

# THE SOURCE

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

## WISDOM

SHANE

PG1

## POWER

STU D COOK

PG3

## LOVE

CONNIE JO CONNOLLY

PG5

TESTIMONY OF  
WENDY GODFREY

PG8

"Awesome"

November 2016

# AWESOME

*Marilyn Cook*



Have you ever stopped to think about what the word 'Awesome' means?

From the furthest stars hanging out there in space to the smallest microbe, we can only say that OUR GOD IS AWESOME. We are surrounded by the perfection of His creation in every place we look – it's only we humans who have messed up things.

The shepherd/king David wrote – "The heavens are telling of the glory of God, and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1

In considering Awesome, Shane Dowinton has written on Wisdom, we found one of Stu Cook's Insights Devotionals on Power, and Connie Jo Connolly, who just spent three months with us has written on Love.

Take time to think on Him and meditate on His AWESOMENESS!

*The theme for this Source is Awesome. I love the chorus/anthem:*

*Our God is an Awesome God,  
He reigns from heav'n above  
With Wisdom, Power, and Love,  
Our God is an Awesome God.*

# The TREASURE of WISDOM

*Shane Dowinton*

We have been meeting as a bunch of men every Thursday morning for a hearty breakfast in the hospitality of Joan Baber's home for eleven years now. We gather round a table of fellowship and we are treated to a cooked meal and spend time discussing scripture. It's a regular pattern, men like order and food, and we leave nourished physically and spiritually. More often than not we find that we have talked our way to the same point each week, religion or relationship. It seems that the sum total of our wisdom meets this impasse every time.

This year we have been looking at "wisdom" specifically through the book of Proverbs. We have taken the wonderful shiny nuggets of Solomon's wisdom and we have polished them and admired them and promised to apply them in our everyday life. Each week we have been astounded at Solomon's insight, he was the wisest man who lived after all, and our bag



of wisdom has increased. I am glad we are farmers and we have bakkies!

Over the course of the year I began to realise that I could easily forget some of these nuggets. How on earth could I store this up in my head to retrieve in the necessary circumstances? Like a witty response in a conversation I only seem to remember the wisdom the day after the incident!

Then we read the 8th and 9th chapters of Proverbs where Solomon suddenly stops giving wise instructions and instead he refers to wisdom as a person.

***"I, wisdom dwell, together with prudence, I possess knowledge***

*and discretion... counsel and sound judgement are mine; I have understanding and power...*

*I love those who love me and those who seek me find me"*

Solomon says in no uncertain terms that wisdom is a person, he goes on to say that this person was there when God set the heavens in place, that wisdom was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing in God's presence, rejoicing in the world and delighting in mankind. Solomon says ***"Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favour from the Lord."***

Who is this person, Wisdom?

Colossians 1:15-17 tells us that it is Christ ***"He (Christ) is the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together."***

Christ is the embodiment of wisdom, He is the author of creation and its meaning all at once. Christ is the wisdom of God.

When we want swift and glib answers to the questions of life we quickly drift into legalism. We love the pithy sayings of Proverbs that provide great advice on our issues but deep down we wonder how we will live them out constantly as the fruit of wisdom. Solomon gave us a hint as to how we do this. Legalism is religion, it has a form of godliness but it lacks the power of relationship. Wisdom is found in Christ and Christ is in each one of us who believe.

The Apostle Paul nailed it when he tells the Colossian church ***"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focussed on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else."***

(Colossians 2: 2-4 MSG)

Like our breakfast impasse, it comes down to religion or relationship. We can store up all the rules and strive to live each one of them perfectly or we can recognise the grace we have been given to live in relationship with Christ who is wisdom and through Him discover the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

# Powers in Heaven

Stuart D. Cook

The heavens over the Waterberg Mountains have taken a severe shaking the past few days. Each day gigantic thunderheads have moved in, several good rains have fallen to soak the dry land and the water level in our spruit has risen nicely. But with them have come massive displays of electrical power that have been awesome. One bolt struck very near our house and knocked out the lights, and the telephone still isn't functioning properly. It sounded like a huge cannon going off in our yard. Such electrical displays are a regular part of the summer weather cycle in this region. I thank God for the much-needed rain, but I haven't learned to be thankful for lightning and thunder when I'm in the midst of all the activity. It's beautiful – at a safe distance.

I know that Jesus wasn't talking about lightning when He predicted that the powers of the heavens would be shaken, but it sure fits: ***“Men fainting from fear and the expectation of things which are coming on the***



***world” (Luke 21:36).*** Of course I didn't faint, but neither did it make me comfortable. Lightning and thatched roofs make poor combinations. Every time we have one of these thunderstorms, my prayer life becomes more fervent.

That fact, along with the much-needed rain, is another plus-point. I'm inclined to think however that I have more than enough to keep me laboring in prayer without the added incentive of a grass roof between this bonehead and that thunderhead.

As I lay in bed the night before last, my mind went through a chain of ideas: This one electrical storm raging in the sky over us surely contains enough electricity to power all of the big city of Johannesburg for several months – if only it could be harnessed

and controlled. But there is no human power on earth capable of controlling this or any other thunderstorm. The seventy-foot-tall lightning conductor behind my house is a worthy attempt, but is feeble protection. At the moment it seems like pitting an AK47 assault rifle against a nuclear bomb! Africans steadfastly believe that the witch doctors control lightning. They don't. No man or magic directs those immense arrows of fire and force. Then into my mind came that passage from Psalms, ***"The earth shook and quaked... He bowed the heavens also and came down with thick darkness under His feet...He sped upon the wings of the wind...The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered His voice...He sent out His arrows and scattered them, and lightning flashes in abundance..."*** (Psalm 18:7-15) I've ridden a few wild horses in my earlier days, but He rides the Thunderheads!

Oh, Yes! There is certainly a Power infinitely greater than the mightiest electrical storm. Energy can only come from energy. Therefore, all the energy in this vast universe had to originate from another Source of Energy even greater. There is immeasurable power in this wild storm. It is huge, I thought, when compared to my little house, but

actually small compared to the whole world. And my Savior in Heaven holds the universe in His hands.

This isn't the only storm I've weathered, nor is it the last that I'll experience. How many storms have you experienced? What rages around you, or in you, right now? He's still greater than the storm. He's the Master. All power and authority is His in heaven and on earth. He can control the storm. He can ride old Thunderbolt to a standstill. And He is accessible to you and to me. While I'll use whatever human technical ingenuity God has made available to me to guard our little property from storms, this will never be our ultimate protection. As lightning pierces the clouds to reach the earth, prayers pierce through from earth to heaven, releasing even greater power.

If I am in awe of the thunderstorm, what ought to be my attitude toward God who is infinitely greater? This storm is irrational, mindless, uncaring, random, impersonal; The Creator is wise, knowing, merciful, just and very personal.

I praise You, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have used your great power, and have begun to reign in my Life. The storm displays

your majesty and power. The storm reveals my helplessness that I might marvel at Your greatness.

Today the sky is blue; the sun is drying the water on the surface of the thatched roof. ***“He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy... And from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me...He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me because He delighted in me.”*** (Psalm 18:16-19).

*Reproduced from Stu Cook’s “Devotions, Limpopo’s Waterberg” Copyright 2012.*

## THE LOVE of GOD

Connie Jo Connolly

**T**he best definition of the love of God that I ever heard was from my former Bible College Professor, the late Dr. Kenneth Beckman. Here’s what he said. “Love is the overwhelming concern for the well-being of another without regard to what you get in return.”

This is how God showed His love for us in that ***“while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*** (Romans 5:8). God was given no assurances from His creation that we would accept His love and be grateful. As a matter of fact, God knew ahead of time that many millions of people would reject His love, but He gave it anyway. That is love without conditions. That is God’s kind of love.

That’s because not only is love one of God’s attributes, it is also who



He is at the core of His being. God is love according to 1 John 4:16. Without His example, we would not know what real love is.

The greatest gift of love ever demonstrated to man was God giving His Son to be killed to pay the price for our sins. The Son was without ANY sin, but took our sin on Himself and essentially said, “I love this one. I’ll pay the price for his sin.” But so great was God that His Son, Jesus Christ, only had to die once for everyone’s sins. Accept Him or reject Him. The choice is yours. God still loves you and wants to bless you. Will you say “Yes” to the Savior today?

# INTERVIEW on GOD'S AWESOMENESS

*Nina Baber*

The most amazing time was 1980. Charles had gone to America, and he left me with 20 herds of cattle to supervise. We were hiring Peter Beith's farm. We had checked the cattle and they were all fine. Suddenly, there was a fire roaring behind us in the vlei. A cigarette dropped by one of the workers had started it. It was so fast, and August was such a dry month. Because it was in the vlei it was up high- terrifying, towering flames. We knew there was no way we could stop it. I and 4 workers tried to smother it with no success. I drove frantically to Peter Beith's house- quite a distance- shouting at Satan to bind him and appealing to God to help us. At Peter's house I phoned our manager and Colin Baber, and they all came rushing with tractors to help with the fire. As I drove back towards the fire, I could not understand why there was no smoke. On arriving I discovered the fire was out. God had turned the wind and blew it back against itself. The men were able to put it out.

When all the tractors had arrived, nobody could believe what had

happened. I was so grateful for the Lords power, and also embarrassed for Colin and Hennie de Villiers... You can imagine how I felt with all the hysterics for nothing. It was awesome awesome awesome!!!

On another occasion, we were having a bible study at Kolobe lodge. The men could not attend, as they were fighting a fire near Vaalwater. We ladies prayed for help for our men- and actually Ant nearly lost his life... After we prayed, suddenly the lights went out and there was a crash of thunder from a clear sky, and pouring rain. It was such an astounding miracle that Clive Walker described it on the radio for the whole country! It was dry, dry, dry; and after the rain there were puddles everywhere! It was an absolute downpour!

The latest miracle happened this month. Rupert was driving back from Botswana, with Leo leaning against him. On the way he fell asleep. His large foot must have pressed down on the accelerator. The car took off across the road at speed. It missed a tree by inches,



flew up over a culvert, down a ditch, flew up into the air over the culvert (didn't go in), and crashed on the other side. The front wheel broke off, turning the car, and they missed another tree by inches; before crashing into a game fence, coming to rest in the bushes on its side. Rupert and Leo emerged totally unscathed - An absolute miracle. I still shake when I think about it; an answer to our daily prayers for our family. They didn't even have a scratch!

### **Do you think it is in God's character to do awesome things?**

I do. I think God is so unconditionally loving of us, that he wants to show that our faith has meaning in heaven. And our problem often is that we don't have enough faith, and we need more. We need more obedience. We need more patience. I think God's miracles have been devalued, and we think it's chance so often... But none of those cases were chance! God is awesome!



*Interviewed by Lucy Calcott*

# OUR GOD is an AWESOME GOD

*Testimony by Wendy Godfrey*

From my conversion I have walked with a God who continually demonstrates His **AWESOMENESS**, including in the little details of my life.

He has been: a **GOD**, a **FATHER**, a **BEST FRIEND**, a **SAVIOUR**, a **SOUL MATE**, a **COUNSELLOR**, a **TEACHER**, a **COMFORTER**, a **HEALER**, a **GUIDING LIGHT**, a **LOVER OF MY SOUL**, an **ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS**, **MY PROVIDER** of my needs. He has made me feel special and of value and that nothing of my life has been lost in **HIS ECONOMY**.

At the age of 17, I met God who took me and remolded me into His child.

Having messed up my life in the few years when I tried to live it my way I found myself wayward, lost and heading down a road of no values and no hope.

I took on the Hippie Culture and I landed up leaving school and started working at the age of 16 with no ambition or forward looking ideas. Just plodding on with day to day living.

My folks were divorced and my mom took ill, dying 2 years later and my father was not around, so from the age of 17 I



was on my own, and that's when I met Jesus as my Saviour in an AWESOME conversion.

I was taken to a home cell meeting one evening and was overawed with the love shining through the people's faces. They were also happy, and so at peace while I was dealing with continuous noises in my head which drove me crazy.

That night lying on my bed I spoke out loud and said: "Jesus do you dig to handle my bones" the hippie slang for saying "Jesus will you take over my life"?

I fell asleep. When I woke up the next morning my mind was clear and I was high on Peace. Such peace. AWESOME Peace which was almost tangible and I have never looked back.

Step by step Jesus put my life in order. With money from my mom's inheritance I went to Bible College, became a youth worker, moved from Springs to the Bluff in Durban as a full-time Youth Worker with 3 churches. I also found myself ministering to the drug

addicts and gangs of Point Road Durban and Wentworth Coloured community on the Bluff. In Durban I met Mark, a teacher, an amazing man. He was/is a professional, clean, upright man way above what I thought I was entitled to, BUT GOD wrought another AWESOME DIVINE intervention in my life.

We married and have two AWESOME daughters, Pippa and Tatum, who both love and follow Jesus.

When I look back on my life, the way it started and where I am today and all the AWESOMENESS that has filled up my walk with Him ....many, many testimonies, day by day, year by year, different seasons of life and miraculous experiences, all I can say over and over again is -

**OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD** and He is there for you.

*"LET THEM PRAISE THY GREAT AND AWESOME NAME, HOLY IS HE!" (Psalm 99:3)*



# ST JOHN'S

## *the LAST QUARTER in REVIEW*

As this new edition of The Source reaches you the year is rapidly heading towards a close. Before we see the end of 2016 though, I'd like to remember a few things that have occurred in our church life these few months.



Prayer has always been a key focus of St John's and each year we take time out to come before the Lord. We believe that the Lord is interested and passionate about touching this world with His love, mercy and grace and our times of concentrated prayer as a church have always borne the fruit of that heart. This year we set in place an initiative which we have called Prayer@24 and we have managed to meet our goal of weekends of focussed prayer and worship on three occasions so far. We deliberately chose to have one of those weekends just prior to the country's municipality elections so that we could add our voices to heavens to touch the future of South Africa. On the Friday night we held an informal youth prayer meeting where we asked the Holy Spirit's direction on how God would love our nation to look. The youth found scriptures that showed God's heart on the issues of our generation and we prayed those

scriptures to Him. What a powerful evening that was. We backed that meeting with a period of 24 hour prayer where members of St John's prayed hourly slots until Saturday evening. And of course, on Sunday we prayed corporately as the family of God. Can you imagine how the heavens were stirred? So we can look at the movement of South Africa knowing that God is in the midst of the trials, He is placing men and women of integrity in appropriate places of leadership and we will see the fruit of our prayer in our own generation.

We are blessed this year by having Bill Forbes as one of our regular preachers. Bill is an old friend of St John's, a schoolboy friend of Peter Farrants, a regular member of the Cyara men's retreat of old and a man who loves Christ. Bill has a wonderful prophetic gift and his humility and gentleness in revealing God's heart have made him a welcome part of the St John's family and in particular the ministry team. We look forward to having Bill and Caroline with us as regular visitors.

Paul and Philippa Hempson are also no strangers to St John's having led a number of activities in the last two

years like the Ladies retreat and the dance weekend. We were especially blessed when Pippa led a "Marriage Pit Stop" weekend, a light hearted look at the challenges of marriage. The relaxed atmosphere meant couples could enjoy a weekend date and benefit from the many pearls of wisdom on offer. Thanks to Wends Godfrey, Trish Pidduck, Simone Baber and Joan Baber for great hospitality.

We continue to enjoy great turnout at our Sunday services for children. What was initially a tremendous challenge to the church has gradually become a wonderful ministry. The new children's church buildings are used to great effect and special thanks must go out to Rebecca Banda and Lucy Calcott who are doing an amazing work with the younger children and Alan van Coller and Dave Baber who handle the older children.

As St John's continues to grow we are looking for those who would join us in making it a family that shares the love of God. If you would like to add your gifts and abilities to the DNA of St John's then please contact one of the leaders and help us build the church that Jesus prayed for.

# SHARING the GOOD NEWS about SCIENCE and THE BIBLE

*Phil Calcott*

Is Science at war with faith in the Bible? You might think so based on what you see and read coming from our media these days. However, the idea of Science and Faith in opposition would have bewildered a rather important group of people – the geniuses who founded the scientific enterprise in the first place. Almost without exception these intellectual giants were outspoken in their conviction that not only were Science and Biblical Faith harmoniously compatible, but furthermore that they would never have been inspired to look for the scientific laws they were discovering if it was not for the understanding they had gained from the Bible that a divine Law Giver was The Creator of all that they studied. We take this idea for granted these days, but in fact it was a radical and dynamic concept that transformed the whole of Western thinking. In many ways we now see that in fact Science can actually be regarded as the “Bible’s Baby” – an enterprise born out of the insight into reality that a biblical worldview provided. The great Johannes Kepler summed the whole thing up by describing his work as a scientist as,



***“Thinking God’s thoughts after Him”.***

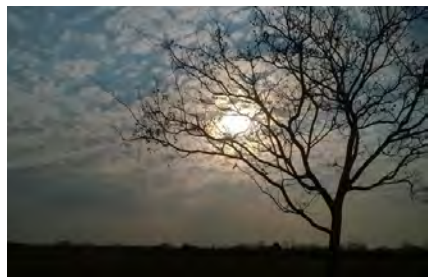
And beautiful thoughts they are.

I hope you agree with me that this positive message about science and faith is worth sharing. In a small way that is what I and some scientist friends have been doing recently. Starting last year with three dialogue events here in the bush we have been trying to bring scientists with a Christian faith together with church leaders with the aim of rejoicing together in the work of our Creator, and understanding afresh the extraordinary message the Bible shares about creation. We had an amazing time, and I for one was blow away by some of the beautiful truths shared by participants.

Following up from the *“Waterberg Dialogues”* in October last year we had a Saturday of talks in Joburg, and even got scientists into the pulpits of various churches on the Sunday. Since then I was privileged in June this year to share a series of talks at Michaelhouse school on science and faith. Apparently many of the pupils were raising questions about how science and the Bible fitted together. I shared some of the evidence for the harmony between science and biblical faith, and even got a chance to give the whole school a tour of the stars. Perhaps the best times of all were the late night chats where youngsters with questions were able to fire them at us, and in our small way we tried to point them in helpful directions. It was lovely to see lots of pupils, including over half the school prefects, coming to a late evening voluntary presentation on the evidence for the resurrection, and engaging so positively with the ideas we laid out. On the last day of the mission Steven Lungu from AE came and delivered a powerful evangelistic message. Over half the school responded and committed their lives to the Lord. What a joy.

To bring things up to date I should mention the celebration of the conjunction between Venus and Jupiter we arranged on August 27th at New Creation Family Church

in Randburg. We had a wonderful time watching these brilliant planets perform their close-up slow-dance. NASA even kindly arranged for the International Space Station to fly overhead during the show. However, for me the greatest pleasure was to be able to show the audience the vast size of the universe - and make them all realise how staggeringly small we are in comparison – but not to leave the story there. The really big question is, “Does small equal insignificant?” Well, if this universe is just a matter of atoms and molecules then there can be only one answer – Yes! You really are an insignificant nothing, lost in a vast uncaring cosmos. But what if there is more to life than just the material world? Thankfully our Creator has not left us wondering. As well as the testimony He has left us in the glory of creation He has established an amazingly concrete foundation to our significance. He Himself came to our tiny planet Earth and gave His very life for us. This amazing fact should impact us just as much today as it did the pioneer of science 400 years ago.



# The FOLD



Our open house in September went very well. It was well attended and we now have new friends who look forward to supporting us in the future.

The chicken coop is up and running. Our first batch of chickens will be in the freezer soon. The garden is also full of various plants which we are all enjoying.

The school and crèche are going very well. Our children's grades have much improved with our small class sizes.

We were awarded a grant from the Jim Joel Foundation to build playground equipment and we also received a surprise delivery of playground equipment from the head office of NTK, and Shanahan Engineering donated soccer goals.

We've also been getting lots of visitors the last few months, quite a few of the visitors have donated lots of food which has really helped the shortfall in our budget.

We received a huge donation from the UK to purchase a tractor. Needless to say, the guys are very happy with their new equipment.



**Nedbank Lephalale**  
**Current account # 1445126591**  
**Branch # 144547**





kid's club



*Photos of David Motshegoa, Connie Connolly, Thomas Pholoba and Godfrey Lebeso enjoying a good time of fellowship.*



*Marilyn Cook with High School girls at Kid's Club These are all some of our helpers and leaders in Kid's Club.*



*Connie giving Bibles to S'bisuso for the students Bible Study in Mokopane.*

## BOEREWORS DAY

At our usual Kid's Club time, we surprised the children and youth with Boerewors Rolls, yogurts and cool drinks all given out in paper bags (1000 of them).

Waterberg Academy made this a special Community Day and the guys braaied the wors while the gals packed the bags. The unity and cooperation of everyone was terrific, and by 2:00 the school bus made two trips to deliver the goodies.

A big thanks to all who helped, the Academy, our local Spar, those who donated the meat (100 kg), the youth who managed the children so well, the kids who were so good, our lovely photographer, Juliet, Simon Motshegoa who gave the Bible lesson, Godfry Lebeso who kept order. It all was great and the presence of the Lord was truly with us! Thanks to those who prayed and supported us in that way."

# BOEREWORS DAY



*Godfrey & Marilyn*



*Hudreds of happy kids*



## ST JOHNS CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Take the Melkrivier Road to the Twenty-Four Rivers sign. Turn right and travel 10 km. Turn left and left again into the church property.

**9:15** for Praise and Worship  
**9:30** Service begins

*O lord, our lord,  
How majestic is thy name in all the earth.  
Who has displayed thy splendor  
above the heavens,  
From the mounth of infants and  
nursing babes,  
Thou hast established strength..."*

*Psalms 8:1*

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family; to develop them in Christlike maturity and equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world in order to glorify God.

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

### ELDERS:

Alan van Coller	014 755 4549 or 073 179 4313
Joan Baber	014 755 4087 or 078 910 9411
Peter Farrant	079 207 3709
David Baber	014 755 4430 or 083 273 4525
Philip Calcott	014 755 4425 or 078 207 8570
Barend Pretorius	072 414 9986
Craig Pidduck	082 775 8489

### OFFICERS:

Chairman of Council – Shane Dowinton	014 755 4009 or 083 419 1929
Church Secretary – Wendy Godfrey	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:

Bible Studies on Wednesday nights at Craig and Trish's.  
Present subject is prophesy with Shawn Bolz,  
DVD's and discussions.

Light meal at 6:00 followed by studies.  
Contact Trish on 083 690 0061

*Do you have information for The Source?*  
Contact: Marilyn Cook, 014 755 4142 or 084 805 2199  
[marilyn@mission2sa.org](mailto:marilyn@mission2sa.org)