

KZN-DRAK CHRYSALIS

EGL

Emanate God's Love

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Christmas !!!

Christmas—absolutely undeniably the best time of the year for me. The warm weather, the fish biting, the reptiles moving, the good food, the great friends, the mince pies, the decorations, the laughter, the presents, ahh, its just a great, great time of the year every way you look at it! And it all leads up to the best of all—Christmas morning!

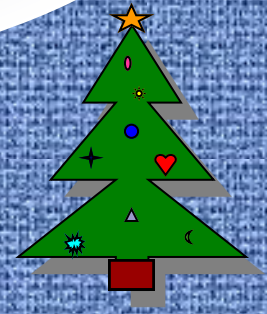
We are very blessed to have the good old traditional version of Christmas morning where as many of the extended family as possible all gather at grandma's house. Mom, my aunt and I are all like three year olds - awake at the crack of dawn

after attending the midnight service a few brief hours before! Then after giggling and whispering over a cup of coffee in the kitchen until it gets light enough, we have to gather the troops, dragging grandma out of bed, rustling brothers out of the loo, uncles out of the bathroom, Dad out of bed and finally grandma into her chair! Whether they leave their brains behind or not doesn't matter; they just need to be there physically - mentally we don't mind! Then there is the great fun of unwrapping presents. As I mentioned, Christmas is my best thing, so I start thinking of next year's gifts about the time this year's ones are



unwrapped! One of the best things is seeing a gift you put a lot of thought and effort into received in the right spirit! I sit there twitching, waiting ... and then the wrapping comes off and (with a touch of luck) the eyes light up and a smile appears and that little glow just lights up my heart! Pathetic, but my favourite feeling.

And guys, if that is how I feel, just imagine how God feels when we receive His "Christmas Present" to us in the right spirit!! Remember WHO Christmas is



Inside this issue:

<i>Faith Like a Puppy</i>	2
<i>Money Matters</i>	2
<i>Minister's Mite's Worth</i>	2
<i>Of Methods and Messages</i>	3
<i>...If we are the Body ...</i>	3
<i>Matriarch's Musings</i>	3
<i>Lara's Prayer Plekkie</i>	4

Book List for the Holidays:

- *Fearless*—Max Lucado
- *Life Without Limits*—Nic Vujcic
- *Finding God in Unexpected Places*—Philip Yancey
- *God is Closer Than You Think* - John Ortberg
- *Marta's Legacy series*—Francine rivers (fiction)
- *Sophie's Heart*—Lori Wick (fiction)

Feedback from Africa South AGM—Di Kyle

The Africa South AGM was hosted by the Papillon community just outside Middelburg in November. Samekoms is the facility they use for all their events and the community have built a large and homely church on the grounds. What super hosts they were. The meeting was constructive and allowed the many communities to meet and share common joys and frustrations. I was awed by the level of commitment exhibited by so many. Their Saturday night dinner was a Bible meal where we were royally hosted. We were each given a wonderful little traditional oil lamp which had been brought from Bethlehem as a gift for all the delegates. Their musos were tremendous and we were entertained by unlikely looking members of the community doing a Greek dance – I have to admit to a sigh of relief that none of them fell over in a dead faint from their exertions. So much effort, hard work and unadulterated love must have gone into the weekend to make it the success it was. Thank you, Papillon.



Merry, Merry Christmas everyone!

Faith Like a Puppy ??

becoming a brief and precious interlude, another good place to look is at a puppy! A puppy is above all a tangible example of furry, wiggling, licking joy! Nothing makes you feel quite as special as when she looks up from a way off, sees you and throwing back her ears and grinning disarmingly she comes charging full tilt toward you, flinging herself in all her excited, panting, happy glory into your arms in the absolute knowledge that you adore her and will catch her! No other thought can possibly cross her mind! You are her master, she belongs to you, but you also belong to her!

The moment she gives you her heart, you also have the huge responsibility of her trust too! And that is not something to be taken lightly, she trusts you with her everything and in return she begs you to be deserving of that trust! And that is where the analogy fails - with us being the puppy and the owner being God, because we are never trustworthy enough, but God is! He is SO trustworthy!

And when the chasing and causing havoc is done for the day, puppy comes to you, all soft and floppy, as only a tired and happy puppy can, and drops into your arms, and falls into a sleep that only comes from total innocence. She's tired, she's had a long day, and she needs her beauty sleep, her bed is cold, the other dogs are ignoring her, she needs to know that she is loved. She says "I love you, therefore you have to love me" and is fast asleep.

The Bible tells us to have the faith of a child. Well, in this day and age, with childhood

The thought never crosses her mind that that may not be the case. She has utter confidence that you delight in her, that you will protect her and keep her safe, and that she can pass out in your arms, with all the lack of dignity of a little pup, safe from all the things in this big scary world that make a little dog fearful.

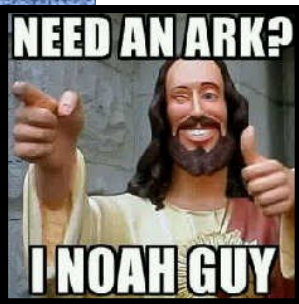
How I wish we all had that faith in God, because He's up for it. He deserves it. But we insist on trying to handle life by ourselves!

Why?

It would be so much easier if we just let go and let God.



Scrap and Tana



Money Matters

At a recent board meeting the topic of flight costs and the general price of things came up and it was discovered that the costs of next year's flights would have to go up by about a hundred and fifty bucks! Everyone agreed that that was not exactly ideal so much discussion ensued about what could be done about it. The decision was to set a cap on the fees at R 400 and fundraise the rest—a target of R 25 000

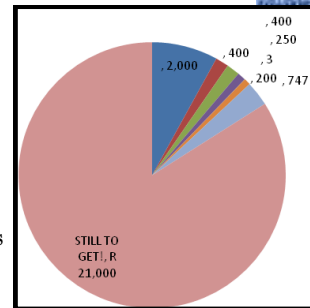
was decided on. It sounds like a huge amount of money (and it is a huge amount of money) but its awesome when we think of it as a fantastic opportunity to really start doing something for Chrysalis and look at it as a chance to build spirit and community!

Already we have R 4 000 in private donations. Cummon guys, we can do this!

Any ideas for fundraising? Please share them with us and put them into action! A few suggestions have been to sell wors rolls at youth meetings, cake sales after church or a pancake evening. Food seems a good option cause everyone is a sucker for munchies, especially at Christmas time! Or just speak to folk

about it and if you have the guts ask them outright for a donation - we all know it's really for a good cause! And if you are not brave enough to get other folk to do it then step up to the plate and cough up yourself =) So far we have had donations between R3 and R 400—so pick your extreme and beat it friends, even if its just the price of an ice cream!

The gauntlet has been thrown down, let us accept the challenge and fundraise ourselves some cash!!!!



Minister's Mite's Worth - Andre du Plooy

The Christmas story is the turning point in all of history. However, if we are honest with ourselves, we don't give it the importance it deserves in our lives. Maybe it's because we're too familiar with it. Maybe it's because we haven't taken the time to really look closely at it and what it has to teach us. Whatever the case, we seem to miss that the story has a ton of powerful application for our lives.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

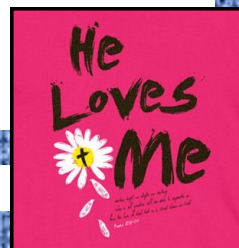
Isaiah 9:6-7 was written by, you guessed it, Isaiah. Isaiah was reflecting on God's words at a time when God's people, had completely turned their backs on God. God's people had stopped trusting on God and His promises. God had given them stacks of warning, but they hadn't listened.

But God being GOD, even His message of judgment carried hope. Isaiah 9:6-7 is all about hope. It's about a hopeful future, one in which God once and for all provides a way out from under the weight of our sins.

The fact of the matter is, God's sending His own Son to live and breathe and walk this earth was always the plan. Which is great news for you and me. But to see this plan to life, Jesus had to come to earth. And that's what Christmas is all about.

That's the message we have to share at Chrysalis let us fly with Christ and broadcast that – "HE is the HOPE in this world". A blessed Christmas to you all.

... and that's what Christmas is about!





Of Methods and Messages

God doesn't give you the people you want, He gives you the people you need. To help you, to hurt you, to love you, to leave you. To make you into the person you were meant to be!

The band Casting Crowns has just released a new album called *Come To the Well* and I was delighted to find a write up about it in the newspaper in Maritzburg, I was even more delighted when I read the content. Apparently it has done fantastically well with a billboard debut at number two! - which I'm guessing is a very good thing! Reading the article confirmed deep down the decision I had made to spend my hard earned money on it! But after listening to the first, and second songs (*Courageous* and *City on the Hill*) I was convinced that it was a good call!

And then I was struck a low blow by the lyrics of the third song, *Jesus, Friend of Sinners!* "... Jesus friend of sinners, the truth's become so hard to see. The world is on their way to You, but they're tripping over me. ... Oh Jesus friend of sinners, open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers!..."

Its important to remember that and not let the method get in the way of the message!

Shucks, that hits hard! Music is such a powerful tool! We all have our own taste and style and its important to remember that and not let the method get in the way of the message! I read a quote recently by CS Lewis in a book by Philip Yancey called *Finding God in Unexpected places* (I was reading it in

the loo!) Excuse the pun, but it really struck a chord!

"I disliked very much their hymns, which I considered to be fifth rate poems set to sixth rate music. But as I went on I saw the great merit of it ...I realized that the hymns (which were just sixth-rate music) were, nevertheless, being sung with devotion and benefit by an old saint in elastic-sided boots in the opposite pew, and then you realize that you aren't fit to clean those boots. It gets you out of your solitary conceit."

Recently a few things have made me think quite hard about this whole "Body of Christ" thing and to wonder if we're getting it right! So much of the time I find myself wrapped up so tightly in myself with no room for anybody else. Even the Godly thoughts I have are how to improve MY walk with God, how I can get closer etc. But looking in the Bible I see that while, yes, that's important and there is nothing said against it, it's not what its all about! The people were praised for thinking of and working for others. I read in a cool book about a guy called Larry who lived his life for others and gave everything away. I thought that was great but then I realized we don't have to do these amazing things, or give away everything. All it needs is a kind word, or just a thought for someone else or a small kindness, just something that makes us move away from ourselves and towards God. And I think we'll find that that is how we actually do move closer to God, forgetting ourselves for once and thinking purely for others.

... If we are the Body ...

One of the few noble minded thoughts that I occasionally think is to ponder what other folk think of Christians. What features stand out for them. One that I picked up on (thanks to the Simpsons!) was that we're really good at judging and gossiping. After watching one episode in particular I spent a nearly sleepless night mulling it over and came to no conclusion. What I did realize, though, is that we have huge, huge room for improvement in this regard.

It's a wonderful feeling to be able to just talk to someone and know they have my best interests at heart. I am hugely blessed to have people that I can do that with, most of whom I've met through Chrysalis actually. I trust them because I know them, but it strikes me that it should be that I trust them because I know they're Christians! Do I trust Jesus? Yes. Therefore I should trust His hands and feet right?

It's not at all easy to be a good listener, and often we're shocked by what we hear, but we are always harping on about how God can forgive anything. Well, if God can, then we must too, and not only forgive, but also forget!

Often we are caught by surprise and can't help but be shocked, but the thing is, that's ok. Just don't let it stop you from supporting and praying for the person. We need to be the body of Christ. 'cause no one else in this sick old world is going to! And I reckon that if we start practicing a bit more of what we preach we'll find ourselves making a bit of progress - both on our personal journeys and in the eyes of the world.

As the saying goes, "Happiness is like a butterfly, chase it and it will elude you, but if you sit down quietly and turn your attention to other things then it comes and sits softly on your shoulder".

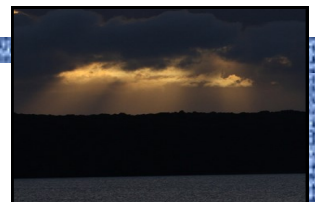
The Matriarch's Musings – Di Kyle

With just a few days to go to Christmas I have to admit to a feeling of excitement. It is such an awesome time of the year. I spent a while imagining myself as Mary, centuries ago, riding a donkey away from all that she was familiar with, at a time when most women like to be preparing for the new arrival at home. Knowing she was about to be delivered of God's

child. She was a young woman and must have been anxious and lonely. It made me think of all the folk who live amongst us who are anticipating Christmas day with a feeling of dread, knowing that there is no-one with whom to spend the day as so many relatives and friends have left the country. Maybe this year we should joyfully demonstrate God's uncondi-

tional love.

We should be God's hands and feet and invite lonely people to join those of us who are blessed enough to be spending the day with family or friends. I'll take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas.



Be someone's ray of light this Christmas ...

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Ankie has written a lovely testimony that was a bit too long to fit in this edition so we've popped it up on the website. Please read it, its really inspiring!

Talking of money earlier reminded me of a happy story that I wanted to share with you. Due to running the two flights simultaneously, we needed to get hold of six more round tables for the conference rooms. The cheapest quote we got was R 7 200 for them all. While a lot of money' it was thought to be a necessary expense and the decision was made to go ahead. Luckily, just before they were bought, Reg came across 6 sheets of supa wood that could be bought for R100 each! And guess what, they were exactly the right width! How cool is that? => So now they are in Reg and Craigs' capable hands. My only concern is that they are painting them too! Perhaps we should pray for their colour selection!

Perspective

I cry and I groan when the going gets tough
And I say it's unfair when the world calls my bluff
The odds are against me and I've been let down
And my cheerful smile becomes a bitter frown
I look to the sky and I scream "It's not fair"
You promised You'd love me, but how can You care?
My life is unravelling, the silver lining is lost
My story seems written, it's dotted, it's crossed
It used to be easy, the going was good
I spoke with you often and I felt understood
But now you have left me and I feel all alone
And I cannot reach You though I sob and I moan
How can You do this to me Your own child
I thought You were gentle, they said You were mild
And then the scene changes and I'm shocked into silence
As the story unfolds of blood-shed and violence
I see how for me You suffered such pain
And suddenly my life is in perspective again.

- Kirsty



The Law condemns the best of us, but GRACE saves the worst of us!

A grade one boy answers his Maths test as follows:



1+1=Jesus
4+6=Jesus
3+2 =Jesus



The teacher calls him over to the desk where she is marking and asks him why all his answers are Jesus. He looks up at her and says: "Miss, that man up in front on Sundays says Jesus is the answer to everything!"

Prayer pushes us through life's slumps , propels us over the humps , and pulls us out of the dumps.— Max Lucado

Lara's Prayer Plekkie

"Let me not wrap, stack, box, bag, tie, tag, bundle, seal, keep Christmas. Christmas kept is liable to mould. Let me give Christmas away, unwrapped, by exuberant armfuls. Let me share, dance, live Christmas unpretentiously, merrily, responsibly with overflowing hands, tireless steps and sparkling eyes. Christmas given away will stay fresh—even until it comes again."
-- Let Me Not Keep Christmas
Linda Felver
A Book of Christmas, Nashville: Upper Rooms, 1988, p. 48

Meister Eckhart once said: 'What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?'

Lord we pray that this Christmas, we may all know Jesus as born in our hearts and not just in a manger long ago. We give you thanks for our gifts, of loved ones, families and especially you our Lord. May we all experience your exuberant joy in the birth of your son. Amen

Hi everyone, Just a happy little note from 'the editor'. Just to say thanks so much for the positive feedback from the last newsletter! Really appreciate it and hope that this one meets your approval too. Also to remind you to send in any contributions. Would be great, and thanks so much to those of you who have. => It is **our** Newsletter.
And of course also to wish you the happiest Christmas possible! I really hope its a winner for all of you and that 2012 is an outstandingly good year for everyone! God bless and keep you safe and strong!

ROLL ON CHRYSALIS 2012

Seriously, with models like that how can you say no?? :)

Special thanks to Kayleigh, Andrea, Lara, Ankie, Di, Shelly, Andre & Nollie for their contributions. Thanks so much!

God Bless Kirst