

07 December 2025

cnr. Edmond
Rostand &
Chantecler
Roads,
Eversdal
P.O. Box 351,
Durbanville 7551



SERVICE TIMES

Bible Study & Sunday School

Bible Study 9:00- 9:45 AM.
Sunday School 9:00-9:45 AM
Young Adults 9:00- 9:45 AM.
Youth 9:00- 9:45 AM.

Sunday Worship

AM: 10:00 - 11:15

PM: 18:00 –19:00

Living a new life in Christ

From the desk of Dereck...

Careful when Blaming God for Grief

NO! GOD DIDN'T NEED ANOTHER ANGEL IN HEAVEN...and other ridiculous things we need to stop saying to those who are grieving! I see it far too often. Sincere, well-meaning individuals who, in a weak effort to comfort the grieving, end up saying something that causes further damage. Things like:

- ✦ "It's all part of God's wonderful plan."
- ✦ "It was just their time to go."
- ✦ "God needed another angel in heaven."

And, my personal favourite (not), "Everything happens for a reason."

So, cancer is somehow a blessing from God? A young girl being raped is somehow a good thing in God's eyes. Was a drive-by shooting all a part of God's wonderful plan? A son or a daughter killed in a car accident by a drunk driver is really a blessing in disguise. I've heard things like this said, from Christians no less! If these terrible tragedies are a blessing from God, then I'll pass. He can save them for someone else.

Please, let us never suggest that God causes all afflictions. He is not the source of all the earth's ills. He is not behind every tragedy that befalls people. He does permit them, but that doesn't mean that He prefers them or causes them. I do realise that in the Old Testament, God brought hardships on His people because of their sins. I have these accounts recorded in scripture for me to fully grasp the extent to which Adam's sin has contaminated humankind. I have no such evidence to go by today. To pin every disease, every financial disaster, every tragedy on God is to tread on very shaky soil.

The notion that every unexplainable tragedy rooted in evil can somehow be traced back to God and His glorious plan for your life is not in line with the Bible.

There are some things we don't know. There are some things we can't explain. We will never be able to explain the unexplainable. Sometimes, in our zeal to protect God, we feel we have to provide an answer, yet we often damage our credibility when we try to explain the unexplainable. God doesn't need us to protect Him. He can take care of Himself. Better to say nothing than to speak about things we know nothing about.

Amid devastating loss, Job's three friends came to sit with him. They travelled to be with Job to ***"show him sympathy and comfort him"*** (Job 2:11). Their intentions were noble. The only good thing they did was their initial silence. It's when they opened their mouths that they got it all wrong. Sometimes the things we say, to provide comfort, place an even greater burden on the grief-stricken. And, many times, the advice given is blatantly untrue.

How about this? How about instead of intellectualising one's grief, instead of telling the grieving that they must dry their tears and be strong, instead of giving pious explanations for their suffering that are not even Biblical, how about we shower love on them? How about we embrace them and let them cry on our shoulders? How about we sit and listen to them? Never miss a good opportunity to shut up. The best thing we can do for one who is grieving is just BE THERE!

In the wake of the recent losses we have had hopefully these thoughts will help each one of us when faced with our own grief and the grief of loved ones.

Love in Christ, Dereck

CONTACT DETAILS

Landline: 021-975 4405 Website: www.churchofchrist.org.za

Email - Secretary: office@bcoc.za.org

Minister: Dereck Beukes 082 909 3848

MINISTRY FACILITATORS

Worship: Hugh Kirby 082 3325434

Sunday School: Darryn & Danelle McLachlan 072 385 9062

Finance: Richard Lang 084 575 4408

World Bible School: Desiree Human 060 501 8540

Benevolence: Johan Gerber 083 233 4726

Maintenance: Stephen Leibbrandt 084 790 7721

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Tuesdays at 10am

Contact: Sue 063 779 9914 or Ali 084 5584 508

MID WEEK BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Wednesday 7.00 - 8.00 pm

SMALL GROUPS

Thursday evening group, Bible Study

Thursday 7.00—8.00pm

Contact: Johan G 083 233 4726 or Darryn 072 385 9062

YOUTH FRIDAYS 18H30—20H00 (alternates)

Kids for Christ Grade 2 to Grade 7

Contact: Tish 084 398 8556 or Gaynor 072 111 5220

YOUTH Grade 8 to Grade 12

Contact: Johan & Gaynor Pienaar 083 456 0791

PRAYER REQUESTS



Those who are ill/surgeries: Charlotte Robertson, Reg Townsend, Jenni Woolicot, Annette Day, Neil Taylor, Elijah April.

The bereaved: Our love & condolences to Christina Lallam's family, Hazel Priest's family, Mark October & family, the Beukes family, the Boshoff family & Nicolene Bain & family. May the God of comfort be with you.

The elderly & those in need of prayer: SA Bible College, our country & leaders & world leaders, and those affected by war.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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|---------------|--------|
| Lilly Jansen | 07 Dec |
| Ryleigh Jones | 10 Dec |
| Yvette Sloan | 12 Dec |
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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Reg & Patsy Townsend—09 Dec

John-Mark & Lydia Iyi—11 Dec

TUESDAY LADIES' CLASS

Ladies class has ended for 2025. We wish you a joyous and peaceful festive season and look forward to seeing you in 2026.



THURSDAY GROUP

The Durbanville and Malmesbury / Paarl Thursday evening bible study groups have ended for the year.

We wish you joy and blessings over the festive season.

See you in 2026.



SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

Song & Prayer

Date: Sun 07 December

at: 6pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING

Today: Sunday 07 December

Venue: Bellville church

Time: During main service at 10h00

GREEN PASTURES CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Monday 08 December

Time: 11h00—11h45

Speak to Alison after service if you would like to sing along.



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am—9:45am

| DATE | 07 December | |
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| Cradle roll | TBC | Sunday School |
| Age 4—6 | Tish | Will be |
| Grade 1—2 | Ali & Keren | Back |
| Grade 3 - 4 | Ali & Keren | In |
| Grade 5 - 7 | Willie Bester | 2026 |

THIS WEEK 07 December 2025

| <u>THIS WEEK 07 December 2025</u> | | <u>DUTY ROSTER</u> | <u>NEXT WEEK 14 December 2025</u> | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| AM | PM | | AM | PM |
| Dereck Beukes | | ANNOUNCEMENTS | Leonard Green | |
| Stephen Leibbrandt | | SONG LEADER | Jonathan Leibbrandt | |
| Tendani Mabuda | | LORD'S SUPPER | Leonard Green | |
| Tendani, Skot, André Jnr, Josh S | | AM SERVERS | Leonard, Joe, André, Andries | |
| Skot Gordon | | SCRIPTURE & PRAYER | Joe Tshililo | |
| Dereck Beukes | Song & Prayer | PREACHING | Marcel Berg | Devotional |
| André Botes Jnr | | CLOSING PRAYER | André Botes | |
| | | COMMUNION | | |
| | | TEA | | |
| Mark / Jorren | | Audio/Visual | Mark / Eleanor | |

FINANCES

God bless you

as you excel

In your giving -

2 Cor. 8 : 7



BANKING DETAILS

NEDBANK

ACC Name: Bellville Church of Christ

Cheque Acc. Nr: 1036015041

Branch Code: 103610