



# ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

NEWSLETTER: 2 OF 2025

## JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

**Written by Warden YW CARR**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As we enter the second quarter of 2025, we reflect on the significance of the festive season of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Let us take this opportunity to renew our faith and commitment to serving God and spreading His word.

**Celebrating the Crucifixion and Resurrection**

This season reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for humanity. As we meditate on His love and grace, let us draw inspiration from these Bible verses:

- John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- Matthew 28:6: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

### **ABOUT OCS**

FOUNDED IN 1955, THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE EXISTS TO SERVE THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST BY MEANS OF SUPPLYING MANPOWER FOR ALL TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT IN GOD'S SERVICE

"FOR WE DO NOT PREACH OURSELVES, BUT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD, AND OURSELVES AS YOUR SERVANTS FOR JESUS, SAKE" 2 CORINTHIANS 4:5



JOHN 3:16:  
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## WEBSITE UPDATES AND ENHANCEMENTS

We are thrilled to announce the new look and feel of the [Order of Christian Service website](#). The updated platform now includes:

- **Christian Partners:** Collaborations with organizations that share our mission.
- **Christian Training Partners:** Access to free training programs to empower our members.
- **Corporate Membership:** A new category for businesses to join and support our cause.
- **OCS Blog:** Featuring insightful feedback from Heather, our dedicated field worker.

## RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

We honor the legacy of the Late Rev. James Cook by making his booklets and Christian eBooks available, including:

- [Serve and Grow Rich](#)
- [How to Become a Servant Leader](#)

These resources aim to inspire and guide our members in their spiritual journey.



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## PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS

We are actively collaborating with Christian organizations to offer our services and assist in recruiting Christian workers. Notably, we are working closely with Gideons International to distribute Bibles at various placement centres. We urge our members to partner with Gideons in their local areas

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our management team—Bill, Tony, Trevor, and Philip—for their invaluable contributions. Special thanks to Shaun for his exceptional work on our website and SEO activities.

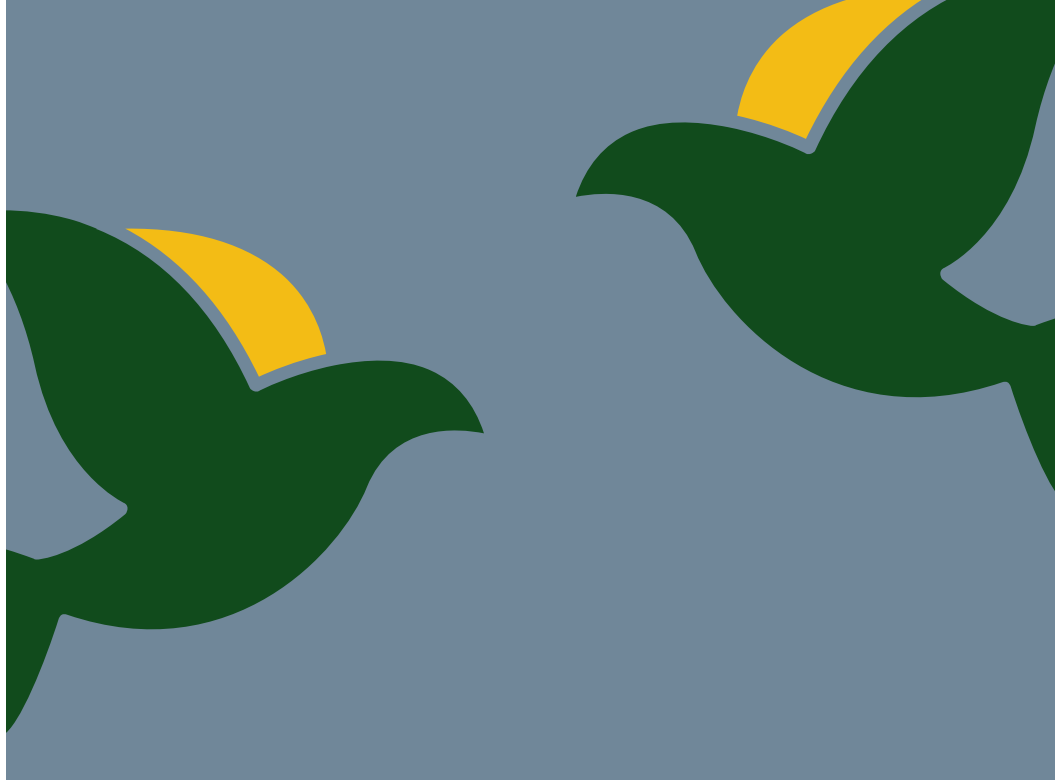
## ENCOURAGEMENT AND CALL TO ACTION

Let us continue to grow together in faith and service. Visit our website to explore free training programs and stay updated on our initiatives. Together, we can make a difference in spreading the word of God.

Blessings,  
*Warden Young Carr*  
*Order of Christian Service*



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## A REPORT FROM HEATHER JOHNSTONE

Location: Ta Tanzania

What I do: Helping to empower the most disadvantaged women and children in Mara through the Rehema Project.

Dear Members

I've said this often before, but living and working here in rural Tanzania I am reminded time and time again of what a great provider our Father is. Often there are circumstances that seem hopeless or problems that seem insurmountable, but we can take comfort in the knowledge that we can come to Him with every need, concern, or worry we have, and no matter how small or large our issue, He knows what is going on in our lives and He provides for us. Sometimes there are situations that seem quite bleak, but the Lord God is a great, big God and He has a habit of making beautiful things happen and He delivers. He is always with us regardless of what we are going through, and He encourages us to share our physical, spiritual and emotional needs with Him. Bwana asifiwe.

Our Assistance programme attached to the Rehema Project is our 'raison d'être' and aims to benefit women and children whose basic needs aren't met. Just last week a woman was referred to us. Her husband died recently and she is struggling to look after their four children. We gave her money for food as they hadn't eaten in days and we are currently discussing the possibility of giving her a micro loan together with some business skills training so that she can start a small business, thus enabling her to become self-sufficient. Her situation is distressing, but I thank God that the Assistance programme exists, and we are able, through God's grace, to help her and people like her.

Of course, there are no guarantees in life and there were many heart-breaking moments to counter happy times. The good news is, however, that when times are bad, we know that there is a much better alternative than focussing on 'things' - instead we can turn our eyes from our problems to our Saviour Jesus Christ and know He will help us carry the load.

I am extremely grateful for the numerous and wonderful Rehema cohorts who support our project and numerous women and children in so many ways. We give thanks additionally that in recent times:

- the Rehema team were able to receive an Easter hamper of 5kg rice, 1kg meat, 1kg vegetables and a small cash contribution.

- Amina and Keziah, two young girls from difficult backgrounds are being sponsored to attend vocational sewing schools. Amina is Muslim as is her family. Today, inspired by her Bible Studies at the sewing school, Amina converted to Christianity and was baptised in the Anglican Church. Grace Salama, a young orphan, is being sponsored to attend boarding school,
- The protection of families against mosquitos by the provision of mosquito nets. We were able to build a toilet and washroom and get a municipal water supply for mother of 5, Bhoke, improving her life and the lives of her children
- And so much more.

Mungu akuwabariki. Happy Easter and may God bless you richly

Heather

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## A REPORT FROM PHILIP STONEMAN

Dear Friends,

Recently I have been reading a book by Darren Hardy called the Compound Effect. He speaks about the importance of small, disciplined and consistent actions which lead to growth. As I have been reading / listening to this book I asked myself "what scriptural principles are similar in nature to these principles and how do they apply to my life, my ministry and the Chaplaincy Service?

Scripture speaks often about the importance of what seed we sow in our lives.

For example Hosea 10:12 tells us to "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord until he comes and showers his righteousness on you." Galatians 6:9 also tells us to "not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Finally Matthew 25:21 reminds us that because we have been faithful with a few things; God will put us in charge of many things," and Luke 16:10 that "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." These verses reinforces the idea that faithfulness in small matters leads to greater opportunities.

The Community Chaplaincy Service started just before Trauma Support SA was registered in 2012, whilst I've been with OCS since 2013. This is just over a decade. I've been a Chaplain and in the Trauma Support field for just over 2 decades!!!

Growth has sometimes been slow, and I haven't always been able to notice "growth & transformation" However, the seeds of training and material development are starting to bear fruit. People's lives have been changed. People have been helped, and now, after training new groups of people we have a Team who are taking the baton and continuing the journey forward.

As I look back over the last 13 years as a Community Chaplain and my involvement with OCS, I want to take this opportunity to thank OCS for their support and encouragement, and pray that the next decade of involvement will be me being able to share my talents with OCS and being able to "Sow Seed of Righteousness and Blessings" into the growth of OCS and Gods Kingdom.

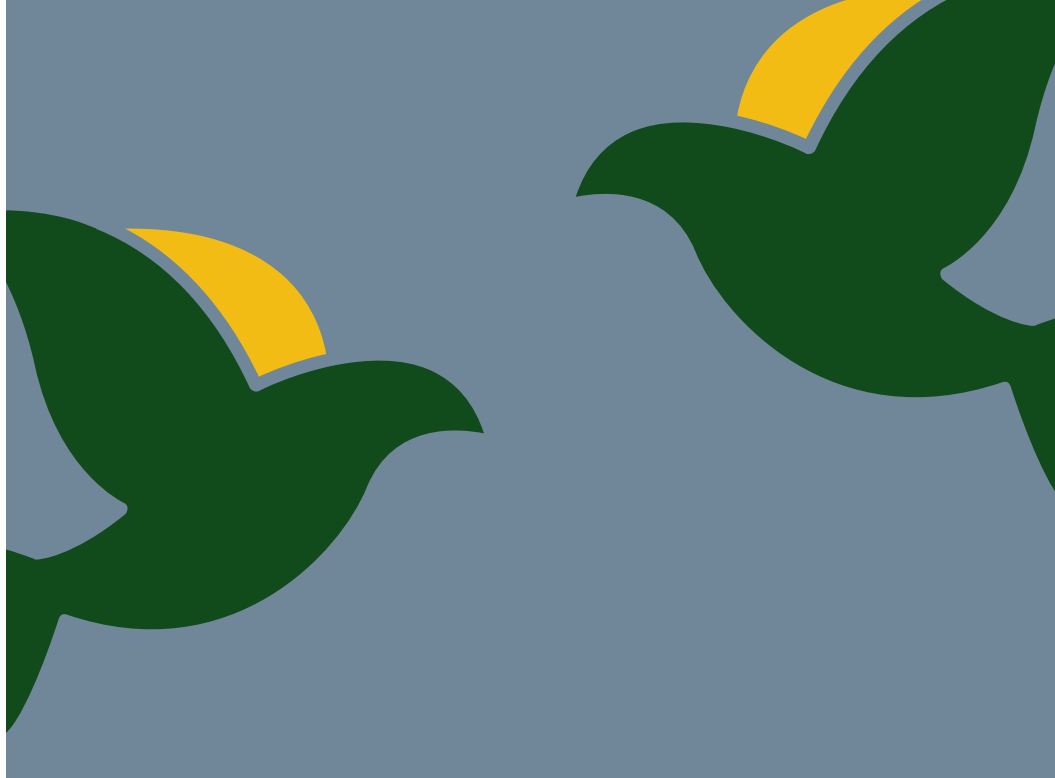
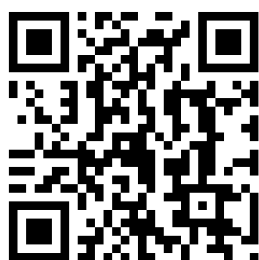
Shalom Philip Stoneman

Shown below is our Chaplains Team with the induction of Jeff Wilson in the 2<sup>nd</sup> pic (5<sup>th</sup> April) and then the Trauma Support Team in December



ROMANS 5:8:

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## A REPORT FROM TERESA STUTHRIDGE

Hi All

This report is probably one of the most challenging reports I have had to do. As most are aware our community is a small community and that in itself produces its own challenges. Added to which the good Lord has seen it fit to drench South Africa and Gauteng especially, with much much water. I feel like a duck some days just wading through all of this.

Spiritually our community is doing very well but we have some serious concerns regarding our buildings and the repair thereof and also our financial position. I have been in contact with Presbytery and they are currently looking into assisting us to repair roofs and leaking pipes etc. The buildings are about 106 years old. The other problem is that our finances are running out which has some obvious repercussions. If we get to a point where we have to close the doors, I am considering taking this to a home base but that is under prayer and advisement at the moment. I never want to shut the doors there but realistically there are very many challenges and to be honest I would love to be able to do this work for the Lord for free but I also have living costs. I have been speaking with the OCS executive who are upholding all of this in prayer but I am as aware as most of the OCS community are that times are tough and there is very little funding for "Mission" type work. So, I would ask that our OCS community keep us in prayer and that we can continue to do God's work.

At the moment I am busy getting ready for all the Easter services. I am planning a few things and I am praying that it will all be received in the way it is intended.

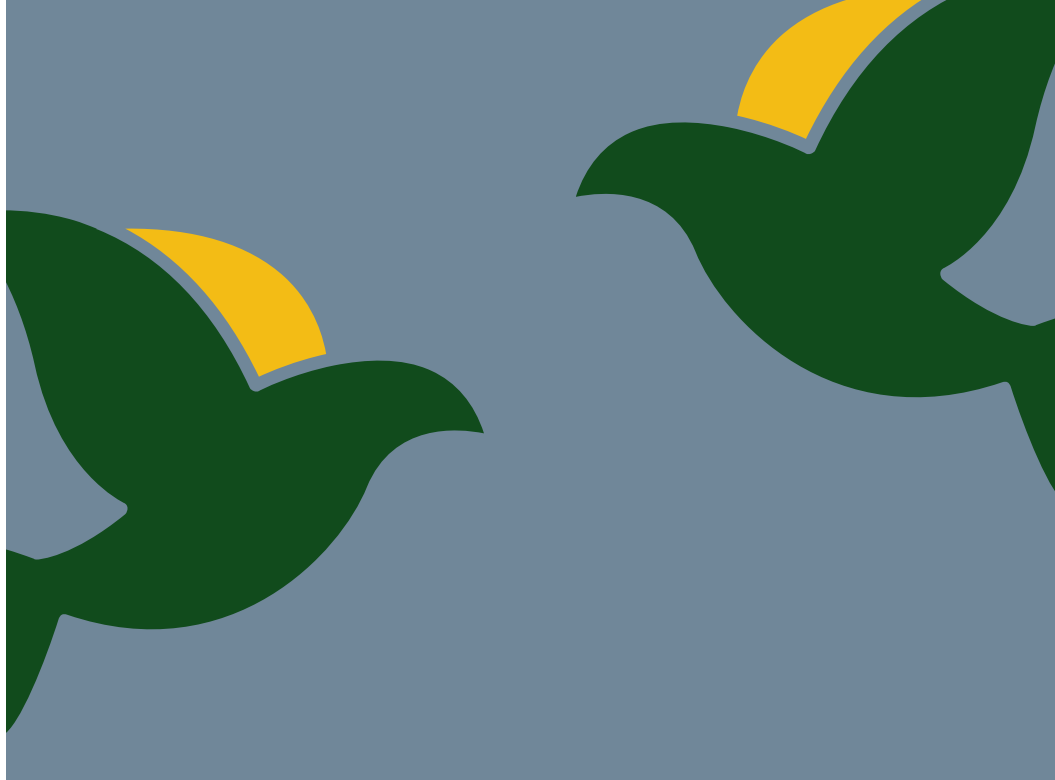
Trevor asked that we do a short note about what it means or how being part of the OCS has affected me. In many ways I didn't have to think about it but when I sat and pondered on this simple question it made me really think. I believe that what happens in life is never by accident or coincidence ... God put me with this group of people for a reason. I would not be doing what I do today if I didn't work under the OCS and added to that I am continually aware of being carried in prayer by so many. I was speaking to a colleague the other day and we agreed that ministry can be a very lonely place at times. So just having the support of this group of people is a wonderful blessing. There are two people from the OCS who keep in contact with me almost on a daily basis. They know who they are so I don't need to mention names... but God knows... 😊

Be safe all and be blessed

God bless

Ps. Teresa Stuthridge

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## A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Dear Members

I greet you all in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ.

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who have contributed towards the Order over the years, financially and through prayer as well as sharing God's love towards others.

You all can vouch, through your own testimonies, that God has used The Order in many ways.

As you know the Order supports its Field Workers financially each month by means of a small stipend. We unfortunately find ourselves in a very difficult situation. At this stage there is enough monies to support our Field Workers for another 2 months. Thereafter our funds would be depleted.

I am hereby making a request, if you are in the position to do so, to support the Order financially, on a once off or monthly basis, so that we can continue supporting our Field Workers. Please be assured that all donations made goes directly to the Field Workers. No monies are used for administration purposes.

I have asked some folks who was and still are involved in ministry, due to the assistance of the Order, to share some of their experienced in the ministry. This is just some folks who could go into ministry because of faithful folks like yourself, through dedicated financial help and much prayer.

The banking details are as follows:

Account Name: THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Bank: First National Bank

Account No: 51460055557

Universal Branch Code: 250655

Reference – You name (so that we can personally thank you)

Yours in Service

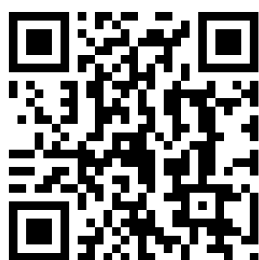
Trevor Harrison

Secretary/Treasurer



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## A MESSAGE FROM PAM GRASSOW

Dear Members

We go as far back as 1955 when I had finished my course at the Bible Institute of S.A. (Kalk Bay), and started to work in the Order of Christian Service as Pastoral Assistant to the Rev. Jack Cook.

Jack needed an assistant and I needed training in the Methodist Church. What better place to get it than in the manse with Jack, Ruth and their 4 children. The Wynberg church was extremely active and I learnt a lot e.g. preaching, youth leadership, inter action with people and counselling. The motto for the O.C.S. is "Your Servants for Jesus sake" and I was, and still am, grateful for learning how to fulfil that roll of "servanthood" for the Lord.

A few years later, after my marriage to the Rev. Ted Smith, we felt called to serve the Lord in Mozambique. The 12 years spent there were exciting and fulfilling and extremely worthwhile.

My particular interests there were:

- a) A girl's club in the city of Maputo, then Lourenco Marques
- b) Teaching Sunday School teachers in some country areas
- c) And an English-speaking church and Sunday school in Maputo also kept us busy.

Another outstanding period in the O.C.S. for which I give great thanks are the 8 years spent at Thornton/Ruyterwacht as Pastoral Assistant to the Rev. Cynthia Richards and later to Rev. Donald Thompson. Those were exciting years of active evangelism and service in the O.C.S.

And the 4th period for which I give thanks is now!! In my old age from 69-93 the Lord has provided for me, guided me, used me a little and given me peace and joy.

I thank the Lord and praise Him, and look forward to seeing Him face to face!

Kind regards

Pam



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## A MESSAGE FROM STEVE HOLGATE

Dear Fellow OCS members,

2025 continues to be a year of excitement and challenges.

In January, I completed the final assignment for the BTh Hons (Christian Counselling) which has taken so much of my time over the last 2 and a half years. Then was the wait for the final marks, and then waiting for the certificate (SATS send the certificate before the actual graduation ceremony, which will only be held on 30 August this year). At last, on 11 April, one of the members of the men's breakfast group was able to present it to me – his wife being the registrar at SATS. The end result was very satisfying – achieved cum laude! I am applying to CPSC to move from level 4 affiliate (Intermediate Religious Professional in Christian Pastoral Counselling) to level 5 (Advanced Religious Professional in Christian Pastoral Counselling).

Since my update in December, I continue to be involved in leading many services as a local preacher at St. Michael's Presbyterian in Springs, as well as retirement villages around Edenvale. I continue to be part of the men's fellowship with Brothers in Christ, Edenvale, where I both serve, and am served. This continues to be a source of constant renewal and life for me.

Whilst I find fulfilment in the challenges of preaching and leading services of worship, Christian counselling is where my calling lies. I continue to discuss this with my supervisor, and am looking for ways in which to make this a viable option as a dedicated career, rather than a part time occupation. I am at the stage now where I am approaching some of the full-time pastors of the numerous churches in Edenvale to offer counselling there.

The order has been instrumental in opening doors for me in terms of preaching, especially at a time when I was feeling my home church was not utilizing me as I had hoped for. This continues to be the case, and I wonder if other members share my sense that some ordained ministers feel threatened by those who are also called? Were it not for various personal challenges, I may have moved into an ordained ministry, but have reached an age where traditional churches will no longer consider me. I hear some ministers speaking about a lack of ministers, and the need for extra preachers, yet when I offer my services, that is where it ends.

The new structure of the order is welcome, and I hope it leads to a renewed growth amongst us. What I would like to suggest is that there are at least regional meetings, so that we can get to know who the other members are, what our various callings are, and how we can work together to spread the gospel message in a more united way. A national gathering would be even better, but I recognize that the majority of us have financial challenges to achieving that goal.

On the home front, life is blessed. In April, we held a baby 'sprinkle' for my daughter, as she prepares for the birth of our grand-daughter at the end of May. We will be taking 3 weeks around that event to be with them as they settle into the new routine.

Christa continues to recover well from her bunion operation, currently in physiotherapy. Please pray for her continuing healing and recovery.

As I have said in my previous message, my ministry has grown since joining OCS, as well as my understanding of where God is leading me to. I feel extremely blessed but am feeling the need to take time for myself. For this reason, I will not be doing any further study this year, although I have been asked to continue with a MTh(Christian Counselling) in 2026. I am also considering a BSocWk, which will tie in to my other ministry as a family and divorce mediator. I am also applying to be accredited as a Parenting Coordinator (PC), which will allow me to work with divorced parents who are unable to parent their children effectively.

Blessings to all

Steve Holgate

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## A REPORT FROM GREG YATT

Dear OCS Members

In September of this year I will have been a member of the Order of Christian Service for 20 years, having been inducted into the order as a minister of word and sacrament by Rev Don Cloete, our Deputy Warden. At the time I was a part-time minister at Edenvale Methodist – non-stipendiary, and in limited connection – to use Methodist phraseology. I saw my calling as a support to full time ministers who were being (and possibly still are) stretched to capacity.

I was with the Methodist church until 2010, at which time the MCSA withdrew the part-time category from its clerical structure. The move to full-time ministry wasn't a viable option for my wife and I and so I listened to God's call for my road ahead.

While at EMC, aside from Sunday services, I focussed on men's ministry, and running both the Alpha and Alpha marriage courses – something that Sal and I did for many years – in fact we had been running Alpha at Primrose Methodist before moving to Edenvale. Sal and I were also very involved with the Edenvale Care Centre.

In 2010 I was asked to join the ministry team at St James Presbyterian church in Bedfordview, which at the time was disconnected from the broader Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa and the minister was grateful to have additional assistance with preaching and congregational activities. This lasted through to 2012 when it was time again to reflect on my ministerial calling.....

Throughout this entire period of mainstream ministry with 'institutional' churches, I had been involved and am still involved with Brothers in Christ (BIC) – a non-denominational gathering of Christian men which meets every Friday morning for a time of worship, a message and fellowship – a space for men who were either regular worshippers at their own churches or didn't feel comfortable in regular church space and were more at home in an informal Acts 2 space.

In 2012 – we started our "coffee shop" church – creating an inclusive non-denominational worship space in a casual setting. This ran through to 2019 – every Sunday evening at a number of different venues – a little bit of coffee and a whole lot of Jesus. While I adhered to lectionary readings – the message was a dialogue, not a sermon, the take-aways were personal and relevant and the fellowship was sincere and intimate. I draw.... so, I used a whiteboard and coloured pens and made the message visual – the discussion within the group was widely varied – especially with the differing denominational doctrines.

From the OCS ministerial side, being recognised by the Church Unity Commission – I was also assisting a number of Presbyterian churches with services on a monthly basis – these were churches without full-time ministers and so I did the communion services where needed.

At the end of 2019 – I was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer – and coffee shop church shut its doors. Following successful robotic surgery early in 2020 – we went into the Covid lockdown – and BIC went online and we learnt how to be proficient with Teams and Zoom etc.

My ministry with BIC has continued to this day with the Edenvale brothers, and currently I assist with evening services at Bedfordview Methodist church – possibly till the end of the year when they hopefully appoint a full-time minister.

Through this entire period – from the time Jesus said "Follow me" – I have had the opportunity and privilege to preach the gospel for 30 years – having been a local preacher at Primrose before moving to Edenvale. (It was in Primrose that Sal and I met Don and Darryl Cloete – we were all part of a young marrieds group). I have also helped men die with dignity – a ministry with its own kind of blessing, done more memorial services than I care to remember, a handful of wedding services and it's been a thoroughly enriching and rewarding journey.

I'm 69 this year. No - I'm not retired, I still have a very full and rewarding day job in the office furniture industry – hopefully still for a number of years to come... and the journey continues .....with God's blessing, and Jesus still saying "Follow me!"

Kind regards,  
Greg Yatt



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## A MESSAGE FROM IVAN AND ANITA FITCHET

To everyone involved in O.C.S.

Anita and I started our journey with OCS in 1996 at a retreat at Mayeno Dundee Natal. In 1995 while living in Empangeni the Rev Beth Bodenstein prophesied that we would go into ministry. It was at the Methodist Church that Rev Arthur Loans took us under his wings.

I started studying my local preachers' exams and Anita followed a year later. We relocated to PMB and joined the Hilton Methodist Church. The Rev Julian Lawton and Billy Jacobs were our mentors.

Soon we were preaching in the circuit and ran the evening services at Hilton. The late Dennis M'Crystal took a keen interest in our work and after the Mayeno Retreat week kept in contact.

It so happened that I was medically boarded in 1998 when we had a call that we were needed at Thornton Methodist Church. There Anita and I were inducted as OCS pastors and so full-time ministry started. After a two-year stint we were called to Port Edward where we assisted in the preaching at the lower South Coast Circuit. We've got a music ministry and soon played at different Churches where musicians were unavailable.

Early in our ministry Dennis remarked that the Lord was going to use us to build up broken Churches. Little did we know that this was exactly what happened. Thornton was without a minister but I don't want to go into detail. Next on our list was Merlewood a Township outside Port Shepstone. We build it up just like we did with Thornton.

A call came from Dennis that the Rev Brian Jennings needed someone to build up a broken Church in Alra Park. We hitched our Venter trailer and lived in the Township for a year. Financially we with the help of Jeshua, stabilised them. We got local preachers to take over and in 2004 moved to Elliot as the EMU circuit was about to be closed down. Dennis came to visit and we had an OCS retreat there. Soon enough we took over the four Churches, Elliot, Ugie, Maclear and Ida. Financially they were flourishing and the Lord blessed the work of our hands. (Psalm 90 verse 17)

In 2012 at a Synod in Cathcart I was informed by the Bishop that Anita and I had to vacate the position at Elliot as an "agent" was needed there. I contacted Dennis who needless to say was livid about the decision. On arrival at Elliot, I informed the leaders who made the decision to leave the Methodist Church. I informed Dennis who gave his blessing. We built a Church in Elliot with a congregation of 150 members and a large youth group. The D.R.Church had a mission Church in Ugie which was given to us. In Maclear the CESA Church had closed down and we could use it for our services. Ida Church was a private farm Church.

And so, our ministry continued. In 2015 we decided to go on pension and relocated to St Helena Bay on the West Coast. While there we were asked to help out at the Barcklay East Methodist Church. Our dear friend Harvy Berryman and his wife had health issues. With the Lords help we put structures in place and a young DRC minister was called to take over.

Then a sudden call that there were problems at Veldrif Community Church. This was 2017 and since then we've been ministering here. This was the last Church where Dennis served and he passed on before a Sunday service. It then closed as a Methodist Church and is registered as a Community Church.

So, our calling started with OCS and Dennis M'Crystal. At least 4 young ones during these years have gone full time into ministry that we could mentor. Many were married by us and we christened their offspring. The Lord used us as His hands, His feet and His voice.

Now we in our shadow years and soon will start the process of interviewing people to take over from us. We left our lucrative occupations because we clearly heard the Lord say to us "I know the plans I have for you." (Jer. 29:11)

God Bless,  
Ivan and Anita

ROMANS 5:8:

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## A MESSAGE FROM GREG YATT

Dear OCS Members

I'm still involved in ministry – primarily 2 areas:

- Edenvale Brothers in Christ Men's breakfast – every Friday morning, where I share the "preaching" role with 2 other preaches/pastors. Also involved in the worship team every week and do communion services when needed. This is a non-denominational group
- Once a month I do the message at Bedfordview Methodist church – I am no longer a member of the Methodist church – so do this role under OCS. Occasionally I join the worship team, when my wife leads the worship.

## A MESSAGE FROM SHAUN & GAIL BOTHA

Dear members of OCS

OCS and Rev. Donald Cloete helped us to plant a church called "Way, Truth and Life" Ministries as part of "Project Feed the Children's" ministry. This came about in 2009, and the actual project has been in operation since 2008.

The original members were ... our late son, Shane Botha, Robin Ackerman, Darryll Botha, Dumisani Madi, Dumesane Twala, Gail Botha, and myself. Donald Cloete ordained Dumisani Madi so that he could be the pastor of the newly planted church within the project.

Originally the "Project" was situated in Bapsfontein focusing on feeding, caring and sharing the Word with rural children ... also taking care of pensioners, when their plight was brought to our attention. The feeding took place Mondays to Fridays at different schools in the rural area where approximately over 1000 children were fed every week.

The government then decided to relocate the community, including the Project, to Putfontein, where they are still operating from, to this day.

We established a campus within the community, where at present, people from the community have been employed by the project, sent off to do ECD training through Unisa, and where they have set up 3 ECD classes.

The feeding still continues 3 times a day, with experienced cooks ... but only within the community of the settlement in Putfontein, for the children and many pensioners.

The church has now been built in the Project campus out of brick and mortar. It has an attendance of about 80 people and 30 Sunday School children.

Dumisani Madi is the Pastor there, and Carol Madi (his wife) is the school principal. They interact with other churches in the area ... but have a special bond with the Emaphupheni Wesleyan Church, pastored by Dumesane Twala. They also feed and take care of children in their area, including church services and Sunday school. Their project is called Elpizo and was birthed from Project Feed the Children as a Wesleyan initiative/outreach ministry.

Since Pastor Madi became the new CEO of Project Feed the Children, it has given me room to concentrate on my calling at the Margate Wesleyan Church in KZN, under the righteous leadership of our Wesleyan District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Johnno Goosen.

After completing my degree in Theology through Unisa, in 2010, I was blessed to join the Wesleyan Church in 2013 where Pastor Johnno invited me to take care of the Boksburg Wesleyan Church until Gail and my services were needed at Margate in KZN in 2016 ... where we still are today.

Gail and I still have sentimental ties and obviously communicate with Dumisani and Carol Madi in an advisory manner these days.

Prayer is always needed ... So please keep the project and WTL Ministries in your prayers ... especially for sponsorship to keep the Project going.

God's richest blessings upon you all.  
Shaun and Gail Botha.

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RISEN, JUST  
AS HE SAID.  
COME AND  
SEE THE  
PLACE  
WHERE HE  
LAY."



## A MESSAGE FROM BILL GRIFFIN

Dear OCS Members

After thirty years' service in the Port Elizabeth YMCA, I was left with a big question - 'What's next Lord Jesus, is there further ministry ahead?' With my faith a little shaky, the future clouded, I felt unsettled and insecure. But then, there it was, in the OCS Newsletter - a call for a lay pastor from the Nanaga Methodist Church some fifty-five kms from PE on the road to Grahamstown. A couple of interviews and a couple of months later Ann and I had relocated to our new home on the hill in the country. It was December 1997.

Although a Local Preacher over thirty years I had no experience of full-time pastoral ministry and I shall always treasure the counsel of one of the senior leaders - "Now you have but one thing to do, kindle the coals, just kindle the coals." I thought of Paul saying to Timothy 'fan into flame the gift which is in you through the laying on of my hands.' (2 Tim.1.6), and that was my endeavour from the pulpit, in the fellowship groups and visiting around in the area. We loved the little church. We loved the community. We loved the ministry. Besides being alongside me in ministry, Ann lectured at the Bethelsdorp Tech., a round trip of 120 kms each day.

Eight years quickly passed and it was time to move on. Again, came the question "Where to now, Lord?" This time, not a note in the newsletter, but an unexpected call from Philip Hogarth, the Methodist minister in Queenstown with the request to please come to see him. Again, the Lord was in action through the OCS. Philip had contacted Denis McCrystal the OCS Warden who said to get hold of me. How wonderful is the working of God in the detail of our lives.

Our time at Nanaga was in so many ways a preparation for our six years in Queenstown where in both town and country we were so blessed and privileged to share the saving grace of Jesus. What a special occasion in the it was when in the Hilton Church (40 kms from Queenstown where we were much involved), six young people shared their personal testimonies at their confirmation service - there was hardly a dry eye in the congregation. How good to be part of God's purposes. Ann lectured at the Ikahla College, during our Queenstown stay, another of the Lord's gracious provisions.

Our last move came also through the OCS. Denis M'Crystal who always kept in close contact called to say about the need in Volksrust. With numbers of calls following, we simply laid ourselves open the leading of the Holy Spirit, which seemed sealed by a word coming through one of our people - "See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." (Rev.3.7).

And so, to Volksrust. A real surprise was the number of folks in the congregation from different counties in Africa and the rich diversity of backgrounds. As always, we received in ministry so much more than we were able to give. Home was a delightful little cottage in the grounds behind the church at which we received many a visitor from just about every sector. Ann taught at the Wakkerstroom (Zulu) Highschool thirty kms away part time, and as always shared in ministry.

Our just over two years there felt far too short, but the time had come for us to return to our original surrounds in the Cape, the OCS having played a deeply significantly role in our lives. Ann's health declined, and just a year ago she went to be with the Lord.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Bill

# A MESSAGE FROM EDWIN MYERS

Hi everyone,

My name is Edwin. Some of you may know and remember me. Others may have no connection with me at all. My first encounter with OCS was in 1988. This was when the then Warden of the Order, Mrs Ruth Cook, came to the town where I was doing an apprenticeship with Iscor. She had with her three students who were studying at the Indaleni Mission Development Centre, Kwa-Zulu Natal (Russell and Myrtle Pitchers were running the Centre then). She had been invited by the Minister (Rev Russell Parker) of the Newcastle Methodist Church to speak and promote the course her students were doing. The lapse of time has not helped me remember the names of the three students, but I do remember being inspired by what they said.

As I mentioned, Ruth was the Warden of OCS (which she and her late husband Jack had set up in the 1960's) and was also the Director of the School for Lay Ministries; which was based at Indaleni. The course that the school offered was known as the Basic Ministries Course. It was during the visit that I sensed God call me to make a choice – stay on with Iscor, or respond to God's call to join Him on an adventure of life. The Bible passage that was shown was Matthew 6:24. I sensed God saying that I needed to make a choice. I could not serve two masters. Having come to faith in Jesus during my year of Matriculation in 1985, I knew that I could only serve one Master – Jesus the Saviour. I also knew that as a young Christian I needed deeper grounding in theology as sought to serve my Lord.

Thus, in 1989 I resigned from Iscor and went as a student to the School for Lay Ministries. Having worked at Iscor, I was able to fund my studies myself. I continually thank the Lord for His provision so I could do the course. I went initially for six months. I was then offered a further six months to complete Level 2 of the course. During this time, I met Barbara Davies, who was one of the lecturers. The studies included practical application of course material. As students we were expected to lead devotions with the staff at the mission project across the road, the Indaleni School for the Deaf and IMDC. We were encouraged to do it in Zulu, which was a challenge as it was not my natural language. After my year as a student, in 1990 I stayed at the IMDC as a volunteer worker and helped the staff of the IMDC and the School of Lay Ministries.

In 1991 I was offered an opportunity by the OCS to serve as a field worker with the St Mary's Anglican Church in the neighbouring town of Richmond. This was as an assistant to the Anglican Minister, Rev John Green. The main area of work was with the youth of the town and also the children at the local primary boarding school. I initially stayed at the Vicarage and then later with a family who hosted me. I was only a field worker for one year. I am eternally grateful to OCS for offering me the opportunity and support to serve our Lord in the way I did. It was a furtherance of my discipleship journey and allowed me to test the call to ministry. During my time at Indaleni I responded to the Lord's call to preach. I therefore began my Local Preacher training with the then Camperdown Circuit, with Rev Ockie van Niekerk.

In 1992 I went back to IMDC as a volunteer worker. It was a difficult time for the IMDC. It was made more complicated due to the developing political changes taking place in the country. During 1992 I offered for the ordained ministry. I was accepted and began my probation in 1993. I was able to do this concurrently with a community service sentence that I needed to complete. I am deeply appreciative of the arrangement made between the Department of Manpower and the Department of Education. The Principle of the Indaleni School for the Deaf, Mr Wiid, achieved this arrangement. It meant that I could serve out my sentence at the school as General Assistant and do my first year of probation. The reason for the community service was that I had been granted exemption from National Service on religious grounds. The Church helped me with this through their support and advocacy. Rev Vivian Harris and Bishop Brian Fennell were instrumental in this. 1993 at the IMDC was a intense period in my life, mainly due to the Director of IMDC and another staff member becoming ill and the onset of civil war within the surrounding area. Near the end of 1993 I was the only non-indigenous person at IMDC representing the MCSA. In 1994 I was stationed in Alberton as assistant minister at the Alberton Methodist Church.

I have been in full-time service from January 1993 to February 2024, serving within the MCSA and the Methodist Church in Britain. Due to various circumstances and the leading of the Lord, I am now in the process of transferring to the Free Methodist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland. I am currently without appointment, thus without any stipend or manse. I still believe in the Lord's call to full-time ministry. My wife and I have had to move to a small village. We sense the Lord calling us to 'plant the Gospel' here. We are doing this by meeting residents, building trust and relationships, as well as having an open home for people to come and have conversations on faith. It is very different style to that of going to an established congregation setting. We are having to start from the bottom up. This different expression of ministry requires a change in perspective. We have needed to buy a house, which has a mortgage/bond on it. I have got a part-time job, but it is not enough to pay the mortgage and living expenses. We are using savings, which are limited, to pay the mortgage of ten years.

In one sense, I have almost gone full circle. I am back to volunteer status in serving the Lord. A self-funding field worker if you like.

In closing, I am eternally grateful to OCS and the Trustees of all those years ago when I was introduced to the OCS and supported as a field worker. If it was not for their support and encouragement, I wouldn't be where I am now.

In His service,  
Edwin Myers

ROMANS 5:8:

"BUT GOD  
DEMONSTRATES  
HIS OWN  
LOVE FOR US  
IN THIS:  
WHILE WE  
WERE STILL  
SINNERS,  
CHRIST DIED  
FOR US."





JOHN 3:16:  
"FOR GOD  
SO LOVED  
THE WORLD  
THAT HE  
GAVE HIS  
ONE AND  
ONLY SON,  
THAT  
WHOEVER  
BELIEVES IN  
HIM SHALL  
NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE  
ETERNAL  
LIFE."



## WHATSAPP

If you have not joined the OCS WhatsApp group, I encourage you to do so by follow this link to join the [WhatsApp group](#).

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THE BANKING DETAILS OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ACCOUNT NAME: THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

BANK: FIRST NATIONAL BANK; ACCOUNT NO: 51460055557; UNIVERSAL BRANCH CODE: 250655

REFERENCE – YOU NAME (SO THAT WE CAN PERSONALLY THANK YOU)



**MAY 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Joann Julius	2 <b>Birthday</b> Carol Madi	3 Kendrick House Retirement Home
4 Rev Oswin Kretzmann	5 Deirdre Kretzmann	6 Lesley Lagesen	7 Ian Lamont	8 <b>Birthday</b> Eric Mthimkulu; Pierre de Bruyn	9 Natalie Lawrence	10 <b>Birthday</b> Tobeka Hafiveko
11 Mandy le Bruyns	12 Pat le Vatte	13 Harry Ledwaba	14 Dumisani Madi	15 Rev Siphwe Madi	16 Clarence Madioe	17 Mbusiswa Madlala
18 <b>Birthday</b> Jamilla Malikusi	19 Letitia Magane	20 Janneth Mahunda	21 <b>Birthday</b> Hendrick Hanse	22 Rev Fikile Makananda	23 <b>Birthday</b> Christa Holgate	24 <b>Birthday</b> Trevor Harrison
25 Mpho Makhanya	26 Joseph Maluleke	27 <b>Birthday</b> Thelma Waterworth	28 Gershwin Maregele	29 Eugene Marinus	30 Claudia Martin	31 <b>Birthday</b> Gregory Yatt

**JUNE 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>Birthday</b> Lynese Morris; Thandi Xaba	2 <b>Birthday</b> Rev Trevor Hingle	3 Sabelo Matsweli	4 Amos Matsweli	5 Jodie Matthys	6 Jeffrey Maveza	7 <b>Birthday</b> Rev Jenny Sprong
8 <b>Birthday</b> Risimati Maveza	9 Rev Andile Mbete	10 <b>Birthday</b> Samuel Ndlazi	11 Mpumelelo Mbono	12 <b>Birthday</b> Jarod Wood	13 Lyn-Marie McCrystal & Family	14 Matthew Mellem
15 <b>Birthday</b> Rev Deon van der Merwe	16 Anelisa Mhatu	17 John Mitchley	18 <b>Birthday</b> Gail Botha; Jenny Ingpen	19 Frances Miya	20 Xolani Mkalali	21 <b>Birthday</b> Esinam Tsormetsri
22 Rev Lucky Mngomezulu	23 Rev Aaron Modiselle	24 Anna Mogale	25 <b>Birthday</b> Raye Cullingworth	26 Rev Jacob Mokhutso	27 Rev Isaac Moloabi	28 <b>Birthday</b> Rev Martin Songelwa; Roger Tinsley
29 <b>Birthday</b> Rev Pierre Naude	30 <b>Birthday</b> Rhonwyn Lackay					

**JULY 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <b>Birthday</b> Barbara Underhill	2 Rev <u>Cloupas</u> <u>Molokwane</u>	3 <u>Melikhaya</u> <u>Mqulwana</u>	4 Bhekani Mthethwa	5 Selby Mtshali
6 Dominique Murchie	7 Mrs M <u>Mxadana</u>	8 Edwin Myers	9 <b>Birthday</b> Doreen Mbono	10 Mavis Myers	11 Rev Vuyisile Ndlovu	12 Aphiwe <u>Ngcai</u>
13 <b>Birthday</b> Ellinor Kynaston-Blake; <u>Pompje</u> <u>Nunes</u>	14 <u>Soliwe</u> <u>Ngcongolo</u>	15 Evans Ngobeni	16 Gerald Nienaber	17 <b>Birthday</b> Pam <u>Grassow</u>	18 <b>Birthday</b> Rev Godfrey Russell	19 Tsietsi <u>Nkondo</u>
20 Tom Noot	21 <b>Birthday</b> Daryl Cloete	22 <b>Birthday</b> Norman Jobson	23 Winnie Norman	24 Andisiwe Nyamela	25 The Church of Christ	26 Rev Paul Palmer
27 Andrew <u>Pantland</u>	28 Dr AE Payne	29 <b>Birthday</b> Coral Bowler	30 Methodist Church Piet Retief	31 <b>Birthday</b> Pat Atkinson; Rev Dick Cullingworth		

**AUGUST 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Rev Clive Sparks					1 Methodist Church Pinelands	2 Methodist Church Port Edward
3 Luke Powell	4 Shereen Powell	5 <b>Birthday</b> Wilson Makhubele	6 Eric Radebe	7 Mrs Radebe	8 <b>Birthday</b> Archie Green	9 <b>Birthday</b> Denise Noot; Rev Kevin Sprong
10 Christopher Ramm	11 Methodist Church <u>Riebeeckstad</u>	12 Athol Riffel	13 Leigh Roberts	14 <b>Birthday</b> Stephen Holgate	15 John Rogers	16 John Rowan
17 Eileen Russell	18 <b>Birthday</b> Rev <u>Sikhumbuzo</u> Ngema	19 Methodist Church Rustenburg	20 <b>Birthday</b> Rev Trevor Bosman; Goodman Mbono; Zephaniah Ndlovu; Catherine <u>Schlebusch</u>	21 Malcolm Sainsbury	22 Catherine <u>Schlebusch</u>	23 Craig Schoombie
24 Andrea Schoombie	25 Rev Philip Shongwe	26 Che-Lee <u>Silieur</u>	27 <b>Birthday</b> Elsie Banwell	28 <b>Birthday</b> John <u>Picton</u>	29 Laura Simkins	30 Connie Skews