



Celebrating **50** Years of
God's faithfulness

1972-2022

Prayer of Thanksgiving

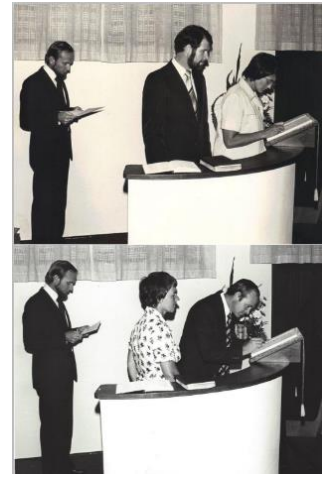
O Our GOD,
Thou fairest, greatest, first of all objects,
Our heart admires, adores, loves Thee,
for our little vessels are as full as they can be,
and we would pour out all that fullness before Thee in ceaseless flow.

When we think upon and converse with Thee
ten thousand delightful thoughts spring up,
ten thousand sources of pleasure are unsealed,
ten thousand refreshing joys spread over our hearts,
crowding into every moment of happiness.

We bless Thee for the souls Thou hast created,
for adorning them, sanctifying them, though they are fixed in barren soil;
for the bodies Thou hast given us,
for preserving strength and vigour,
for providing senses to enjoy delights,
for the ease and freedom of our limbs,
for hands, eyes, ears that do Thy bidding;

for Thy royal bounty providing our daily support,
for a full table and overflowing cup,
for appetite, taste, sweetness,
for social joys of relatives and friends,
for ability to serve others,
for hearts that feel sorrows and necessities,
for a mind to care for our fellow men,

for opportunities of spreading happiness around,
for loved ones in the joy of heaven,
for our own expectations of seeing Thee clearly.
We love Thee above the powers of language to express,
for what Thou art to Thy creatures.
Increase our love, O our God, through time and eternity.



God is sovereign and in 1971 by His amazing grace He saved a lady who lived in Goodwood. She visited and was baptised at the Durbanville Baptist Church and it was here she worshipped under Pastor Don Holgate. He realised that it would be a wonderful means of outreach if a Bible Study could start in the Goodwood area. This meeting was held at the home of Theo and Elize Eatwell in De Wet Street. A few folk from the Durbanville Baptist Church joined in to support the work along with some invited friends and neighbours and soon a larger venue was needed.

The group began evening services in the Goodwood Lutheran Church and a Sunday school also came into being. In March 1972, the group met formally as a fellowship and began to look for a pastor.

In July 1972, Peter and Sheila Dewberry accepted a call to head up the work in Goodwood and eventually a manse was purchased with the help of Durbanville and Bellville Baptist Churches. Later in 1972 we were able to hire the Seventh Day Adventist Hall in Wellington Street, Vasco and here the morning services began and the Sunday School met beforehand.

These were difficult days, but also such happy days as we worked together as a body to establish the work in the area. The church began work on the constitution and was finally completed and sent to the Baptist Union.

The constitution was finally adopted at a church meeting held on **6 March 1977**. The following were listed as founder members of the church:

- Derek and Jennifer Barnes
- Ken and Kay(Allen) Beaton
- Nadene Brandt
- Gail Clelland
- Hugo and Naomi Coetzee (Active Members)
- Ashley and Lesley Croeser
- Florence Davis
- Brenda de Goede
- Peter and Sheila Dewberry
- John and Elize Duffy
- Betty Ensor
- Elize Eatwell
- Eric and Lillian Gebhart
- Kent and Bonnie Hollesen
- Thelma Knights
- Bernard and Althea Kuyper
- Lofty and Hilda Loftus
- Hazel Nel
- Anna Otto
- Mutti Schulein
- Roger and Jean Ward (Active Members)
- Gwen Watermeyer
- John and Margaret Whaits (Active Members)

A membership of 35..

God was at work and slowly, but surely, our numbers grew until it became necessary to consider our own building. Land was available in Anderson Street in Goodwood which belonged to the Goodwood Methodist Church. God in His sovereignty allowed this land to be purchased and plans were made and many discussions took place about financing and a builder appointed and eventually we had our own place of worship.



The ladies got involved in making curtains for the Sunday School rooms and for Peter's study and in preparing the kitchen with all the needed cutlery and crockery. Under Peter's ministry the church grew and it was with much joy that we sat under his ministry and studied the doctrines of grace. The ladies commenced with a ladies Bible study held in the manse at the beginning of 1975 led by Sheila. Many memorable church picnics were held and meals shared together in member's homes. Eventually the Sunday School grew and it became the custom for the Sunday School camp to spend the weekend at Simonsberg and parents and friends joined us for a picnic on the Saturday. We shared God's Word with the children and we thank Him for all who look back on those years and praise Him for their salvation. Along the way, because of church growth in the Anderson Street hall, extra Sunday School rooms were needed and we were able to purchase a house right next door to the church building and a gateway was opened up in the fence and after some alterations were completed, we made good use of this building. It was named Dewberry House after Peter and Sheila who did such sterling work amongst us and so faithfully taught us

How we look back and thank God for all He did in those early days and it was with great joy that we were able to celebrate His goodness to us and publicly thank Him for 10 years of His faithfulness. For the 10 year celebration we borrowed the Dutch Reformed Church in Vasco Blvd and enjoyed a meal together and the evening resounded with praise and thanks to our Sovereign God and Father who allowed this work to begin and grow and in the process grow us in Himself and His Word. In 1982 Peter announced that he felt the call to move on to another church, this time in the Durban area and it was with heavy hearts that we said goodbye to this faithful couple who had been such a blessing to us all and whom we dearly loved. God had allowed this work to come into being and He is always faithful and encouraged us as we sent the call to Bernard Cartledge who was in Durban at that time.





Bernard's arrival brought some changes to the church. We also began to meet on Saturday mornings for prayer and Home Fellowship Groups (HFG) were started to take place mid-weekly. By 1983 the hall at Anderson Street had become too small for the meetings. In God's providence, the AGS were also needing to move to a larger meeting place. After much prayer the decision was made, and the AGS graciously gave us an interest free loan. Everybody pitched in to help with the repayment, and in the Lord's grace, we repaid the ten year loan in seven years. The church family moved to the new building and the occasion was celebrated at a special thanksgiving service on Saturday the 10th of November 1984. The final payment was gifted back to us by the AGS as a gesture of thanksgiving and goodwill at another thanksgiving service in 1991.



Ministries in the church continued to be blessed, as each member continued in fellowship and in exercising their gifts. Children's worksheets were introduced to encourage younger members of the congregation to be interactively involved in the worship and the message. The HFG's functioned as a nucleus for caring for one another practically and by prayer. Fridays were marked by youth ministries. There was a meeting for the little ones (called Treasure Hour), 10+ Group, and Senior Youth. The retired folk formed a group and began to meet as the Golden Oldies. There was an active women's ministry and the ladies held meetings once a term on a Saturday to try to reach out to the community. The numbers at Sunday School grew large, and a 09:05 service was initiated to reach the non-churched parents of these children. A contingent of UCT students also joined the church, and was extended warm hospitality, becoming members of the family, entering into prayer meetings, HFGs and young adults group.

Bernard also introduced a Marriage Enrichment course, which was the subject of his thesis. This, and a later Couples Group started in 1993, proved to be a blessing to a lot of folk. The evening service had been used for teaching series, and we had been encouraged to invite folk into homes for tea afterwards once a month, when no tea was served in the hall.

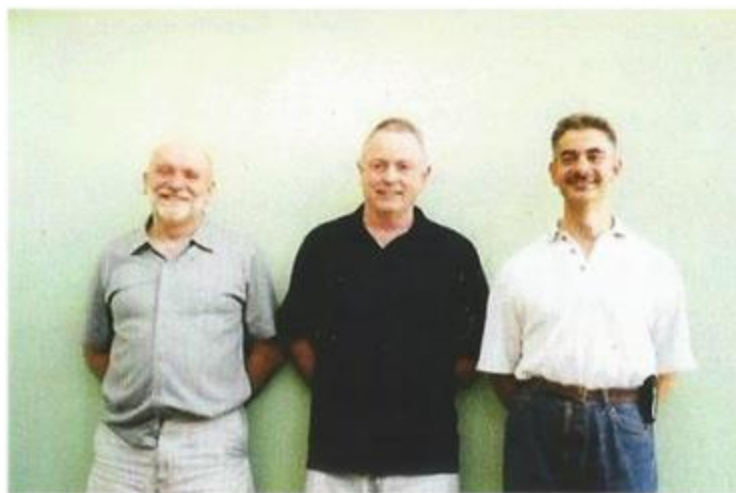


Other developments were the Moms Group in 1994, the Soccer Club, the In Touch Magazine, the Outreach Book Table in Goodwood Mall, a Social Concern Committee, and an Outreach Committee. The need for more elders had long been a matter of prayer since Stuart Cranna and Chris Nel who served as such moved on from GBC. Prayer was answered with the induction of Hylton Sumner in 1993, Colin Tomlinson came on board in August 1996 and R (Curly) Cuthbert in March 1998.

It was during 1998 that Bernard Cartledge accepted a call to minister at the Evangelical Free Church in Harrogate, UK. In the words of the elders report, "all the parties concerned soon became aware of God's direction and we found common ground which enabled us to join together and say "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" to affirm this call to be from God. The Lord watched over the church family, who were blessed to have Colin and Curly in eldership, who sought the Lord's will on a new pastor. Denzil Collins was the then church administrator, assisted by a godly group of deacons.



In 1999, Roland Eskinazi was called as pastor, and accepted. He came to us in January 2000, and did not take long to be grafted into the family. At this time, Curly had been called to assist in the work at Franschoek, and Colin Tomlinson was overseas in Turkey. With Roland's encouragement, more nominations for elder were sought, and in early 2001 Aldred Genade became a "student pastor in training," and later in the same year, John Whaits was elected as elder.



GOODWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



In 2004 Dennis Stephen was added to their number, until he stepped down in 2009 due to work commitments. Over the years, a number of men have been mentored as intern pastors. Each had a role in the young people's ministry, but in the Lord's providence, moved to other fellowships. Sybrandt de Swart, after being used of the Lord among us, went to minister at the newly formed Robertson Community Church, in 2005. GBC had a strong involvement in encouraging this fellowship, sending preachers, and helping them to constitute.

The need for a full time youth pastor eventually became clear, and a call committee was set up in 2007. Carel Pienaar was called in early 2008, and we were delighted he joined our fellowship in June 2008. The Children Youth (CY) ministries had been undergoing a "re-build" approach, after a series of changes to Sunday services and Friday meetings had impacted the work. Carel continued the rebuild, as more changes were to come. The morning service were scheduled to start at 10:00am, with Sunday school classes for children age 3 to grade 7, from 9:00am. The children joined the main service so that families could worship together and be under the ministry of the Word. There was also a 9:00am adult Bible class. Under Carel's guidance, a teen Bible study and teen meetings were started on a Sunday, to undergird the spiritual growth of the senior youth, who became a close-knit group. The Friday Junior Youth, (Crusaders) grew in numbers again, and a youth camp was again viable. The young people were blessed by the Lord through His Word, and were being encouraged to befriend each other. The Lord led Carel to pursue ministry through involvement in Bible teaching, and he went back to full time studies in December 2011.

Our Lord is sovereign, and His plan unfolded as He prepared and brought Andrew Gersbach among us as youth pastor along with Winton Gibbs being appointed to the eldership in 2011. We have always been committed to supporting missions, and from the early days the fellowship committed to a missions budget. We supported amongst others, the Bible Institute, the Baptist Seminary, Student Y.M.C.A., Scripture Union, and missionaries associated with our church family, including Colin and Barbara Tomlinson, Doug Crutchley, Hylton Sumner, Dianne Guta, the Nesbitt's, MOST, and the Naude's.



There have been outreaches in various forms in the neighbourhood such as the Holiday Bible Club. The youth work on a Friday and the Sunday school have drawn in unchurched young people, and the women's ministry has aimed to draw in unbelievers. In 2002 "Just for Starters" was run, and in 2003, Christianity Explored was added. Since then these together have been used by the Lord to bring people to Himself. The annual family camp has been a highlight of fellowship and camaraderie over the years, bringing all the people of mixed ages together under great teaching. Great fellowship was had at group meals, walks, sports and, not to mention, the camp concerts. For many years we met at Amana, where early morning walks, and Saturday afternoons at the beach were a feature, along with the mosquitoes, the cold, and the damp on the walls! We camped for the first time at Rocklands, Simonstown, in 2008.



This period also marked the rise of other initiatives such as Shepherding a Child's Heart, "What did you expect" Marriage Enrichment, The Hiking Club, Learning to Lead Together (training for men) and very recently The Men's Fellowship all of which are ongoing areas of enrichment for "GBC Family in Christ." We had the joy of hosting several international speakers at GBC among them Mark Dever (U.S.), John Blanchard and Geoff Thomas (U.K.). GBC also became a founder member of the Sola 5 Association of churches comprising of some Baptist Union churches and some independent churches in S.A. Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Mozambique, all committed to the historic truths of the Reformation.





Nine months into the fifth decade of the life of the church, Roland Eskinazi accepted a call to pastor the International Baptist Church in Brussels, Belgium, after having faithfully served thirteen and a half years as pastor-teacher. Roland's all-round ministry is fondly remembered and was characterised first, by his pastoral heart – the genuine care for and impartial interest in young and old, never failing to inquire, to encourage, to counsel, and to bring scripture to bear on discussion.

Second, by his prayerfulness, setting an example, in 'his conversations with God'. He had a wonderful ability to articulate praise, and petition; not parochial, but wide-ranging, a genuine concern for God's blessing on the ministry of others. Third, by his preaching centred on the Lord Jesus Christ, delivered with a fluency and liveliness of presentation and with a breadth of reading and interest which quickly engaged our minds. On special occasions he showed an extraordinary ability to hold out the Word of life meaningfully and truthfully, with a self-effacing demeanour, soberness and earnestness, yet with joy and hope.



By grace, without a long interruption, God enabled the elders to lead the church to extend a call to Martin Drysdale, at the time associate pastor at a church in Plumstead. Thus, in the providence of God at the beginning of January 2014, Martin took up the mantle of his predecessor, and is now nearing the completion of his ninth year of similarly faithful Cross-centred expository preaching. During this decade we have been blessed to have large portions of the Word of God, both Old and New Testament, taught and explained. This has included lengthy studies in Exodus, Judges and Psalm 119, Song of Songs, Galatians, the gospel of Luke, and the epistles of James and 1 Peter. Most recently the book of Revelation has been made plain, the wisdom of Ecclesiastes is being revealed and an awe inspiring series on Genesis has been started. There have been some focused doctrinal series, though systematic exposition remains our committed norm. For all this we are most grateful.

During this time, there were further changes to the leadership. Shane Vidal-Hall was appointed an elder in February 2013, while John Whaits retired from the eldership in March 2016 after providing stability and continuity, faithfully for 15 years as an elder and 25 years as the church treasurer. Andrew Gersbach joined the eldership in December 2017, and now Buks van Ellewee and Colin Wyatt-Goodall have been added to the pastoral team. We have been encouraged to see two new Home Fellowship Groups (HFG) established – first in Durbanville and then in Pinelands in 2021. An initiative instituted by Andrew, The Church Fellowship Group (CFG) was begun in 2021, in response to the identified need to provide opportunity for fellowship for parents who bring their children and teenagers to youth meetings on Friday evenings.



Over the past ten years we have become as a church more outward looking, establishing close relationships with like-minded churches in the Cape Town Metropole. Our links with Reformed Faith Mission Community Church, Makhaza Reformed Baptist Church and Northside Baptist, as well as our long-standing association with Grace Presbyterian Church and Christ Church Tygerberg, have been mutually edifying, and kept us from becoming self-absorbed and insular. A regular street evangelism, involving many members, was also begun and continues to this day.

During this period, we have been privileged to serve the wider body of Christ. We have continued active membership with SOLA 5 association. This, together with our adopting of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith, more accurately defines our convictions concerning Holy Scriptures in matters of faith and practice. We hosted the SOLA 5 annual conference for the second time in 2015. In addition to our long standing missionary support, Abrie and Taryn Lourens were sent to Mozambique in early 2022. Other conferences hosted by GBC include 'Inerrancy of Scripture' (2016); 'ACBC – Counselling and the Sufficiency of Scripture' (2018) and 'Interpreting Scripture' (2019). Other seminars or courses held over the years included 'Shepherding a Child's Heart' (2015); 'Parenting in the Pew' (2017); 'Family Devotions' (2019) and 'Deacons Development' (2019) and a series working through Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' (2019). Christianity Explored has regularly provided opportunity for new believers to grow in their understanding of who Jesus is or those still seeking answers to the important questions of life. In October 2017, we partnered with local churches to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. This weekend was filled with thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in eras gone by.

As we look back upon the past ten years, we are struck once again with the goodness and kindness of God to the church at Goodwood. We acknowledge His care of the flock during the two COVID-affected years. In His sovereignty, He chose to call a few of our members home, while doing good in bringing others to salvation or into a closer relationship with Himself. We are thankful for preserving the unity of the body, when the pandemic and the government's interventions and response to it threatened to bring division. We are grateful too for our Father God's financial provision that has enabled us meet not only our own needs, but also provide support to many other churches suffering the effects of the pandemic on the economy.

It is not without reason that we conclude this half century with these words: **SOLI DEO GLORIA**

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory,
for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!

