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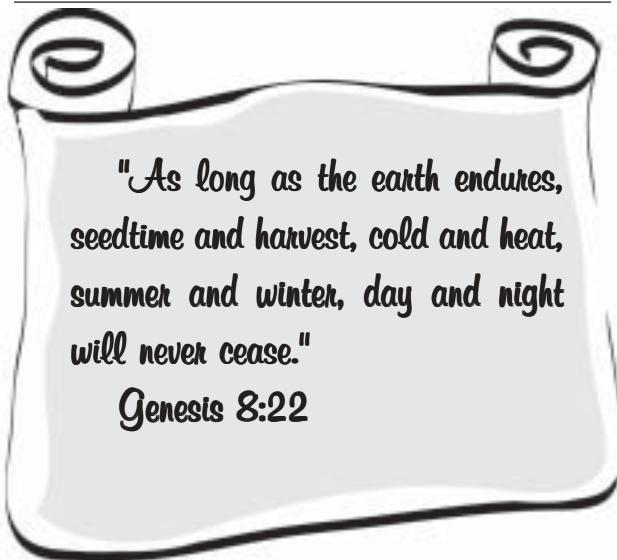
# Vista

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## We Believe . . .

THE Bible to be the infallible Word of God † In One God, distinct in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit † Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Son of God, the Only Savior of mankind, through whose death atonement was made for our sins † In a personal devil, served by demon spirits, who will be cast eternally into the Lake of Fire † In regeneration: the new birth through faith in Jesus Christ † In Water Baptism by simple immersion *“in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”* † In the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, subsequent to salvation, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance † In the Lord’s Supper to be shared in regularly as a reminder of our Lord’s death † In the Apostolic regulations regarding practices that injure the body and offend the holiness of God † In the healing of the sick in response to the prayer of faith † In the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ † In the bodily resurrection of the dead.



*“As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day and night  
will never cease.”*

**Genesis 8:22**

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# Vista

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\* NEW VISTA FEATURE



Editorial

**A Tribute to Brother John DelTurco**

It was in the Fall of 1999 that I was asked by Bro. DelTurco to take over the editorial work at VISTA. (I think he mentioned something about my not going to heaven if I refused, but the details are a bit sketchy.) He was very excited about Y2K and getting a special Millennial Edition of VISTA printed. “Take your time!” he cautioned, “I want this one to be truly special!” His enthusiasm was contagious, and pretty soon all of the department heads, assistant overseers, and interested credential holders submitted articles and photos for our special edition. It was the nicest issue I have yet published and required the least amount of work on my part, because Bro. DelTurco lit the fire and the CCNA moved!

Organizations need a certain personality type leading them. These are called: “Movers and Shakers.” This is indeed Bro. John. Not only has he demonstrated his sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the many positions he has held in CCNA, but he is an accomplished leader. He has the God-given ability to motivate, suggest, correct, and discipline, and these talents have been manifest countless times as General Overseer.

The most important contribution Bro. DelTurco made to my life is helping me to understand what it means to be a “Conservative Pentecostal.” Through his Communiques both in print and on the Internet, as well as the many times I have heard him speak, he has consistently shared the Gospel, admonished the ministry, supported the work of CCNA, and encouraged Spiritual growth among believers, all without having to resort to “gimmicks” to get people’s attention. Brother John exhorts with the authority of the Spirit of God to a consensus of “thank You, Lord” from his audiences.

Paul spoke of things being done “decently, and in good order.” This is not the thrust of many-a-church today where pastors allow shameful conduct in order to build a bigger following and satisfying “itching ears.” That this is not found in CCNA churches is due, largely, to Bro. John’s leadership.

Although we have tremendous freedom in Christ to express our worship in many ways, knowing that there is a line that the Devil would like us to cross, and the Spirit would lead us from, challenges us to be ever vigilant to “test the Spirits.” It is through the leadership of men such as Bro. DelTurco that CCNA has survived storms and troubled waters. I know that God will raise up a Joshua to continue the work, but I am also grateful that Bro. John DelTurco will serve CCNA as General Overseer Emeritus for a number of years to come.

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to work for and learn from Bro. John. Thank you, sir, for your obedience to God enabling CCNA to be what it is today. I believe we can all agree that “the Lord hasn’t finished with you yet!”



**Eric R Towse**  
EDITOR



# Rev. John DelTurco

## “General Overseer Emeritus”



**AFTER** this 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, August 28-31, 2003, my title will be: “*John DelTurco, General Overseer Emeritus.*” When my time in office is over I must be prepared mentally, emotionally, spiritually, to relinquish the responsibility, the prestige and the public acclaim that came with the office. I must retain the quiet confidence that I have been the same man all along and that whatever I contributed as the General Overseer, I can still contribute in other ways. I would like to be remembered for my integrity, honesty, accountability, generosity, and for courage in the face of adversity. Although I am not perfect, and I have made my mistakes in the past, I would like to be remembered for being an honest person who tried to do his best, always well-balanced in the Holy, Inspired Word of God.

In times of controversy and crisis, I learned that meaning in life requires one very important principle: **“maintain a steady course.”** Let your life be determined by core values that never waiver and make your important decisions from that prospective. I have never worried about criticism.

I have been in the full-time ministry in CCNA for 48 years. I have been on the Executive Board of the CCNA for 41 years. During my life of ministry, I have pastored 3 CCNA churches for a total of 20 years. I have been the Executive Director of

CCNA Missions for a total of 12 years. I have been the General Overseer of CCNA for 10 years.

My life is a personification of Psalm 92:12-14:

*“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. **They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing”** (NKJV).*

Over the past 48 years of ministry, I have been dedicated and obedient, with my wife Lydia by my side, to proclaim the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, as an evangelist, pastor, missionary, Executive Director of World Missions, and the General Overseer of the Christian Church of North America. Together with my wife, Lydia, we have made over 130 trips overseas for ministry in over 45 countries, visiting several countries more than once. During this span of time I have always pursued the theme of “character.”

**I BELIEVE THAT  
WITHOUT CHARACTER,  
NO MAN SHALL SEE THE  
LORD.**

CCNA has endured 96 years of life and 76 Annual Conventions. If CCNA is to continue with integrity, honesty, ethics and character, then we

must continue to be accountable in our churches, and in our leadership.

I am happy to say that God has given Lydia and me 48 years of positive ministry in the CCNA. They have been years of joy, growth, opportunity after opportunity to fulfill the will of God in our lives, being conformed to His divine image. We have no regrets whatsoever. We are grateful to God for CCNA, for our organization has been a conduit for us to mature in the ministry. They have been 48 years of great ministry, enabling us to fulfill the potential that God has placed within us.

CCNA is a great Movement, giving us the advantage that has always been needed to fulfill the desires in our hearts. It has been a great journey. However, I must conclude this article by saying that our journey is not over yet, because it has no termination here on earth. As long as I have life and health, I will continue to minister the Word of God in the CCNA organization, and wherever the doors open.

I was born in CCNA. I was born again in CCNA, My entire 48 years of ministry have been in CCNA.

Thank you CCNA for opportunity after opportunity to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God. To God be all the glory!



# Education Department

Rev. Lucian Gandolfo  
Executive Director



## SODOMY LEGALIZED IN THE U.S.

*“This know also, that in the last days  
perilous times shall come.*

*For men shall be lovers of their own  
selves...” 2 Timothy 3:1...*



ON June 26, 2003, another very severe blow was dealt to our nation's moral foundation. This was at least the third in a series of landmark moral blows dealt to us by our own United States Supreme Court. The first was in 1962 when prayer was outlawed in public schools. The second was in 1973 when abortion was legalized. The third came this past June when our Supreme Court legalized sodomy. The real tragedy is that many in the seemingly sleepy Christian community, like the frog in the slowly heating pot, didn't even notice.

The court case originated in Texas. The state's sodomy law was challenged by two homosexuals who appealed their sodomy convictions all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, and won. The Supreme Court weighed a citizen's right to privacy as more worthy of the government's protection than that of the nation's morality. In their view, what a consenting adult does in private should be of no concern to the government. This line of reasoning fits in very well with the amoral thinking of the day. However, this logic opens the door to a whole series of desired rights that the homosexual community now has a solid platform to fight from, to include demanding rights to marry and adopt children.

Recently in Europe, the Netherlands legalized homosexual marriage with the

single restriction that marriage license applicants be residents of the country. Belgium also legalized homosexual marriage for both its citizens and foreigners who come from countries that also allow such unions. Just this past month, Canada legalized homosexual marriage for its citizens and visiting foreigners, with no restrictions whatsoever! In 1999, Vermont was the first state in the U.S. to grant the same benefits and protections to homosexual couples as legally married heterosexuals have traditionally enjoyed. Now, with the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of sodomy, the stage is set for legal homosexual marriages in the United States!

Contrast the Court's elevation of privacy rights with the recent deterioration of freedoms legislated by Congress. As time passes, especially with the recent terrorism threat, citizens are accepting as inevitable an increasingly more intrusive government. As men become more and more lovers of themselves rather than lovers of God, they will fight to preserve their rights to engage in immoral behavior and forego the preservation of the nation's Biblically-based moral foundations. The sanctity of human life, and family life as represented by the marriage between one man and one woman, is the backbone of a healthy society. But our society's backbone is being corrupted and weakened. The more we as a nation move towards godlessness, the more we can expect to lose civil rights. The most brutal dictatorships this world has seen have existed in godless governments. The greatest civil freedoms have been enjoyed in societies who based their laws on godly principles, such as the United States.

Where is the Church in all this? The frog in the pot doesn't notice that the

water in the pot is getting hotter and hotter. Eventually the frog will succumb to the heat and die. When this landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing sodomy was announced some weeks ago, the Church in general, with some exception, didn't even blink and remained silent. Of the few churches that did make their reactions public, some were the liberal ones that lined up behind the ruling, offering to accept homosexual unions and perform the ceremonies to join them in matrimony.

America has been dealt a very devastating third moral blow! The sky will not fall tomorrow as a result of this Supreme Court ruling. But in time, the repercussions from it will surely be felt! The end result from removing prayer from schools is a generation void of respect for authority and incidents of school killings. Legalized abortion has transformed our society into a self-centered culture, quite often without natural affection, and entertained by violence. Legalized sodomy will enslave us and our children in a culture tolerant of immorality, as bad as Sodom and Gomorrah ever was.

These truly are perilous times. But remember that, "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20) God promises that the true Church of Jesus Christ will prevail against the gates of hell (Matthew 16:18). May God help the CCNA continue to be the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World by faithfully proclaiming the true Gospel to all in the power of the Spirit until Jesus Christ returns!





# Youth Department

Rev. Sam DeMarco  
National Director

## Apex 2003: "The Decision"



**G**OD is so good! I celebrate in his goodness and faithfulness as I share the report pertaining to our annual national youth conference. We had an incredible weekend. As you read and are blessed by the report, understand that countless people were involved.

—People who have been covering our department in prayer.

—People who give faithful in financial support.

—People who gave of their time and talents to equip a weekend such as this.

To all of you I say, "thank you." You share in this great ministry, equipping our teenagers to go all out for the Lord.

Over 730 teenagers, pastors, youth pastors and youth workers came with anticipation and expectation.

32 churches were represented some groups as large as 80 and some as small as 4. But each group, each youth church came away with understanding that life is filled with decisions. Decisions that impact and influence one's own life as well as the lives of others.

Testimonies continue to come in from our young people. Testimonies such as:

***"I have forgiven my parents and the anger is no longer controlling me."***

***"I have learned the importance of worship in my life."***

***"I have been called to the ministry."***

***"I want to win my school for Jesus Christ"***

***"Our youth group is still going strong!"***

Some testimonies from our youth pastors have been incredible. Reports of their meetings following the Apex include young people sharing testimonies for the first time, prayer meetings have begun, friends giving their lives to the Lord.

The weekend was filled with anointed ministry. My brother David once again led the whole conference in praise and worship. Many e-mails continue to come in from those who were impacted by the worship.

Greg Johnson brought two powerful

to come after me [*if you want to walk like me, talk like me, love like me, forgive like me, etc.*] you **MUST** deny yourself, carry your cross and follow me. The challenge was to die to self – be committed and do it all Christ's way, the way of love.

The time after involved praying for hundreds of young people responding to the call of ministry. As they came, many were collapsing to their knees weeping. What a precious work of the Holy Spirit. Hearts were being melted by his love. As I ask many of

them what was happening with them, most commented that these were tears of love and joy for the Lord and for wanting to see people to know Christ. I believe, as the love of God was flooding our young people, selfishness and self-centeredness were being addressed.

The weekend was also filled with fun and fellowship. The all out games and madness 2k3 were a big hit again. The nightly café provided time to hang out with one another. The VIP rooms gave

our first timers [7<sup>th</sup> graders] a chance to connect with each other, and the senior VIP gave opportunity for several colleges to share about their school.

Thank you to everyone who served in some way at the Apex. Your contribution was a blessing and allowed us to give excellence to our young people. Many returned from Apex 2003, ready to be a decision-maker for Jesus Christ.

There are more exciting things we will be sharing at the annual CCNA convention this coming Labor Day weekend. Please continue to pray for the youth department.

All Out for Him,

**Pastor Sam DeMarco**



messages on decisions and the attitude in which we walk in. The altar was filled every night. Many came to lay down hurts, sins, and disappointments and to pick up the will of God in their life.

Saturday morning we ran a total of 8 different sessions. These sessions targeted relevant issues teens and leaders are facing today.

Mark Charles, our CCNA missions director shared on Sunday morning along with his wife Lisa. The response was incredible. We put before the conference to build a church in India. [A \$2,000 cost]. We received that morning \$3400 for missions.

Sunday night I challenged the group to make an "all out" decision. The challenge came from Jesus himself saying if you want



# APEX 2K3: *THE DECISION*



# World Missions Spotlight



To Bro. Mark Charles, World Missions Director and the CCNA Family:

**GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS OUR LORD.**  
*I am writing in Italian and we gave Brother DelTurco the difficult job of translating into English.*



I accepted the Lord as my personal Savior, the night of December 10, 1949 and it created a problem in my home, especially with my mother. She felt that I abandoned the Catholic religion when I accepted the Protestant religion.

I decided to go and work in the coal mines in Belgium. My mother said that I have brought disgrace for having changed my religion and that I have given them the greatest displeasure on earth.

After a while, I decided to emigrate to Argentina. All my documents were in order. The priest of my town wrote to the Argentina embassy and told them that I was a Protestant. The religion of Argentina was Catholic. The telegram said, "DO NOT ACCEPT HIM". Because I could not get into Argentina, I got documents to go to Uruguay. The authorities of Uruguay accepted me on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1951 and I embarked in the Port of Monte Video.

When I arrived in Uruguay, I began to hear from the Lord and I immediately began to evangelize the Italians. I worked during the week and on Saturday and Sunday, I gave myself to evangelism. Several Christians from Italy came to Uruguay and we met as a group.

The first Sunday of March 1953, we celebrated our first service in the Italian lan-

guage. There were seven people present – five brothers and two sisters. They elected me as the pastor. My whole life is a continued miracle from God. I had little experience in the things of God, but He, through the Holy Spirit led me and I am confident that He will lead me all the way.

At the moment, the work of the Lord has grown to 25 churches in all of Uruguay and each church has their own pastor and helpers. They are bringing the church forward with zeal, continually evangelizing in order for more souls to get to know the Lord as their personal Savior.

We are experiencing a famine right now, which is bringing a lot of suffering to South America. But, this does not hinder us from evangelizing and winning souls to the Lord. We have received the offerings sent to us through the Missions Department. I want to thank the CCNA people and churches for being close to us in these difficult times. We have churches in places where there is lots of poverty and many Christians are suffering from the famine.

The help that we receive from you will be used to relieve the famine for the babies who are suffering because there is no work for our men. We buy powered milk, sugar and other necessities.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. I Cor. 15:58

Yours in the Lord,



*Pastor Mario and Angelina  
D'Aloia*



As of June 2003, we have four Sign Language classes each week. We began one class in March. Two other were started in April. One class meets twice in the week. We have been meeting more Deaf here. Some of them have little Sign Language skills. We are making plans to get them into a Sign Class very soon.

When we announced the first Sign class back in February, several persons approached us about a class outside of Georgetown. The Christians in the village of Grove especially wanted a class. There is a Special Needs school in the area and several persons have Deaf children in the school. We agreed to have the class and it began 7<sup>th</sup> April. Grove is about 40 minutes by minibus outside of Georgetown. Nineteen persons signed up for the class and the Pastor of the Grove Full Gospel, Morris Chattersingh, graciously offered his church as a meeting place. The students are from two different churches. One of the families has a Deaf child. He is six years old and attends the class with his aunt and mother. Several of the students are getting the vision for reaching the Deaf. One is a student at Georgetown University. She told the class of an incident in one of her classes that illustrates the prejudice against the handicapped.

*World Missions  
(CONTINUED ON P.15)*



# District News & Events



## NIAGARA-MOHAWK DISTRICT

The Niagara Mohawk District has been active. The Presbyters scheduled two separate Spring luncheons with credential holders for fellowship and interaction. One was held for the Mohawk Zone in Syracuse in April and another held in May in the Niagara Zone in Kenmore.



The NM District Annual All Church Conference was held at Walnut Avenue Christian Church in Niagara Falls on June 6 & 7, 2003. Guest ministry was by Rev. & Mrs. Dennis Karaman. The theme of the conference was "Movin' On". There was a Friday evening opening rally, as well as Saturday morning general sessions. Specialized sessions for the Men, Women, and Teens also took place. A luncheon was served by the church and attendance was very good!

The **Women's Ministries** had a lun-



cheon in Jamestown on April 26 for the Niagara Zone ladies.. District WM Director, Sis. Alice Depetris-Feucht, did a wonderful job in ministry and coordinating the event.



**Rev. James Cassidy** was installed as the new Pastor at Walnut Avenue Christian Church in Niagara Falls, NY on April 27. District Presbyters were present for the installation service. Bro. Cassidy was also ordained to the ministry at the same time. Bro. Cassidy has been appointed as the NMD Home Missions director. We welcome the Cassidy's to the NM District.

The District is also pleased to announce the reopening and affiliation of Oneida Full Gospel Assembly in Oneida, NY. The church was recently reopened under District supervision. The church reopened in October, 2002 in the facility built in the 1940s as a CCNA work under the direction of Rev. Bruno. The church had been closed for over one year and the building sat vacant. Interest was expressed to the District Presbytery to have the church reopened. The average attendance at the Friday night Bible studies has been 10 since its reopening. The church has affiliated with the CCNA as "Oneida Full Gospel Assembly", and is currently under district supervision.

Since meetings have begun again, various churches (both CCNA and Assemblies of God) have donated various items, including: sound system, electric piano, overhead projectors, and screen. Also, the sanctuary has been furnished with brand new, cushioned chairs, mostly from money donated for that purpose. Oneida Full Gospel Assembly will host the NM District Women's

Fall Rally in September. The goal is to begin Sunday services by September, 2003. Submitted by Rev. Dominic Kriegbaum

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT



**NORTH MIAMI CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

God continues to call people out of darkness into His wonderful light. On May 31, we were privileged to baptize another four precious souls. This service was conducted in Miami Beach in the presence of many who witnessed the great joy manifested by the four candidates.

Let us pray that God gives them what it takes to share such a faith and such joy in Christ the Savior.

Pasquale Vozza, Pastor



**PLEASE SHARE PHOTOS, NEWS AND EVENTS FROM YOUR CHURCH AND DISTRICT.**

## VISTA OPEN FORUM

# “Correctly Handling the Word of Truth”

An Interview by Rev. John Lathrop, Christian Pentecostal Church, Newtonville, MA,  
with Craig S. Keener Professor of New Testament at Eastern Seminary in Wynnewood, PA

*Q: I noticed that of the eleven books that you have had published that you have written three about the Holy Spirit. Is the Holy Spirit a subject of particular interest to you?*

*A: When I was a 15-year-old atheist, I argued with those who first brought me the gospel—then walked home so convicted by the Holy Spirit that I fell to my knees and surrendered to Christ. Two days later, I walked into a Pentecostal church and was so overwhelmed by God’s Spirit that when I began to pray it came out in tongues, though I’d never heard of that experience before. Two years later, at 17, I began to learn God’s voice in prayer and His deep love and yearning for us. Yes, the Holy Spirit is indeed a subject of great interest to me—and not only academically.*

*Q: One of your more well-known books is the IVP Bible Background Commentary-New Testament. In this volume you give historical background information on the text of the New Testament. How crucial is historical background to understanding the Bible?*

*A: The most important tool for Bible study, next to the Spirit’s guidance, is context—something we have available in the Bible itself. But after that comes background. There are some things that the biblical writers could assume that their first readers understood, which they didn’t need to explain to them. These include the Greek or Hebrew language in which they were written; we have translations to help us with that barrier.*

*Q: But what about cultural issues writers could simply assume, which are foreign to us? For example, we might be able to apply Paul’s passages on head coverings better if we recognized that those coverings were a sign of sexual modesty in his culture, and failing to wear them signified an attempt at seduction. Christians might not cover their heads in all cultures today, but we should avoid dressing or acting seductively—*

*A: Sometimes missing the background can make a life-and-death difference.*



Nineteenth-century slave holders abused Paul’s exhortations to slaves because they took verses out of context but also because they wrongly assumed that the kind of urban household servanthood he addressed was the same thing as the kind of systematic race slavery they advocated.

Because background is the least accessible tool for Bible study, I have focused much of my research over the years in making this available to the church. The background commentary, which provides background on almost every passage in the New Testament, has sold over 200,000 copies since it came out (over 30,000 of them in Korean, with other translations now becoming available).

*Q: Being a professor of New Testament you obviously are concerned with Biblical literacy. Do you find that most Christians are biblically literate?*

*A: Lack of biblical literacy is my greatest concern. Background study will be of little value to Christians who rarely even read the Bible. Many Christians think they are biblically literate because they are familiar with many Bible verses; but the Bible does not consist of 100 Bible verses with a great deal of blank space in between. God gave us the Bible not a verse here and a verse there, but book by book, and we need to read each book in its context. I really got hold of that as a young Christian, reading 40 chapters of the Bible a day. I am not suggesting that everybody needs to read 40 chapters a day, and I don’t do that nowadays myself; but it helped me to catch the contours of Scripture, the flow of thought through each book of the Bible. Whether we read one*

chapter or forty, we need to think of each verse in the context of its surrounding paragraphs, and those paragraphs as part of the particular book of the Bible in which they occur.

*Q: What are some of the reasons for this?*

*A: A major reason is that in our fast-paced culture we have gotten used to having everything instant—instant mashed potatoes, microwave cooking, and the like. That’s not how God wants us to approach the Bible; Proverbs insists that we be diligent in seeking wisdom and knowledge. Instead of studying Scripture carefully, following themes through a book of the Bible, we settle for proof-texts, so we can prove what we already knew anyway. But you never learn anything NEW in the Bible by just making it teach what you already know. You never get convicted by the Holy Spirit if you just find what you expect to find there.*

Most of us know the story of Jim Bakker and the PTL Club. In his book, *I Was Wrong*, he offers a heartbroken confession of where he went wrong in Bible study. He was so busy in ministry, that he had little time to do his own study of the Bible, so he believed what his friends were teaching, assuming that they had invested the time to study what they were teaching. Once in prison, he read the Gospels carefully and realized to his horror that he had been teaching the exact opposite of what Jesus taught. If we are settling for recycling the way we’ve heard Bible verses used, instead of immersing ourselves in Scripture, we run the same risk.

*Q: Can you give a couple of specific examples of common errors that Christians make in Biblical interpretation?*

*A: Wherever I teach in the world, whether at a Sunday School or seminary level, I start my Bible interpretation classes by listing some verses that we regularly quote today, for example, “The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10).*

Open Forum  
(CONTINUED ON P.14)

# Featured Church

## New Covenant Assembly

### Jamestown, NY



New Covenant Assembly Church, presently located at 17 Arlington Avenue, Jamestown, NY, started in the late 1920s with a group of Italian people who had received salvation through an Assembly of God Church, which was then located near the city hall in Jamestown. They decided to start their own Church because they all spoke the Italian language. Their first meetings began in a storefront building on Harrison Street, Jamestown.

In 1931 they purchased the old Horse Fire Hall on East 2nd Street and remodeled it into a church building. The notice of a meeting for the purpose of incorporating the Church was posted on the door of 914 East 2nd Street, Jamestown on April 27th 1931, and on May 16th 1931 the Church was officially recorded as being incorporated by the name "Chiesa Christiana" of Jamestown NY. Soon after, they became affiliated with the Christian Church of North America, as the present Church, New Covenant Assembly, remains to this day.



Arnone, Diego LoPresti, Tony Palmieri, Sam Oliote, and Antonio Fontona. The three trustees whose names appear on the official certificate of incorporation are Joseph Coffaro, Dominic Arnone, and Diego LoPresti. The last of these original members, Diego LoPresti, went home to be with Lord on Dec 22 1992.

The church is presently shepherded by Trevor Coburn and his wife Jenny. Brother Coburn was ordained in 1985 and transferred into CCNA in 1990. Jenny Coburn was ordained in 1998 and transferred into CCNA in 2002. Jenny was the first ordained woman to serve in a CCNA church.

Both Brother and Sister Coburn studied at Canada Christian College in Toronto where they both received Bachelor of Theology degrees. They have also been connected with a counseling organization in Canada for many years called the "Evangelical Order of Certified Pastoral Counselors" (EOCPC) and recently received honorary Doctorates in Counseling. Brother Coburn was elected Pastor of New Covenant Assembly in 1990, and his wife became the Associate Pastor in 1998.

By 1960 there were only a few Italian speaking people in the Church, and a decision was made to change its name to Bethel Full Gospel Assembly in an attempt to attract more people. In 1968, property was purchased on Arlington Avenue with the intent of eventually building a new Church building. In 1975 a mysterious fire occurred at the Church resulting in bad damage to the building.

In the spring of 1976, building began on the new Church on the Arlington Avenue property, which had been purchased a few years previous, and was completed later that year. In 1985 the Church merged with another Church in Jamestown called Faith Assembly, and at that time changed its name to New Covenant Assembly.

There have been fourteen Pastors to the present time. The first Pastor of Chiesa Christiana was Joseph Caffaro, followed by Mickey Arnon and Veto Tedesco. Francis Foti was the first Pastor of Bethel Full Gospel Assembly, followed by Joseph Perrello, Peter Bruno, George Page, Daniel Roland, Daniel Mucia and, Charles Hofker. Lee O'Brien was the first Pastor of New Covenant Assembly, followed by Allen Noyd, (Pastor of Faith Assembly), followed again by Lee O'Brien. After Lee O'Brien, Trevor Coburn became Pastor.

The six original members names that appear on the certificate of incorporation are as follows: Joseph Coffero, Dominic



REV. JENNY COBURN  
FIRST ORDAINED WOMAN TO SERVE  
IN A CCNA CHURCH



THE REVERENDS  
TREVOR AND JENNY COBURN



# From the Pulpit

## Messages from the Ministry



REV. EUGENE DEMARCO  
NWD OVERSEER

### No Deposit No Return

*“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.”*

(Romans 10:8)



**EVERYTHING** we could ever need is waiting for us in the realm of the Spirit with our name on it. All we need to do is get it from there to here. How do we do that? Through Faith! Faith is the currency we use to transfer God’s provision for us from the unseen realm of the spirit to the natural, earthly, realm or as Hebrews 11:1 says - *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Spiritual currency works the same way as natural currency. If you have an abundance in your bank account, you can enjoy plenty of material things. If you have an abundance of faith in your spiritual account, you can enjoy plenty of everything - wealth, health, good relationships, peace, success, because the bible says *“giveth us richly all the things to enjoy.”* (1 Timothy 6:17)

The problem is many believers don’t have a clue where faith actually comes from, where its stored or how to get out when they need it. That’s critical information. In fact

without it, you’re spiritually broke. Let’s look at what the Bible says. Where does faith come from? Romans 10:17 says *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* Where is faith stored? Romans 10:8, 10 - *The word nigh thee even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; it is the word of faith, which we preach... For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Your faith is stored up in your heart - and since your faith (or lack of it) determines your future, the truth is your future is stored up in your hearts as well. How do you get it out? When you want to make a withdrawal from your faith account, speak the word of faith. Don’t speak the circumstances. Don’t tell it the way it is or looks. Speak the solution, the end results. Say what God says the outcome is going to be. But don’t put it in the future. Faith calls things as though they were.

Let me ask you this. How much faith do you have in your heart account right now? Is it enough to handle your current situation? Is it enough to produce victory every day of your life? If not, you need to start making big deposits of God’s word.

Remember:

“No Deposit - No Return!”



REV. JOHN ROBERTS  
CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

### Forgive and Forget



**WHEN** I was forty, I was diagnosed with a rare swallowing condition named *achalasia*. The sphincter muscle at the end of my esophagus was too narrow and I did not have normal digestive action. This resulted in my choking on food and occasionally fainting. My fainting really scared my wife and two pre-teen daughters. My surgeon recommended that I undergo major surgery to cut the sphincter muscle. In the early eighties, this was a serious and invasive operation. A physical complication was that I was very heavy and considered a surgical risk. A psychological and spiritual complication came from fellow Christians who told me that if I had faith I would be healed without an operation. In my weakness and lack of faith, their words did cause me to doubt. A week before the operation, I was seriously considering postponing it and trying to live on soft foods and liquids. Acting on this decision, I decided to go out and buy some soft foods.

#### Frozen Food Prayer Meeting

I walked into local ShopRite Market and began to fill my shopping cart. As I moved around the store, I noticed a man in his middle years following me. I observed him and a light went off in my head. It was Tony Salerno. He was the bully who beat me up when I was in grammar school. Twenty-three years had passed since I saw him, but I was certain that it was he. I decided to avoid him. Being overweight and worried over my operation, I had no desire to duke it out with him. In my memory, he also won every fight. I looked around and he had disappeared from sight. I turned down the frozen food aisle and there he was looking right at me. I was speechless.

“Excuse me, are you John Roberts who used to attend St. Anthony’s School in the South End?”

“Yes, I am. What can I do for you?”

“I’m Tony Salerno and I used to pick on you in school. Do you remember?”

“Yes, Tony, I remember you. What do you want now?”

“John, I asked Jesus into my life about

ten years ago. I've been looking for you. I want to say I'm sorry that I used to beat you up and I want you to forgive me. Will you?"

"Tony, I became a Christian fifteen years ago and frankly I forget why you and I fought. But I do forgive you and I'm glad that you asked Jesus into your life."

Tony and I shook hands and we caught up on things. He was married with two children and worked for the power company. I told him about my family and my job with New York State. I spoke of my swallowing condition and my upcoming operation. Tony promised to pray for me.

"Tony, I may not have the operation. Some people think that if I have faith the Lord will cure me without an operation. They've put a doubt in my mind"

Tony thought about what I said and gave me a short course in healing where God cured people through doctors and medicine. He also pointed out the dozens of people in the New Testament who were sick and were cured over a period of time and a healing regimen. His word encouraged me and right there in the frozen food aisle, and we prayed.

I had the operation and I was fully cured. The operation led me to lose weight.

Over the years, I went into ministry. I loved to tell about Tony and how he encouraged me. When I was sixty-one, I was telling the story to a group of teens at our church. Two of the young people stopped me after the meeting. They told me that Tony Salerno went to their church and he told the same story and just the way I told it. He saw the story as a true story of forgiveness.

About a year later, I met the **Rev Charles Gay**, pastor of Tony's church, **Trinity Christian Church** and I shared the story with him. The next day I was talking with a couple that attended the church. They told me that my name was mentioned in their Bible Study. The lesson was on forgiveness. Tony spoke up and said that he wanted to share a forgiveness story. As he began, the pastor interrupted him. "Did this happen in ShopRite?" Tony said yes. "Was the fellow's name John?" Tony said yes. He asked how the pastor knew. The pastor told him that he had met me that same day and I told the same tale. The people rejoiced. I promised to visit the church and attend the next prayer meeting.

On the afternoon of the prayer meeting, I decided to write the story for publication. I asked the Lord to bring to mind all

the details of the incident. As I prayed, the Lord asked me: "Do you remember why Tony used to hit you?" I thought about it and then it came back clear as a bell. Tony had a severe stutter. The more he was upset the more he would stutter. The Lord opened my mind and I remember how I used to mock Tony's stutter. "Hiiii Tonnyyyy, howwww arre youuu doinnng? How goes it stutter bug?" Tony hit me when I mocked him. That night I went to the Bible Study with an intention to tell the rest of the story.

I walked into the church and I recognized Tony. We hugged and the pastor asked Tony to introduce me. I stood up and told the whole story of forgiveness and forgetfulness. It was a great time of fellowship and healing. After the meeting, I asked Tony about the stuttering. He told me that the Lord cleared it up. So we parted as friends. Where else but in God's Kingdom can you find two former enemies who could forget the past and go on in fellowship.



## Signs of Our Times?

Tell the kids I love them. <b>-God</b>	That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing... I meant it. <b>-God</b>	Need directions? <b>-God</b>
Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game. <b>-God</b>	I love you and you and you and you and... <b>-God</b>	You think it's hot here? <b>-God</b>
C'mon over and bring the kids. <b>-God</b>	Will the road you're on get you to my place? <b>-God</b>	Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a test. <b>-God</b>
What part of "Thou Shalt Not..." didn't you understand? <b>-God</b>	Follow me. <b>-God</b>	Do you have any idea where you're going? <b>-God</b>
We need to talk. <b>-God</b>	Big bang theory, you've got to be kidding. <b>-God</b>	Don't make me come down there. <b>-God</b>
Keep using my name in vain, I'll make rush hour longer. <b>-God</b>	My way <u>is</u> the highway. <b>-God</b>	The Bible is NOT a Chinese Take-out menu! <b>-God</b>
Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage. <b>-God</b>		Mohammad? Who's he? <b>-God</b>

Most students have heard (and some have preached) that the thief in the passage is the devil. Then I give them a few minutes to read the context, and ask them again who the thief is. Amazed, they virtually unanimously announce that the passage is referring to false teachers who come to lead us away from Jesus (in the particular setting in John 9—10, the Pharisees). Of course, it is true that the devil comes to lead us away from Jesus and that the principle may apply to him. But by focusing only on how we've always heard the verse quoted, instead of reading the passage carefully, we miss all the other "thieves" that we need to be watching out for. We do this with a rather large percentage of our Bible memory verses. Sometimes well-meaning Bible teachers can do this with word-studies, too—which in the worst cases come down to preaching from a dictionary or taking not just a verse but a word out of context. That's just as bad when you do it from a Greek dictionary as when you do it from an English one. We dare not miss the forest—the big picture of the message—for the trees (compare e.g., Matthew 23:23).

*Q: As a charismatic are there particular concerns that you have about the Charismatic/Pentecostal church in this respect?*

*A:* I mentioned above that Bible readers today often take shortcuts by not paying attention to context. Charismatics are not the only Christians to take Scripture out of context, but when we do so we are unfortunately the ones most prone to blame it on the Holy Spirit. Please understand that I fully embrace the gift of prophecy and the importance of hearing God's voice in prayer. I even accept that God can speak to us personally through a verse out of context—as He can speak to us through a poem or a song. But that personal message is not God's canonical word for His church for all time. His purpose in giving us the Bible is to ground us in the message that apostles and prophets heard through the centuries, a message tested through its fulfillment through time.

One time I was praying hard about figuring out the meaning of the tabernacle in Exodus. What I felt was the Spirit's direction where to go find the information that would help me understand it. I went and did research on ancient temples until I could see clearly how the tabernacle differed from these other temples, and the lessons that taught me about God's ways. God's Spirit can lead us to do research just as He can speak to us directly about some things.

Not all biblical scholarship today is God-honoring—some scholars do not even have the basic wisdom that starts with the fear of the Lord. But God does raise up teachers and scholars, and we should not be afraid of finding out the best tools available to help us understand the Greek, Hebrew, and background when we need them. Many evangelical groups tend to be ahead of Pentecostals and charismatics in this regard, but many Pentecostals and charismatics today are learning from their evangelical siblings where to locate the best in biblical research tools.

*Q: Do you find that there are certain blind spots that Western Christians have when they read the Bible?*

*A:* I could have spent the entire interview on this one question. After the industrial revolution western society became distant from many cultural assumptions shared by most cultures in history, including in biblical times. My experiences in Africa have taught me things about how babies are born, goats are herded, soil is ploughed with old-fashioned hoes, and so forth, that brought me closer to the world of the Bible.

But being in other cultures also brings us face to face with the limited ways we understand the Bible. Too often we just assume that a text cannot mean something because "nobody we know" (i.e., in our culture) takes it that way. In different parts of the world, the church has different blind spots, and we need each other's eyes to see them. When Jesus told His disciples to forsake everything and care for the poor (Luke 12:33; 14:33), I suspect that He meant something more radical than just giving ten percent to the church on Sunday and thinking our job is done. Really hearing Scripture means being willing to press beyond our comfort zones; to genuinely

pursue wisdom, we have to genuinely fear God enough to go where He leads us.

I lived and taught for four months in an area of northern Nigeria where Islamic jihadists targeted and slaughtered pastors, and as many people died over the course of that year as in our Twin Towers on Sept. 11, though Western media apart from *Christianity Today* mostly ignored it. When Christians there read passages about dying for Christ, they have to take them seriously and count the cost of being Jesus' disciples. "Taking up the cross" to follow Jesus is no longer just putting up with ingrown toenails.

My wife spent 18 months as a war refugee in a forest in Central Africa a few years ago. After the Rwandan genocide of 1994 the entire region was destabilized, though media in the United States largely ignored it until recently. It's estimated that 3.5 million people have died; millions of born-again, Spirit-filled Christians there are suffering because of war and everything that comes with it (like famine, cholera, and malaria). We have much we could learn from our brothers and sisters who have suffered deeply, and there are many ways we could serve them. Suffering churches resemble the churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia in the Book of Revelation, whereas churches more tempted with compromise with the world's values resemble more closely Sardis and Laodicea. Each church had different tests, but all were called to overcome. My prayer is that we and our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world will listen to and learn from each other as one body of Christ. We each have blind spots, which is why we all need one another's eyes. Then, together, we can approach Scripture with fresh eyes and ears and "*hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*"



REV. JOHN LATHROP

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—Craig Keener is professor of New Testament at Eastern Seminary in Wynnwood, PA, and author of 11 books, two of which won Christianity Today book awards in their respective years. His best-known work, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, has over 200,000 copies in print (including CD versions and various languages). E-mail: [ckeener@ebs.edu](mailto:ckeener@ebs.edu) **Education:** Ph.D., New Testament and Christian Origins, Duke University • M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary • M.A., Biblical languages, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary • B.A., Central Bible College. **Current Service:** Associate Minister at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, Philadelphia (NBC) • Frequent lecturer and teacher in New Testament, New Testament Background and Biblical Interpretation, in ministry and academic settings in the U.S. and Nigeria. **Publications** • *And Marries Another: Divorce & Remarriage in the Teaching of the New Testament* (Hendrickson, 1991) • *Paul, Women & Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul* (Hendrickson, 1992) • *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (InterVarsity, 1993) • *Black Man's Religion: Can Christianity Be Afrocentric?* (InterVarsity, 1996). With Glenn Usry. • *Three Crucial Questions About the Holy Spirit* (Baker, 1996) • *The Spirit in the Gospels and Acts: Rebirth and Prophetic Empowerment* (Hendrickson, 1997) • *Matthew* (InterVarsity, 1997). IVP New Testament commentary series. • *Defending Black Faith* (InterVarsity, 1997). With Glenn Usry. • *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew* (Eerdmans, 1999). • *Revelation* (Zondervan, 1999). NIV Application Commentary series. • *Gift and Giver: The Holy Spirit for Today* (Baker, 2001) • Author of numerous other reference, journal and magazine articles, essays and reviews • **Courses Taught:** • New Testament Greek • Biblical Interpretation • The Gospel of Matthew • Biblical Theology of Prayer • Biblical Models for Ministry • The Acts of the Apostles • New Testament Greek Exegesis • The Book of Revelation.

The professor gave them an assignment to plan an education program that would be funded by one million Guyanese dollars. In her group, she proposed a plan to educate the Deaf children. The reaction from the other members of the group was, "Why teach them? They can't learn anything. It would be a waste of time and money." She was surprised by her fellow students' attitude. We pointed out that this is what we ministers to the Deaf are confronting. There is a prevailing attitude regarding the handicapped that they are not able to learn anything. A few people are here trying to change that attitude. And that is the reason we are here; to change the mind set of the church to reach the Deaf for Jesus Christ.

The other class began 30th April and meets twice a week. We were called by The School of the Nations to assist them in learning Sign Language. The school has three Deaf children. The Headmistress, Penelope Gaimie, told us that the teachers want to be able to teach the Deaf in Sign Language. We agreed to help them. We meet twice a week so that we can finish at the end of the school term. Several of the parents also attend the class. We praise God for this class. We did not expect to begin teaching teachers this soon. We know that God will use these classes to develop ministers to the Deaf.

We began interpreting services in the **Albouystown Full Gospel Church** in March. Some of the students from that class are now interpreting the songs during worship time. We expect that soon they will begin interpreting the sermons.

An advanced Sign class is planned for September. The class will take place in our home. We need to show videos to the students. The class will be very intense. It will meet twice a week for perhaps three hours each. No voicing will be allowed. We also expect that there will be several Deaf who will come to the class to help us refine our Guyanese Deaf signs.

We continue to meet Deaf on the streets of Georgetown. None have yet attended services but God is touching them. They are very interested in spiritual things. There is one Deaf man attending church now named Roy. He became Deaf about 12 years ago. He knows little Sign Language but comes to the class. He also is trying to start a business in leather goods. He is very skilled in making leather belts and other items. He

needed a place to work so we offered our car port. He comes every day to work in the morning. Several times a week he takes an afternoon and goes to various markets to sell the belts. We are teaching him good business practices and well as Sign Language. We hope that he becomes a success so that he will inspire other Deaf to succeed.

#### LIFE IN GEORGETOWN

There is some unrest in Georgetown. The teachers have been on strike for most of April and May. The government is making a deal with them to pay them more. They have gone back to work just a week ago.

The Electric company has run out of money to buy fuel for the generators. For most of April the current was off for days at a time. There was supposed to be scheduled blackouts but the times were never right. There were many days that we had no current all day. We learned not to keep too much food in the refrigerator because it would spoil. Several times we came home from church or Sign class to find the house (and the neighborhood) dark. Now the current has been stable for a while. The last few blackouts have been for just an hour or so. One must learn to live with it.

The rainy season begins in early May and continue until the end of June. These are the early rains. It rains nearly every day and certainly every night. Some days the rains are so heavy that our yards is flooded. So far the water has not come into the house, praise God!! The blessing is that the temperature is lower. The cooling breezes are welcome. The sad sights are the poor squatters who live on land that is very low-lying. They have flooded yards and houses for weeks at a time. Nearly all the houses are up on concrete blocks or stilts to keep them from becoming flooded.



PRAYING AT A LOCAL CRUSADE



SIGN CLASS AT THE SCHOOL OF THE NATIONS

#### OTHER MINISTRIES

The church at Albouystown has asked us to help them in several other areas of ministry. The youth department has asked us to help them reorganize. We will be meeting with the leadership next Saturday. We have been asked, along with another Sister, Donna, to teach and encourage the Youth. We will be sharing with the leaders and helping them to set goals for the Youth.

Also, the church has asked us to help them in their career training program. They have wanted to begin computer training for several years. The Pastor asked us to facilitate getting the computer classes started. We began a basic computing course at the end of May. It is just five weeks. There are 20 students in three classes.

The TV ministry continues to develop. The station was off the air for several weeks in April and May because of transmitter problems. They have repaired the transmitter and now we are back on the air on Saturdays. Larry was asked to be technical adviser. Since the show is live in the studio, it occupies only a few hours a week.

We have been invited to visit the Community Based Rehabilitation Center in Grove. We want to see what they offer the Deaf. We are praying that God will open a door for ministry there as well. The CBR meets the needs of all the handicapped. We know that they have Deaf among them. We are also waiting for a response from the special needs schools that we have contacted. Because of the teachers strike they are unavailable for contact at this time. We have been in contact with them several times. Because of the strike beginning the class has been delayed. We expect to visit the schools again very soon.

God has enabled us to purchase a laptop computer for a very reasonable price.

**WORLD MISSIONS**  
(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

We are planning to use it for ministry to the Deaf. When we obtain a video projector and screen we will be able to illustrate sermons. Also, we will be able to teach Bible lessons. The Deaf are visually oriented. Any tool that will help us to present the Gospel in pictures is a real blessing.

Mary has been traveling each Wednesday to Parika to minister to a family with a Deaf daughter. She is just 21 years old but knows no formal signs. Mary is beginning to teach her and the parents some Sign Language. We are trusting that God will help her to learn how to communicate soon.

Keep us in prayer. We are purchasing a vehicle soon. Pray that all the paper work to transfer ownership will go through smoothly. Also, pray for safety for us as we travel around Georgetown. Pray that God would continue to open doors for us to make contacts.



**Rev. & Mrs. Lawrence Hallahan**  
GUYANA, SOUTH AMERICA



PIETERMARITZBURG, SOUTH AFRICA  
**Site 11: Christian Assembly and New Life Centre**

**A MINISTRY UPDATE**

This update is to introduce ourselves as we continue to partner together with the ministry at Site 11. This mission work has been the brainchild and vision of Pastor Mark and Lisa Charles. We thank God for the privilege he had afforded us when he led the Charles' to South Africa. They came to South Africa during a very volatile time in our history. The apartheid government was relinquishing its hold over the country. This transition from the old apartheid regime, to the new government of national unity, brought with it mixed emotions from the African people. They were very suspicious towards people of different cultures.

We commend Mark and Lisa, who through much difficulty and persecution, persevered and built relationships with the people. They demonstrated the character of Jesus Christ by displaying true love. On behalf of the hundreds of lives that have been touched and changed, we want to thank the many churches who supported this ministry that is still flourishing today.

**TRANSITION TO NEW LIFE CENTRE**

In May 2002, the pioneers Mark and Lisa felt God calling them back to the United States. During their seven years in S. Africa, they had built strong ties with New Life Centre, an independent church that is located in a residential area directly behind the Site 11 community. Pastor Daniel Govender and I, **Pastor Quinton Aiyer**, agreed to continue with the great work at Site 11. This involves spiritual oversight and vision, administration, training and support, caring for and building bridges between the two Communities. New Life Centre is affiliated with CCNA.



PASTORS QUINTON AND DANIEL

Pastor Musa Zuma, a Zulu pastor, joined our team last year. He has taken the reigns of developing the church and reaching this Zulu community for Christ. Pastor Musa is doing a fantastic work in relating in

ways that we cannot. The congregation is growing steadily. The initial thrust of the ministry was and is community-based projects that empowers and educates the community. Through this, they are receiving Jesus Christ who is their only HOPE, in a country plagued by violence and despair. This community will be reached by changing ONE life at a time. With an 85% unemployment rate and crime and poverty at an all time high, Christ is the ONLY answer.



PASTOR MUSA ZUMA AND FAMILY

The CCNA has put hands and feet to the gospel by feeding and clothing the poverty stricken and children who are literally naked. You are feeding over 500 each month, educating children and providing employment by showing them Jesus.



ENGLISH SPEAKING CLASS

**OUR APPRECIATION**

While you may not be in South Africa, the effects of your support are felt in the hearts and lives at Site 11. New Life Centre and SITE 11 will continue to tear down the racial and economic barriers that separate us by building a common bridge, which is our HOPE in Jesus Christ.



SITE 11 CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY