

“The Gospel-Centred Church”

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Tell us about your most nerve-racking moment. Have you had to appear before a group of people that were all intently focusing on what you were doing?

WORLDVIEW

2. How can it be that a church could be the most dangerous place for someone to be on a Sunday?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. What do the following passages teach you regarding the mutual dependence between the gospel and the church?

Acts 4:18–21—So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.

1 Corinthians 4:1—Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

1 Timothy 3:14–16—These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

2 Timothy 3:16–4:5—All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

What happens when there is a disruption in this mutual relationship?

What happens when a church is grasped by the significance of the gospel because of a deepening love for the Lord of the gospel?

GOING DEEPER

4. The apostle Paul was subjected to suffering and incarceration because of his passion to see gospel-centred churches thriving in the gospel. Have you experienced loss, or have you suffered, because of your prioritisation of and commitment to the church? Do you know of others who have?

5. The church is called to show and speak the gospel to all who are watching. If you were asked to explain the gospel directly to someone, what would you say to them? How do believers “show” the gospel?

6. How does a right view of the church, and the gospel it preaches, affect the prayers of its members? Are prayer meetings at church a gauge of gospel-centredness?

PRAYER ITEMS

Prayer Psalm: 125

Praise: The marriage of Bontle & Matthews Nkuna

Church Families: Frances van den Bergh; Barnie & Telda Venter

Special Needs: Rachel Gage; Elma Quevauvilliers; Lee Taylor; Rose Cousins; Gloria Brown; Elize Swanepoel; Mark MacKaiser; Chris Thomas; Unemployed & underemployed; Faithfulness in financial stewardship

Expectant Moms: Danielle van Jaarsveldt; Le-eba Meets; Tarryn Moore

Adoptions: Ongoing adoption paperwork

Ministry: Shepherd’s School

The Great Commission:

- Newton Chilingulo—Malawi
- Hungary (Central Europe) had a peaceful transition from a communist government to a democratic government. New opportunities opened for Christians to evangelise the people. There are Christian schools all over the country. Pray that gospel growth will continue.
- Unreached Focus—Bambara (Mali)

Sister Churches: Reformed Faith Mission—Quinton & Mario Maneville

Our Country: Communications—Ms Faith Muthambi, Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams

As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Andre Truter for more information.