



CFT Conference 2009 [REPORT]

Theme: "Stop - turn aside"

Date: 4 - 6 September 2009

Rev Erlo Stegen set the tone for the conference during the openings service on Friday evening:

"Moses was far off herding the sheep of his father-in-law, and God said, *"That is not what I created you for. I want you to lead My people out of slavery to a land flowing with milk and honey."* But in order to say that to Moses, God brought him to a standstill. Moses not only stopped, but he had to turn aside. He met with God, in the burning bush Who said, *"Remove your sandals for the place where you are standing is holy ground."*

Before that, Moses had stood in the dung of cattle and sheep. It is grace if God stops us on our way, "Stop and look at things in your life to see what they are like". Not that we just carry on and on like a train on its tracks, in a rut. But it is good for us to stop and have a look at our lives. In the Psalms we often read "Selah" = "Stop and reflect what you have read and where you are at", because it is easy for us to just carry on and on, thinking everything is fine in our lives but we have left the way long ago. We think we are busy spreading the Gospel, not realizing that we

have long ago left the place where God wants us to be and where He wants to use us.

2 Cor 13:5 - *"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you unless, of course, you fail the test?"*

It is good that we regularly stop and test whether we are still in the faith. The Corinthians thought that they were still in the faith, but nevertheless God's Word told them to examine and test themselves and see whether Jesus Christ was still in them.

The Story of Werner Heukelbach (1898 - 1968)



Werner Heukelbach lived in Germany. He used to be an atheist but then he met with the Lord and started preaching with great zeal, he was a fiery preacher. Many got saved through him. He spread the Gospel, went from place to place and held tent services. But then after a while he noticed that people no longer got converted as they used to. He decided to stop, and he went and sought God's face. He said, "Lord, it seems that my work is no longer going forward but rather is declining. I can't continue like this. I am busy, I preach a lot, but it seems as if fewer people are getting converted. It is as if the power of the Holy Spirit isn't at work in me as it used to be." He decided to test himself. He knelt down, and took his writing pad to test himself. He wrote down a long list of different sins and then examined himself, to see whether he was guilty of any of them. For two weeks he stopped preaching and was busy examining himself to see whether he was where God wanted him to be. He also took his Bible and read it, examining himself whether he was living according to the standard of the Bible. Having tested himself, he found many things in his life which were displeasing to God. He cried to God, confessed all his sins, "Lord, I don't want to only confess these sins, but I want to confess and forsake them". He was like Moses at the burning bush where God said to him, *"Take off your sandals from your feet because the place where you are standing is holy ground."* having sanctified himself, he started preaching again and the power which he had experienced in

After having met with God and the beginning, returned. He preached those same services of before, and God worked mightily that people's hearts were touched. They came and cast themselves before God, repenting of their sins, even more than in the beginning.



More about the CFT conference:
 VISIT: www.cft.org.za // ORDER: CD [talks and more]

[PAGE 2] Photo album of the conference ▶



CFT Conference 2009 [PHOTO ALBUM]

"I will turn aside to see..." Ex. 3:3



We Thank God For A Wonderful CFT Conference!

Just a thought

Honour

The naming and renaming of places, streets and buildings in the new South Africa is generating much controversy. Heated debates and angry exchanges fill the chambers as different parties wrangle over which heroes (to some, villains) of the past should be honoured.

In the midst of it all there are two questions that keep propping up in my mind. What difference does being honoured on earth, or not, make to the dead heroes who are in heaven? What difference does being honoured on earth, or not, make to the dead heroes who are in hell?

Bronze

It must sadden heaven to see how many Christians in the spiritual race are aiming for bronze.

Who am I?

Who am I?

The mystery of who I am is hidden in the 'Great I Am.'

Integrity

Our world is in a dire need of men and women of integrity whose 'Yes' is 'Yes' and 'No' is 'No.'

Invisible yet,...

Yes indeed, we believe in a God we have never seen but those who walk closely with Him testify of seeing His footprints, tasting His manna, smelling the fragrance of His presence, feeling His touch and hearing the pounding of His heart.

Bad news

Would you believe that some people reject the Good News of salvation because to them it is too good to be true? Now, that is bad news.

These thoughts are written by the CFT President Fano Sibisi and send out via e-mail. More of his thoughts can be found on the CFT web site.

ORDER FROM:
CFT office
032 481 5512
mail@cft.org.za

New Book!

[R50.00]
excl. R5.00 postage

NEW

On 5 October 2009, it was 9 years ago that our CFT President Mr Fano Sibisi was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease (MND). Because of that he is confined to his bed, coupled to a respirator and receives his nourishment through a stomach tube.

Despite all this, his trust in God is a shining example to all who meet him and his family unites around him in looking to God and acknowledging His full control of the situation.

Throughout these nine years, till today, Fano is writing and sending out e-mails to family and friends. To read these e-mails is an encouragement. One of his young friends, An-Mari Fouché, compiled some of these messages into a book. We asked An-Mari Why she wrote the book...

"I remember that my parents always talked about oom Fano when I was small, and I asked them about him. They told me about his illness, and how he always sent them cards and things like that. I have always liked writing stories, so I got the idea to write his story. Many people have asked me how I got the idea. I don't really know. God gave it to me. I never suddenly thought of writing his story, I just had the idea in the back of my mind. My parents and I talked about and we prayed. Then one day, when I was 11, I wrote a letter to tannie Lindiwe. A while later my aunt, tannie Sharlene Snyman, showed me a newsletter oom Fano had sent out (we didn't have e-mail back then), telling everybody about the letter! After that nothing much happened for a while. I went to visit tannie Sharlene and sat in front of the computer the whole day printing e-mails. My eyes felt like they were about to pop out! Then my grandmother, tannie Santa Snyman, started to get information at the Mission, and after that everything just fell into place. I met oom Fano the first time last year. I was very nervous, I don't know why. He asked a lot of questions, and I answered - not the other way around! I began to relax after a while and realised why everybody loves him so much. I only visited oom Fano one other time, when I went to show him the book. Although he couldn't type, I knew that he was happy about it. When we got back home I was surprised to see an e-mail from him, thanking me. Now it's my turn to say "Siyabonga" to oom Fano. Without him there would never have been a book!"

it,



Lindiwe and Fano Sibisi
receiving the book from An-Mari Fouché

An-Mari Fouché (14 yrs)



The trick about...

Halloween

- the treat has consequences



There is contention about the origins of Halloween. The reality today is that it is connected to demonic images and symbols. Though some contend that it has some "Christian roots" because of "All Hallows Eve" which commemorated Christian martyrs, there is nothing Biblical in it worth salvaging. Images used across the world are focused on death, hell, horror movies, fear, terror, spirits and all manner of evil.

In North America it is common for children to knock on doors and ask the occupants "Trick or treat?" (effectively threatening them with a curse if they don't give them a "treat" like sweets). It may appear to be funny and harmless but all occult connections have bad spiritual consequences. The worst consequence is the hardening of hearts towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ whilst softening attitudes towards the devil.

Ironically, many non-Christian parents in the USA and Canada have stopped sending their children out to celebrate Halloween because of recent cases of sexual abuse. Perhaps it is not ironic but simply a result of associating with the occult. The trick about Halloween is that the treat has evil consequences. The devil has the last laugh when we willingly befriend him and his associates. Our Lord Jesus Christ disconnects us from hell, sin, demons and the devil, by His grace.

What matters is that the Bible forbids any contact with the occult. In Deuteronomy 18:13 & 14 the Lord clearly states: "Be completely loyal to God, your God. These nations ... consort with sorcerers and witches. But not you. God, your God, forbids it." and 1 Corinthians 10:21 declares: "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot eat at the table of the Lord and at the table of demons."

More on Halloween: www.cft.org.za

Halloween usually takes place on 31 October or 1 November



Devotional Thought

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (John 3:36 KJV)

Having the Son

The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ into our human existence was a watershed phenomenon. The world was never the same again. Every human being, and for that matter, the whole of reality, was challenged to position itself in relation to the Son of God. The physical and spiritual worlds are simply and effectively divided into two entities, those who have the Son and those who do not have the Son. Whilst the world cannot receive Him, and as such, basically being excluded from salvation, humankind is challenged to seek Him and be saved from the inevitable outcome from living according to the basic tenants of this world namely, eternal death.

Humans cannot sidestep this unavoidable challenge and subsequent decision. So also they cannot avoid the predetermined judgement at the end of everything when they will be expected to answer the question pertaining to their relationship with Jesus Christ. The reality of that answer is decided in this life, lived here and now. The finality of whether we have the Son or not is settled in the contemporary and not in the afterlife, although

judgement is reserved for the afterlife. Having the Son in our lives adequately displays itself in the whole of our being in this world, in mind, soul, strength and heart and so brings distance with those living in the world and not desiring nor having the Son.

Do I have the Son? Do you have the Son? As you might expect now, especially that we are near Christmas, we need to answer the question.

Do not be too quick to answer though, but evaluate your life first in terms of your apparent answer as well as your lived answer to the question. And be honest about it. That which you take for granted to be true should match that which is the reality of your daily life. If it does not match up, we might not have the Son as we so astutely might believe.

- Dr. Peet Botha

