

THE Source

April 2018

- *Resolving Conflict the Biblical Way*
Peter Farrant
- *Back to the Future*
Hendrik Viljoen

St John the Baptist Community Church

Chairman of Council – Shane Dowinton 014 755 4009 or 083 419 1929
Church Secretary – Wendy Godfrey 078 118 1737
Church Cell Phone 073 380 9444
Treasurer – Simone Baber 014 755 4430 or 083 302 5123

*Banking Details: FNB Modimolle, Branch no 260247,
Account no 531 746 01684*

Please Join Us!

Men's Bush Breakfast

*at 'Exciting Times' (Joan Baber's)
Shane: 074 430 2827*

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

*at Craig and Trish's, dinner at 18h00
Trish: 083 690 0061*



Richard Fothergill and the Hands at Work team from The Filling Station in the UK

Send your Church or Family News to:

Marilyn Cook | 084 805 2199 | marilyn@mission2sa.org

Tilene Viljoen | 079 524 1148 | tilene@obiter.co.za

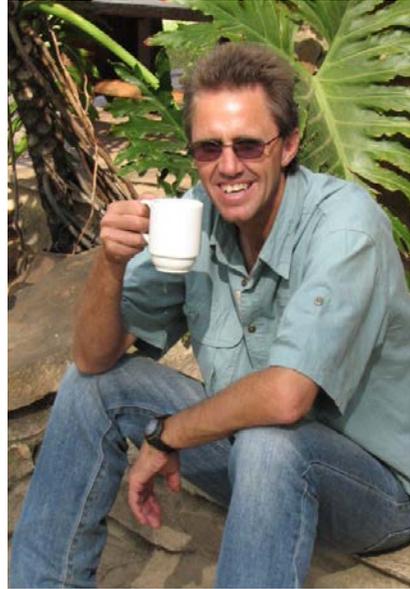
Chairman's Report

Shane Dowinton

The year 2017 was another great year of growth for St John's. We grew in numbers, which is always a healthy sign, but we also grew in the knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ, which is kingdom expansion. As we did so we adopted the kingdom principle of "going on being filled" by the Holy Spirit, at every juncture being filled so that we might become even more hungry.

This is nowhere more apparent than in our time of testimony during services which often leads us into Spirit filled encounters with Christ as we pray on those testimonies for others. Sharing testimony of God's goodness in the details of our daily lives makes us aware of the kingdom in the marketplace.

We have grown in expectation that he will meet us there to heal or restore or set free. The church was meant for the world not just Sundays! As we have learned to embrace this time during services we have come to celebrate the miracles big and small that are going on constantly in our midst.



We have prayed with our nation this year, joining in the cry for change and repentance. It was amazing to be a part of Angus Buchan's "It's Time" gathering of more than a million believers in Bloemfontein. Some drove the many miles to be there whilst the rest joined in our reciprocal weekend here in the Waterberg praying constantly and fervently. We have seen fruit from those prayers and we will continue to do so this year.

We also gathered at Boschdraai in November for "Bonfire prayer", an evening of intercession for South Africa. Led by Juliet, the presence of God was powerful in the meeting as we fought a heavenly battle for change. As the storm clouds gathered overhead there

was a sense of greater battles being fought at a spiritual level.

Richard Fothergill was with us again earlier in the year with his team from the UK. As usual our Saturday was all about practical equipping to live a Jesus lifestyle and we felt our spiritual skin being stretched to hear what God is telling us. It has been a core discipling weekend for St John's for a number of years now and well worth putting in the diary. Richard, Jo and the team will be with us the weekend March 16-18.

As many will have noticed, Bill Forbes has become a regular part of the preaching team in 2017 and will be into this next year. Bill has a wonderful prophetic gift and during the course of the last year many of the St Johns' family received encouraging words from God through Bill. As we grow in our understanding of the role of prophecy in our personal lives and the life of a church body we hope to be caught up in God's greater plan for the church, the Waterberg, and the world.

Through our homegroup at Craig and Trish's home on a Wednesday and our Discipleship training in Vaalwater each Saturday, there has been a real thirst for the lifestyle of the kingdom. We have seen lives changed, many baptised and breakthrough into living a supernatural life for Christ. Please

enquire from the leadership team as to how you can join one of these groups and grow in your relationship with Christ.

So, what about this year, 2018? Where are we going and what can we expect? I was asked recently, "What is the Lord's word for St John's this year?" I had to admit that I hadn't asked!! I decided to pray on it and look to where God was leading.

The Sunday afterward we had the most amazing service with Bill Forbes preaching and prophesying revival for us. We also had a number of prophetic words for the church, people and the Waterberg. It was at that moment that I grasped God's desire for us. Jesus' words sprang to mind "If you have ears to hear."

It is quite easy to go through the motions of a life of faith and miss what Jesus is saying. I believe that is called religion. On the other hand, a life in relationship with Jesus is all about listening, "My sheep will know my voice".

I believe that the Lord is stirring us to go deeper with him into a life of listening. We must train ourselves to hear his voice and obey his commands. As we grow in expectation for God to be at work around us we must train our ears to hear him better so that we may join him in the exciting adventure of revealing the Kingdom.

As the year unfolds, my hope and prayer is that you will join us on this adventure in the body of Christ. Revealing the kingdom is the family business and we were meant to do it in fellowship so that we can learn from each other, nurture each other and encourage each other in living the abundant life of Christ together.

Find your place in the family, ask where you could be of help, serve one

another in love and the family will grow in love and in influence to the world around us. We were always meant to be a light on a hill.

Be blessed in this year, 2018, grow in revelation and understanding of Christ, and carry his grace to a world that desperately needs it.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Shane



... the Biblical way

Peter Farrant

Conflict is inescapable. Even those who shy away from confrontation, find it impossible to avoid conflict. Humans disagree because they are wired differently and have different agendas. We may even encounter conflict when we stand up for what is right.

Jesus taught us how to deal with conflict. In Matthew 18:15-35 he

teaches on the matter when a brother sins against you. The Lord tells us that addressing conflict and healing offences should be a priority for us. He even instructs us to postpone our worship if we remember an unresolved offense! (Matthew 5:23, 24)

The Biblical model for conflict resolution: Matthew 18:15-20.

1. **Initiate the contact** *"If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over." vs 15*

2. **Confront the person in private** *This takes courage and needs to be done without anger, malice or aggression. It requires love, gentleness and inner strength. First bring the matter to God and ask Him to show you the rights and wrongs of the situation. It would also be a good idea to discuss the matter with a senior trusted Christian and to pray together before you proceed. The Holy Spirit, who is in you, will convict you if you are in the wrong – then this is the chance you have to ask for forgiveness from your brother or the person you are in conflict with. However, if you are not in the wrong, then the Holy Spirit will help you address the matter with your brother or friend or neighbour in a loving and non-aggressive way.*

3. **If no resolution comes: meet again with one or two other people** *"But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." vs 16*

4. **Confirm the facts** *Confirm the facts at the meeting and work towards a solution.*

5. **If no resolution comes, bring the issue before the church or the organisation** *"If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church," vs17. The church or organisation or court has to agree upon the truth and the appropriate options for the offender. This implies a process: the church leadership or the organisational leadership or a court of law (in civil matters) will have to sit, examine the situation, and agree upon the truth and the appropriate options for the offender*

6. **If no resolution comes, release the offender from the church or the organisation** *"...if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector." vs 17*



... the Biblical way

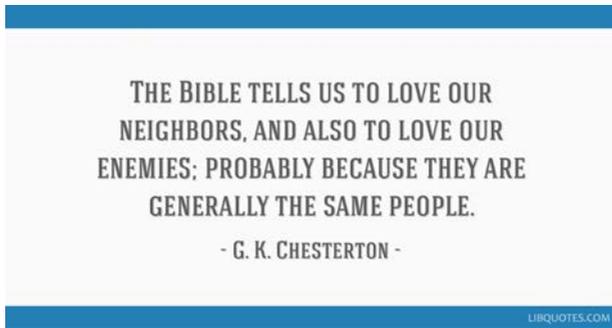
In the church, one would do that. In a civil organisation or a court of law, the national law would have to be followed. But the situation requires that you release the individual from your life.

Behind this process, lies the authority Jesus has given to church leaders. "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth, will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

we are to forgive them – not seven times, but seventy times seven! ^{Vs 21-22}.

Forgiveness is not easy! The cross reminds us how costly and painful it is!

Forgiveness does not mean approving of what the other person did or excusing it, or denying it, or pretending that you are not hurt. Rather, you are aware of what the other person has done and yet you are called to forgive.



Clearly this shows that there has to be careful prayer, introspection and enquiry of the Lord. The church leaders (or people involved with the conflict resolution), must ask for wisdom and revelation and must act wisely – because they have God given authority.

We now must consider the vital matter of forgiveness and unforgiveness. Jesus calls on His disciples and on us to apply unlimited forgiveness. Jesus says that when people sin against us,

In your personal relationships, lay aside malice, revenge and retribution and show mercy and grace to the person who has hurt you.

Romans 12:19: "Do not take revenge my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay' (Deut. 32:35) says the Lord." On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head." Proverbs 25:21, 22.

Sometimes forgiving can be very hard. As C.S. Lewis wrote: "Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive."

The parable of the unforgiving servant shows the destructive nature of unforgiveness. The first servant has a big debt of his cancelled by his master – but in turn, he is unwilling to cancel a relatively minor debt owed to him by a fellow servant. (The difference in the debts: The first servant's debt to his master = 160,000 years of wages for an ordinary man vs the debt owed to him by the second servant = 3.5 months of wages).

As a result of his unforgiveness, the servant is cast into prison to be tortured. His relationship with the other servants is also destroyed.

So often unforgiveness destroys relationships between people and results in them lashing out against those they think have sinned against them. We see the results of this in marriage breakdowns, broken relationships or in conflict between different communities.

We do not earn our forgiveness! Jesus achieved that for you and me on the cross.

But your and my willingness to forgive is evidence that we know God's forgiveness. Until I recognize that I am forgiven, that I need to be forgiven and that I am a sinner in dire need of forgiveness – I cannot myself forgive.

Forgiven people forgive!

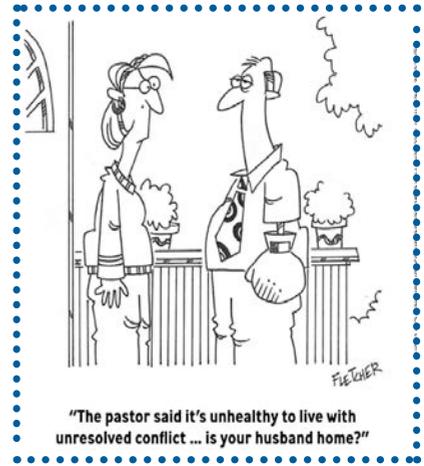
All of us have been forgiven so much by God that we must keep on forgiving the comparatively small offences committed against us. I am so grateful that the Lord does not put a limit on how often He forgives me!

Yet when I look at others, I am tempted to think "I am happy to forgive once or twice, but if they keep on doing this surely I'm not expected to keep on forgiving?!"

We must all cultivate in our hearts, the same attitude towards others as God has towards you!

Jesus taught us to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Forgiveness is NOT an option in the Christian life! Forgiveness is essential for our good health and life!



**Acknowledgement to Nicky Gumbel and John Maxwell for some material.*

LETHABO



kid's club

What do you do when you are a kid in Leseding, that is after school or on Saturdays? You go to Lethabo Kid's Club on Wednesday after school – it's a HAPPY place for kids



to come! They come running to get the front seats, sing and dance and then have a Bible Story, usually taught by Godfrey who sings and asks questions and hold their attention. Then it is "Thank you Father", their song to thank Him for the peanut butter and jam sandwiches and fresh milk. It's a place to meet friends – even the older youth show up to 'hang out' with their friends – a good safe, happy environment for all!

St Johns Soup Kitchen
FNB Account: 62099929815
Bank Code 250655

The Kholofelo Association

Giving Hope to Youth

Because we care about our grown up kids who have passed matric we try to help them with tertiary education. Last year we were able to help 12 students. This year is about the same – only we now have several doing 'distance' learning. This has proved to be very successful and we can assist more youth in this way.



Johannes Motshagoa who has completed his course in tourism & Thomas Pholoba studying Public Relations through Oxbridge Academy - also driving for Marilyn.

The Kholofelo Association
FNB Account: 62659880374
Bank Code 250655

Marilyn and some of last year's students



Back to the future

From a sermon by *Hendrick Viljoen*



2018 – How will your past influence your future?

What was your past like? Were you favoured, talented, successful or do you think life has not treated you fairly? Have you ever felt that your past misfortunes or mistakes have handicapped you in a way that will stay with you for the rest of your life?

Each one of us has a past and these vary greatly. We were born in various countries with different cultures. We have different backgrounds ranging from desperately poor, orphaned and even abused to very rich, cosseted and privileged.

We know that your past inevitably plays a role in who you are today, how you see things and what decisions you make. In this way your past has power to influence your future. However when you meet Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour the whole dynamic changes.

Your salvation is the best thing from your past that you need to hold on to presently and in future. Submitting your life to God changes the hold the past has over you and paves the way for a future growing from glory to glory as you learn more

See, when you drive home today, you've got a big windshield on the front of your car. And you've got a little bitty rearview mirror. And the reason the windshield is so large and the rearview mirror is so small is because what's happened in your past is not near as important as what's in your future.

Joel Osteen

about God's way of living. As the hymn says: "Love, peace, joy, health He has made themw mine!"

The one thing we all have in common in our collective past is sin. We are all sinners and we have all made mistakes. We can deal with this by repenting and accepting God's forgiveness. The price that Jesus paid on the cross makes it possible for us to move on and start over on the path to wholeness and holiness, free from the ensnarement of sin.

We all have low points and unfulfilled dreams in our past. It may have been the death of a loved one, poverty or illness that sets you back in life. God can even turn these setbacks into something positive. Often there were valuable lessons that you learned from the hard times. These lessons may help you or others in future.

Then we also have traditions and habits rooted in our past. These can be good or bad. Look at your traditions and habits closely. Are they in line with God's word? Do they add value to your life? Or do you just follow them because it is the custom?

A new husband discovered that there were no wings on Sunday's roast chicken. He was fond of wings and asked his wife where they were.

"Oh, my mum always cut them off and fed them to the cat," said his wife. Astonished he asked: "Why would you do that?" "I don't know," she answered. "Let's phone mum and find out."

But mum also did it because that was what her mother used to do. At last they phoned granny. "Oh it was because of the roasting tin," she chuckled. "We only had a small roasting tin and the big old farm chickens wouldn't fit if I did not cut off the wings."

So what once may have been a sensible enough solution ended up becoming a useless tradition. Take good traditions with you for the future but don't be scared to dump ones that are doing more bad than good.

Another handicap from your past is the wrongs that others did to you. Sometimes these hurts of the past manifest in lack of confidence, nightmares, lies that you believe about yourself because of things people said, fear, illness and bad behaviour patterns.

You may so desperately want to move on and cope by yourself that you are hiding these symptoms from others and refuse to acknowledge them. It is like a painful, suppurating wound with a thin layer of skin covering it. These

old wounds could keep on hurting you unless you are healed. God wants to heal you.

Remember that God already knows everything about you. He will not be shocked and reject you if you take your hurts to Him. He is the good shepherd who leaves the 99 healthy sheep to go and look for that one in the ditch. You can pour out your heart to Him, lay down the burdens of past hurts at the cross and ask Him to heal you and to help you to forgive those who hurt you.

However God requires obedience from you. He requires that you 'give up the hurt' and forgive those who have hurt you so that you may be free from the hurt. This is one aspect of the past that you really can't afford to take with you into the future. God said unless you forgive others I can't forgive you.

Perhaps your past is a story of success and victory. You have always had all you need. You are talented, rich, clever, good-looking and popular. You have reason to be thankful. But how can you make sure your present and past successes and blessings mean anything in future?

The uncomfortable truth is that you can lose your wealth, looks, mental capability and health in a second. The way to deal with talents and

success is to be thankful and acknowledge that these are gifts from God and to use them for his kingdom's benefit. Only treasures you have saved up in heaven will last forever.

Then some people seem to live in the past. Have you ever been in the presence of someone who can only talk of the 'good old days'. As we age and lose our health and loved ones this becomes tempting.

Great memories are wonderful. We must remember them and be thankful. But while you are missing those good days and trying to re-live them you may be missing God's mercies, blessings and purpose for your life today.

It is God's will that you are alive here on earth today, living life to the full in the present with your eyes on the future and eternity in heaven. And in order to have life in abundance today you need to deal with your past, ditch the sin, hurts, useless habits and traditions.

Hold on to your salvation, the good memories, lessons learned and wisdom gained and use these good things from your past to help you live each new day with a new approach, revelation and walk with God.

Philippians 3, New International Version (NIV):

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.



I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE'S GOING TO BE WITH ME FOREVER. BUT HE JUST DOESN'T GET IT

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



Martin and Colleen Breytenbach

Bishop introduces St John's to his new wife

On 21 January the Bishop of St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Diocese, Martin Breytenbach, preached and led communion at St John the Baptist Community Church. Martin was accompanied by his wife Colleen. After both being widowed for a few years the couple was married in 2017.

In his sermon Martin encouraged us to find out what God wants us to do

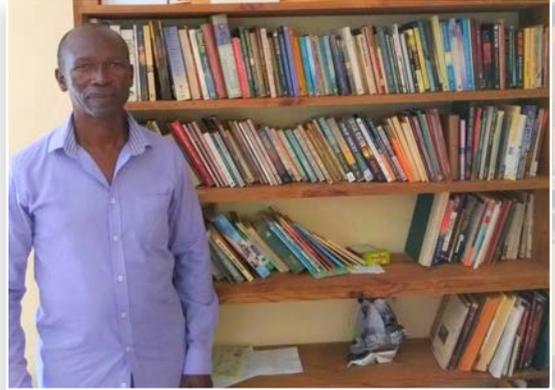
at this time and to do it. He referred to Esther 4:14 where Mordecai encouraged Esther to do the right thing. "If you keep quiet at a time like this, help will come from heaven to the Jews, and they will be saved, but you will die and your father's family will come to an end. Yet who knows – maybe it was for a time like this that you were made queen!"

Get Inspired by St John's Library

St John's Community Church invites everyone to borrow books from its library of Christian books. The library is situated in the Mothers' room at the back of the church and may be visited before and after Sunday morning services.

The library works on an honesty basis. There is a book where you write your name and the title of the book that you are borrowing. You sign again when you return the book.

"Reading the right kind of books helps you grow as a Christian," says Charles Pheeha who is in charge of the library. You are welcome to contact Charles if you want more information or want to donate Christian books that are still in good condition.



Charles Pheeha proudly promotes St John's Library



We had lots of volunteers and projects in the last 6 months. The Police painted our entire main building. Volunteers built bunkbeds and made fly screens for the windows. We started a worm farm to help with the garden. 50 trees were donated, some fruit and some shade. Visitors, including a group of bikers, gave the children some awesome Christmas parties.



BONFIRE PRAYER MEETING BURNS DOWN BARRIERS

A definite highlight of 2017 was our prayer meeting in the bush around a fire on the Calcott's farm Boschdraai on 24 Nov. Juliette Calcott and Shane Dowinton led us in a great time of worship followed by spirit-filled prayer. The countries of Southern Africa presented by our church members was a major focus. God touched many hearts as people

apologised to each other for the wrongs their races have inflicted on one another in the past. We prayed in unity for our governments and leaders. The evening was ended with celebratory dancing around the fire, boerewors rolls and wonderful rain that started falling as Barend Pretorius ended the meeting in prayer.

The new school year started with 8 new children attending our crèche.

We have more volunteers who will be arriving soon, one for two years and the other for an unknown amount of time, but we always need more hands. Please consider spending some time with our children, or helping with some maintenance.

Nedbank Lephale
Current account # 1445126591
Branch # 144547

If you have any bicycles that your children have outgrown, would you consider donating them to The Fold? We can come pick them up!



FAMILY NEWS



For the second consecutive year, **Walter Jonhera** was acknowledged as best Mathematics and Physical Science teacher for the Waterberg District public schools circuit by the Department of Education and Training.



Jesse Dowinton

passed matric with three distinctions. This year she is on a gap year working and touring her way through Southern Africa and Europe.



Rachel Calcott has been accepted to study at Yale University from September. She is currently doing six months training and outreach with YWAM.



Tatum and Juan's March wedding blessing in the Waterberg.

The Waterberg Mountain Biking Club is bringing 'em home:



Emma van Coller came third in the SA Cup Junior Ladies cross country mountain biking race in Stellenbosch.

Lili, Josh and Ben Baber are now ranked 1st, 4th and 15th in the country.

