iindaba

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The Bishop writes ...

God's amazing grace

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to use this opportunity to write about a topic that has been a cornerstone of faith for many godly people over the years: God's amazing grace.

Grace, by definition, is the unearned and undeserved favour of God. It is central to the Christian understanding of salvation, emphasising that redemption is not attainable through human effort, but it is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8-9 encapsulates this beautifully: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate gift and act of grace, demonstrating God's willingness to go to extraordinary lengths to reconcile humanity to Himself.

Grace, in its simplest definition, is the unmerited favour of God towards humanity. It is not something we earn through deeds or merits, but is given freely by God out of His boundless love for us. This grace sustains us through both triumphs and trials, acting as a guiding light and a source of strength.

Let us briefly explore how God's grace is evident in both the joyful and challenging moments of our lives, supported by a few biblical references that illustrate this profound truth.

When we achieve success or experience moments of joy, it's easy to attribute these triumphs to our own strength or abilities. However, Scripture reminds us that it is by God's grace that we can achieve anything at all.

In 1 Corinthians 15:10, Paul says, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."*

This verse beautifully depicts how our successes and triumphs are not solely the product of our own efforts but are made possible through God's grace. It is humbling and simultaneously reminds us to be grateful, recognising God's hand in our achievements.

It is during our lowest points that God's grace can truly shine as a beacon of hope and strength. The Bible has countless examples of God's grace sustaining individuals through immense trials and tribulations.



Diocesan office staff saying goodbye to Miriam Stiemens (fifth from left) Busi Gwentshu, Adelé Erasmus, Debbie Vencencie, Dean Sharon Nell, Bishop Eddie, Yolande Wolmarans, Fumi Kula (BEO) and Trevor Brukman.

One of the most powerful expressions of this is found in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9, where Paul speaks about his pleading with the Lord to remove a 'thorn in his flesh,' a metaphor for some persistent affliction or difficulty. The Lord's response to him was, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

This verse emphasises the profound truth that God's grace is most evident, not when we are strong, but when we are weak. It is in our vulnerability and reliance on God that His grace is magnified, providing us with the strength to endure hardships and emerge with a deeper faith.

The sustaining power of God's grace is beautifully illustrated in the story of the Israelites in the wilderness, as described in Exodus 16. Despite their grumbling and doubt, God provided for their needs, raining down manna from heaven. This daily provision was a tangible sign of God's grace, meeting their physical needs while teaching them to trust in Him one day at a time.

God's grace is a multifaceted gift that not only redeems us but also sustains us through every aspect of our lives. It's a reminder that whether we are on the mountain top of success or in the valley of despair, we are never alone. God's grace is sufficient for every need, every triumph, and every trial. As Ephesians 2:8-9 beautifully states, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast."*

Let us then live our lives in a manner that reflects our gratitude for this incredible gift, relying on God's grace to sustain us every step of the way.

May God's grace go before you.

+Edward Port Elizabeth



Pastor Glenn Weise, BEO Fumi Kula, Pastor Russell Viljoen, Dr Bukelwa Hans, Apostle Neville Goldman, Bishop William and Trevor Jennings at Christian Leaders meeting.

Embracing ideas from the Business Chamber

Having listened carefully to the presentation given last month by the CEO of the Business Chamber, Denise van Huyssteen, the Nelson Mandela Bay Christian Leaders gathered at Bible House, and via Zoom, to discuss ways to embrace ideas to help improve our Metro.

Among those who joined via Zoom was Geoffrey Mendelowitz, of the Port Elizabeth Hebrew Congregation, who requested that the Jewish community be included in the way forward in transforming our Metro. This was accepted with pleasure.

Human Rights 2024



Great Creator of the glowing moon and falling stars,
Great Saviour of the miraculous birth and rising from death,
Great Spirit of the seers and sacred words;
Work through our minds.
Work through our dreams.
Work through our mouths.
So we may become a sign of your presence.

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Cor 3:18 NIV



Join SA Belongs to Jesus
on Telegram
and pray for SA for two minutes three times a day.
Begin praying for the

2024 elections - that God will put upon the heart of every Christian to vote!

That they will vote for good, God-fearing leaders who will rule with justice and integrity.

Bishop Dale of St Helena visited us

On his way to Episcopal Synod Bishop Dale Bowers of our Link Diocese of St Helena, spent some time getting to know our diocese.



Bishop Dale attended Bishop Eddie's Chapter meeting. He is seen enjoying coffee and eats before the meeting with the Archdeacon of the Bay North, Vincent Mdidimba.



At the College of the Transfiguration in Makhanda he met Shaun Plato, a second year student from the Diocese of George.

Clergy School

Andrew White

On 22 February clergy school was conducted by Bishop Dale of one of our Link Dioceses, the Diocese of St Helena (the other Link Diocese is Namibia).

The clergy gathered at St John's in Walmer for this event.

Bishop Dale first spoke about his diocese and shared about working on the two islands saying, "The Diocese of St Helena entails both St Helena Island as well as Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean. There are four parishes, 12 churches and 13 congregations."

Bishop Dale showed a short video clip which highlighted so much about St Helena and Ascension Islands. As well as giving practical insight into the many happenings in the diocese he also spoke of the painful past of the islands. He then shared the hope of those who call the island home and of what the future could be.

The clergy school was insightful as it gave the clergy of our diocese a window into what the clergy, and our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith, experience in this very isolated part of the world, not only regarding aspects of daily life but also in their spiritual lives.

That being said, we found that we all face many of the same challenges, be it spiritual or financial, but also both share a deep love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, coupled with a deep devotion to stay true to His gospel which He has revealed through His word.



Bishop Dale at clergy school with the Rectors of All Saints', Andrew White, and St Hugh's, Andrea Potgieter.

This only goes to reinforce the truth of what Peter shared with us in his epistle in 1 Peter 5:9, *"Resist him (the enemy), steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."* (NKJV)

The clergy school, I believe, aided in solidifying our bond with the Diocese of St Helena and we placed faces we know to places in an island filled with such a painful but rich history.

Let us continue to uphold Bishop Dale and the Diocese of St Helena in our prayers.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* is sad to report on the passing of:
- Freddy Jacobs, father of Rowan, the Rector of St Paul's;
- Felicity Edelson, wife of Ivan, retired Priest assisting at St Cuthbert's.

May their families know the loving arms of Yeshua surrounding them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* asks prayers for:
- David Grobbelaar, Priest-in-charge of Holy Trinity in Central, as he recovers from surgery;
- Lindiwe Maliti, Assistant Priest at the Karoo and Great Karoo Parishes, as she undergoes treatment;

❖ *iindaba* congratulates Bennie Gallant, husband of retired Priest, Jogra, on becoming a 4th Dan in Judo.

❖ *iindaba* asks that as you pray for Elective Assembly members who will elect a new bishop for our Diocese. Pray too for Synod.

Awarded for service



The BEO, Fumi Kula, Bishop Eddie and Dean Sharon Nell stand behind Frankie Simpson as she shows her certificate of the Order of the Diocese.

Just before the start of Bishop's Chapter meeting on Tuesday 20 march, Bishop Eddie awarded the Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth to Frankie Simpson for all the years of service in many capacities to the Diocese.

Farewell Miriam



Miriam Stiemens showing off specially decorated cupcakes at her farewell tea.

At the end of March Miriam Stiemens retired as the Diocesan Bookkeeper after 11 years of service.

On Tuesday 20 February a surprise farewell tea was held for her by Bishop Eddie, the Diocesan staff and Bishop's Chapter.

Bishop Eddie thanked Miriam for her years of service to the Diocese in, sometimes, such difficult circumstances.

During her time she served with three Diocesan Secretary Treasurers - Peter Hopper, Ralph van Niekerk and Yolane Wolmerans.

Tag lines!



Integrity
is choosing your thoughts and actions
based on values
rather than personal gain.

Ad Clerum / Ad Laos

To the Clergy and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth,



Bishop Eddie with Bishop Dale of St Helena and the Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

With a heart filled with mixed emotions, I write to you, the beloved in Christ of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, to announce that I will be retiring from my role as your Diocesan Bishop. This decision has been guided by deep prayer and a sense of peace that the Lord's will is being fulfilled.

Serving as your Bishop has been the most profound honour of service in the ordained ministry.

Together, we have witnessed the grace of God moving in our midst, shaping us into a more faithful community of believers. We have faced challenges, celebrated victories, and, above all, sought to live out the Gospel in our words and actions.

The journey we have shared has been marked by the collective efforts of each one of you: clergy, lay leaders, and faithful parishioners, all contributing to the life and mission of our Diocese. Your dedication, love, and support have been a constant source of encouragement to me. I am profoundly grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the kindness and generosity you have shown throughout my tenure.

The decision to retire has not been an easy one, particularly given my deep love for this Diocese and its people. However, I believe that there is a season for everything under heaven, and a time has come for new Episcopal leadership to guide the Diocese of Port Elizabeth into its next chapter. It is my prayer that this transition will be an opportunity for renewal and growth, as the Diocese continues to live out its calling to be a beacon of Christ's love and hope.

The process for electing a new Bishop will be in accordance with the Canons and Constitution of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. I have every confidence in the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit as our Diocese embarks on this important journey. I will continue to carry out my duties with the same commitment and love for our Diocese that has always guided me, until the 31st of October 2024.

The official laying down of my pastoral staff service will take place upon the conclusion of our meeting of Diocesan Synod on the 26th of October 2024.

As I prepare for this new chapter in my life, I ask for your prayers that Nicky and I may remain faithful to the Lord in our service and that we may embrace this change with trust in His divine providence. I will continue to keep you all in my prayers, thanking God for the gift of having served you, and asking Him to bless our diocese abundantly.

+Edward Port Elizabeth

Teaching them young



Lay Minister at HTC, Thuthuka Siphumezile, shows Ina Johnson how to set up the Communion Table.

At Holy Trinity in Central the Lay Ministers believe in teaching the young members how to become involved at an early age.

Gaining converts

Xola Nodwele



Vuyisile Nkengana preaches during a revival procession through the streets of Motherwell NU 12.

On the first Sunday in Lent, 18 February, St Matthias Bernard Mizeki Guild members led a Street Revival, preaching in the streets ofNU 12.

The other organizations of the church - Mother's Union, St Mary Magdalene Guild, and Servers Fellowship also joined the revival.

People of NU 12 followed this revival up to the Chapelry. The chapel warden was pleased to say that new converts were gained through this revival.

Fleshing out dry bones

Does your church equip all believers to live out God's Kingdom purposes?



MV Logos Hope staff, Dr James Watson and Harry Kendall, flank Gigi Mesani and Pastor Joan Keeling who attended a meeting on board the ship.

While the MV Logos Hope was in port it hosted many events, including three well supported all-day conferences for Pastors and Church Leaders.

One of the main speakers at these sessions was a Zambian, Joseph Okello, who challenged the leaders to bring about the change needed to save Africa.

He said that 2 Chron 7:14ff makes us as Christians accountable to God (*"If MY people, who are called by MY name ..."*) to bring about the transformation. He then said that we need to be faithful to the process God gives us in Ezekiel 37:1ff. *Prophesy over the dry bones* - as Paul says, *"We preach Christ ..."* (not wisdom) - then there will be a shaking in the land - and God will join bone to it's connecting bone whereever it is, which may mean moving areas. But, we also need to prophesy to the wind, for Holy Spirit power, for God to raise the mighty army.

However, for this to happen, the Church needs to be deliberately intentional in coming together as one and working as the Body of Christ. It needs to accept all its born-again family members, and go out together to make disciples, teaching people to be ethical at work (eg in the Metro Council/Eskom etc) and at home because God's plan is for people to see Christ in everything we do.

Joseph went on to say that we cannot fake care, as it's about genuineness, so we must be faithful to our calling, no matter what it is.

He closed with this challenge: "Does your church equip all believers to live out God's Kingdom purposes?"

Snippets from other speakers included: The Bible mentions Africa more than 1 417 times; Africa is the continent with most Christians yet has so much corruption because we are not living out our faith; too many people with titles who do not function.

Have you considered joining a Religious Order?



Sister Neheng; Percy Chinganga, the CR Chaplain; Mother Kekeletso; Sisters Carol and Zelma with Bishop Paddy.

The editor visits the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord sisters in Makhanda almost every quarter and wonders if readers have ever contemplated becoming a part of a Religious Order?

For the CR Order a woman needs to be single (a widow is included here) and needs to feel called to this ministry for the Lord.

If you feel you'd like to find out more, you can spend a month with the Community observing the life.

Then if you feel called to join them, you will become an aspirant, followed by being a postulant for six months. This is a time for you to check your calling. After these steps there is a final two years as an officiate before ever taking final vows. So nobody goes into a community without spending time with the Lord testing one's vocation.

The CR Sisters are very involved in their community, with Sr Neheng helping at one of the preschools. They also have five children they have adopted/fostered as well as many projects such as candle making, girdle making, and they hope to soon begin making Communion wafers.

Anyone wanting to know more about the CR Sisters can contact Mother Kekeletso: 063 363 9149.

Aiming high!



In the centre, the Rector of St John's, Claire Phelps, holds the food donation bucket while Michelle Werth accepts a donation from someone, while Jacqui Peacock and Nicky Willemse happily look on.

The Rector of St John's in Walmer, Claire Phelps, together with parish members Michelle Werth, Jacqui Peacock and Nicky Willemse spent Friday night 8 March (International Women's Day) on the church rooftop.

They were aiming high - hoping to receive big sponsorship towards the St John's mission outreach programme. They took a donation tin for money and a bucket for food onto the roof as well as coffee, drinks, blankets and warm jackets.

Every hour during the night the four ladies prayed for missionaries throughout the world, and especially for those living in areas where they have met Christians who have been persecuted.

✍ Letter to the ed ✍

Unlocking a legacy, and igniting hope

- Transforming church Sites into Vibrant Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres.

Step into a world with us where education dances with possibility, and the echoes of history harmonize with the future. Since the mid-1800s, Anglican Diocesan and Mission schools have woven themselves into the very fabric of education in Southern Africa —their roots run deep, nourishing generations.

But this isn't just about the past. It's about now. The complex tapestry of colonialism, apartheid, and today's challenges beckons us anew. And we answer with a resounding "Yes!"

ABESA's Vision: The Anglican Board of Education for Southern Africa (ABESA) stands at the crossroads of transformation. Together with ECD champions across our 25 Dioceses, and partners, we're embarking on a ground-breaking journey—one that turns underutilized church sites into vibrant ECD Centres fostering growth, education, and community empowerment.

Fresh Expressions: Imagine vibrant Centres nestled within church grounds. Children's laughter weaving through sun-dappled playgrounds. Educators with hearts wide open, guiding little hands toward a brighter tomorrow.

Hope in Community: It's more than bricks and mortar. It's about weaving community threads together. Specialist partners, neighbours, families, congregations—all converging to ignite hope in the lives of children. Because when we share spaces, we share dreams.

800 Sparks of Possibility: In the next five to eight years, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa aims to birth 800 new ECD Centres—each one a beacon of hope. As Archbishop Thabo Makgoba himself has said, "This would make God smile!"

Are you passionate about nurturing the next generation? Do you believe that every child deserves a strong foundation for lifelong learning? Look no further! Join us. Let's turn church sites into sanctuaries of possibility. Let's make God smile, one ECD Centre at a time. For more information please read and respond to the call for support in the brochure *(obtainable from the editor via e-mail)*.

May you continue to know God's blessing.

The Anglican Board of Education for Southern Africa (ABESA)

Meet our Financial Accountant



Our new Financial Accountant, Trevor Bruckman.

Trevor Bruckman took up his position as our Diocesan Financial Accountant on 1 February. He is a member of St Margaret's in Summerstrand and has been one of their Churchwardens for eight years.

Trevor comes with many qualifications, among which is a degree and diploma in Business and Finance, and he is a registered accountant with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) as an Associate Accounting Technician (SA).

Since 2020 he is also a committee member for SAICA's Associate qualification, for professional developement of the Accounting Technicians in South Africa.

He is married to Bonita and they have a son, Mark. He enjoys walking on the beach with Bonita and swimming in the ocean, besides fixing computers.

Trevor worked for the SA Post Office for 28 years of which the last 17 included being Regional Finance Manager, managing staff, debtors, creditors and a lot more.

Shrove Tuesday fun



Staff members Heather Tiltmann, Andile Majozi, Claire Phelps and Heather Phillips put on the fun.

The parishioners of St John's have come to expect a show on Shrove Tuesday, and they weren't disappointed this year! For the third year running the staff team, and some thespian-minded parishioners, have taken part in a Variety Show.

This year's line up included Robin Hood's 'Men in Tights', which caused much laughter from the audience. The men who participated really stepped out of their comfort zone in donning tights and dancing on stage.

The Rector, Claire Phelps and Michelle Werth, together with Dave Sanderson and his dog, Brave, sang the Ghostbusters theme song, with the catch phrase being "Who you gonna call? Claire and Michelle! Who you gonna call? Dave and Brave… we ain't afraid of no ghosts!"

The closing number saw the Rector and staff performing Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini. Claire read the lyrics very carefully and was relieved that no bikini needed to be shown in the performance!

More than 600 pancakes were made and sold on Shrove Tuesday, for sit down and takeaway. It was a lovely evening of laughter and fellowship.

Caring for people with disabilities

How 'ramped up' is your church building?

Is it wheelchair /walker / crutches friendly?

The RampUp website is a resource for churches, "So that His house may be filled."

"There is room for more," is the cry of the astonished servant in Luke 14, to which his Master replies: *"Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full."*

The RampUp website shows a house with many rooms – each one offering specific help to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the various aspects of being at church.

Contact: Erna Möller <erna@tlm.co.za>

082 731 9857 www.rampup.co.za

Join many African countries which are praying this prayer daily at 12h00



God bless Africa
Protect her children
Transform her leaders
Heal her communities
Restore her dignity
And give her peace
For Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen

Green Piece ...

Ash Wednesday beauty

Jill Bromily



Our Creator Lord showed His glory through the beauty of nature on Ash Wednesday with this stunning sunset as the parishioners left the service at St Hugh's in Newton Park.

A Shrove Tuesday pancake evening was followed by an Ash Wednesday service at 09h00 and one at 18h00.

This sunset met the folk who attended the 18h00 service when they came out of church.

This stunning sunset was captured by Merlene Penrith as she left the service. God's creation is wonderful.



Self-catering Accommodation at St Luke's in Makhanda

Retreats - single or group; visits; quiet stay with the

Community of the Resurrection of our Lord

Very reasonable rates: from R250pp per night

Contact - Mother Kekeletso CR on: 063 363 9149 or Sr Neheng CR on: 078 197 5936

Reflections from COP28

(The UN Climate Change Conference)

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) held in November/December 2023, seems to have been taken over by the oil industry with 2 400 delegates linked to fossil fuel companies (more than the delegates of ten of the countries most impacted by Climate Change). The leader of COP28 said that moving from fossil fuels will 'return us to the caves', and was planning to make side deals to increase oil sales. Lots of frustration and anger - but some signs of hope - light does shine in the darkness.

The issues of health have been brought to the fore with a climate and health declaration. A fund for 'loss and damage' for the most impacted countries has been set up - whether promises of funding are fulfilled remains to be seen! The Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty (which the Anglican Communion signed in February) is gaining countries - even Colombia, an oil rich country, has agreed to no new oil projects.

And Faith - for the first time there was a Faith Pavilion and faith leaders were very present and visible with many side events.

So let us, with hope pray for the many thousands of souls who attended COP28, people of faith, indigenous leaders, climate activists, leaders of vulnerable nations, fellow citizens of our one common home, that they will still turn the tide and there will be progress after COP28.

Please pray for the wonderful Anglicans who worked their hearts out, speaking at events, speaking out to politicians, networking with other climate leaders, that they will not get tired of sharing the message of climate change.

Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem said, " I think being here at COP28 will add to the conversation that conflict and violence are not an end in themselves. We need to bring all the positive, hope-filled factors to the conversation, so that we can bring transformation to our troubled world and region."

From the Green Anglican team

Seven Wonders of the World

What would you list as the Seven Wonders of the World?

A group of learners was asked to name their choice, and some of their answers included -

Table Mountain,
Mount Everest,
Great Wall of China,
The Great Pyramids,
The Taj Mahal,
St Peter's Basilica,
Panama Canal.

However one student shocked the others when she read her list out -

to see,
to hear,
to touch,
to taste,
to feel,
to laugh and cry,
to love.

Genesis 1:27,31 NIV

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

31 And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.

As we nurture the wonders of nature - the air, oceans, environment, animals and birds - let us also nurture each other, regardless of race, sex or culture, for we are all made in the image of God, and are precious in his sight.

Spread peace wherever you go! Smile - it's catchy!

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