the Bible study on the life of David that Herbert is giving at the primary school. Please **pray** for Herbert as he leads this study, and for these children to come to a living faith in the Lord Jesus during this time.

8. Please **pray** for our teachers and children in Malawi during the school holidays for safety and to come back refreshed in the new term. Two of the teachers, James and Herbert, will be taking their Explore course exam this month. **Pray** they will study well and that the truths they learn will be remembered not only during the exam but permanently and incorporated in their lives.

9. Please **pray** for Cricket's preparations to go to Malawi at the beginning of October to come together, and that when she has her visa, she will be able to book a flight at a reasonable cost. **Pray** for the Lord's wisdom for her as she prepares the new teaching materials for the teachers.

### **Bheki and family: Outreach from St Peters to Masiphumelele**

10. Please **pray** for the success of: A) The Men's Ministry which happens once a month, as we seek to find good leaders. B) The Children's Ministry which has a Friday club which is called *Kids for Christ*. This is one of our contact points with the children's parents, as it is held at the park in Masi.

11. Please **pray** for the growth of the Sunday meeting. Bheki has been praying for 60 attendees by this month. **Pray** that God will bless this ministry and those people by answering this prayer.

### **Greg & Carol Phillips (Mukhanyo Theological College, KwaMhlanga and Pretoria)\*\***

12. **Praise** : (i) We can truly say that we are enjoying Pretoria, and feel well-settled here, and in Calvary Baptist Church. Carol is now on the church roster for playing the piano for Sunday worship services, Ruth continues to look forward every week to helping at Friday evening junior Youth, and I am quietly praying to see what role the Lord might have for me at Calvary. (ii) Through the second term and exam period, I coped much better with the workload and commuting. Thank you for praying. It was my first exam season at Mukhanyo as Academic Registrar.

13. **PRAYER** : Hannah will continue with two more courses by distance over the rest of the year. Please **pray** Hannah will manage well. I will be teaching Synoptic Gospels and Acts again for 1st year BTh, as well as another Gospels course for 2nd to 4th years, and most likely another Research Methodology course, this time at Honours level. But I am especially excited to be teaching Systematic Theology Introduction for the 1st year students. In all my years as a lecturer I have never taught a systematic theology course, so this is a great opening to learn fast and expand my knowledge.

14. **PRAISE** : All my classes are in KwaMhlanga this semester, so I will not have any long days with evenings at the Pretoria learning centre. Please **pray** for all of us for the Lord's enabling as we get back into the routine and discipline of our work, studies, and responsibilities. Please **pray** especially for Hannah as she, and we, adjust to having her home with us. The iron supplements do seem to be helping.

15. Please **pray** for us to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord as His children, servants, and witnesses, that all our relationships and efforts may bring glory to Him.

**Thank you** for your continued support and prayers as we depend, not upon our own strength or piety, but upon the power of the name and person of Jesus, believing His word and trusting in His purposes. In all, we look forward to seeing what God is going to do.

### **Eugene & Dawn Reyneke (AIM – Esbungabera, Mozambique, leaders' training & evangelism)\*\***

16. Jinx and Dawn are on home assignment, so please **pray** for a time of rest and refreshment for them, and a good time of meeting up with supporters and obtaining new supporters. Please continue to **pray** for the distribution of food and other needed items by Jen and Cecelia during the Reynekes' absence, and for the Lord's hand of protection and provision for them.

### **Uyesu Unathi (Khayelitsha ministries assisted by Cricket Meyer)\*\***

17. We have had no news about this ministry, except for the pre-school where Cricket is involved. **Praise** God that this is continuing well and that the teachers are dedicated to their jobs and to improving the lives of the children in their care. Please **pray** for them to continue to do well and for the Lord's blessing on them. **Pray** also for protection over them, the children, and all the buildings & vehicles belonging to this ministry.

18. Please continue to **ask the Lord** to raise up an African person who is qualified to be able to take over this work. Before Laura Haas' death, there were many ministries taking place on this extensive property in Khayelitsha and many children were hearing the gospel, but now they are not functioning. Please **pray** for the Lord to restore these good works.

### **Peter Laubscher – The Leprosy Mission**

19. Join us in **giving thanks** for a volunteer nursing sister in Mpumalanga who is taking a passionate interest in the welfare of leprosy patients in that province. She is working tirelessly to help patients recover from the social and physical horrors of leprosy. Several of the patients have experienced rejection because of leprosy, and some of them are suffering from extreme forms of leprosy, which need close supervision, and is difficult to sustain given the distances involved. One of the patients, who has suffered terribly as a result of leprosy, has become involved in caring for his fellow patients – his cheerful enthusiasm is infectious!

20. I'll be attending the Leprosy Mission Planning Meeting in Kinshasa during August – **pray** that we will know God's leading as we seek ways to improve care for leprosy patients in the DRC.

### **Kevin and Sybil Kevin Cole - Awaiting re-assignment in Somerset West area**

21. **Praise** items: Our move went smoothly and we are in a lovely first floor apartment overlooking the Gordons Bay mountains, and a golf course. We have found a wonderful Church family at Christ Church Waterkloof, Somerset West, where we are prayerfully considering joining, and if so, will transfer our membership.

22. **Prayer** items: a) **Pray** with us as we make our decision to join God's family in the wider Gordons Bay - Strand - Somerset West area. b) **Pray** for the believers, inmates and prison wardens at Obiqua Correctional Centre, that they may continue to grow in the grace of our Lord, and become mature believers.

23. c) **Pray** for us as we mentor those still busy with the *Explore* course from George Whitefield College. We do not want to drop them just because we have moved, but will visit them all once or twice a quarter. This does involve travelling long distances to these centres. d) Continue to pray for Sybil's health. We have found a doctor here who is treating her comprehensively, taking everything into account.

### **Explore Course in Africa\*\* (Nevil Carrington)**

**24.** Please **pray** for the Lord to provide the right candidates for the position of *Explore's* Operation's Manager, and give us wisdom to select the right one.

**25.** **Pray** for Rev. Grace Kavuma as he meets with the Archbishop, and other Bishops of the church of Uganda, to establish *Explore* as an integral part of their training material.

**26.** **Pray** for the new *Explore* administration system in Mozambique, which involves all the regional *Explore* facilitators working with Raphael Mukhanya from Christ Church Midrand. **Pray** for Marcus Collins as he edits the *Explore* modules in English, and adds translation 'helps' to assist translators in understand difficult concepts within the *Explore* material.

### **Beau-Gavin Durr (YWAM)**

**27.** a) **Praise** and **thanks** to our Heavenly Father for the opportunity, of being able to spend some time with dear Christian friends in Moldova and Romania; b) To have the opportunity to share "the hope in Christ" with high school children and university students – in spite of the difficulties many face, with few jobs, and corruption in government. c) To be able to encourage the local church and long term workers here to keep going. d) For safe travels and good health on this mission trip so far.

**28.** I would value your **prayers** for the following: i) For faithful prayer warriors to persist with me in prayer, for the watering of the seeds planted and that there may be a harvest of salvations in this eastern part of Europe

**29.** ii) For God's guidance and protection as I staff a Christ-centred reconciliation and forgiveness programme, and speak at churches and youth groups here in east Europe. iii) For physical protection on some rather rickety bus journeys sometimes, as I travel between various towns and villages here in Serbia, Macedonia and Albania; and for continued good health and provision.

### **Heather Simpkin & Jeanette Lelliott – AIM, (Mayotte)**

**30.** Hardly had we sent off our praise and prayer items for July, when we heard that the sale had now gone through for the Mission Property. So all stops were out to get the move over with, and it finally took place on Wednesday 10th July, and, for a while, chaos reigned. We closed the bookshop for the annual holidays on the 13th July, and we took a week to get things sorted out. Everything is now in its place and we are able to start enjoying our holiday. We are grateful to have this time of vacation. Please **pray** we adjust to living in our new surroundings before we get back into our normal routine at the end of August.

### **Katleho & Delight Meslane (Youth Pastor, Heideveld)\*\***

**31.** We have had no recent news so please continue to **pray** for continued stability in the church and for Katleho's various ministries, especially the children's and youth ministry. Kindly also **pray** for Dee's health as she nears the birth of their second-born in September/October.