

# GREGOREO

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE ORANGE DIOCESE

### ADVENT 2011

Dear Reader,

The Biblical teachings at the end of the Church Year brought with it, like every year, serious warning lights. "Slow down" they flash and search/rethink the period of grace that was given to you. Did I use the time at my disposal productively or more sharply productively *in aid of my neighbor*? How much did I build or destroy -even the earth?

As always we are called upon, not look for your own interests only, but also to the interest of others.

Herewith some readings to guide us on the way of reflection.

#### **PREMIER SNIPPETS FROM THE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT OF MARTIN LUTHER**

*Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Ps 2: 10-11)*

Why does the prophet ignore the people and address only the kings and the rulers? Without doubt this is because the people cannot prevent the rulers from serving and obeying Christ the Lord if this is their will. And if the rulers persecute God's people or threat them with contempt, then the people certainly cannot do

anything to help. Where churches and schools exist, Christ will know how to reward the rulers. And if the churches and schools –which are necessary for the promulgation of God’s word –are neglected, the only people who will bear the guilt for this are the rulers and the great lords. They will be treated according to the prophecy in this psalm: they will be destroyed by the wrath of God on following the false path. (Luther’s Breviary 2007)

## **INTROSPECTION**

For a while now I am struggling with the difference between efficiency and effectiveness in the Church. If we can tick next to the different tasks in the Church e.g., Services, Sacraments, Bible Studies, meeting, fundraising, were we effective as a Church? What does it mean to be Church in this age?

The year that was, like previous years, end on a note of admonition. We are reminded in Matt 25 of those who are hungry, thirsty, far from their home country, naked, alone, imprisoned and we are called upon to show compassion, so that Christ can show compassion on us.

We have spoken a lot about people in true need and people who in laziness exploit the system. People who re-sell gifts and food for destructive habits and practices. People who discard blankets and clothing without a thought of the sacrifices made to get it to them in the first place. Yes, we need to be wise and not to keep people in a begging mode through our handouts.

Still the admonition of Christ stand firm: I was hungry...I was thirsty...

Each of us and as structures of the Church need to consider our Diaconate work. We need to do better. Can we do better? YES WE CAN!

## **HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY TO WEAR WHITE (ULTIMATELY)**

Black Wednesday, Black Tuesday ...How many days of the week will still be darkened? The words from the song *When will they ever learn* has echoed through the centuries and decades but seems to be of no avail.

When will *they* learn not to be dishonest? Not to accumulate (illegal and corrupt) treasures on earth that gather rust and be eaten by moths? In a cashless society it can take a delete button to wipe out all your precious savings and accounts. It can be frozen by the powers that be and ACCESS will remain DENIED!

Yes, there is more to the Bill (that caused people to wear black) than covering corruption, but I think the outrage is directed at the attempt of hiding fraudulent transactions at the expense of the citizens of this country.

When will *we* ever learn? We also need to investigate conscientiously our dealings lest we find splinters in the eyes of others whilst the planks are present with us.

Rev.7: 13 And one of the elders, said to me, 'These, who have been arrayed with the white robes--who are they, and whence came they?' 14 and I have said to him, 'Sir, thou hast known;' and he said to me, 'These are those who are coming out of the great tribulation, and they did wash their robes.

### **THANK YOU FATHER...**

For mothers who preserved life in difficult circumstances instead of destroying it.

For parent who try to create happy homes and educate their children to be responsible citizens

For those who teach under trying conditions

For those who produce food in trying economic and social times.

For those who provide health services with the mere basics

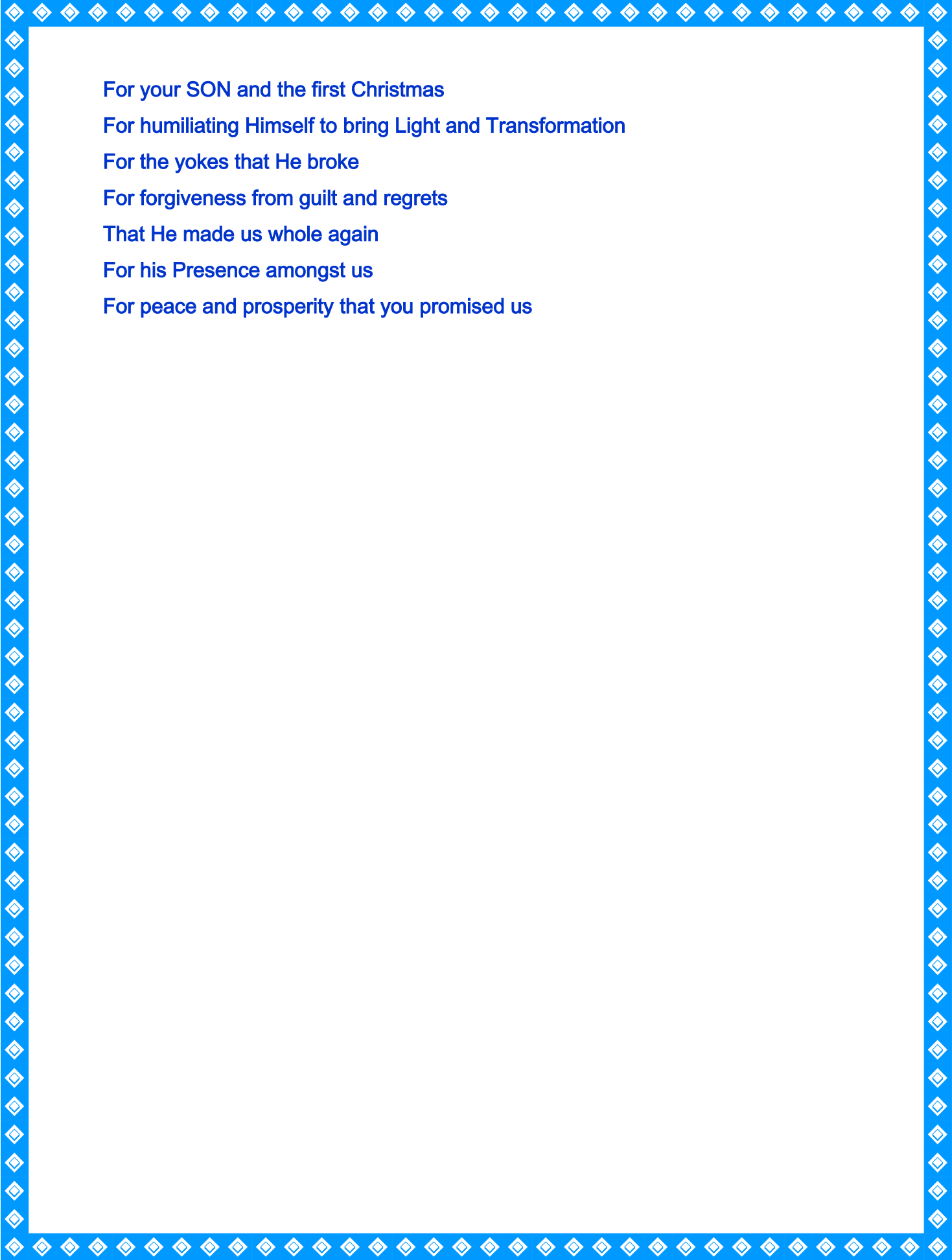
For those who protect and serve our communities

For those who try to alleviate the trauma that haunt our people

For those who provide for the elderly with dignity

For those who build our economy with their sweat

For those who maintain law and order.



For your SON and the first Christmas  
For humiliating Himself to bring Light and Transformation  
For the yokes that He broke  
For forgiveness from guilt and regrets  
That He made us whole again  
For his Presence amongst us  
For peace and prosperity that you promised us

# WHO'S WHO PROFILES



## MARK BRENNAN LAKEY

I was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 1966, Karl Bremmar Hospital, Bellville, Western Cape and grew up in Ravensmead. We are a family of five of which I have 2 sisters, only.

My primary schooling years started in the year 1973, at Nebo Primary School, in Ravensmead. In the year 1980, I attended Florida Secondary School, also in Ravensmead and completed matric in 1985. From 1986 until 2004 I was employed in the motor industry. During 2004 I enrolled at a paralegal college and completed the course successfully in the same year. Started working as a paralegal in 2005 at the Legal Aid Board in their Cape Town Offices (City Bowl) until 2007 when I resigned to take on theological studies on a full time basis. Completed my degree (Bth) in 2009 and currently still busy with my Honours Degree (must add, it hangs like a weight around my neck, but hope with the help of God we reach the goal).

## **HOBBIES:**

Very few since little time to my disposal, however I like my cricket and swimming.

## **VISION FOR ELCSA COD**

The vision I have for ELCSA COD, is an organization who works tirelessly (as humanly possible) to broaden the Kingdom of God who brings the gospel of salvation and hope to the four corners of the universe. The vision I have is very simple, it starts within small cell groups in your wards which expands gradually on the bigger stage in the church of Christ.

In essence my vision for a dynamic community of believers starts at the bottom, meaning the roots must be well grounded and nourished which allow the tree to with stand all challenges. Without a solid foundation no organization can sustain itself. Bear in mind that foundation is nothing less than our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as St Paul reminds us in his first letter to the congregation in Corinth: **"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ, see King James Version (1Corinthians 3: 11).**

## YOUTH SECTION

CELEBRATING CHRIST *Desiree Kapaletswe*

As young people we are more focused on our social lifestyle than anything else. A lot of times we more concerned about the next gig and where it's all going down. What about our faith? They say "faith is total confidence in God" but as young people most of us do not get fazed by this saying, we don't take the time to give attention to our faith. We celebrate end of exams and we call it "pens down", we celebrate being home alone by throwing house parties or having sittings with friends, truth is we will CREATE a celebration just to have a party.

Do we ever take the time to celebrate the Person who saved the world from doom? Do we attend church, read a Bible or even pray because we want to? No we don't and we even come up with excuses not to attend church and the only time we truly pray is when we in trouble and when we don't get the results we want- then we blame it on God. As young people we should be more committed to spreading the Word of God and celebrating Christ for all the blessings he has showered upon us since his crucifixion. Take the opportunity to celebrate Christ and say, thank you for every blessing you receive in life whether big or small, cos you know what they say " God gives you what you NEED and not what you WANT. GOD BLESS Y'ALL.

(We are reminded Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Give thanx. Ed)

## TO THOSE WHO LOST LOVED ONES THIS YEAR

God knows how you feel. He can provide for all your current and future needs.

This is true! Consider the ff: *Rom 8: 32*

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

His love( beyond measure) cause his Son to die for us and our departed ones. He established the need (for salvation) when we were not even aware of it in our sinful state.

Now walk with God. Talk with God. He has been through this also. Put your hand in HIS. He will not rush you along. He will carry you where it is needed. The darkness and pain will ultimately change to light and peace.

**Remember: Isa26:19** Thy dead, shall come to life again, My dead body, they shall arise,—Awake and shout for joy, ye that dwell in the dust, For, a dew of light, is thy dew, And, earth, to the shades, shall give birth.

## THOSE WHO WILL FORSAKE THEIR LOVED ONES THIS YEAR

(Please do take care of your pets, but this is not what this is all about)

Yes, it is holiday time and you do not want to be burdened. The work year brought stress and need to be jettisoned. The last thing now you need is someone who will slow down your pace and fun. Next year you might be free, but with a void in your heart and regrets. Consider who you are- due to the initial caring, sacrificing building blocks of your parents when you crawled about. They did not walk way ...

I hope you are still reading and not on the way to write a letter to the Editor. That was one angle to this issue.

I do not know what You have sacrificed this year. Maybe YOU need a break! Maybe for your own health sake you need to go and take a stroll on the beach, smell the fresh air of the farm. Maybe the rest of the family must indeed substitute your place. There is no one size fit all. Do what is fitting and can even stand on the last day.

## **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

Election 2012 in ELCSA needs your support and prayers.

Let us not wait till 29 JANUARY , our official DAY OF PRAYER (AND FASTING) FOR THE ELECTIONS, to pray, but start now already asking God for able, capable, committed, forgiven, hardworking, patient, trustworthy, teachable , unwearied servants (male and female) who will open themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit for 6 years.

## **WHAT TO DO?**

Where the WILL of God leads you, the GRACE of God will sustain you (even in 2012).

## **HAVE YOUR SAY**

Readers are requested to send comments to the Exec. Secretary, Rev. M.Z. Manong via email (mjmanong @yahoo.com), Facebook or Twitter (use link @website [www.elcsacod.co.za](http://www.elcsacod.co.za))

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