



WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2026

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Dear Friends,

Having preached the last two Sundays, I feel I have taken for granted some of the ideas I have shared which I gleaned from Eugene Peterson's book on Revelation called 'Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination.' In particular on my mind is the rhythm of affirmation, correction and motivation (promise) which we encounter in the letters to the churches, and the idea of the church being a 'messy, lived in family home'. I want to share the extracts from the book which address these two things.

Firstly regarding the rhythm of the letters:

*In the church, we are always in process of being **affirmed**. We find those parts of our lives that are working well, and discovering them gives zest, confidence and assurance. We are always in process of being **corrected**. We find those parts of our lives that aren't working well. There is a relentless quality to the Word of God that insists that we face up to our sloth, our pride, our avarice - all the things that separate us from God's complete victory in us, every path that is diseased or immature, that defeats our joy or interferes with another's salvation. And we are in process of being **motivated**. For none of what we do in faith is short term; it is all long range. The motivation to live strenuously for a lifetime must be adequate to sustain us through every shadowed valley and every parched wilderness. The promise of eternal life, and only the promise of eternal life, is sufficient to provide such motivation. This three-part spiritual direction trains God's people to live a life of confident faith in Christ in a hostile environment. The process of affirmation, correction and promise is what the Greeks called paidea, the complex process whereby the community passes on its passion and its excellence. "Those whom I love I reprove and chasten [paideuo]" Rev 3:19*

Secondly, regarding the church as messy and lived-in:

*The churches of the Revelation show us that churches are not Victorian parlors where everything is always picked up and ready for guests. They are **messy family rooms**. Entering a person's house unexpectedly, we are sometimes met with a barrage of apologies. St. John does not apologise. Things are out of order, to be sure, but that is what happens to churches that are **lived in**. They are not showrooms. They are **living rooms**, and if the persons living in them are sinners, there are going to be clothes scattered about, handprints on the woodwork and mud on the carpet ... **the church is not what we organize, but what God gives**, not the people we want to be with, but the people God gives us to be with. A community created by the descent of the Holy Spirit in which **we submit ourselves to the Spirit's affirmation, reformation, and motivation** ... The life of faith always and necessarily takes place in a community of persons who are located somewhere in time and place.*

I hope that this might fill in some of the gaps. I hope that you are finding the current sermon series opening up your own imagination and prayer life as we listen for what the Spirit might be saying to us as God's people.

With love and awe filled gratitude,

Iain

P.S. On Sunday morning, the 7th of November, in response to the church's monthly financial shortfall, a congregation member, Teresa, shared a creative and heartfelt initiative called #Coffee - a small way each of us can make a meaningful difference. Here is her testimony as she shared it:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fz6t6nITurM?si=5WggH6Oe0ZOg7yaP&t=3877> .

Here is her idea:

by giving up one small luxury each month — perhaps a cup of coffee, a snack outing, or another treat that costs around R200 — we can collectively help close the financial gap. For instance, skipping a weekly R50 coffee adds up to R200 a month, which can then be donated to the church.

You can participate by setting up an automatic monthly deposit or by bringing your contribution in an envelope marked #Coffee. This tag helps us track the initiative's progress.

It's about sharing joyfully to support our community. If 200 people give R200, we could raise R40,000 together! Let's invest in keeping our church strong, our ministries active, and our lights shining.

May God bless this effort and everyone who takes part in it.



(By Emmanuel Richard)

May this song draw you into the presence of Jesus.

"Great Are You Lord" by All Sons & Daughters - <https://youtu.be/hpb02shcAis?si=GiXLcSBOXwg0kkAW>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/1Hv54MWloXiAZDam1ez840?si=d2367b1fdf4a4365>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/za/song/great-are-you-lord/1791535538>



“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 School every Sunday at 09h00

Trinity Seniors Social

Save the Date – 12 February 2026

It's a New Year for Seniors

This is a wonderful time to reconnect, share updates about our lives, and delight in each other's company once again.

Activities

- We're fortunate to have Vivienne guiding us through chair exercises
- and Ian enriching our gatherings with his beautiful background music.



Please note, the March meeting will have a slightly different format. **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

SENIORS CHAIR CLASS

EVERY THURSDAY AT 09:45
STARTING 5TH FEBRUARY

TRINITY PRESBYTARIAN CHURCH, in the small hall

- Fun and energising class led by Viv Williamson, a certified Pilates instructor.
- Fee R50 per class
- **FREE** chair exercises during the Seniors Social every 2nd Thursday of the month!



This past Saturday 17 January, 26 of us who are involved in the broad worship ministry at Trinity - singers, instrumentalists, live streamers, sound desk technicians and lay preachers - gathered for relationship building and fun! We shared a meal and some interactive and energetic games, and gave thanks to God for the privilege of being called to minister in the area of worship.

Here are some photos of the group of us.



RUN FOR THE BIBLELESS

Run. Fund. Transform.



Date: Sat 14 March 2026
Cost: R200 per adult*
Venue: Bunny Park, Benoni

*For full details and to register or donate visit
wycliffe.org.za/r4tb

± 3.5km

± 7km



Bible Translation & Literacy (E.A.)



wycliffe
— BIBLE TRANSLATION —





Mxolisi would like to thank all those who were so generous to him and his family in December. Your thoughtfulness and care are very much appreciated.

The Edenvale Methodist Church will be running a 13 week Griefshare support group starting on Thursday, 5 February.

Please see the advert on the notice board in the foyer, or at the office.

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



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

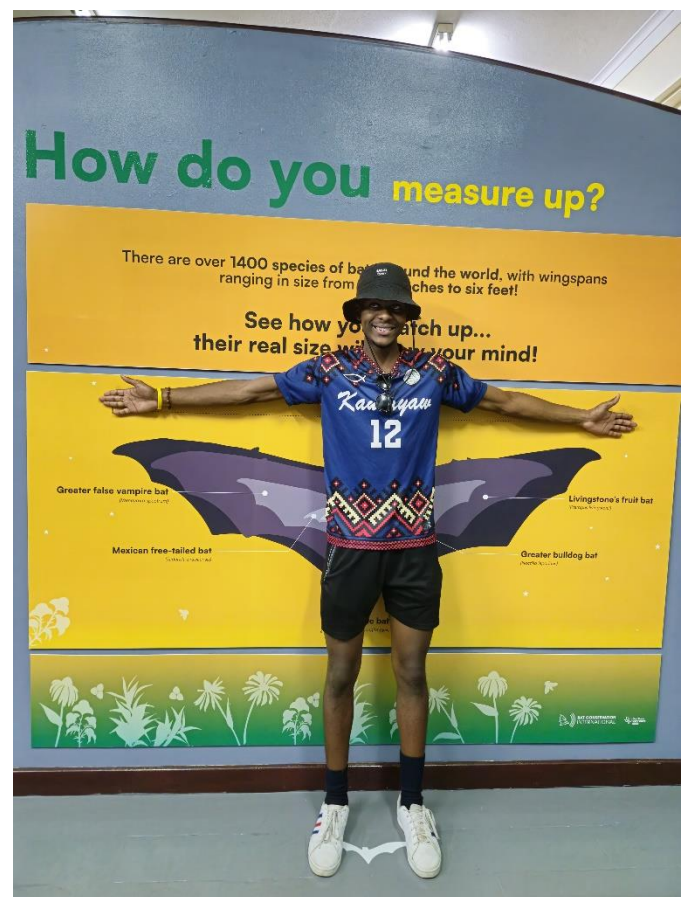




Institute of Jamaica

Visiting the Institute of Jamaica, a group of museums established for the encouragement of Literature, Science, and Art, and the Junior Centre, a group of museums focused on young people, exposed me to the often-overlooked ecological importance of bats and the urgent need for the conservation of bats (creation as a whole) in Jamaica and the surrounding countries. Before our visit, bats were often misunderstood creatures to me, with me frequently associating them with fear or negative stereotypes. However, the session challenged these assumptions and revealed the vital role bats play in sustaining ecosystems. I learned that bat populations in Jamaica, as in many parts of the world, have been declining, prompting researchers and conservationists to put intentional measures in place to prevent further loss and to restore balance.

What stood out was the sheer diversity of bats. Globally, there are over 1,400 species of bats, making them one of the most diverse groups of mammals. Some species feed on fruit and nectar, others on





insects, some are carnivorous, and a very small number are blood feeders. Interestingly, the blood-feeding species are not found in Jamaica but are native to parts of Central and South America. This diversity highlights how bats have adapted to serve different ecological roles, each contributing uniquely to the health of the environment.

The consequences of failing to preserve bats are severe and far-reaching. Fruit-eating bats play a crucial role in seed dispersal, supporting forest regeneration and plant diversity. Insect-eating bats help control pest populations, reducing the need for chemical pesticides and protecting crops. Without bats, ecosystems become unbalanced, agricultural productivity declines, and food chains are disrupted. The

loss of bats is not just an environmental issue but a social and economic one, affecting food security, livelihoods, and biodiversity as a whole.

Researchers in Jamaica are actively working to prevent this decline through education, habitat protection, and scientific research. They monitor bat populations, study their roosting sites, and raise awareness about the importance of caves and natural habitats. Public education is a key part of their work, as fear and misinformation often lead to the destruction of bat habitats. By helping communities understand the value of bats in the region, researchers are fostering a culture of coexistence rather than fear.

Beyond bats, the key learning from this experience was the broader call to preserve creation. Creation is not something given to humanity to exploit recklessly but to steward responsibly. When one species suffers, the whole system feels the impact. The beauty of the world—its balance, diversity, and interconnectedness—reflects profound worth and intentionality.

Creation care is not separate from faith but an expression of it. To care for creation is to participate in God’s mission of restoration, reconciliation, and life-giving abundance. When we as the church and communities stand alongside researchers, educators, and conservationists, we bear witness to a faith that values all life. Preserving bats becomes a sign of hope, showing that mission also is not only about proclamation but also about responsible action, stewardship, and love for the world God deeply cares for.

Themba will be presenting on his experience at his Training in Mission (TIM) in the Philippines, Singapore and Jamaica.

There will be opportunity to ask questions and engage with him about his experiences.

Please join us on

Saturday, 24 January

10am

at Trinity Presbyterian Church

You are welcome to arrive on Saturday even if you don't RSVP. If you could kindly RSVP to the office for catering purposes it will be helpful.