

Van Wyk's Family News

PO Box 74 • Newlands • 7725 • South Africa • Tel: (021) 689-4481 • e-mail: charlvanwyk@intekom.co.za

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Dear Friends

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

November 2002 started off with an appeal hearing between Africa Christian Action and Die Burger newspaper. Peter Hammond, our Chairman and Founder, was defamed in the newspaper and we referred the issue to the Press Ombudsman. On appealing the Press Ombudsman's decision we ended up at an appeal hearing chaired by none other than Judge Edward King of the King Commission, which handled the investigation into corruption in the sport of cricket. Beeld and Die Burger newspapers are to print our response to this slander.

The final report has not yet been made public so I better not elaborate on the discussions until my next newsletter.

The same day I had an interview with a reporter of the national Sunday Times newspaper - the reporter also interviewed Letlapa Mphahlele, the Apla (a terrorist group in SA) Commander who gave the order for the St James Massacre. She was interested in how each of us dealt with such a traumatic incident. This was a great opportunity to explain the effect of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life; hope this comes through in the article. (See below for a quote from Letlapa's book.)



Charl and Sonja caught cuddling on the sofa.

Roberta is very excited about going to school next year - she will be attending the church based, El Shaddai Christian School, near our home. She has already spent one day in the class during which the teacher evaluated the candidates for next year. Sonja, her mother and my parents have been a blessing when I've been involved with ministry at strange hours or away from home. Sonja is doing a wonderful job of home making for our family.

The weekend of 15 November 2002 three colleagues and I traveled to the Magaliesburg area about 1400km from Cape Town to run a Salt and Light Training Camp. The attendees were generally a little more mature than those who usually attend our camps. It was a great experience to have such positive and encouraging feedback from them.

We have put a lot of effort into our Firearm News for the 1 December and had to increase the number of pages by 25% due to the number of new advertisers. This area of our mission has been extremely effective since new Frontline colleagues are helping to further the Gospel through this medium. Please pray that many will be converted and disciplined through this ministry.

The following weekend was very exciting - we attended Roberta's first ballet concert. I'm really looking forward to her 21st one day so that I can show the video of her yawning on the stage and shading her eyes looking for us in the audience - it was really unforgettable.

In his book "Child of This Soil - My Life as a Freedom Fighter" Letlapa Mphahlele (the Apla Commander) mentions us meeting and going to church together on my invitation. Letlapa tells the story...

"Charl said that although he didn't agree with my cause and the means of achieving it, he respected my forthrightness. He said he hated spineless politicians..."



Roberta 5 (and a half), John-Marc (2 mnths) and Jason (20 Mnths)

Before we parted, Charl asked me to accompany him to a Sunday church service. I told him that as an atheist I didn't attend church, but for his sake I would attend the service. The great Sunday arrived. I asked my host in Cape Town, Nqaba Gubanca, to go with me, since I had long forgotten church etiquette. And the rituals began right in his house in Khayelitsha: he wore a dark suite and a tie and wanted me to wear the same. He wanted to lend me a suit, but I settled for the jacket without a tie.

We rode the train from the township to Cape Town station, where Charl came to fetch us. He took us to an Anglican Church in Tableview. Gubanca and I looked alien in the church: two Africans in a sea of white. We were the only people wearing jackets, and

only Gubanca and the youthful priest wore ties. I looked at Gubanca, tugged at the lapel of my jacket and grinned mischievously. But he was unfazed. An elder of the Methodist Church, he had been wearing his jacket during services long before I was born.

The priest delivered a sermon I had heard many times before: Fear of the Lord ... Christ was crucified for our sins ... The Day of Judgment is coming ...

The songs were moving and the beat was lively. I joined in the singing, as the lyrics were projected on the wall. I enjoyed the hymns immensely, and after the service I asked Charl to get me the cassettes of the songs. He did, and whenever I play them, I relive that service on a hot Cape Peninsula day. My friends keep asking me how I reconcile my atheism with my love for Gospel music. My answer is simple: I love human emotions expressed through music.

From the church service, Charl drove us to Victor Verster Prison to see Gcinikhaya.

"For an atheist like you," Charl said with a contented smile, "this was a spiritual ambush."

"A spiritual ambush indeed," I said and congratulated him for a mission accomplished. At the prison entrance, warders asked if we had firearms on us. Speaking for the group I said no, since I didn't expect people to emerge from a church service armed with guns. But Charl said he had one. He said he carried it wherever he went, even to a church service. He left it at the entrance.

"I guess you will be armed even at Heaven's gates," I teased him.

"Yes, of course. You never know. There may be Apla hanging around the gates and one would have to defend Heaven."

"I don't think God would give a poor shot like you the task of defending Heaven's gates. Otherwise Apla would over run them."

We laughed.

Charl told us he was carrying the small revolver on the night of the attack on the St. James Church.

Dressed in green overalls, young and tall, Gcinikhaya was happy to see us. Charl was visibly moved by the sight of the young man he was forced to shoot in defence of Heaven's gates....

Later, when I needed books for a community library, Charl contributed a cardboard box full of books, mostly Christian literature. Charl is a great survivor, and not merely a survivor of an Apla attack on the St. James Church. He does not harbour hatred.

His attitude helped me to discover my contradictory personalities: that of a man pouring out vengeful rhetoric on public platforms, and that of a man who feels for the people hurt and maimed thanks to orders I gave."



Letlapa's Book.



Jason, taking his Dad for a ride.

Letlapa has invited me to his "welcome home ceremony" following the withdrawal of charges against him by the Bloemfontein Court. I think this would be an excellent opportunity to further the Great Commission but very expensive traveling costs make it impossible at this time. It is also an opportunity to put out a press statement on the role of government, (that is, justice) and that it must not usurp the role of the Church, which is God's agent of grace.

Please pray with me for Letlapa to bend the knee to the King of kings, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year and may we strive to see the earth filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Yours in His service

Charl van Wyk

PS I, Lord willing, will be visiting the US from 24 May - 8 June 2003. Should you like to organise any church services, home cell groups, school meetings or radio interviews, I'd really appreciate an invitation to share the vision of our mission. Visit our websites at www.frontline.org.za and christianaction.org.za for further insights to our mission.

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Hab 2:14