

ACRP Online  
Conference

Save this Date!

Friday 4 March 2022

A Call for Presentations  
will be sent out soon.

A Poem for the  
Christmas  
season:

### Love Came

*Love came, held safely within a  
gentle womb*

*All the truth, majesty, and  
creativity of a living God*

*Poured into a tiny heart*

*Making a quiet entrance in a*

*dark and uninviting shack*

*Just one star shone anew as a*

*handful of people were brought*

*Led by angelic voices, and open*

*hearts*

*A young mother*

*A faithful father*

*Men of wisdom who searched for*

*truth*

*And a group of humble herdsmen*

*They came to bow before a new*

*life*

*And acknowledge that the*

*rescuer had arrived*

*That the Word of God had come*

*alive*

*And that the extraordinary*

*transformation of heaven and*

*earth*

*Had begun*

*A poem by Julie Palmer*

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# The guiding light Newsletter

Issue 13 - Dec 21/Jan 22



## A message from Dr Tertius Erasmus, CEO of ACRP

Dear Affiliate

As the year comes to an end, I want to thank our office managers for their dedication and hard work. We had challenging times, but they really excelled through it. We are blessed with our personnel and need to honour them for their perseverance and all the extra time they put in to keep our ship afloat! Many things happen in the background and we are still aligning the administration of our professional body to excellence.

In the challenging times we are in, I want to remind us all of the desperate time the disciples were facing on the end of Jesus's ministry. He knew their fears and challenges ahead and came to His disciples and spoke unto them, saying, "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:18-20).

What does it mean for us today? Exactly the same. We all are part of God's great commission to share the blessing of God's love, grace and kindness among all and to lead people into a meaningful relationship with God. As ministers, counsellors and faith leaders we have the privilege to engage in people's lives when they need advice, wisdom and guidance. It might happen that we lose our focus and forget that our main purpose is to help people discover God's presence in their life. He is with us, despite of Covid, poverty, life's challenges, because He promised to be. As Religious practitioners we are God's ambassadors to fill the gap and to shed God's light on everyone on our way. God is with us and in Him all things are possible! We need not to supply all the answers, but need to connect people with the answer, God. In our commission we are never alone because God is always with us. If we spend enough time with Him, experience His presence in our life, we will be able to bear that witness with authority and authentication. May our dedication to God encourage others to follow Him and may our relationship with God help us to be a blessing to others. God is with us, in us and through us!

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## Moving on regardless

An article written by Dr Vincent Mazibuko, ACRP  
Chairperson

Imagine what life would be like if we were not Christians. Each problem we faced would be scary, cause us pain, and leave us feeling hopeless. We would walk around the earth with the weight of sin resting on our shoulders. When we faced problems that caused us to feel down, we wouldn't have anywhere to turn.

Thankfully, by following the Christian faith we don't have to suffer in this way. We can let go of the sadness we may feel by turning to Jesus Christ for comfort. He is always there, waiting to help us with any obstacle we may face. He listens to our problems and offers guidance. The Bible itself is full of inspirational verses that will lift us up and get us feeling better again.

James 1:2-4: *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

Our family has had no shortage of hard times and struggles the last few years. God wants us to experience continual restarts, rebirths, redefinitions, and to literally rebrand our lives. He never meant for this full life to be boring (John 10:10 NIV) but intended for us to experience the excitement and inspiration of perpetual transformation.

Lately, the world seems to be lurching from one crisis to another. We've experienced a global pandemic, dramatic changes to how we conduct our daily lives, economic uncertainty, and political and social turmoil, as well as an array of natural disasters thus affecting our spiritual work and our personal lives. Then there are personal traumas that people are also dealing with, such as the loss of a loved one, declining health, unemployment, divorce, violent crime, gender-based violence or tragic accidents. For many of us, this is a time of unprecedented struggle and upheaval, hence the Scripture about James 1:2-4.

Whether the source of disruption in our lives is a global emergency or a personal tragedy or both, living through difficult times can take a heavy toll on our mood, health, and outlook. It can leave us feeling helpless and overwhelmed by stress and anxiety. We may be painfully grieving all that we have lost, flooded by a slew of difficult, conflicting emotions, or uncertain about how to move on with our lives. We may even feel that our lives are totally out of control and we are powerless to affect whatever may happen next, yet we move on regardless. We have to move on regardless. 2 Corinthians 4:7-9: *"<sup>7</sup>Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."* This Scripture should be enough to inspire us in moving forward regardless.

While there's no way to avoid sorrow, adversity, or distress in life, there are ways to help smooth the rough waters and regain a sense of control. Resilience is the ability to cope with the loss, change, and trauma that have been inevitable parts of life even before these extraordinary times. Building resilience can help us better adapt to life changing events, cope with turbulent times, and bounce back from hardship and tragedy, moving forward regardless.

*"You may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith that may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed."* 1 Peter 1:6-7

No one is exempted from the storms of life. But just as the disciples who initially feared the storm later came to revere Christ more, so the storms we face can bring us to a deeper knowledge of God. "Who is this," the disciples pondered, "even the wind and the waves obey him!". Through our trials we can learn that no storm is big enough to prevent God from accomplishing His will. Our faith grows to maturity thus being able to move forward regardless. Storms of life will always be there. They propel us to greater highs. We should learn from the eagles, when storms attack them, they relish them. These storms move us from our comfort zone thus seeking His face continuously and vigorously.

While we may not understand why God allows trials to enter our lives, we thank Him that through them we can come to know who He is. We live to serve Him because He has preserved our lives.

*"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You"* Psalm 56:3

Few of us are traveling to heaven in a state of freedom from all fear. Who can honestly testify that they always practice this verse: *"In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid"*? (Psalm 56:11). We do trust, and yet we may be troubled at times by gnawing worries. Our common experience is that our trust in God is mingled with episodes of worry.

Even the apostle Paul, who wrote many of the New Testament letters, had some anxieties. He confessed to the Corinthians, *"I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling"* (1 Corinthians 2:3). He continued with his journey and moved forward regardless.

So let us not worry if we are scared, we don't need to pretend that we are not worried. If we are troubled by anxieties, we should admit them to ourselves. We should share them with a trusted friend. Above all, let us talk to the all-compassionate Friend, Jesus Christ, who knows our every thought and emotion (Psalm 139:4). With compassion, He says to us, *"Do not fear"* (Luke 12:32). Let us ask Him for the grace to help us overcome our fears and worries. Then, let us wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen our heart (Psalm 27:14).

On our journey through life, whenever we are afraid, trust in the Lord (Psalm 56:3). May we have peace, joy and happiness during this festive season. In everything we do, we should know that God is always with us. Let us move on regardless, as a professional body we have a long way to go and God shall see us through.

***"Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a centre of fear". Corrie Ten Boom***

### ***A Christmas Prayer for Peace***

*In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. Forgive us for forgetting—that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came: to save us from our sinful condition, and to give us life eternal, the joy of relationship with a holy God. Your birth—and Your death—sealed Your promise to us forever.*

*— by Rebecca Barlow Jordan*



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Oasis Int. has been intensely involved with the development and distribution of books by authors speaking to the African contexts. The Africa Study Bible is one of these. Please read part 9A of their sponsored article on the next page.

*Article sponsored by OASIS International –  
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**INTERPRETING THE BIBLE- PART 9A**

“The LORD is my shepherd” is boldly written across the tailgate of a lorry in Ghana. Instead of testifying to the vehicle owner’s Christian faith, it probably shows that the owner believes a Bible verse written on his lorry will protect it. But the Bible is not a charm to keep away evil or a magic book requiring a secret formula to understand. It is God’s communication to humans written in ordinary language by holy men thousands of years ago. The truth in the Bible provides the world with the basic facts about God, his ways, and his universe and helps us to live holy lives and fulfil God’s will.

**Normal Interpretation**

We normally read the Bible as we do any other book. The words in it mean the same thing they mean in other literature. The Bible is not meant to conceal truth but to reveal truth. Though there are exceptions, we can assume the most simple, straightforward interpretation of any biblical passage is usually the best.

**Different Types of Literature**

Newspapers include many types of writing: news about recent events, editorials giving personal opinions, advertisements urging readers to buy a product, even cartoons and jokes designed to entertain. Although these are all found in the same newspaper, we interpret and apply each of them differently. Likewise, we find different types of literature in the Bible, including:

Historical narrative – stories of what happened.

Biographies (four Gospels) and autobiographies (Nehemiah; parts of Acts) – giving eyewitness views of events.

Legal document – recording the laws of Israel and how they were created.

Wisdom literature – society’s wisdom preserved through dramas, proverbs, short stories, reflections, monologues, and dialogues.

Prophecies – God’s words given to the prophets and announced to others.

Poetic literature – songs and poetry found in Psalms, and wisdom and prophetic literature.

Parables – fictional short stories illustrating a single point.

Epistles – letters to real people about the doctrines and practices of the church.

Apocalyptic literature – marked by visions, symbolic language, specific numbers, and prophecy.

The Bible is not just a book, but a rich library of different kinds of writing.

When reading the Bible, we must be aware what type of literature we are reading. We read and apply biographies differently than the teaching sections found in epistles. We use the Bible’s stories of people as examples to teach principles, but don’t give them the same weight as direct commands. Poetry is filled with figurative language and the repetition that characterizes Hebrew poetry. Therefore, when David prays in Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me,” we do not distinguish between “clean heart” and “loyal spirit” or between “create” and “renew.” In Hebrew poetry these different words mean similar things. Because of the figurative nature in much of apocalyptic literature, we do not interpret the prostitute in Revelation 17:1-16 the same way we interpret Rahab the prostitute in Joshua 2:1. Although all of the Bible is inspired by God and profitable for doctrine, each part must be interpreted using the rules for understanding that kind of literature.

In the next newsletter we will learn how context, language and other issues impact biblical interpretation.



## Books that give children “permission to really feel”

The circumstances in which we live since Covid-19 made its appearance are emotionally challenging for children – to say the least.

Add to that more “normal” challenges like bullying and you have a pressure pot of emotions that needs to be managed.

That is why it is so important for children to have the ability to understand, own, regulate and process their emotions, said dr Beatrix J van Rensburg, a clinical social worker in private practice.

Van Rensburg said, “These skills must be in every child’s emotional tool basket. Especially in times like these. These skills form the core of every child’s emotional development, and that is why it is so important to empower children with the skills concerning their emotions, but also the emotions of others.”

According to Van Rensburg the Lightville series, a series of four books that minister and play-therapist Siegfried Louw recently wrote, will help parents, teachers and therapists talk to children about their emotions.

As play-therapist, author Louw helps children and adults to acknowledge and manage their emotions. “The joy of my work is that I can help others through therapy to be freed from their painful baggage that they are carrying around with them. God gives me the privilege to see how people get back the twinkle in their eye.”

When you ask Louw about the simple language he uses in the Lightville series to address very difficult subjects like death he says, “Children have taught me how to say a lot with only few words.”

Louw says that with these books he wants to give children (and adults) permission to feel what they are feeling. “Yes, we have unwelcome emotions, but to suppress them causes more pain.”

The goal of these books is, for example, to rethink the pain that is caused by losing a loved one. “I want children to understand that their pain means they loved the person that is no longer with them. The missing of the loved one hurts, but it actually tells you something about your love for that person.”

### How can the Lightville books help?

- It gives us new ways to think about the experiences in our lives.
- It makes conversations possible between people of different ages who might not know how to talk to one another about some things that happened.
- It encourages emotional integration.
- It empowers parents to talk to their children about the difficult experiences in life *and* about the exciting possibilities it creates.
- It gives children the chance to explore their own experiences.
- It confirms to children that their experiences are valid.

### The Lightville series

The Lightville series consists of four books that each has a colourful character that children can identify with.

Lisa is the main character in *The stone in Lisa’s chest*. Lisa has to deal with the difficulty of losing her Uncle Hun. The most important message Lisa sends to other children is that love will always be stronger than death.

In *Ben and the dragon* Ben is trying to tame his dragon – anxiety. When Dragon visits Ben, he struggles to breathe and starts sweating. The aim of Ben’s story is to equip someone to talk to a child about anxiety, that will help normalise the topic for them.

In *Spot and the poison* Spot will help children to recognise bullying behaviour and teach them what they can do about it. Spot’s message is that love will always be stronger than our fear for a bully.

In *Sophia and the cave* Josh is dealing with loneliness. This book was written to help children remember that we were not made to live alone in our “caves” and that we can ask people to help us deal with difficult situations in our lives.

Visit [www.lightville.co.za](http://www.lightville.co.za) for more information and to order the books.

# Help children, young and old, with the difficult situations of life

## The stone in Lisa's chest

Help young children think about loss, to talk about it and eventually process it.

## Ben and the dragon

Ben and the dragon is specially written to help children discover more about anxiety and how it works, and what they can do to deal with and tame their dragons.

## Spot and the poison

Spot and the poison help children to recognize bullying behaviour and teach them what to do with a bully's poison.

## Sophia and the cave

Sophia and the cave is specially written to remind children, young and old, to look into the eyes of the people they love. They will help you escape from the loneliness of your hiding place.

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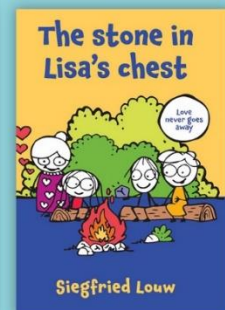
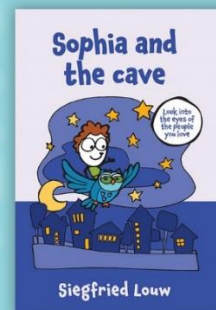
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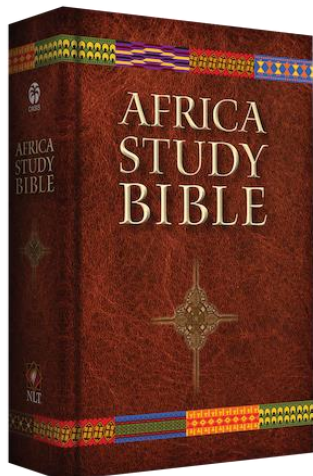
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General Editor: Dr John Jusu



### Key features:

The Africa Study Bible (ASB) was written by 338 contributors from 48 African countries, making it the most ethnically diverse, single-volume, biblical resource to date.

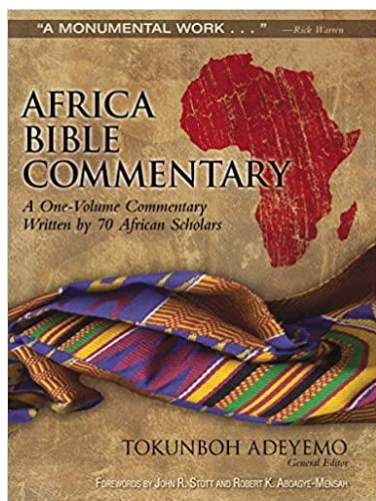
- It was built from the ground up by scholars and pastors in Africa who see the critical need to make Scripture relevant to our everyday lives.
- It contains more than 2,600 features that illuminate the truth of Scripture with a unique, African perspective.
- It is an all-in-one course in biblical content, theology, history, and culture.
- "Touchpoints", "Proverbs" and "Stories" gives an African perspective on the Bible and also show parallels with African wisdom.
- An absolute treasure of 2100 pages

**Price:** R450.00 (excluding delivery costs). A discount for orders of 10 or more can be arranged.

*"The Africa Study Bible is a pacesetter in using the African experience for understanding the Bible. I recommend it highly to those who have sought to understand life and the world from an African perspective".* **Dr Mvume Dandala**, former presiding bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and former head of the All Africa Conference of Churches.

## 2. Africa Bible Commentary (ABC) (Hardcover)

General Editor: Dr Tokunboh Adeyemo



### Key features:

- One-volume Bible commentary produced by African theologians, in Africa, for the needs of African pastors, students and lay leaders—and for the world.
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*"A rich and valuable contribution to biblical knowledge and understanding. I commend it to Christian leaders. not only in Africa but the world over".* **Dr Justice James Ogenyi Ogebe**, High Court Nigeria

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