

Hi All. Happy New Year and all the best for 2010. As I write this I have spent the week studying Acts 7 for Sunday, it is Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin before he is killed and becomes the first Christian martyr. Stephen gives a summary of Israel's history and how all God's plans were pointing to Jesus. As I gaze at this scripture two points really stick out for me, first, that God is on the move, according to His plans and purpose, and second, that God is with His people, wherever they are and no matter what they are going through. As I look back at 2009 for us, I am humbled to see how God has been on the move with us, and that He has truly been with us every step of the journey. Thank you Lord.

October for us was a time of rest. We were given a few days holiday in the Drakensburg which was absolutely wonderful. We then went to the Africa Conference in Cape Town and were totally blessed by the conference again. We stayed on for a few days in Cape Town after the conference and so enjoyed spending time with friends and family. As we returned it has been non-stop busy, here is a summary:

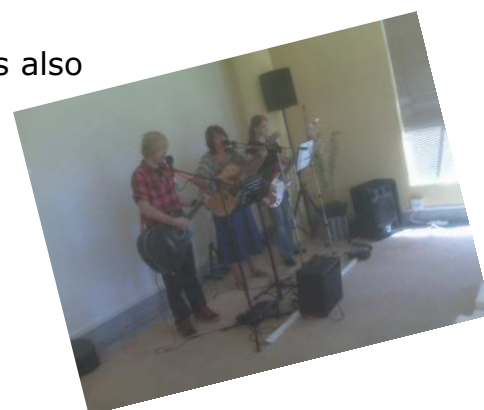
**What's been happening:**

- **Church Move** – We moved our church premises from the school to our own room in a commercial building in Forest Hills. The move went very smoothly and everyone has been excited about it. The Lord provided the funds and we were able to now buy our own chairs, tables, and Sunday school stuff. As we moved we started a study through the book of Acts, this has been really exciting for us as a new church as we are studying God's model for the church. Since we moved we have also grown, another family has joined us, a young school teacher, a retired lady, and a local businessman, all of them have settled in with us and become a part of our family. God is on the move...
- **Eldership** – Tom Wilcocks has joined the Eldership of the church. We laid hands on him at our first service in the new building. Tom is a wonderful blessing to me, our family, and the church, and we praise the Lord for him and his service.



- **New Kombi** – The church has been given a new kombi to replace the one that was stolen. It is a VW 76 classic in excellent condition. We will now be able to start the surf ministry again and the kombi is definitely going to be the talk of the town at Durban beachfront.

- **Worship Team** – Our worship team has also grown as one of the ladies has joined to play base guitar. The church has also been very blessed as one of the families in the church bought us a full sound equipment set – speakers, stands, sound desk, the lot, just what we needed as we moved to a bigger place.



- **Marriage License** – I wrote the marriage license exam and passed, so now I am a marriage officer and can do weddings for the church.

**Ministries:** Most of our ministries closed for the school holidays but we have been just as busy through the December holidays.

- **Fellowship** – Fellowship is such an important part of the church, so we did lots of it through December. We had a fellowship meal at our house, we had our second Men's Breakfast, we started a new tradition by having a church braai on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at one of the families' home, and then we ended the year with a church braai on New Years Eve at our house. All these times together strengthen us and bring us closer together as we become "one in heart and mind" (Acts 4:32).
- **"Expelled" Outreach** – This was our first outreach at the new premises and it went well. We put up banners and dropped fliers through the whole community. We had some visitors and some of them have returned. The movie was a great platform to share the gospel and present our creator.



- **Youth Ministry** – We ended the Junior youth with a Christmas party, it was a wonderful opportunity to explain the true meaning of Christmas, and the kids had a great time. For Senior youth we closed by going ice skating.
- **Outspan Retirement Home** – One of the new ladies in the church is now helping Tom with the retirement home ministry.

We helped host a Christmas party for the home on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, we took food and served the people at the home, we were very blessed to do this.

- **Khulani Kahle Orphanage** – On the 23rd of December we went to the orphanage again. In the morning the men did a lot of work around the home, mostly fixing and replacing the children's play equipment. Then everyone from the church who could come joined us, we gave the children a Christmas lunch, and then gave them all Christmas presents that we had put together between CC 1000 Hills and CC Kommetjie. This was a highlight of the Christmas season for us, Jesus said it is better to give than receive, we all experienced that.
- **Looking to 2010** – We are making our plans for the year ahead, so far we are hosting a YWAM team from Switzerland in Jan/ Feb, planning a Missions Trip to Lesotho in March, doing an "End Times" outreach for April/May, and then a "World Cup Holiday Club" in June/July. God is on the move...and we are so excited to be a part of it.



**Personal Note:** Thank you once again for the love and support, and most of all, for the prayer. Please continue to pray for us and for the work here. We are also at the time of year where we are praying for funds for the children's school curriculums for the year, please pray for this too. God bless and have a great year, knowing that God is on the move and that He is with you always.

Yours in Christ, the Strauss clan