



WELCOME

We welcome all visitors this morning. We believe that you will be blessed as we worship God. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding our worship or about God's Word.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY – 10 AM

All the ladies are invited to join in the Ladies' Bible study classes. Ladies, please read 1 Peter before Wednesday!

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 am.

We are at present studying the four Gospels. Johan is facilitating the class. Read the miracles in your Gospel of choice. Is there a pattern? Compare John's Gospel with your Gospel of choice.

Song Leader: Mike Baisley

Opening Prayer: Carry Hagemann

Closing Prayer: Rudi Le Roux

Servers: Mike, Rudi, Carry & Ray

Scripture Reading: Mike Baisley

Lord's Table: Ray Calder

Attendance last Sunday: 40

THE WAY OF WISDOM

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do." (James 1: 5 - 8).

There is an internet prayer going around about patience: "Lord, please bless me with patience, not opportunities to be patient. I have had plenty of those. Could I just have the actual patience?" The prayer is funny, because for those of us who have experienced "opportunities to be patient," we have all failed at one point or another and would just rather skip that part. The truth is that failure at being patient teaches patience because impatience does not produce the same results. Obtaining wisdom can be like this, but it does not necessarily need to be that way.

The very act of praying for wisdom produces instant wisdom, because it is wise to open oneself up to the possibility of receiving wisdom. The act of doubting that God will give wisdom is itself unwise, because one closes oneself off to the possibility of receiving wisdom, which, in and of itself, is not wise. It is wise to desire wisdom.

Praying for wisdom is wise, because it recognizes that one lacks wisdom and needs more. It is wise to acknowledge one's deficiencies. It shows a level of understanding of reality that many do not have. Many assume that all their thoughts are true and wise at the outset, so they would not question them. The one who questions himself and prays is a step above those who would not even consider otherwise.

Written by Kevin Cauley.

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SUNDAY TIMES:

BIBLE STUDIES: 09H00

WORSHIP: 10H00 TO 11H00

25 JANUARY 2026

Preacher: Chris du Preez

Sermon Topic: "Why You Want To Go To Heaven"

Scripture reading: John 14: 1 - 3

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the members in our congregation who are in need of God's grace, healing and strength through difficult times. Please pray for Taida Marembo (Geraldine's mother), Petro and Kate, as they are going through a very difficult time.

Braam & Petro are on their way to Pretoria and, Lord willing, will travel back on 2 / 3 February.

BIRTHDAYS

Thoko Moyo – 27 January

Happy birthday, Thoko! May God bless you with another year filled with happiness, love and good health!

SUNDAY TEA & BISCUITS

Please join us after worship for a time of fellowship, while enjoying coffee, tea and biscuits!

Ladies on duty are Brenda and Gill du Preez.

VERSE FOR THE WEEK

James 3: 17, "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Pure: Morally and devotionally clean, free from defilement.

Peace-loving: Promotes harmony and reconciliation.

Considerate: Mild, easy to approach and yields to reason.

Submissive: Open to good arguments and capable of changing one's mind.

Full of Mercy and Good Fruit:

Demonstrates compassion and produces positive outcomes.

Impartial: Treats everyone fairly, without favoritism.

Sincere: Genuine and not two-faced.

WHAT CAUSES CHURCH GROWTH?

There has been much time and energy spent on researching the subject of church growth. Researchers use surveys, interviews and statistics in an attempt to determine which growth methods are successful and why some congregations seem to thrive, while others fade away. Programs are implemented with focus on evangelism, fellowship and local benevolence, yet again with mixed results. Techniques applied in one geographic area show good results while the same methods prove fruitless in others. Some experts package and sell their methods as a guaranteed way to grow congregations, but in reality, there are no guarantees.

So why is church growth such a difficult task to achieve? What's the right method, technique, or program to use? As we consider these things, could it be that we're looking in the wrong place for the answers? Is it possible we have had the answers right in front of us all along? Has God given us the keys to successful, thriving and growing congregations of His church?

Here's what the Bible says:

- Go into all the world, preach the Gospel to every person (Mark 16: 15).
- Have a mustard seed faith. Nothing will be impossible (Luke 17: 6).
- Always reach forward to things ahead (Philippians 3: 13).
- Involve every member in the work (Romans 12: 4 - 8; 1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 31).
- Reach out to the children (Matthew 19: 14; Mark 9: 37; 10: 14).
- Reach out to the poor (Matthew 5: 42).
- Encourage every part (person) to do their share (Ephesians 4: 16).
- Gently restore the fallen (Galatians 6: 1).
- Love God, love your neighbor and love each other (Mark 12: 29 - 31; Romans 12: 10).
- Be good examples to those outside the church (Colossians 4: 5).
- We can do all things, being strengthened by Christ (Philippians 4: 13).

Jay Launius
Maud Church of Christ