



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We would see Jesus and be transformed into His Likeness"

Dear Friends,

Themba Ngwira will soon, 27 June, be departing for the Philippines as part of his journey with the Training in Mission. I commend to you part of his learning as he has shared it below.

With love,

Iain

Good morning everyone,

I have the incredible privilege of being selected for the Council for World Mission's Training in Mission program, representing our very own Trinity Presbyterian Church. I stand here today to share a testimony of what I've been learning so far—how God is shaping my understanding of mission in our world today, and what lies ahead for me in this exciting season.

In just a few weeks, on 27 June, I'll be leaving for the Philippines, and I'm so excited! Later in August, I'll be travelling to Malaysia to attend a WCC- Council on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) and The Council for World Mission initiative Global Ecumenical Youth Leaders Conference, a gathering of young Christian leaders from around the world. The conference will provide young leaders with an opportunity to worship together, interact with one another, build relationships and strengthen partnerships between each other. From there, I'll head back to the Philippines, then travel on to Singapore and Jamaica, before returning home.

We still have a few more sessions ahead in the Training in Mission program, including Lecture 7 on the Global Church and Lecture 8 on Spirituality and Mission, which will be done upon arrival in the Philippines.

As I continue this journey, I invite you—my church family—to keep me in your prayers, to walk with me in spirit, and to stay connected to what God is doing through this experience.

Here is some of what I have been learning in the past 2 months.

Rediscovering Mission in a Post-Christendom, Post-Colonial World

The first major insight I've gained is that mission is the unchanging Gospel in an ever-changing world. We're living in a time described as post-Christendom and post-colonial. That means that the church no longer holds the central power it once had in society—and that's not necessarily a bad thing.

Understanding what Christendom was (an alliance of church and state where Christianity often walked hand-in-hand with political power) helps us see how the Gospel message sometimes got distorted. Under Christendom, mission took on characteristics like manifest destiny, territorial expansion, and military alliances. But now, in a post-Christendom world, we are rediscovering a more authentic faith: one that is rooted not in power, but in presence. We are being called to be the whole church, on the margins.

But we must also wrestle with the legacy of colonialism in mission. Missions helped spread the Gospel, yes—but they also often paved the way for domination by European and American empires, domesticating and subduing indigenous populations. Today, a post-colonial response to mission includes:

- Repentance for past wrongs
- Racial righteousness in our communities and churches
- Empowering indigenous leadership to take center stage
- And retaining the goodness of the Good News without the baggage of colonial power

Shalom: A Holistic Vision of Reconciliation

A powerful concept I've encountered is Shalom (God's holistic peace) which Jesus embodied throughout His ministry. This connects beautifully with the idea of holistic mission. The old understanding of mission emphasized Word, Deed, and Sign. But now we are being invited to embrace a new whole, made up of three dimensions of reconciliation:

1. Vertical Reconciliation – Evangelism
 - This is our restored relationship between humanity and God through Jesus Christ.
 - It includes proclaiming the Gospel, nurturing discipleship, and fostering spiritual intimacy.
 - It reminds us that we are not merely humanitarians—we are witnesses to God's saving grace.

2. Horizontal Reconciliation – Justice and Peacemaking
 - This is reconciliation between people.
 - It deals with social divisions, inequality, racism, economic injustice, and broken relationships.
 - The Gospel calls us not only to preach peace, but to create conditions for peace through advocacy, activism, and solidarity with the oppressed. Without justice, peace is temporary and fragile.

3. Circular Reconciliation – Stewardship of Creation
 - This is our restored relationship with creation itself.
 - It's about caring for the Earth, addressing environmental degradation, and living sustainably.
 - Romans 8 tells us that creation groans for redemption, and so our mission includes advocating for climate justice, environmental stewardship, and restoring the dignity of all creation under God's reign.

Contextualisation: The Gospel With Local Feet

We also explored culture and mission. Culture is not static—it's dynamic, shaped by shared worldviews, customs, language, and beliefs. It determines what we call right or wrong, ethical or unethical.

However, ethnocentrism (believing your culture is superior) and paternalism (imposing your culture on others) threaten authentic mission. That's why we practice contextualisation—discerning how the unchanging Gospel can be faithfully lived out within each unique culture.

This involves:

- *Incarnation* – Being involved in the daily life of the host culture: eating, living, worshipping, and walking alongside local communities
- *Openness* – Recognizing and affirming local expressions of church, worship, music, and leadership
- *Learning* – Understanding folk religions, spiritual beliefs, and indigenous wisdom with humility and discernment
- *Solidarity* – Not standing above or outside culture, but being with people, learning from them, and letting mutual relationships shape us all

When I go to the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Jamaica, I hope to live these values deeply — entering each context as a learner, a friend, and a co-witness to God's work.

Polycentric Mission: From Everywhere to Everywhere

Mission today is polycentric — it no longer flows from the West to the rest, but from everywhere to everywhere. The Global South is rising in leadership, creativity, and vision. This global diversity reflects the beautiful kaleidoscope of the Body of Christ.

It reminds us that no culture fully captures God, and no one is a missionary by default. We are all learners and witnesses, together.

Friendship and Partnership: The Heart of Missional Work

A critical component of modern mission is friendship. True friendship across cultures builds trust, mutual transformation, and genuine care. It reflects the relational nature of the Trinity—honest, vulnerable, and loving.

From such friendship flows real partnership. Without friendship, partnership becomes transactional. With friendship, it becomes transformational.

The Micah Global Guidelines for Partnership have shaped how I view collaboration:

1. Friendship and Obedience – Committing together to follow Jesus, beyond just tasks or outcomes
2. Equality and Justice – Honoring one another as equal partners in the Gospel, no one being the "giver" or "receiver"
3. Integrity and Trust – Being honest, vulnerable, and accountable to one another in love
4. Unity and Humility – Celebrating difference without superiority, walking in shared humility

5. Faithfulness and Solidarity – Standing together in good times and hard times, never abandoning one another

Practically, this means:

- I. Forming cross-cultural ministry teams that reflect mutual dependence
- II. Praying together, regularly and intentionally
- III. Keeping the shared vision central, not individual agendas
- IV. Formalizing roles and responsibilities with shared ownership
- V. Designing joint learning experiences and community projects that benefit all partners

Thank you for your continued love, support, and encouragement.

May we all be missionaries in our own right—bearing witness to the unchanging Gospel in our ever-changing world.

With love,

Themba

(Below is a schedule of what the first 3 months in the Philippines entails)

TRAINING IN MISSION SCHEDULE

DATE	MODULE	FACILITATORS
July 1-2 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	Personal and Behavioral Assessment	c/o Carmel, Carleen
July 2 @ 4PM (Wednesday)	Laksamba	CSF, CALM, Worship Committee
July 3-4 (Thursday and Friday)	Gender and Inter-Cultural Competency Seminar/Orientation	Academic Dean, OSA,
July 7-18	Psychological Module	Carmel, Amelia
July 15 @ 8AM (Tuesday)	OPENING ACADEMIC CONVOCATION	Academic Dean
July 21-August 1	Sociological Module	Sito, J-ar
July 28 (Monday)	PEOPLES' SONA	Field Ed
August 4-8	Cultural Week	CALM, UCC Initial meeting: May 19@5PM
August 11-20	Biblical Module	Kakay, ZM
August 21-25	TIM Cullion	Field Ed
August 26- Sept. 5	Theological Module	Lizette, Carleen
Sept 8-12	Sportsfest	UTS SG
Sept 15-26	Missiological	Eric, Wesley



(By Pip Masterson)

Our son Gavin sent us the link to this song about four years ago, and it really inspired me concerning Kingdom Living and the cumulative significance and impact of expressions of kindness and love. I hear it often on my Spotify feed; I am still enthused when hearing it.

“Dream Small” – by Josh Wilson - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOBaLrltEyc>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/3tlosTCaD7OxaqMmNMqK39?si=oUPonUEGQfKgu3Dm6GRUjA>

Apple: <https://music.apple.com/za/song/dream-small/1352613064>

UPDATE ON EVANS' RECOVERY

On 27 March, Evans had his cornea transplant surgery and was told by the doctor that the recovery process would be very long and could take a year or longer. So far, Evans' recovery from his surgery has gone really well. Each time the doctor sees Evans for a check-up visit, he says Evans' cornea is beautiful! We have been encouraged by hearing this from the doctor as to us it means that the healing is on track. It's only been almost 12 weeks since the surgery but there have been many changes already. The doctor said that there would be changes in Evans' vision during the healing process but that this is quite normal. Blurred vision and double vision are to be expected. As the eye heals and accepts the new cornea, there are regular changes that take place. The good news is that Evans' vision has already improved substantially. He is able to see so much better than before and is able to do his studying and daily tasks much easier. He does experience double vision and blurred vision but he knows this is part of the healing process. Last month, the doctor gave Evans a contact lens to improve the vision in the short term and this has helped tremendously. One of the stitches was removed last month because it came loose. This is also a good sign as it shows that the cornea is healing onto the eye.

We thank our Lord for His guiding hand in this process and for His healing hand on Evans’

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as Evans travels this journey each day.

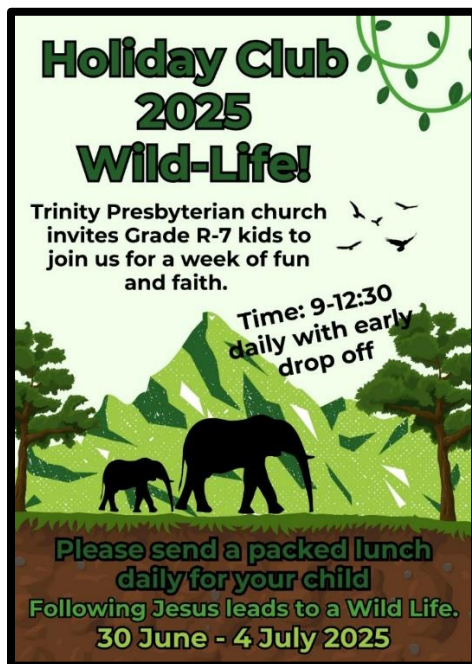
Much love

Evans and Loraine



“Our Purpose is to GROW DEEPER! Grow deeper with God, in Relationships with each other, by creating Opportunities for ministry and as Witnesses.”

Friday night Youth – Junior and Senior Youth on Fridays
Check out the WhatsApp group or contact Ross for more information
Sunday morning children’s worship at 9am - all ages welcome



Art craft donation list for holiday club 2025

Circular pebbles (hand size) x 4 bags



Plastic jars x 100



Soap detergent bottles 3/5l x 100



Clear Glue 5l x 5



Wool (mixed colour) x 6



Borax powder x 10



Food craft donation list for holiday club

Green Meringues x 150



Choc chips x 4 boxes



Large marshmallows



Marie biscuits x 4 packs



Flings x 3 bags



Jelly babies x 4LG bags



Flap jack mix x 4



Finger biscuits x 15



Tongue sweets



Whispers/malt balls x 3 bags



Brat strips x 10



Please let us have newspapers for holiday club!



MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE 2025

We are challenging everyone to learn 10 memory verses off by heart.

June verse: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



SAVE THE DATE

MANDELA DAY OF SERVICE

CHOP & CHAT AT TRINITY

SATURDAY - 19 JULY
8:00AM TO 12:00PM

Soup vegetable cutting & maintenance day

Trinity Presbyterian Church, St David Road, Elma Park, Edenvale.




SAVE THE DATE

FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, 26 JULY
FROM 9AM

Enjoy the famous Socon cooked breakfast & guest speaker.

R100 PER TICKET

Trinity Presbyterian Church,
St David Road, Elma Park,
Edenvale.



Staff on leave

Please note that Dawn is on leave currently and will return to Trinity at the end of June

Iain will be away from Friday, 27 June to Friday, 4 June attending the General Assembly Conference in Mthatha

Available to Trinity members!

! Attention Elma Park !

PURIFIED WATER FILLING STATION

@ Trinity Presbyterian Church

A self service purified water dispensing machine:

- 24/7
- Tap to pay
- SANS 241
- R1,50/l.



FM filter media, carbon pre and post treatment filters, ultra filtration, UV disinfection

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Drink the difference sip by sip



Giving

Please take note:

EFT Payments

We would like to ensure that the payments made to Trinity towards tithing, retiring offerings, food bags etc are allocated correctly.

In order to do this, please would you ensure that the reference shown on your payment has the correct beneficiary.

For Tithing, please use the following methods:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
STANDARD BANK
CURRENT ACCOUNT
NUMBER: 42 448 2088,
BRANCH: 016 342

Zapper QR Code



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to go to either our Facebook or Instagram pages.



TRINITY_PRESBY_EDENVALE