



## 2023 Minutes of Annual General Meeting

### Agenda

- I. Apologies – Trienie Krugel
- II. Welcome – **Jochen** (10min)
- III. Opening three songs (9min)
- IV. Short exhortation – **Leon** (15min)  
Be thankful!  
Philippians 1: 15 - 18  
“some preach from envy & strife...” ... “only that in every way Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice”  
\* a thankful soul finds comfort in everything.  
\* at AGM we want to be grateful as a church for what the Lord is doing.  
\* “If we aren’t thankful for what we have now, we’ll probably be ungrateful for what the Lord will give us in the future” – we need to cultivate an attitude of thankfulness. Otherwise selfishness takes over in our old age.  
\* Jack Miller: caught up in a spirit of anxiety. What does he do: thanks God for every single thing that he can thank God for. Thereby his faith recovered and he regained a cheerful heart.  
\* it can become hard for us to continue enduring. As our insights grow, so can our temptation to despair. So, frequently look over your church, your family and your life and thank God for everything.  
E.g.: Paul was imprisoned in Philippi. BUT in the middle of the night Paul & Silas sing praises to God (in the midst of their trial).  
Romans 1: 8  
1 Corinthians 1: 4  
Ephesians 1: 16  
Philippians 1: 3  
1 Thessalonians 1: 2  
2 Thessalonians 1: 3 & 2: 13  
2 Tim 1: 3  
Philemon 4  
Gratitude was inter-weaved into Paul’s life!  
We are commanded to do the same!  
Ephesians 5: 4 & 20  
Col 3: 15 – 16 – 17  
1 Thessalonians 5: 18

Hebrews 13: 15

A. Reports on ministries – Leon (20min)

a) Leadership – Feedback: Tiaan

1 Timothy 4: 11

Leon & Jochen set a great example to the church. Thanking for your investment & diligence in being an example.

Titus 2

“Be an example/ a model” = a statue that is consistent. Leon & Jochen, thanks for being statues of consistently caring and guiding.

b) Sunday Service – Feedback: Antonio,

God blesses us with the gift of Truth. It is what we need to hear for our salvation and we are very privileged to hear God’s Truth in our services.

c) Bible hour – Feedback: Riaan, Amor, Annemarie

Riaan – course on counselling. Riaan is grateful for it and finds it helpful to be equipped so that we can help one another.

Amor – Counselling. We will do this course again next year. Amor can’t wait to join in again! We want to learn together to serve one another. Amor benefited so much as things in her life happened to be addressed during our teaching. Thankful for this blessing. The more we can encourage and support one another as a church, the better!

Annemarie – we started off with the Fundamentals course, which has proven to be tremendously helpful in getting to know the Lord and His Word’s teachings better. This was followed up by the above-mentioned, helpful Instruments course. Please join us for the prayer hour next week!

d) Sunday school – Feedback: Jochen

We haven’t had Sunday school since COVID unfortunately.

For Sunday School we need two things:

- a. committed parents - to bring your children & also become involved in teaching.
- b. children who will attend
- c. Jochen wants to start Sunday School soon.
- d. Ask Margaret to guide the teachers of the younger children
- e. Please speak to Jochen if you’d like to become involved!
- f. We are tremendously grateful to Jeff and Margaret for diligently having taught our children since the days when our church still met in Noord School!

e) Music ministry – Feedback: Leon

Jochen thanks Devlin and Angela for their diligence in

ministering to us with music.

- f) Counselling Course – Feedback: **Llewellyn, William, Dalene Llewellyn** – Full of praise for the marriage course!

The counselling course – Llewellyn would love to do it again next year! There's so much information. How God sees sickness versus how the world sees it. Come join us! Currently we're learning in communication – so helpful in everyday relationships. We may perhaps not see the fruits of our efforts now.

2 Peter – make every effort to add to your ..... and to kindness, love. Please come join us! Invest in your family!

William – Counselling is presented by Grace Fellowship Pretoria. We have prescribed reading & Bible verses to get to know. William finds it helpful to learn how psychology isn't based on the Bible. We learn a method, a plan of action to use in counselling. Our fellowship after the evening's course is also always an encouragement to us!

Delene – joined even though Delene has a job, doesn't want to become a counsellor! She joined because she was hungry to learn God's Word & to counsel herself. The course highlights that the theology that I believe, influences how I live.

Delene shared her example of being hijacked 20 years ago. How false teaching added to the torment that Delene endured in dealing with this fear for the next two years.

Other things that Delene has learnt in the course (together with Bible Hour's Instruments course) What true repentance looks like. If you are a believer, change is possible! Do join us! It is for you & you will grow and change! Thanking leadership for presenting these courses.

Jochen – thanks Leon & Marzelle for opening their house to us to present this course. Thanks for the generator, for the moved furniture!

Leon – please participate, get involved in these courses & be blessed!

- g) Ladies ministry – Feedback: **Amor**

Ladies' ministry initially started because Amor would love to get to know the ladies as she had joined our church. We draw strength from one another, encourage one another, learning from one another. Annemarie helped to formalize what we would be doing. Once Annemarie started participating in the counselling course, Dorrie took over teaching us about the women of the Bible.

Sadly our group has shrunk, but we have decided to continue with the ladies' ministry even if nobody else joins.

Please join us, as you can! If you need a lift, please give Amor a call!

- h) Internal and external maintenance – Feedback: **Jochen**  
so thankful for everyone who is involved!  
If 10% of our church's members participate in a workers' day, we would expect 4 participants. Yesterday we were 8 people, what a blessing! Jochen is amazed how one usually doesn't manage to do all the work (& the work grows). We have a challenge with ants. We meet 4 times a year to keep ahead of the maintenance work.  
Jochen would love to hand this responsibility over to somebody else so that Jochen & Leon can focus on prayer and teaching. We need to inspire one another for good works.  
Jochen thanks Christo for cutting our church's grass and lawn, that's really hard labour and it saves us many expenses. It is encouraging to see how God changed Christo when he came to salvation.
- i) Library – Testimonies: **Thokozane**  
He is privileged to read through a book together with William. We chose the specific book by God's providence. It has been a blessing to them. Pick a book & pick a friend! Read together, pray for one another, get to know one another's families better!

#### IV. Two songs of thanksgiving (6min)

##### B. Update on Future Planning (1min) - Leon

- a) MTN tower  
We entered into an agreement with them & wait for them to build the tower. The surveyors have come. This will hopefully happen by the end of 2023, securing R 5 000,00 monthly income for GFS.
- b) GFS constitution requires at least 3 leaders for GFS. To still fulfil this obligation, our leaders will ask an outside minister to read our minutes of meeting and give input – until the Lord provides us with a third leader.
- c) Bible hour will become our prayer hour. Next year we're wanting to present the Instruments course again, as well as the Wednesday evenings' counselling course.
- d) A Fellowship area to be set up outside – we're putting this idea on hold as we currently don't have the finances for this.
- e) Bible hour is now changing into our prayer hour. Leon encourages us to make this a priority. Starting next week Sunday. We will make a plan to care for your children. This prayer hour will be additional to Jochen's Thursday

mornings' (05:00 – 06:00) prayer hour.

C. Finance – Leon update and discussion (20min)

- a. Leon explains the “financials” document.
- b. In summary, for the past 7 years (when Leon joined GFS):
  - i. In May 2016 the GFS expenses were low enough that we could build up savings (we only paid visiting pastors, didn't have an employed pastor before Leon came).
  - ii. 2016 – April 2021 we made a net loss of R 310 000,00 (average of about R 5 000,00 per month).
  - iii. Pastor's salary is the only expense where we can cut costs. At the moment our income is too little to sustain our expenses.
  - iv. May 2021 – August 2022 we did have better income through people whom the Lord sent to our church. There were some changes, these people unfortunately left.
  - v. Since they left, we have only been functioning on a deficit.
- c. Short term solution: we need to cut pastor's salary by about R 10 000,00 per month. We have to do that. Each one of us is already giving as much as we can.

How:

  - i. Leon needs to get an income from somewhere else.
  - ii. Church can, realistically, only offer an income of R 22 000,00.
  - iii. Leon requests to gain a practical skill to make money & supplement his income. So that we can make this change before we have too little money in our bank account (in about November 2023).
  - iv. In the tech industry, remote work is becoming more common. Leon has bought 2 courses in Data Science because it can be done remotely. Also, Leon knows someone in his family who has made this move and has made it work.
  - v. Leon has selected Mondays and Tuesdays to do these courses & the rest of the week is dedicated to GFS responsibilities.
- d. Long term solution: We want to draw more people to our church. We are unique and have something to offer, namely the teaching of the truth of God's Word. We as a church need to grow in inviting people to our church. This will happen over time as we are equipped and grow in maturity.
  - i. In the past 5 years we haven't reached a single family that stays in Vaalpark. We are not as effective as we need to in drawing people to our church.
  - ii. We would like to minister to people who are already in our lives, and thereby draw them to our church. We

need to please take advantage of the courses of our church, so that we can become an effective church, and can become equipped to invite other people.

- iii. Llewellyn points out how important it is that we invite and care for new visitors. Leon adds that we need to do the same effort in caring for members of our church, not only the new people.

D. Questions and comments from the members – **Leaders** (15min)

a. Delene –

- i. could we perhaps put up signage on the roads to show the way to our church?
- ii. Could we perhaps send out a regular WhatsApp status that we can post and send to our contacts, inviting people to our services?
- iii. Leon responds that we have someone who is currently working on keeping our Facebook page updated. Our sermons will soon be posted on You tube.

- b. Marzelle requested that we serve tea & coffee on a self-service basis again. Annemarie agreed that this can be done. *[post-meeting note: Annemarie will inform Robyn of this suggestion because Robyn is responsible for the tea duty. Robyn will make the final decision]*

Also, Leon requested that we resume serving cookies if we're able to.

- c. Llewellyn suggests we again organize a hike as a group. Good idea! It's a great opportunity to invite people to.

- d. We're soon going to have fellowship braais again. Even in the Eco park. Also a great opportunity to invite new people to.

- e. Thokozane says it is his prayer that our financial temporary solution would be truly temporary and by God's grace be resolved by end of 2023.

Thokozane would love to start a youth ministry. This would serve the children as well as draw their families to church.

- f. Jochen thanks Annemarie fir her administrative ministry to GFS.

E. Prayer of Thanksgiving – **Ricardo** (1min)

V. Closing song x 1 and benediction (3min)