

THE PROVERBS 32 WOMAN



Dan Nell

The Proverbs 32 Woman

This book is something you will love to read!

King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. (1st Kings 11:3)

He spoke 3000 Proverbs and wrote 1005 songs. (1st Kings 4:32)

Solomon wrote to one of his wives in Proverbs 31:29:

"Many daughters have behaved well, but you excel them all."

Solomon ended with Proverbs 31.

I had one wife with whom I was married for 65 years, and she excel them all. It is now my privilege to add Proverbs 32, when I tell you the story of Helen Nell.

The Contents of this Story:

- **The Life of a Remarkable Woman, Helene Nell.**
- **Also read our "Love Letters" before our wedding.**
- **Our Family is shared in a few photos.**
- **Also decide to value your own family more.**

Up until Helene's death, I had already written 1700 Devotions that reached several thousand people.

Every hundred Devotions are printed in a book.

The last two Devotionals I share with you. I wrote them before Helene's funeral on Friday the 9th of August 2024.

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The Proverbs 32 Woman

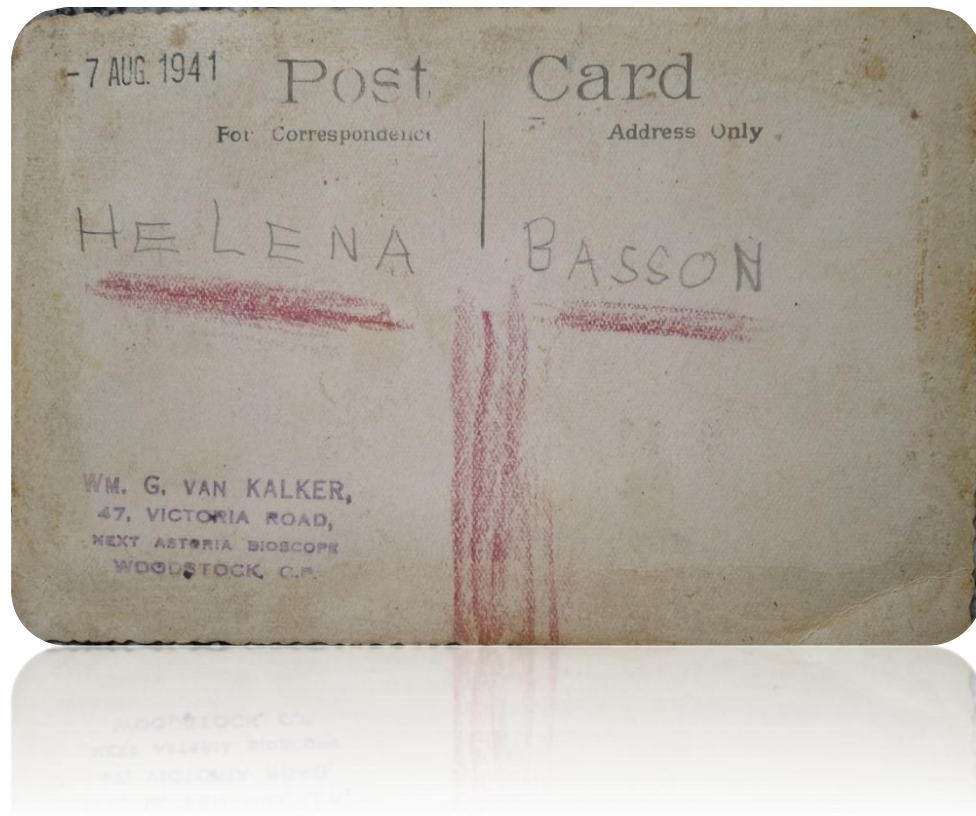
Helena Kotze Nell (née Basson) is truly a Proverbs 32 woman!

Let me tell you something about her life.

Helen was born in Hazendal near Cape Town, on the 18th of November 1940 and was the youngest daughter of five. Her father was Tobias Basson, and her mother was Anna Kotze. He was born in Clanwilliam, and she was born in Lambert's Bay.



**This photo was taken on the 7th August 1941.
At the back of the Postcard Helen wrote her name.
Find the Postcard on the next page.**

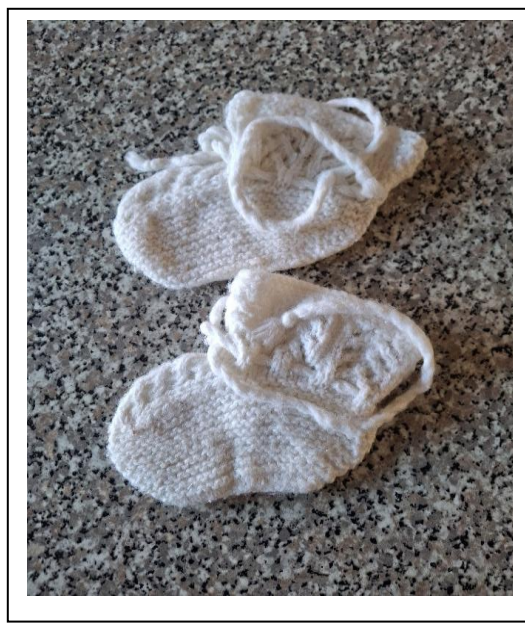
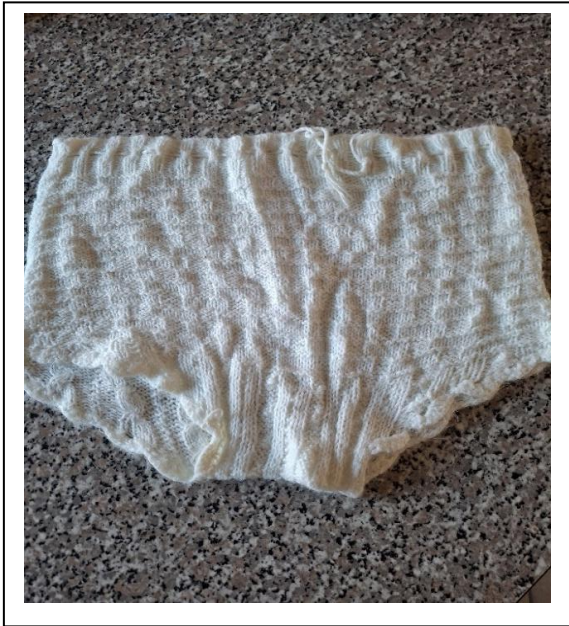
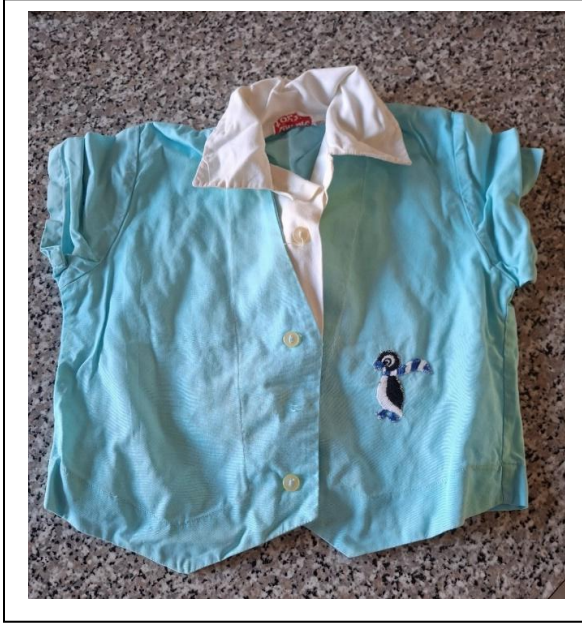


Let me tell you of Helen's baby clothes that I knew nothing about.

Her baby clothes must have been something very important to Helen – and why she never showed them to me, I do not know – I assume it was something private to her. These baby clothes belonged to Helene, when she was not more than one year old, and I never knew about this.

The beautiful brown leather shoes could have been when she was about three years old. For me, of course, it is now something very precious that I will preserve. I decided to take photo of them one by one so you can appreciate them too, that is why I am adding these photos in this book.







These were the shoes of Helen when she was about three years old.



Helen aged 3 years.

Helen completed her school career at Jim Fouche School, Bloemfontein, as the deputy head girl. I met her on the 4th of May 1958 when she was only 17 years. She was in matric and part of the Youth Choir of the AFM Bloemfontein West congregation. There were forty-eight choir members. That is where I saw her for the first time. She was the beautiful long-legged girl on the left side of the choir who immediately caught my attention, and right there something happened in my heart. That evening, the youth choir welcomed me as their youth pastor of their church. My previous congregation was in Klerksdorp, where I was the youth pastor for nine months. In those days, our church's headquarters sent the young pastors where they were needed. Sometimes, they gave us just a few days to report at your new congregation.

In Bloemfontein, were many young people I had to serve, but I made sure to make extra "home visits" at 16 Montgomery Street in Wilgehof, Bloemfontein. That was Helen's address. After my afternoon visits, I stopped at their house where her mother always made me a "lamb chop". Because Helene was in matric (12th grade) I did not stay longer than about 30 minutes.

It is written in Isa. 28:16: *"Whoever believes will not act hastily."* I believe, but I can act quickly. That is why I did not wait but asked her to marry me at the end of her matric year. I had to do this because many young men were standing in a row, to make Helene their own.

The night I asked her to get engaged with me, her question was if I gave the Lord's tithe? My answer was that I am a pastor. Then she said that she did not ask me if I was a pastor, but if I was tithing, because she did not want to marry a thief! Thank God, that I could answer her question.

After that, she told me that she would never have children, because a doctor told her that during a consultation, when she was in 10th grade. She asked me first to go and pray about this. I went to pray and the next night I was able to answer her that I would love to marry her because I loved her, even though she could never have children.

**The good news is! There were two of us when we got married.
Today we are twenty-six! It seems to me the doctor wasn't right then.**

I'll never forget Helen's words she once said to me:

"One thing I learned early on and that is to protect my body. My mother explained that if you should drive a nail into a tree's trunk, the tree would recover if you took the nail out, but the mark would remain there. So, it is with the character of man. At 15, I was already singing in the choir and coaching a children's choir, while playing the piano in the congregation. I always loved singing and music. Even today, I still really enjoy it."

We got engaged on the evening of the 4th of December 1958 after she had written her last matric subject that morning!



**This photo was taken the following day, after we were engaged.
It is a pity that we do not stay young!
This velvet dress was her favoured.**



**Helen was only eighteen years and five months old when we married.
Our first son Daniel was born in the first year after our wedding.
To think she was a mother and pastor's wife at nineteen.
The Lord surely gave her extra grace!**

Just after our wedding, we enjoyed our honeymoon at the Royal Natal National Park in the Drakensberg, for a week. Unfortunately, our Volkswagen Beetle's "bearings" gave problems on the way to our dream vacation. I had to drive this "broken" car until we arrived in Vryheid, even though the engine was making a lot of noise.

From the first Sunday in Vryheid congregation, she moved in behind the organ, without ever having played an organ before. She could play the piano though. I did not know that she had never sat behind an organ, and neither the congregation. Helene behaved well, for God was always her Helper!

**Why do I describe Helene as a "Proverbs 32 woman"?
Because I am adding one more chapter after King Solomon's Proverbs 31.**

What does the word "Proverbs" mean to us?

"The Proverbs of Solomon are to equip the reader with wisdom and insight, so that a meaningful life may be lived. Wisdom is a life skill that is necessary for real life, a life in accordance with God's will, and in which respect for one's fellow man occupies a central place. Of this, the woman in Proverbs 31 is a telling example. Being in awe of the Lord and doing what pleases Him is the essence of a meaningful and blessed life. Unjust actions, especially toward the poor and oppressed, are foolishness and lead to death."

**The sentence I have underlined here is certainly applicable,
on Helen's life.**

See with me what Solomon wrote in Proverbs 31:10. *"Who will find a virtuous wife? Because her value is far above corals."* The word "virtuous" is used when it is someone who tends to do good.

**Helen was a virtuous woman, because her whole life was to do good.
I know this because I was married to her for 65 years!**

In Proverbs 31:11, we read: *"The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will not lack gain."* I could always trust Helen with my check book. It wasn't hard for me to sign a few checks in advance because she wasn't just spending money. Many times, she brought my check book back, without buying anything! Even when I later gave her signing rights to my checks, it was the same.

Even though she was an attractive woman, I was never jealous of her, nor was I afraid that another man would win her. I remember how a young man in our congregation (when she was in her twenties herself) went out of his way to win her love for him. Her answer to him was, *"If only you and I had been alone on an island, I wouldn't have cared about you."* With this decisiveness, she totally deposed him, and he treated her with great respect after this incident, until the day of his death.

Proverbs 31:12: *"She does good to him, and not bad, all the days of her life."*

Her beautiful virtues were always outstanding. One friend of hers, of more than 40 years, said that Helen was the one who kept her friends on the "narrow road".

Proverbs 31:13,14: *"She cares for wool and flax, and she works with willing hands. She is like a merchant's ships—from afar she brings in her bread."* I can say with great gratitude that Helen always had "willing hands."

Proverbs 31:20: *"She stretches out her palm toward the afflicted one, and she stretches out her hands toward the needy one."* Wherever Helen could, she cared for people in need. She never had a "closed hand."

Proverbs 31:23: *"Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits with the elders of the city."* Through her, I reached greater heights and became known to the public.

Proverbs 31:25: *"Strength and honour are her garments, and she laughs at the day coming."* Helen was a strong woman in every way. When people offered me tea, my words to them were that I would like to have weak tea, because I have a strong wife. Helen was a woman that start her day with a smile in her heart and on her face.

Proverbs 31:26: *"Her mouth she opens with wisdom, and kindly instruction is on her way."* Helen was always concerned that I should count my words. I am someone who can be impulsive, it was wise advice she gave. Isaiah 28:16 says: *"He that believes will not be in a hurry."* I believe, but I'm in a hurry.

Proverbs 31:27: *"She watches over the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness."* This says it all concerning Helen.

Proverbs 31:28: *"Her sons act and call her happy, and so does her husband, and he commends her."* Her four sons always did their work with dedication, and I, as her husband, had the privilege of commending her.

Proverbs 31:29: *"Many daughters have behaved well, but you excel them all."* This is not hard to say about Helen – because it is so true of her.

I honour her for the tremendous contribution she made with her "clothing business" referring to the clothes she bought in Bangkok and sold from our home. Too bad we didn't keep record of this because it helped us especially after we retired. This income paid for the most of our furniture in Jeffreys Bay, laid the carpets and paid for all the electric fittings we needed. She always provided me with the most beautiful and best clothes and often paid my golf fees!

She could always work well with finances. When we and our sons went on vacation, I liked to keep the little vacation money we had. It enjoyed giving the boys pocket money

now and then. But when the pocket money ran out, I asked her to take over the finances. We were then in the position to enjoy the holiday and could pay for sufficient fuel to get home. Helen was a truly virtuous woman.

Do you understand why Helen is the Proverbs 32 woman?

What more can I say about Helen than what Solomon said of the Proverbs 31 woman? For the past more than 65 years in our marriage, she has been the ideal wife.

- She could not always understand electronic things (like a computer) but she had a sharp mind and more importantly, she was always sharp in her spirit.
- She started each day with God's Word and prayer.
- Every morning, I was her "only member" who listened to the Devotional she read as well as the comments that followed.

Helen's "*Life Application Bible*" contributed greatly to the commentary of the part of the Bible she read to me in the mornings. After that, I had the privilege of praying for our sons, their wives, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren. Then she also added who she wanted to pray for. We also prayed for the rest of the family, as well as our neighbours, our pastors and their families, our town and all those who the Lord wanted us to pray for. After that, she got her tea in bed, and I got my tea and my rusk.

We thank the Lord for our four sons, with their wives, as well as nine grandchildren (and at the time of writing this book, four of them were already married) plus the three great-grandchildren. What a privilege!

I never got tired of telling her every day that I loved her!

Our power was in Matt. 18:19 *"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."*

We weren't "one," but we were in a "unity."

Our ministry took us to different places.

I will never know how it would have been to stay thirty or forty years in one place. My personality was that I always wanted to have a new challenge.

Today, when I look over the years I realise it put a lot of strain on Helen. Thank God for her attitude and steadfast character. She was always positive in her calling as my wife and mother of our children.

The towns and cities where we stayed were the following:
Vryheid; Frankfort; Port Elizabeth; Bellville; Heidelberg (Cape)
Kroonstad; Johannesburg; Bloemfontein; Rustenburg; Port Alfred
and Jeffrey Bay.

Vryheid, was our first assembly. Helen was 18 and I was 21. Our first son, Daniel, was born in Vryheid, Natal.

Then we moved to Frankfort. We were their first pastors. This is where Nico our second son was born.

After that we moved to Port Elizabeth North, where Leon, our third son was born. Here we built our first church.

From Port Elizabeth we moved to Bellville in Cape Town. Where I was part of building a manse.

Heidelberg in the Western Cape was our next home town. There we became Missionaries for more than four years. We had sixteen Coloured churches to attend to and also took care of the local church in Heidelberg. The large area we had to cover was from Albertinia to Grabouw and then up to Touwsriver. This time was of the happiest time of our lives. Our youngest son, Gideon was born while we were in Heidelberg.

Our next move was to the Northern Freestate as their evangelist. We decided to live in Kroonstad. Here I also built a church for the local assembly.

After that we moved to Johannesburg. The name of the church was called "Pinksteroord" (Place of Pentecost) I was chosen as chairman of Johannesburg Region.

Following Johannesburg we moved to Bloemfontein. The name of the church was Fichart Park – today known as Doxa Deo. Here I also became the chairman of the Region and Helene the chairman of the Dorcas Committee. (This was the name of our women's ministry in the AFM church.)

The next town was Rustenburg where we had wonderful highs in the kingdom of God. Then when I became 53 I decided to leave the normal ministry in a local church and equip the leaders countrywide in their ministries, according to Eph. 4:11,12.

We moved to our holiday house in Port Alfred. From there I reached out to many churches in our country. Our youngest son Gideon was the in grade eleven.

Finally we moved to Jeffreys Bay. This was in 1997. At the time I was writing this book in December 2024 we have been living in Jeffreys Bay for twenty eight years. J-Bay is a lovely town with caring people and it is known as the "Surfers Paradise" all over the world.

In closing I want to say that Helen and I went on mission trips to Ukraine for the last twenty eight years. In Ukraine God used Helen in a wonderful way to minister to the woman.

Vryheid – Our first church.

Our church in Vryheid (South Africa) had 93 members and only a few could afford a car. Sometimes there weren't even five cars in front of the church while the church was full! Members had to travel very far, even from Louwsburg in Natal.

Our first son, Daniel was born in Vryheid on January 25, 1960. Beyond all expectations, Helen immediately became pregnant.

Our son, Daniel, was born within a year after our marriage. I will never forget the moment when the matron of the hospital placed him in my arms, I immediately removed the blankets and wanted to see if my son was well-formed.

Daniel was only four hours old, but I ran down the hallway to Helen's room with the matron on my heels, who wanted to take the baby from me. When I came to Helen, I burst into tears out of gratitude to the Lord and told her why I had acted that way. As a boy, when I was naughty, the devil told me on several occasions that one day when I got married, my first son would be crippled. The Lord would apparently punish me for all my sins! The devil is a liar! That's what he is. Never believe him. I believed him for many years and thereby put a lot of stress on myself.

Thank God, we are new creatures!

We read in 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; The old things have passed, look, it's all become new."* The Living Bible's translation reads as follows: *"For if anyone belongs to Christ, he has become a new man."* So don't believe anything the devil says!

After Daniel's birth, I was free from any judgment. Do not allow the devil to accuse you. Read Rom. 8:1: *"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* If the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future in eternal hellfire!

Because we were both young (Helen was only 19 years, and I was 22), the adjustment to marriage, and in the congregation as pastor, was difficult. Hard times awaited us, mainly because there were insufficient finances.

Cardboard in my shoes.

In Vryheid, there was no money for me to buy new shoes. My only pair of shoes I had holes in the soles. My problem was when I got to the pulpit. In those days, the custom was to kneel on the pulpit when you pray. Kneeling, the congregation would see my broken shoes. Therefore, I pressed cardboard into the shoes to close the holes in the soles. How can I forget the day when a brother showed up at our door with the most beautiful pair of new shoes, quite my size!

Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 4:8: *"We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed, we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..."*

We should stand up every time, when we get struck down!

Moving to Frankfort.

We left on Monday, January 9, 1961, for our new home in Frankfort. I noticed that there wasn't enough petrol in our Volkswagen Beetle. But with "one-and-six" (about 15 cents) in my pocket, I was too embarrassed to borrow money from anyone. When we were saying goodbye, Peter (that's the Youth Leader) asked me if he could borrow our car quickly to go to town, (he himself only had a bicycle) When he came back, our car was full of petrol!

Embarrassed, I asked him why he did it. His answer was that he saw that our fuel was low. Yes, somewhere along the road we would have stopped, and I only had the "one-and-six" in my pocket. Truly, God is our provider.

We will never forget the experience when most of Frankfort Parish, in seven cars, met us along the way. It was a gravel road, and we drove in front, with all the other cars behind us. Helen asked me why I'm driving so slowly. My answer was, *"I don't want to put dust on our congregation's cars."*

It was also the same year that the British Pound switched to Rand. £1 was worth R2. It was on the 31st of May 1961, when South Africa became a Republic.

The "rectory" was Uncle van Sandwyk's house. He was the head elder of the church. When we arrived at the "rectory" our furniture was neatly unpacked, and there were groceries on our kitchen table for more than four months. In the nice cold pantry hung half a sheep, because we didn't have a fridge yet.

Coert van Sandwyk, who was the treasurer at the time, promised that as long as we were their pastor, we would not have to buy meat. The congregation kept their word all the time we were in Frankfort!

After the members had served us tea and food, they left, and I was able to eat these delicious toffees that they had given us. Someone heard that I love toffee so much. I found a large pack of these toffees on the kitchen table. It was the first time in a few weeks that I had been able to eat sweets again. Last month, in the previous congregation, I received no salary. The money they had was needed to pay for the transportation of their new pastor's furniture!

Because Frankfort congregation had only 35 members in total, some members promised a double tithe to make sure they could afford a pastor.

Port Elizabeth North.

As a family, we were received by Port Elizabeth North Parish in October 1963. The old church, across from the Springbok Hotel in Sydwell, was in the market to be sold and the sale went through within the first few weeks of our arrival.

After our old church was sold, we held our Sunday services in two different halls for more than two years. One place was the "Daybreak" hall in Sydwell and the other was "Bon Accord" hall in North End – both in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Many churches in the city at that time believed that we would die as a congregation because we were without a church building. Yet God kept us together and help us to build a church.



**This is the AFM Port Elizabeth North.
We inaugurated it in 1966.**

We became Missionaries.

The day we accepted the call as missionaries of the Langeberg District, in Western Cape, South Africa, in January 1971, we did not realize what the Lord had in His plan for us.

The Langeberg District stretched from Grabouw, along the coast to Albertinia and then up to Laingsburg, Touws River, De Doorns, Worcester, Ceres, and Wolseley. Altogether there were sixteen congregations we had to serve. Most were poor people but very sincere and devoted Christians.

For the first time in my life, I met people who raised the dead in the name of the Jesus. And the most amazing thing was that I personally met those who were resurrected as well!

I will never forget when we arrived in the deserted town of Heidelberg at 22h00. The town was already "asleep" when we got to the old house we rented. Everything in the house was pitch dark because there was no electrical power.

For the first night, Helen and I with our three sons slept in the living room on the floor as our furniture would only arrive the next day. Large spiders ran over us freely that night, probably also because they were terrified of the new "invaders" – fortunately we survived the night.

In the next four years, we fell in love with Heidelberg and its people, as well as with the whole district. Those were the days when you could fill up your Volkswagen Kombi's tank with fuel for R5 and drive to Cape Town. The time in Heidelberg was one of our best times in the ministry.

Building Our First Home

We rented a house in Heidelberg, Cape, but realized that we had to trust the Lord to build our own home. But how can you build if you don't have a plot to build on and no money to start with?

There is only one answer and that is: Trust the Lord!

My salary in 1972 was R800 per month. There was a beautiful plot across the street that we asked of the Lord. We were able to buy it for R1080. We signed the sale bill and before we had to pay, the Lord provided when Helen's father came to visit from Bellville and gave us R1000, and said "You can pay the R80?"

I wanted to ask my Bank manager to approve an overdraft of R1000, so that we could start building our house! Seeing his friendly attitude, I decided right there to ask for more and he gave me an R4000 overdraft.

With the purchasing of the roofing material, I was busy with church meetings in Cape Town. I stayed with someone who worked at a firm that manufactured roof materials. Through him, the Lord not only provided a large discount, but the driver (without knowing me) decided to deliver all this material we needed to our home in Heidelberg free of charge!

In addition, God blessed us when we had to buy our carpets. The place where we were buying our carpets made a bid mistake with their quote. But then during a telephone conversation the manager (who was also a Christian) said: "I'm going to do something that isn't normally done in business; I'm going to stick with the quote".

I became an Evangelist in the Northern Free State.

The Northern Free State called me as evangelist, and we moved to Kroonstad. No one received us because it was the beginning of January 1975, and most were away on vacation. Even the local pastor and his family were on leave.

Our furniture was still on its way, and no one could tell us where our new residence was. As a result, I rented a chalet in a caravan park along the False River that flows through Kroonstad. Very uncertain, I sat down by the river and in tears doubted my calling as an evangelist. My eldest son asked me that night to explain to the whole family how the Lord had guided me step by step to accept the call. After I had done that, his answer was: *"But, dad, then you must not be unsure, the Lord has clearly led you, and we accept that."* It is sometimes good that as a leader you can also feel weak in front of those who are dear to you. Thank the Lord for encouraging you when it matters to you.

Eventually, the furniture arrived, and we were able to move into our new home. The rest of our stay in Kroonstad was wonderful and with the many tent campaigns through the region I saw some of the most beautiful healings and salvations.

I later learned that there is a greater anointing when you go than when you stay. Every time I went to another town, there was a special movement of the Holy Spirit. When people asked me what I did as an evangelist, my answer was this: *"I rest, I pray, and I preach."*

It is not the same when you're a pastor of a congregation. Because the administration of a congregation plus so many other things fills a pastor's program. Today, I have more understanding and appreciation for pastors and especially their wives and realize that they need more prayer in the work they do.

The Lord teaches us "His order concerning a family."

Up to this point, I had personally experienced a special blessing and anointing from the Lord on my ministry. Many healings took place, and many souls have found Jesus Christ as their Lord. Little did I know what the new road was that the Lord had planned for us as a family going forward. At that time, we had been in full-time ministry for 16 years.

At that time, the region's chairman, Past. Pieter Coertzen invited an American speaker named Jim Boswell, to come and minister to the pastors and their wives of our Region, for a week. It was especially about the pastor and his family. He taught us that there is an order that the Lord has instituted, namely that God always comes first in our lives, then the pastor's wife, then his family and after that the church. We used to always believe that *"the work of the Lord is first and foremost the church"*. Now we have come to understand that your wife and children are certainly also *"the work of the Lord"*.

Everything went back to "normal" until a week later when my wife made an appointment with me to see me the following Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. She wrote it down in my diary so I wouldn't forget. In addition, she asked for enough time for this *"interview"*.

That Wednesday arrived (I completely forgot about this appointment, but she didn't) and we both went into my study where she locked the door behind us and put the key in her apron's pocket. Moreover, she pulled out my phone at its connection point and explained that there were two other phones that could ring in the house. It was 14h00 and we stayed in my study until 17h00 that afternoon!

Most of the talking that was done came from Helen. She began by saying that she loved me and that it has always been a joy to be able to stand with me in the work of the Lord. She also said that she knew the Lord had His hand on me. The Lord sent a speaker from America to come and talk to us about God's order in the home, but little has changed. She complained that I would run every time "*the congregation*" needed me but I didn't see the need of our children and even of her.

Everything that had been said brought me to a halt. My first reaction was to resign as pastor, and I wanted to call my head office and inform them that I want to resign. Her response was that I should not do this but respond to the message that the Lord has sent us through Past. Jim Boswell.

We got down on our knees in the study. I first confessed before the Lord that I had failed my family and then promised that I would restore God's order in our home, as well as in the church.

On Sunday morning, my sermon was in the form of the above testimony. There were a lot of tears in the church as the Lord worked with every family. I also announced that from now on we as a congregation will have a "A family evening" on Tuesday evenings from 18h00. Each family had to be together as a family at that time. Games could be played and parents had to tell what they did when they were kids, etc. etc. Just enjoying each other.

These family evenings brought balance to our homes, and I know of numerous families who were restored because of these family evenings. For the rest of my ministry thereafter, it was an institution in all the congregations where we later ministered.

How we "Sowed" Furniture

I shared with our congregation Acts 4:32, namely: *"And the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and not one said that any of his possessions were his own, but they had all things in common."*

To encourage our congregation to have a caring heart for each other, I wanted to set an example and made this statement from the pulpit, after preaching from Acts 4:32, saying: *"Everything in our house also belongs to you."*

The next evening at six o'clock, two members came to our house in a pickup truck. It was a father with his son. This son has been divorced due to a drinking problem he had about got back with his wife. They had to start their lives from scratch again and had little furniture.

They ask me if I meant what I said from the pulpit? I confirmed that it was so and repeated "brother what is in my house also belongs to you". (As I said this, my head asked me if I had gone completely crazy now?)

Without thinking twice, they went into our house and carried out beds as well as cupboards, while our sons and I helped. I can still remember how they loaded the truck, and we helped them to fasten everything with ropes. They left there and we were stunned by what had just happened.

Fortunately, my two younger sons, who were still in the house at the time, made no comment. My sons had to sleep on the ground for four months and try to hang their clothes everywhere. As you can imagine, this wasn't an easy time in our home.

When my actions were later questioned, my eldest son, who was also in church that morning, came to my rescue and brought peace to the house by saying: *"Dad shared the Word with the congregation and never realized that the Lord would use us as an example; let us accept all things and trust the Lord further".*

I understand today that what you sow you will reap, because after four months we had three times as much furniture as we gave away. On the contrary, we later had so much furniture that we could provide for two more houses. This is something that has happened in practice. Today I am very careful when I "sow furniture" because what will I do with all the furniture I will reap?

I SHARE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOU.

Helen bought me a milkshake at one of the first Roadhouses opened in our country.

It was at the beginning of Bloemfontein's Northern Entrance. She paid for both of our milkshakes. In any case, her pocket money was more than my salary! Her life was to give where she had the opportunity to do so. She was never someone with a closed hand. She believed Gal. 6:9 *"And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we shall reap (receive) if we do not slacken."*



An organ that was used in Missionary work.

Helene and I were asked to go to a Missionary couple in Ukraine for three months and needed another R2500 to pay for our plane tickets.

We then decided to sell our Hammond organ for R5000 and placed an advertisement in a newspaper. The only enquiry came from Johan in Roodepoort, but he only offered us R2500. I accepted this because it is what we still needed for our Mission Trip to Ukraine.

Johan then asked me why I accepted his offer. I told him that we were going to do Mission work in Ukraine, and we were still needed this amount. He gave me the money and then left to get transport for the organ. Immediately I went to the bank to deposit the money into our account.

Johan phoned me while I was in the bank and asked me to meet him urgently at my house. There he told me that the Lord spoke to him in his car and told him to give me R5000 for the organ as my original price was. He then added: *"Pastor, when you come back, give me an account detail of your visit. Also find out if there's a pastor who' needs finances who I can support."*

I can testify that, because of this organ, that Russian Mission couple has been receiving R2000 per month from Johan and his family for 28 years. And for this God gets all the credit!

We moved to Jeffreys Bay.

When I became sixty, I decided to go on a "second retirement." We prayed for a year to make sure where we wanted to live. Nico, our second son, recommended Jeffreys Bay because he was the pastor there. He would then help me to train leaders in the Eastern Cape according to Eph. 4:11,12.

On the 9th of January 1997 we moved to Jeffreys Bay with a small pension of R2500 per month. The first few months we rented a holiday home from a minister at R950 per month. I'm still amazed when I think that this was the amount for our three-bedroom rental house.

I still remember that in the first month I preached a lot in the Eastern Cape. At the end of that month, we were able to bank R1500, while our fuel for that month was also R1500. Praise the Lord, as always, the Lord has faithfully provided for us. Paul made it so clear in Phil. 4:19 *"And my God will fulfill every need of you according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus"*

Then we talked about building our house, with no certainty of income. I'll tell you how it happened.

Our son Nico asked me to cancel one of my life's policies and took me to his broker. There I found out that I could get R93,000. Luckily, I still had a reasonable life policy that could provide protection for my wife.

Remember that if you ever get to a place where you must make a drastic decision (like us) you would be wise in your actions. You never decide if you don't have peace in your heart.

With R60,000, we bought a beautiful plot (with a fantastic sea view) and in faith we drew up plans for our "dream house". Not long after this, Helene and I went to Ukraine to do Mission work. It was for three months.

But can you believe, with the return Nico had already found a builder and they were busy building our house!

On the night we returned from Ukraine, all the walls were built, and they had to put up the roof, the next week. Of course, there was a lot of tension between us and him. But he said: *"Dad and Mom, I continued with the construction because I knew you would take a long time to decide whether you were going to build or not. I have since taken out a second mortgage on my house to build thus far."*

At this point, we didn't even know if any bank would help us with a loan, and then the further question was, would we be able to pay for the installments.

More and more I understand Heb. 11:1 that faith is a firm belief in the things we hope for, a proof of the things we do not see.

The Lord provided further and after about nine years our house was paid for (by people who "sowed" in us) Today we live very happily in Jeffreys Bay.

"Christ for the Nations" Bible School in South Africa

A phone call in October 2000 from *"Christ for the Nations Institute."* (Dallas) ushered in a new season in our lives. We were invited as students to understand the vision of this special Bible school and then start something similar in South Africa. Without thinking twice, we accepted it.

We had to pay for our plane tickets, while the Bible School gave us a "scholarship" that would pay for our studies and accommodation. Being a student again after 43 years of full-time ministry was quite a challenge.

Helen and I needed R18,000 for our plane tickets, and the payment date was the 15th of December 2000. We were due to leave at the beginning of January 2001.

Let me tell you how the Lord provided for these plane tickets — it's wonderful to talk about them!

Gideon (our youngest son) and Dedrei were visiting from London, and it was the 15th of Dec. 2000. That morning, I felt the Lord's Spirit inspire me to act in faith. I asked Helen for her credit card and with mine I went to our travel agent in town. My wife and youngest son asked me to act wisely. My plan was to pay for our tickets on a budget.

When I arrived at the travel agent, I received a call. Someone asked me what I'm doing at that moment. I explained that I was in the process of buying our tickets to America. The person on the phone said: *"I've been wondering for the past six weeks what I can do for you. What does a ticket cost?"*

I replied to which he asked for my bank account details and promised to deposit the amount right away.

Because the travel agent was busy, I sat down at a table on the porch of a shop and watched the many visitors in our town, while thanking God for the R9000 He had provided to buy one ticket to America.

The next moment my phone rang again and it was a brother who was on vacation with his family in our town. He listened to me the night before preaching in our congregation and telling them what we were going to do in America. His words were, *"Pastor, I'd like to pay one ticket."* These two calls were about thirty minutes apart.

I immediately went to see him, and he gave me his check. At the bank, I asked a consultant to help me so that the money could still be available in my account that day. I couldn't wait seven days for approval on the check. With her signature on the check, I went to the teller with great joy and after that I was able to buy both our tickets "in cash". Is that not a wonderful testimony of God's provision?

"Christ for the Nations Bible School" in Jeffreys Bay was number 48 linked to "Christ for the Nations Institute" in Dallas, which is one of the largest Bible schools in existence.

Being a full-time student at CFNI again, after I had already been in ministry for 43 years, and after Helen and I had been married for 41 years, we had to adjust and become students again.

We graduated with an "honorary" Theological Diploma in May 2001 and were anointed in front of the faculty and 1200 students to be able to start the Bible School in Jeffreys Bay.

We went to Dallas to "catch" the vision, but actually the vision "caught us."

I hired a secretary for R2000 p/m and gave myself a salary of R3000 p/m as head of this Bible school. We had to rent a lecture hall and offices and also obtain the necessary furniture for our offices. No church and not even CFNI supported us with finances. We had to trust God for our needs.

The first year there were 26 students, and it grew to over forty for the second year. The course was offered with a Certificate for the first year and a Diploma for the second year. How we made it financially remains simply a miracle. Every year we broke even financially.

With thankfulness we look back and thank God that we could equip leaders in their ministry. Our students planted great churches and we know that God uses them in His Kingdom!

First Bible Shool students in Januarie 2002



First "Graduation" 2004

In front is Helen, then me and Past. Neels Prinsloo



On the 9th of August 2024, it was Helen's funeral in Oase Church. This is our congregation, in Jeffreys Bay, where we have been members together for 27 years. For us as a family, her funeral was a "Celebration Service"!

What happened to Helen since April and July 2024?

On the 24th of April 2024, just a day before our 65th wedding anniversary Helen collapsed in the bathroom at half past nine that evening. I had to call two neighbours to come and help me, so that we could get her on the bed. Never could I have imagined that four months of pain and illness would follow. After this, Helen was in four hospitals, and there were four specialists involved. She couldn't walk, barely ate, and experienced a lot of pain in her back. Only the third specialist discovered that she had an abscess in her stomach, which fortunately was not malignant. After the impurity was drained from her stomach, she recovered within a day. We were so grateful. Around her bed, with our sons and their wives. We were thankful to God for what He did for her.



After this, she unfortunately suffered setbacks. On the 24th of July 2024, she once again went for a Scan, because the next day she would be transferred to Aurora, which is a rehabilitation hospital in Port Elizabeth, for the second time. Unfortunately, her heart stopped while they were doing the Scan. Personally I think the stress was too much for her!

The necessary heart shocks were administered, which allowed her to live for a few more hours. Helen died late that afternoon and was relieved from all the pain and struggle of this life, to dwell eternally with Christ!

I buried many people in my life and felt that I could give answers, to comfort them. But for myself, I don't have answers. Death is a reality but also an unreality. Yet we must accept it and move on with our lives. For weeks, I cried a lot. It helps to heal you in your spirit. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. (John 11:35)

For me, Helen's funeral was the first one to organize. Luckily, Sally, my daughter-in-law, was there to help me with this. I'm so grateful for her. Nico, my second son, went with me to Avbob Funerals to make the funeral arrangements. Their office is about ten kilometres from Jeffreys Bay and in Humansdorp.

Avbob gave me R17000 discount on Helene's funeral, while I only had a Policy with them of R50. I took it out 50 years before but never paid anything more on this Policy.

Furthermore, I was told that I would receive R3000 the next day after Avbob would send me an SMS, which I could withdraw from Standard Bank's ATM. It was pocket money in this difficult time. The day I withdrew this money, I said with tears to Helene in my car: "Mom, because you died, Avbob gave R17000 off on your funeral and also gave me R3000 pock money. But I don't want this, I'd rather have you." The total amount for Helene's funeral was R5200 – which I was fortunately able to pay myself.

**Here are the tributes each son wrote on the Program of Helen's funeral.
You will hear how each of our sons felt about her.**

Daniel, our eldest son.

What a wonderful woman and mother Helen Nell was. Our own Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady, in more ways than one. Stern when required, caring when needed, never soft as butter. She was always encouraging, always believing in us, and showing up to hold us accountable when least expected.

She helped us all to set our standards high and our goals, even higher. When she saw that we had stage fright, she entered and trained us for a national singing competition, so that we could learn what it means to stand on a stage where more than 3000 people were watching.

Mom taught us about the birds and the bees, about life, and most importantly, about how to seek God. How to praise Him, serve Him, and worship Him to the full. What a blessing it was and still is to have had a mother like Helen, the Iron Lady.
We honour and love you, Mom.
Daniel

Nico, our second son.

It was with deep sadness that I learned the shocking news of my mother's passing during a visit to Durban with church meetings. I certainly wouldn't have travelled, if I had known that she would be taking her last breath at 6.37pm on Wednesday, July 24th, 2024. Her passing left an immense void in my life, and I still struggle with the reality of her absence.

My mother was a phenomenal woman whose knowledge, love, kindness, and generosity touched countless lives. Her unwavering support, prayer, guidance, and encouragement have shaped me into the person I am today. Her influence was a constant source of strength, inspiration, and encouragement to heights that were sometimes higher than my ability. My mother's remarkable spirit, warmth and compassion have made her a cherished presence in our family and in many congregations and communities. She was always willing to take care of herself, to make investments in our lives as boys for better achievements and to much better outcomes. Her legacy will live on through the legion of memories, messages from the Bible, exhortations, lessons, and values that she instilled in me and all who knew her. Her love for the Word was unprecedented. As I navigate this difficult time, I find solace in the memories of our time together. Mom, I will miss you dearly, but I take comfort in knowing that Mom's love and spirit will continue to guide me.
Love and see you again!
Your son, Nico.

Leon, our third son.

My mother will live on in me here and now, because she has made great investments, in raising her sons. As her child, fulfilling her dream of studying medicine – a privilege she herself would never enjoy – it was my privilege to be able to serve my mom as my patient until her end.

I share her love of music arts, gardening and singing, a desire to better understand the Scriptures, and to thrive in leadership and organization.

The Iron Woman was never ashamed to stand for the right reasons. She was always a true "Lady of Elegance". My mom was and will remain an inspiration in my being, and I hope I can let her journey live on for as long as possible.

"Mom, you deserve a gold medal for your outstanding service to humanity, truly.

I love you very much, and proud that you are my mother. Enjoy, every moment, your reward in God's presence."

Your son,
Leon.

Gideon our fourth son.

To my mother, Helena Nell

What a remarkable mother and woman you have been! Your image, teachings, deeds and seed will be with us forever. I will never forget your tall frame, big smile, sparkling eyes and blond hair. You always carried yourself with so much sophistication and grace, making me proud to call you, my mum. You dedicated your life to God, your family and church. From managing ladies' ministries and charity events, to leading the church band from behind the piano, multiple times week after week. At home, you filled our house with Praise and Worship music, creating an atmosphere of love and faith.

But you were not all church, as you also had a keen eye for fashion, which lead to you starting your own business in retirement, importing ladies clothing from Asia and making countless trips for two decades!

More importantly to me, you were my mother. Always making me feel loved and safe. Caring for me whenever I was ill – Your Marmite toast and rooibos tea somehow worked like penicillin! You were like our own resident GP. Although your minor surgery once left me with a scar to cherish to this day. You taught me some of the most important lessons of my life, like to never use the Lord's name in vain, to respect your elders, treat others as one would like to be treated, to be kind and that our words have power.

My goodness but you were strict though and I was rarely brave enough to step out of line. Your look over your glasses from behind the piano when I was misbehaving in church, used to make me shiver! And I don't miss those pinches on the inside of my thighs when apparently, I had "miere" in church.

You also really had a sixth sense. You would go for days without questioning me on my whereabouts but on the days that I stepped out of line, the first question you would ask

me when I got home was "waar was jy vandag?"...and off course, we were taught that "diewe en leuenaars gaan hel toe"...and then I had to face the consequences.

But it was not all serious, I was your shopping buddy (well, apart from those 6 months after I threw a tantrum in the Norwood Hypermarket), and I loved it! Especially in the factory shops and the Oriental Plaza where you taught me how to "bargain". Despite not having much, you always dressed us as well as you could. And if I did not thank you enough for being my personal taxi to all things school and sports...I thank you!

Unfortunately, I left South Africa some 25 years ago and apart from our telephone calls, I only got to see you for a week or two a year since then, but then I got the call at the beginning of June to say that I might want to come say my goodbyes.

As hard as those 10 days by your side were, they were some of the most rewarding of my life and will live with me forever. Watching one's beloved mother in pain, not eating and fading away and effectively dying for 8 days, and then make a miraculous recovery, was truly humbling. While a challenging time, I will never forget our moments together, holding your hand, stroking your hair, helping you move, giving you water, putting on lip-ice, and creaming your hands and feet, with Bethal Music and songs like 'Goodness of God' playing in the background, I was constantly fighting my tears...but in hindsight, these created moments and memories for life! Also, while you could not speak much anymore, your nods and facial expressions allowed for all the communication I could have wanted. And the funny thing was, despite being Afrikaans, when you were able to utter a word or two, you spoke English! Maybe that's proof we will speak English in heaven!

But then a miracle took place, and you turned around and came to, back to Afrikaans, completely lucid and with instant wit! Calling dad a "rakker", telling one of my brothers who spoke too loud to "shush" (you know who you are!) and "moenie mors met my" in the hospital, are words that will stay with me. All this, giving us the ability to have just a bit more time with you and telling you how much we love you and for you to tell us how much you love us and that you are praying for us!...just think about that...you telling us that you are praying for us...

I honour you, Mum! You have sown so much good seed in so many and in me over the years for which I am forever grateful. Where your earthly body has failed you, your heavenly body will be flawless and you would have been able to stand up, walk, run and you are probably already dancing again. We rejoice with the angels because they are getting a beautiful and strong spirit with a strong voice to sing glory to God!

It remains my honour to call you, my Mum.

I love you Mum and respect you, forever and ever...amen!

Your baby, your "laat lammetjie."

Gideon

I share the last two "Devotionals" that I sent out to more than a thousand readers, just before Helen's funeral on the 9th of August 2024.

I share this because this applied to her and to us!

Our life is in God's hand.

Job 14:1,5,14 The Living Bible: *"Every man comes into the world through a woman; He doesn't live long and gets into a lot of trouble... You have fixed the length of his days, and you know exactly how long it will be. He cannot go beyond the limit you have set... But if a man is dead, will he live again? If so, I will hold on throughout my suffering until I find relief again."*

Job begins with words, such as: *"Every man comes into the world through a woman."* My mother-in-law always said that if a man gave birth to a child, it would be the last child to be born.

Our life is in God's hand. Only He alone has control over how long we will live. Therefore, no matter what the medical people tell you, God determines life and death for each of us. Job asks a sincere question, namely: *"But if a man is dead, will he live again?"* Because then he would have courage for his earthly life.

Life is worth living. Of course, it has much more value if we live for Christ in this life. Can you say what Paul said in Phil. 1:21: *"For to me life is Christ, and death is gain."* When we die, we will live again because Jesus promised it in John 11:25: *"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live, even though he has died."*

Do not fear death, for Jesus conquered it!
Hold on to God's promises in His Word, because they are true.
Don't stop living for the Creator who made you.

The secret of sowing and reaping.

Mark 4:26-29 The Living Bible: *"Jesus also said to them, 'In God's new kingdom it will be like someone sowing in a land. While working during the day and sleeping at night, the seed comes up and grows. He himself doesn't even know how it happens exactly. For the soil makes the grain grow by itself... And when the grain is ripe, it's time to harvest. Then he doesn't wait – he cuts it off with the sickle as soon as he can.'"*

Life is a "sow and reap" process. In 1 Cor. 15:37,38 Paul wrote: *"And what you sow, you do not sow the body that will become, but a mere grain, for example of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as He willed, and to each of the seeds his own body."* Paul further writes in verse 43: *"It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."*

We know that you must sow first before we can reap – you have to give first before you can receive. Helen, my wife's funeral is to me like seed that had to be sown first, so that she will be raised in a new body (without pain and disease) – never to be able to die again! God's time to "reap" has now come for Helen. She was cut off like a sickle, because she had "ripened" like grain.

Do not fear death, for it has been conquered. (1 Cor. 15:54)
 Jesus is the resurrection and the life – believe this.
 If you believe in Him, you'll live forever. (John 11:25,26)

GOOD ADVICE after the death of your Partner.

What is a "Funeral"? The "Colins Dictionary" says: *"A funeral is the ceremony that is held when the body of someone who has died is buried or cremated."* There should be no tension in your family over what a funeral is.

Here is a TO-DO LIST for you:

1. Obtain a Death Certificate of your loved one.
2. Decide whether your loved one is going to be buried, or cremated.
3. When is it a good time to go and see the deceased? Within four days.
4. Contact your Funeral Parlour.
5. Notify your family and friends. With a WhatsApp; Email; or Facebook.
6. Inform your Medical Aid.
7. Book a Preacher, a Church and Hall where the service is to be held.
8. Who does the flowers and refreshments?
9. Who manages the sound in the church as well as the songs?
10. Who will function as coffin carriers. (If they will be needed?)
11. Consider a "Power Point" that can be displayed before the service.
12. Find someone that can record a video of the Funeral Service, so that those who cannot attend can watch it on YouTube.
13. Establish a clear Program for the Funeral Service.
14. Consider a professional photographer. The family doesn't always get together.
15. Change your Will.
16. See your Bank to make necessary changes.
17. See your Telephone Service Provider to close the deceased's account. (Just make sure important content is retained first)

18. Make a wise decision about the deceased's clothing and belongings. (Don't be too hasty about this!) (Don't keep everything!) (Give to Family and the Needy)
19. Decide to live purposefully. (Millions have walked this lonely path)

Simplify your life.

1. Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
2. Reject anything that will make you addicted to it.
3. Develop a habit of giving things away. Things that are not needed complicate life. These things must be sorted, stored and dusted – over and over. We can get rid of many possessions without feeling we lost something.
4. Do not desire to have the newest on the market.
5. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
6. Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation.
7. Simplicity in your words. Jesus said in Mat. 5:37 *"Let your Yes be simply Yes, and your No be simply No; anything more than that comes from the evil one."*
8. Avoid anything that keep you from seeking God's kingdom first. (Matt. 6:33)

"IF A MAN DIES, WILL HE LIVE AGAIN?"

In Job 14:1,2,14 it is written: *"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue... If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes."*

The Living Bible translates Job 14:14 as follows: *"But if a man is dead, will he live again? If so, I will hold on throughout my suffering until I find relief again."*

We often hear the question:

1. What is the truth about death?
2. What happens exactly the moment you give your last breath?
3. Do some people go to heaven and others to hell?
4. Is there such a thing as reincarnation?
5. Can the living contact the dead?

The question Job asked in Job 14:14, so many asked it. Especially at the deathbed or grave of a loved one, these kinds of questions arise in our hearts.

There is a group that says: "If a man dies, he will certainly not live again."

They claim that one does not possess an immortal soul and dies like an animal. However, according to the Bible, man is made up of a material and a spiritual part.

Gen. 2:7 *"And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus, man became a living soul."*

Jesus says of the material and the spiritual of man: **Matt. 10:28** *"And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill*

the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

At death, there is a separation between the material (the body) and the spiritual (soul and spirit) of man.

In **Gen. 35:18** we read the following words where Rachel died at the birth of her baby: *"And when her soul went out, for she died, she called his name Ben-oni. But his father named him Benjamin."*

The question now is: When her soul went out where? From her body, because the soul never dies, it's just bodies that die.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 also speaks of *"the dust returning to the earth as it was, and the spirit returning to God who gave it."* Jonah cried out one day: *"O Lord, take my soul away from me now, for it is better for me to die than to live."* **Jonah 4:3**
We only bury bodies!

The overwhelming majority believe: "If a man dies, he will surely live again."

In Vryheid (Natal) cemetery, I read the following words on a tombstone: *"She lives whom we call dead."* That was very striking to me.

Think of the Egyptians

They embalmed their dead and buried them with food and treasure. With children, they placed toys next to them. Why? So that when they will live again, they could have their toys with them, to continue with their new life.

The Red Indians

They buried their men with bow and arrow in the hope that there would be lovely hunting grounds in life after the grave.

We do not believe this, but we believe what Paul said in 1 Cor. 15:19 *"If we hope in Christ only for this life, then we are the most miserable of all men."*

LET US LOOK AT A FEW QUESTIONS

If there is life after the grave, can we contact them?

The argument here is that King Saul, through the witch of Endor, summoned Samuel and spoke to him.

But hear God's Word: **1 Chron. 10:13,14:** *"And Saul died... because he asked the spirit of a deceased person for information, but did not consult the Lord."*

According to **Rev. 1:17,18**, Jesus holds the keys of death and hell. This scripture reads as follows: *"And when I saw Him, I fell as a dead man at His feet; And He laid His right hand upon me, and said unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last and the living; and I was dead, and behold, I live for all eternity. Amen. **And I have the keys of hell and of death.**"* (Did you hear what Jesus said?)

IF A PERSON WANTS TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE DEAD, HE MUST FIRST GET THE KEYS FROM JESUS TO UNLOCK. BUT JESUS CERTAINLY WON'T GIVE IT!

Take note of the following Scriptures:

Lev. 20:6 *"And if a person goes to the spirits of the dead... I will set my face against the person and will cut him off from among his people."*

Isa. 8:19 *"Let not a people inquire of his God; Should the living be asked the dead?"* **Also Read Deut. 18:10-12**

Job's question in Job. 14:12? "One breathes out and—where is he?"

According to the Bible, there are two places: Sheol (that is hell) and Paradise!

There is no one in hell right now. The following will get there first:

Rev. 19:20 *"And the beast (antichrist) was taken captive, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, with which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. Alive are the two cast into the lake of fire that burns with brimstone (referring to hell)"*

Rev. 20:10 *"And the devil who deceived them (the nations) was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."*

Rev. 20:15 *"And if it was found that anyone was not written down in the book of life, (People that did not receive Jesus) was cast into the lake of fire."*

Paradise and Sheol (hell) were first together in the heart of the earth.

Jesus promised the one thief on the cross in **Luke 23:43** *"And Jesus answered him, Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

According to **Matt. 12:40**, Jesus was in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. Please also read **Num. 16:33**

After Jesus' resurrection, Paradise was transferred to the third heaven. It is somewhere away from Earth.

Eph. 4:8-10 *"Therefore he says, when He ascended on high, He took captivity captive and gave gifts to men. But this: He ascended – what does that mean other than that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He who came down is the same as He who ascended above all the heavens, that He might bring all things to fullness."*

Then Paul says the following in 2 Cor. 12:2-4 *"I know of a man in Christ, fourteen years ago – whether it was in the body, I do not know, or outside the body, I do not know, God knows it – that such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know of such a man — whether it was in the body or outside the body, I don't know, God knows it — that he was snatched away into paradise."*

It is accepted that Paul was here speaking of his own experience which had taken place at Lystra fourteen years earlier when he was stoned. He was thrown to death with stones after which God raised him again. **(Acts 14:19,20)**

If you die (as a child of God) you go to Paradise, the porch of heaven — or if you were not a true child of God, you go to Hades, which is the porch of eternal hell! We will die – just like others! Do you dread this day? Then you're not right with God.

Paul did not fear death. He could cry out in **Phil. 1:21**, *"For to me life is Christ, and death is gain."* **2 Cor. 5:1** *"For we know that if our earthly tabernacle is torn down, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, forever, in heaven."*

Do you have this assurance that Paul had?

Jesus cries out in John 11:25 *"I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in Me will live, even though he has died."*

After death, one is aware of one's circumstance.

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Both were aware of what happened to them after they died. Abraham said to the rich man, *"Child remember..."* They could talk to each other. **(Luke 16:25)**

I don't know what they will write on your tombstone one day, but on mine they can only put one word, and that is **"Forgiven."** On Paul's tombstone (if there was one) they could write: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* **2 Tim. 4:7 (See also Psalm 115:15)**

We are on earth in a race. 1 Cor. 9:24-26 *"Do you not know that those who run on the track all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you can surely achieve it." (You never participate just to enjoy it, but to win.)*

Always give your best in this race of life you are running!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is a message that encourages us.

verse 13 *"... I do not want you to be ignorant with regards to those who have fallen asleep, lest you mourn as the others who have no hope.*

verse 14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then God will also bring those who fell asleep in Jesus with him.*

verse 15 *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who remain in life until the return of the Lord shall not by any means be ahead of those who have fallen asleep.*

verse 16 *For the Lord himself shall come down from heaven with a cry, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God: and those who have died in Christ shall rise first.*

verse 17 *After that we who remain alive shall be carried up with them in clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so, we shall always be with the Lord.*

verse 18 *Therefore encourage one another with these words."*

Jesus is coming back again! He made it clear in **John 14:1-3**:

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwellings; if it were not so, I would have told you. I'm going to make room for you. And when I have gone and prepared a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Me, that you may also be where I am."

Jesus made the following statement at the tomb of Lazarus, namely: *"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live, even though he has died."* (**John 11:25**)

Paul wrote in **1 Cor. 15:16 and 19** *"For if the dead are not raised, then Christ was not raised... If we hope in Christ only for this life, then we are the most miserable of all men."*

The Resurrection was the power in the first church.

Acts 4:33 *"And with great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."*

Our bodies are but a tent dwelling!

In 2 Cor. 5:1, Paul writes: *"For we know that if our earthly tabernacle is torn down, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, forever, in heaven."*

What would you do if you knew you were going to die?

Everyone dies, because the Bible says in **Heb. 9:27** that it is destined for man to die once and then the judgment.

How will you re-act if you know you're going to die?

How will you talk to your wife, husband, and children?

What good would you like to do to people?

Helene has kept our "Love Letters" for 65 years!

Of course, I knew about these letters. I still remember writing to her first from Brakpan, where I was the youth pastor. Later, I wrote to her from Vryheid, Natal, when I was pastor in my first congregation. We moved thirteen times and Helene did the packing. She kept our letters. After her death, I discovered it.



I share our love letters with you, hoping it will bless you.

2nd Sept. 1958

Dearest Helene,

Be anxious about nothing, but let your desires be known to God. (Phil. 4:6)

It's now five to five in the afternoon, and I'm sitting here in my new home writing. My address is 54 Wendenlaan in Brakpan, and I live with aunt van Staden. She is a widow and has married children.

My darling, I have prayed for you a lot and love you very much. By His grace I drove safely from Bloemfontein to Pretoria, to my parents. My time on the road was 6 hours and 10 minutes. My expense was but £1 and 14 shillings. To Him all the glory, for the road was not very busy.

My welcome in Brakpan is Wednesday evening. It is a Youth Service that will be attended to by the AFM Bible College students. Just sorry my darling isn't there. It would have been so different. The pastor and his wife are very nice. From scratch, I felt at home and happy. The church is a beautiful building with a large hall. The rectory is also very nice and tidy. Unfortunately, I don't have a phone here where I live, but the rectory is nearby.

Furthermore, I wonder if my sweetheart takes good care of her and does, she miss me? When you don't expect it the Morris Minor will stop at your door, and then big things are going to happen. I should just jump in the Morris Minor right now and come and visit you, my love. I will just eat you alive. I looked at the photo we took at Danie Brink's, then such a longing came inside me and such a tender feeling of love. Thank the Lord for the love between us.... You make me feel so happy!

Write as soon as possible and study hard.

With all my love,

Danie. XXXXXX

5 Sept. 1958

My dearest Danie. A thousand thanks for your letter, it was like cool rain on dry earth.

I've been wondering the past few days if my eyes have turned into fountains, because I cry at home and I was barely at church on Wednesday night when the fountain of tears flowed again. The reason? My darling's place was empty. I wish the holidays would come soon, my dear, for I shall still cry myself to death.

Monday I will never forget in all my life. When I stopped crying, a burning sadness was inside of me. Uncle Dirk did a lot to ease the grief, but when he also drove away on Wednesday, the last straw broke. I went to the choir practice on Wednesday night but had to get into bed immediately when I got home because Mr. Flu had pulled me down. The fever was so high that I didn't even recognize my mom.

Today everything is going well again because the Lord has answered prayer. You must please excuse the shaky writing.

Now I have complained enough, and I'm your naughty darling again. Danie, I wish you were here. In my mind I was talking with my mother-in-law and father-in-law last night. My mother-in-law then asked me when I would also be part of their family. I felt my father-in-law jump through the phone when he heard who was talking. Oh, my dear, it was something costly. They didn't want to stop talking about anything on earth. This was something great that happened in my thoughts.

Between us, Frans van Niekerk, my brother-in-law, accepted the call to Grahamstown. Aunt Dora gave birth to a daughter on the 3rd of Sept. Oh I wish it was me. What did I say now? My darling forgive me, because I'm dreaming. Kiss me before anyone sees us. I told my mother-in-law over the phone last night that it was so bitterly lonely. Don't be surprised if I should knock at your door unexpectedly one weekend. Throughout the day everything goes well, but at night when I get into bed, everything simply breaks inside me and then I just cry myself to sleep.

There's something that drives me. I searched the house for "something" that I didn't find. I simply go from room to room and when I get to the front of our house and kneel at our "sacred place", then it's just the same as before. My darling the tears just keep flowing and I don't want that. I love you dearly with a love known to the Lord alone. Lately, there is only one text that is in my mind, and this is in 1 Timothy 4:12-16. Darling, underline it in your Bible and write next to it 1/7/1958. You will understand later why you had to do this. My angel, I must get ready for the choir practice tonight. I pray for you that the Lord blesses your messages.
Your only longing darling,
Helene.

7th September 1958

Hello my angel,

Surprised? Well, it doesn't matter if I write a lot. The purpose of my letter is to inform you of what took place this weekend.

Yesterday we had our Sunday service in a unique way. Past. Willie Smit preached about what happened at Calvary. He first read the verse of the text, then Colleen and Bertha sang a duet. He explained what might have happened at the cross and Santjie recited a striking poem. After that, the choir sang the song "If I look at cross where Jesus died." Past. Willie described the Lord Jesus' suffering and sorrow, and the choir sang afterward, *"When I think how they crucified my Lord."* Past. Willie emphasized that Calvary had to be there because Jesus had to die for us. This time the choir sang *"They are nailed to the cross."* Then Past. Willie Smit discussed the three crosses and said that the angels were looking over the balconies of heaven when the one sinner next to Jesus received mercy. Then the choir sang *"The way of the cross leads home."* The

great news is that the "bartender" of the railroad liquor store and his entire family gave their lives to Jesus!

At tonight's service we had ten speakers. They were Bertha, Colleen, Grace, Chrissie, Bessie, Marc, David, Kassie, Koot and Past. Willie Smit. The main topic was, "Who should I let go, Jesus or Barabas?" The Lord simply opened heaven for us.

Darling, for the first time in my life today I desired to become a preacher, and I am so inspired that I want to lead thousands to Jesus by the grace of God. I can witness to strangers, something I couldn't do before. I feel like I can just sit at His feet and worship Him. The choir sang like heaven's choir this weekend and that is only due to prayer. How lucky I feel to know my darling is a King's child, and know that when Jesus comes, my darling and I will go to heaven together. My dear, something happened that I can't explain myself. Jesus became my all and everything. My dear, I still long very much, but the comfort Jesus has already given, overwhelms me.

I am now looking forward with courage to the holiday with my sweetheart. A holiday in which, together with the only one I love, I can honour the Lord Jesus' name and win souls for Jesus. My dear, how sweet is the love of Jesus? My darling, I'm planning to get married soon, because Jesus' coming is just around the corner. I only want to have one more desire fulfilled and that is to win souls for Jesus with my husband, my sweetheart. My angel, write to me what happened Thursday afternoon at about one o'clock. I was very worried about you, and prayed for about fifteen minutes that the Lord would protect you, before peace came back into my spirit.

Good night, my darling and sleep well.
Your own future wife and darling,
Helene XXXX

10 Sept. 1958

Dearest Helene,

Thank you, a thousand times, for the comforting letters I've been looking forward to for so long. I watched the mail day by day, so badly that I told Aunt van Staden, with whom I lived, that I would only wait until today. If I don't hear anything from you, I get in my car and race through Bloemfontein. It's almost half past one in the morning and I'm looking at your photo at your beautiful eyes, nose and sweet smile.

I'm blessed, and everyone is very friendly. It is worth having brothers and sisters in the Lord. Thankfully, Jesus is always with you and me. I am so grateful that we both know Him. Nor should you and I allow anyone to despise our youth, if we want to make each other happier, by marrying sooner than planned. Jesus' coming is just around the corner and together we want to win souls for Him.

Al my love,
Danie

13 September 1958

My only darling,

I got your letter at half past ten today, just as my little flame was burning at its lowest, because I wouldn't survive the weekend without a letter. My dear, you really need to pray for me, because my strength and nerves just want to give in. Since Friday I cry over the slightest thing.

On mommy's birthday, Wednesday, she fell and broke her arm. She says she just got weak from the flu. She fainted, and if it hadn't been for Uncle Dirk and Pottie, then I don't know what would have happened.

I had to prepare a formal dinner for eight people while also studying for the exams. The visitors put pressure on me, and I locked myself in my room and cried again. Danie, my dear, it's so bitterly lonely without you. Everything is just a load on me. I must restrain myself from being negative, and I feel so bad about it.

Darling, I'm glad that at least you have a phone near you now. I'm complaining way too much again today, but I feel better after talking to you for a bit.

Fight the good fight.

I remain your darling, your own and all.

Helene.

22nd September 1958

My dear, why did you steal my heart? But I'm glad you did.

I want to thank you again for coming all the way from Bloemfontein to make my heart happy. Thank you for this wonderful weekend. Really, God knew I needed someone like you to stand by my side. May I also always be there for you.

I'm very happy that God has given me someone like you who stands with me. You don't know what this means to me. My darling you should always remember that I pray for the subjects you must write. Just pray very much for me that I will remain humble at His feet. I am so glad that we have a Friend like Jesus.

Keep your eyes on Jesus. He's said: John 10:1-15; John 10:28,29; John 6:37.

All my love,

Your longing darling,

Danie.

22 Sept. 1958

My dearest Danie,

Thank you so much for all your love and sacrifice. I have come to love you so dearly with a love that alone will be separated by death. Oh, my darling I long so much tonight. Today you left, the longing in my heart became too heavy to carry.

You know, my dear, this weekend that has been the deciding factor in everything that will happen in the future.

Danie, why do things have to be this way? I don't want to be rebellious, but it's so bitterly lonely. That makes sense because we are one after all and how can we be separated? Mommy and I are alone tonight and that's probably why it's so hard to be without you. I just locked myself in my room, while I wrote.

Thanks again for the weekend. It was so wonderful to be with you again. I forgot everything and everyone and there was only one person in my mind. Thank Brother and Sister Brown for their hospitality. I want you to go to them especially and thank them. Tell Sannie I will remain eternally grateful to her for her and her husband's love towards you. Someday I will compensate her. Just mark your scripture that you preached about two Sundays ago and write a "D" next to it. You'll see that I've done that with all your previous sermons.

You shouldn't always write your letters in such a nice way. You can complain too your wife, she will understand. I pray for you, my darling, that the Lord will undertake for you and the church. We drove very well from Johannesburg. We left half past eight and were in Bloemfontein early the next morning. I thank the Lord for His protection.

Friday night I'll never forget. Thank you for your "love" you put on my finger. Connie, my friend, was very happy when she saw the ring. Everyone just tells me how good it fits my hand. I should have said that only my darling has such tastes. But what they don't know is that his best taste will still be proven once my engagement ring is on.

Excuse the shaky writing, but what I had feared all weekend finally happened. The pain attacks were not pleasant, and I am so weak this morning that I have to stay in bed. The cause is that I was tired and upset and had a longing for you. I so wished you were here, because you have a great effect on me. Buddy, just one kiss would have made everything different. I love you so much.

As for the 4th of October, regarding your birthday. I think it would be advisable if you wrote a letter to my dad and asked him if I could come to you for that weekend. Write to him on the 22nd of September, for he will be back home on the 30th of September. Daddy told mommy that he was worried about me since he didn't know if the two of us were serious. I'll be glad if you can write to daddy because you know how to explain everything to him. I'm now done with my orders, now I'm your submissive little woman again, Mommy sends greetings and "kisses". I think the parting kiss overwhelmed her.

Take care of yourself, my diamond and my love and stay sweet!
Don't be discouraged when trouble comes, because your sweetheart is always with you.
All my love and my "everything" for you,
Helene XXX

Sept. 24, 1958

My dearest darling,

Thank you very much for your letter. When I got home, your letter was here.

My dear, don't grieve so much, I'll be there one of these days. I believe it's His will and so my faith is so strong, and don't be surprised if you get a telegram that I'll be there on Wednesday or Thursday. I think it would be best if I could come on Wednesday morning so you could get me on Johannesburg's station. If there is anything unclear at all, call me on Sunday. Use your money and I'll make sure you get it back.

We had a lovely prayer meeting last night. Old Aunt Pelser's husband was your last convert here, well, he was also baptized on Sunday evening. I met with Past. Willie Smit and he wanted to know who had given me the right to visit you? He looked at me and smiled. He wanted to know what is happening between us, but he would have to wait another three months. I have to say the congregation is also interested in us, and young and old just wanted to see my ring.

Our house's "venetian blinds" were done today, and they look beautiful. My room is pink, daddy's and mommy's blue, the small room yellow, the dining room green as well as the porch. It looks so cool, and you should come so we can inaugurate it. Mommy said today that it is high time that you come and visit because Bloemfontein is beautiful now. Everything is green and the blossoms make me long so much for my wedding day.

My dear, my heart almost stopped today as I walked past "Perseys" our bridal shop. There was a dream of a wedding dress in the window. Mine, of course, I want to have made, because it must be different from all other wedding dresses and of course the most beautiful. Oh, my darling, I can't wait any longer for that day.

Thank the Lord with me for making me well again. My darling, I am so grateful the Lord has given you to me. I wonder where I would have been now if you hadn't appeared in my life? That is why I say that our entire relationship was directed by God. Sometimes I feel so small that the Lord was so kind to give me a man like you. He does everything so perfectly. So perfect that many people have already told me how we look like each other. Even mommy has already noticed it. Every day I unconsciously adopt more of your habits.

I don't think our engagement is going to come as a surprise to Bloemfontein West church. Everyone expects that. In fact, they were surprised that I didn't come back with an engagement ring this weekend. Oh, it's so nice to carry a secret in your heart.

My darling I'm so in the mood for a nice kiss right now.

Stay good and don't cry my darling.

Think of me and I will pray for you.

Your naughty darling.

Helene.

Sept. 26, 1958

Dearest Helene,

Thank you very much for the letter I have just received. It is now 1:30pm and I have to be at Pastor Botha's house in 15 minutes to take him somewhere because his car is being repaired. Anyway, I'm fine by His grace, just the longing... Like you, I feel this weekend was the deciding factor. Thank you again for everything, my darling.

This week I had a great time working for our Master. On Monday, I led two souls to Jesus again. Truly, working for God is wonderful. To think He chose us to do this work. How can one not love Him? "I love Him better every day."

Darling, I wrote your daddy a long letter, and told him about our relationship, and asked him if you could come visit me next week.

Last Tuesday, three boys were playing at a mine shaft and one, Roy Yoe (he is 13 years old) ended up 75 feet deep in a shaft. Luckily, he landed on branches, or he was sure to be dead. Firefighters, Police, and I rushed to get him out. There was a firefighter, who went down in the shaft to try and get him out. They saved two boys. At first, we all thought they were dead. I visited Roy yesterday and prayed for him. His head was severely injured, and two fingers were broken.

Always remember, the Lord keeps a watchful eye over both of us, and even the hairs of our heads are numbered, for we are worth far more than sparrows.

All my love,

Your longing darling.

Danie

1st Oct. 1958

Dearest Darling,

Thank you so much for the call, your cost and sacrifice you have made and above all, thank you for your love. To think yesterday morning, I could be with you. I could kiss you; I could hug you and you could hug me... And now you're so unreachable far away. Why do others have it differently? They can give their love to each other on a daily basis, and we must be tortured by longing. My appetite is gone, and I don't want to see anyone. Can the death of a family member be more serious? No, not a thousand times, because what is stronger than love? Not love for a family; but love for a man for whom you do lay everything on the altar. Your life, your past, your everything. Darling, the longing kills me. Hug me tightly, and don't cry.

Last night at that camp, Past. Pietie Steyn preached from Heb. 13 that Christ is still the same today and for eternity. Our choir sang wonderfully, as they had never sung before. The difference would have been sky-wide if my darling had been there. Not a day longer than the 20th of December, then we get engaged and then you're mine and the people can talk, I don't care. If my dearest darling just loves me.

Well, my dear, everything works together for the good of those who love God. When I think about you being almost 300 miles away from me, then it feels like I could go crazy. Ever since you left, everyone asks if I feel sick? I told them I was sick with love. I leave everything in the hands of the Lord and He will surely make our path lighter for us. If it is His will that things should happen this way, then He will provide for our more serious things later.

Danie prays that the Lord will give me strength because I am giving in.

I pray that the Lord will keep you, and that your lips will be anointed with a coal of fire.

All my love,

Your longing little wife.

Helene. XXXXXXXXXXXXX

1st October 1958

Hello my love,

Did you sleep well? Darling, marry me please... God is a good God and what He does for others He can do for us. We just have to believe. What would we have done if we had not known Him? Let's hold on to what we have, and He will help us. The Lord does so much for the two of us that we can't help but truly love him. May we love Him more and more. Read 1 Cor. 13, which I read this morning. It's about love. It is the passages in the Bible that helped me to be delivered from a temper.

Darling, I love you more than ever. I realized again how real your love is. I can't wait for December when I can put the engagement ring on that beautiful finger of yours.

Let me tell you what happened when I came near Kroonstad. There was no more fuel left in my car. Luckily, I had a gallon of petrol, in a can. Because I was in a hurry, I lost the key of the petrol cap right there on the road, without knowing about it.

In Kroonstad I wanted to fill the car with fuel but couldn't do so because the petrol cap key was gone. I drove back to where the car had stopped and searched for about ten steps before I saw the key lying on the road. It is truly a miracle!

I led another soul to Jesus this morning. It's a young lady. I wish we could have worked together for the Lord already. The time is short, and it is the last hour. What we find to do, we must do with all our might.

Well, my darling I'll close now, hoping to hear from you soon. Heb. 12:1,2.

All my love,

Your enduring darling,

Danie. XXXXXX

5th October 1958

Dearest darling,

Is my darling sleeping and can I come and crawl in? Danie, watch out, you shouldn't get naughty. The Lord is good to me, only one thing and that is I have been longing a

lot lately. I was now lying on the bed again with your photo in my hand, while I talked about many things and prayed. The tears flowed gently down my cheeks. Darling, my insides are getting too narrow, because I long very much. My dear, we are made for each other, and I believe it with all my heart. Thank God He is alive, and I am glad we belong to Him! Guess what do I desire now? I wish you were here to sing at church today. I long very much to hear you play the piano and to be able to hear your voice.

This afternoon, after Brother Pieters and I had to serve Holy Communion to the elderly, we went to Past. Henning's birthday. He's wife died and now he's alone. We don't understand everything in this life, and God's ways and thoughts are not ours.

I visited a woman and talked about the sin of smoking and how much harm it does. She also believed that hell is on earth because people are suffering so much. I then showed her in the Bible that if someone's name wasn't written in the book of life, they would go to hell forever. Furthermore, I told her what she could do to get her name in the book of life, by surrendering herself to God. I then told her that I will come to see her at 9 o'clock the next morning so that she could give her life to Christ. But she then answered me: "But I may die tonight, so I want to give my life to the Lord now. Will you help me?" I wish you could have been there when God saved her. I know this because she wept bitterly. One of these days we will work together for God. I sang "Softly and tenderly" in church tonight but so wanted you to sing.

A traffic constable wanted to fine me for making a "U-turn" on the main street, because I wanted to park on the other side. He wrote out the ticket for £3. When he heard who I was, he said he was sorry that he gave me this fine. He then said, "Give me back the ticket I gave you." And you know what? In my heart I prayed and apologized to the Lord, because I was guilty.

I was at my parent's house yesterday. They are now in a great hurry to get such a daughter like you into the family. They've just finished loving you even though they haven't met you in person yet.

All my love, just for you.

Your longing darling.

Danie.

6 October 1958

Hallo my angel,

Oh, I love you so much, very much...a love that man cannot describe, but that the Lord alone understands.

The Conference was great. On Friday night at the Youth Service, I sang a solo and I felt like a mediator between God and man. It was great. I lost myself in Jesus as I sang, "*That one lost sheep.*" How glad I am to know I was that lost sheep, but Jesus found me. Hallelujah!!

On Saturday night, Christie Conradie asked me to sing with her. Without rehearsing, we sang *"Walking along the road one day."* Our voices fit together beautifully, and a few amens from the pastors behind us were just enough encouragement. Again, I had the same experience as Friday night and how wonderful it was. The Past. Piet Snyman brought a message in tongues regarding the song we were singing. Past. Labuschagne gave the interpretation. It was such an encouragement to me when I heard God was interested in my talent. Past. Petie Steyn's sermon was about our calling, and the theme was "Follow Me." It was straight from heaven. Pastors knelt and young people came to lay themselves on the altar. For the first time in my life, I was also able to say that night, "My everything is on the altar."

How wonderful it is to worship such a God. On Friday night, Past. Steyn talked about man's shredding basket and how clean I just didn't feel. Verily, He is a great God and He lives in me and through me. He placed my feet on solid rock. He is my shepherd, and my judge. He holds me in the hollow of His hand. I felt so alone at the Camp, but Jesus filled me so full that there was no room for my loneliness. Oh, it's so nice when He breaks you up and then makes you a new person again.

It's wonderful to serve the Lord. But more than that, I feel like I'm a born pastor's wife. I don't boast, may God keep me humble. This is my calling because in myself I am too weak to be a pastor's wife. That's why he chose Danie Nell as my pillar. How wonderful are His ways? How holy and wonderful are His dispositions. The Lord has raised up two people who fit together perfectly, to do His work. Past. Steyn also said that if you are a Youth Council member, you must be the best. Not according to the flesh, but to the Spirit.

Danie, I love you. My love occupies the firmament, it's as pure as a lily, it's as big as the love of the world. And how big was that? His only Son had to humble Himself and come to a pleasure-sick world. A world that is a swamp of sin. Will I ever be able to stop bearing witness to His love?

Last week Monday, this time, I was in my darling's arms. Just be careful that I don't catch you at one of Brakpan's young ladies. Because then I'll go to Past. Botha and ask him to give up our first commandment on Sunday.

Darling, you're burning with curiosity now. It doesn't help you ask what it is. Not very long, then the longing will not be there anymore. Darling, silence is dangerous. Oh, I love you so much, I wish I could kiss you now, and kiss, and kiss again. Adorable thing.

Darling, I'm the one who gets inspired right now, and that's dangerous. If you get inspired it's nothing, but if I get inspired... Oh, earth! I am so happy when I think that I have found the best man on earth, and that he loves me is an even greater miracle. Wait, forget about everything, and look at me. Look deep into my eyes. Tell me, do you still love me as much as ever? Thank you. See, you know about my eyes... Yes, that's right. Give me a kiss... Now it was fun!

Of course, school starts tomorrow, and then I'll have to put my shoulder to the wheel. Pray for me that the Lord will give me enough strength and wisdom to study. I hope you preach the weekend ahead. From now on, work harder than ever for the Lord, ask Him strength, and win souls for His kingdom. I pray for you, my darling, that you may be not only a preacher, but the best by His grace.

Stay sweet and I give you all my love,
Your most sincerely grateful darling,
Helene

13de October

Good morning my love,
It's a lovely morning, but the longing is there again, as usual.

Thank you, my darling, for the wonderful weekend. After all, it's only my darling who can make a weekend so enjoyable for me. It was simply perfect. Darling, every weekend we spend together, my love for you is bigger, and it's still growing. That is what makes me so desperately longing, because we are now very close to each other.

You must thank Susan and Richard again for the weekend. Really, they are great people. Probably the nicest young married couple in Brakpan. From the beginning, she made me feel like we had been friends for years.

My angel, I'm really looking forward to our vacation, I think it's going to be great. I'm going to brag, because I have two things to brag about. First, the ring and then, of course, the biggest of all, my darling. Will I ever be able to stop telling you how much I love you? Never. I feel so much closer to you after this wonderful weekend. I feel so proud that I own someone that many others desire to own. Oh, I love you so dearly!

I placed the "ring" in my "flower box" because it's the last place anyone will go looking. But even though everyone is bursting with curiosity, I'll be like a closed book. Darling it is now a quarter to three and three o'clock they're taking out mail, so I'm going to have to hurry up.

All my love and may the Lord bless you.
Your longing darling.
Helene. XXXXX

15th October 1958

Hello, my darling and dear,
We had a debate tonight in the church about, "Who was the greatest Apostle: Peter or Paul?" There were three brothers and two sisters on each side. Guess who won? Paul lost this time, as Peter received 64 votes and Paul only 22. The discussion was good.

Saturday night our Youth has an open-air service at the City Hall, and I was asked to preach there. By His grace, I would love to give my best, so I rely on my darling's prayers. I love you so much, I want to eat you. Watch out if I get a hold of you!

By His grace and power, I won two souls again yesterday for the Lord. They are a husband and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Willemse. Pray for them.

I pray for you constantly.

God answers prayer. Keep your eyes on Jesus and look up.

All my love,

Danie. XXXXXXXXXX

17th October 1958

Excuse the shaky writing, I'm already in bed. I had to come home because I had fever. This morning the doctor was here, and he claimed everything came from poisonous tonsils. He says that this is the reason why I don't gain weight. My weight is only 130 pounds now.

Darling, I thank the Lord for the peace that has come in my heart. Of course, I still have this longing but that feeling of loneliness has vanished by His grace. My darling, do you know what I'm really craving for now? For a nice loooong pressure kiss. Tell me where on earth is there still such a dear person like you?

Beth phoned me and tried to find out about our relationship. But then I told her that I was young and in Matric, and that led her completely astray. Little does she know what's going on. At least it's nice to carry a secret with you.

As the people in Brakpan praised me, so the Capetonians will praise you. You can just kiss the girls in my family, I'm not afraid, because none of them can kiss as well as I can. (Hear how I praise myself.) My kisses are nothing against my darling, because I usually walk in my seventh heaven when he kisses me.

My darling, I still love you a little better this morning. If it goes on like this, I'm going to ask you before Christmas to marry me, and I know you won't say "no". Danie, that feeling of tenderness does come up in me so often. When the pain starts in me then I miss you so much. The touch of your hands will take away all the pain. Darling pray that the Lord will touch me and heal me.

All my love for the man I love most on earth.

Lots of kisses,

Your darling, Helene. XXXXX

18th October 1958

My only darling,

My health is a lot better, although I went to town this morning and weighed myself. My weight is now 126 pounds, I've been losing about one pound a day. I feel a little discouraged from longing and loneliness. I don't want to complain but who else should I complain to, who will understand like you? My desire is that you should have been near here. Just here to hold me when the pains shoot through my body. To kiss me just once, then the pain and sadness will have disappeared in no time. Danie, my Danie, why are you so unreachable far? Mommy wants me to eat, I need to receive people, and I need to be kind. How can I when my hope and my everything are miles away from me?

Dearest angel, it is Sunday evening, and the service was of God and my soul is refreshed again. I have courage to face life. I am completely healthy again and I thank the Lord for that. Past. Pietie Steyn preached on "Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not able to watch with Me for one hour?"

This afternoon as I went to church, I looked in our mailbox, and found your letter was lying there. Thank you so much darling, I know I can count on you for everything.

My darling I just want to get married now. I have a deep love for you, a love that God alone understands. You'll be able to make me so happy. Jus you and no one else can. He never lets us down. He promises this in Hid word and if our battle is at its highest, the outcome is at its nearest. I pray for you darling that your preaching will be anointed with the Holy Spirit and that He will walk with you wherever you go. Thank you again for the love and happiness you bestow on me. May I be worth it one day and may God bless you.

Your longing darling,

Helene. XXXXXX

22nd October 1958

My dearest Danie,

I have just received your letter. Thank you so much my dear. I look forward to every letter that comes. I would like to thank the Lord for the new interest He gives me in my studies, because I just couldn't learn anymore.

My darling, I feel like crushing you to death, with my love for you. I love you so much. I wonder when I'll be able to say this enough to you, because I mean it sincerely. If you are dreaming of our marriage, it can be dangerous, because it should be me dreaming of that. Do you know what do I want to give you? A kiss, a hug, another kiss, another hug and a kiss that will make you do funny things! On the 18th of November, when you come with my birthday, and our parents will also be with us... Then you must know what's here in front of you... lips waiting to be kissed and hug me tightly.

Darling, the Lord is going to heal me from all the poison my tonsils has caused in my body. I believe it in the name of the Lord, and I also believe that the devil will suffer defeat. I believe in the Word that teaches me that Jesus will never abandon His children, so I give Him all the glory.

Danie, I love you. Not with an everyday love, no it's holy, it's pure and it's sincere before God. I want to thank him anew tonight for a man like you. For a person worthy of His love, who works for Him, and who honours His name. My prayer remains, "Lord, that I may be worthy of Danie's love."

Our Matric farewell is the 31st of October. It is a Dinner to be held in the Children's Home Hall and there will be about seventy guests. Luckily, my parents are going, and I won't be alone. I will also sing with the Metrics that night. Should I tell you what I'm going to wear? I'm going to put on a blue lace dress with blue and black accessories and my fur jacket. I'm not going to brag but I always have to remember that wherever I go I have to be neat and classy, because one day I only want to please my husband and be neat in public.

Your only darling,
Helene. XXXX

23rd October 1958

Dearest Helene,

Thank you very much for the very welcome letter I received. It did my heart good.

We had lovely rains, and I went to check in the garden to see if the seeds I had planted had come up. The salad, cabbage and tomato look great. Furthermore, I am very busy, and I am very happy. Thank you for the flood of prayers, which are constantly prayed. God bless you and your parents for that. I know your love is genuine, therefore you take courage, because not much longer we will always be together. What would we have made if we had not known Jesus? It's truly worth being His child.

I preach at the farms on Saturday night and at a Sunday school rally on Sunday night. Then I also have the Bible class. Pray for them and for me that the truth of the Word will reach them. Currently, our church is being painted. Past. Botha himself painted the tower, which is 56 feet high. He does not have any fear. I hold the long ladder and Past. Botha climbs without any fear. As he paints some of it falls on my head, but I just hold on to the ladder, so he doesn't get hurt. I like Past. Botha and his wife.

All my love, your longing darling,
Danie. XXXXX

October 26, 1958

My darling it's almost 6pm now and I'm wondering what the one I love is doing? Are you getting ready for church? Men dress "just enough" (ha, ha) not like you ladies, so I can write another half hour before I go to church.

This morning, we had a Divine Service. We started singing, and then Past. When Botha wanted to open the service with prayer and the announcements, there was first a great silence and then something wonderful happened. Some spoke in tongues, and others wept as they glorified God. There was also an explanation of tongues that dealt with God's peace that He had given to us by grace. Praise the Lord that His peace surpasses all understanding.

You must see what our Morris Minor looks like now. I sat in front of a new carpet and painted the engine beautifully. We also need the Lord to cleanse us.

Helene, there are many songs that your young people sing that are not known here. Write down their words and please send them. For me. I should know most of the tunes. Thanks in advance because I know it's a lot of work. One of the days you are still sleeping and sleeping, then you feel my lips on yours again.

Hey, my dear, I close with confidence that His blessing will be and remain upon my darling.

All my love,
Danie.

30th October 1958

Hello my darling,

I love you with all my heart, and I long to visit you. If it were just a little closer, I would come every Saturday. But hallelujah, all things work together for good.

Sunday night I will preach in Brakpan, for the first time. Pray for me that God will use me mightily to the glory of His name. On Saturday evening we went to Balfour for a Youth Rally in the Town Hall. I sang with three other men. I tried singing in bass. Sister Brown played for us on her piano accordion. I want to love Him more because the more we love God, the more our love is going to grow. My dear, you mean so much to me and I desire the Lord to help me make you happy that you will be the happiest on earth. May His peace, love and joy be our part day after day.

By His grace last Tuesday, I led a Mr. and Mrs. Klinkenberg to God. Praise the Lord! It is a joy to lead souls to Jesus. The Lord has now saved quite a few and I am grateful that He was able to use me as an instrument. Three people will be baptized on Sunday.

Last night we had a very blessed Youth Service. I preached about repentance and said the people could ask me questions. Some have said that conversion is a process, and others have said it is something that takes place immediately. I explained that when

one comes to repentance it is something that takes place immediately, but then there follows a path of sanctification, which is a process.

Be sweet, and may His grace surround you and His presence overwhelm you.
All my love, your longing darling,
Danie. XXXXXXXX

2nd November 1958

My dearest angel,

Thank you Danie for your letter. Thanks for the encouragement. Thank you for your love and for all that you mean to me. Thank you for your prayers, because through that I was elected to the Youth Council, last night. I was really surprised, and not that alone, but the people are very pleased that I'm on the Youth Council. May the Lord keep me humble and sincere. Many of the parishioners told me personally last night that they were genuinely pleased, that I had been chosen, so that I could live out my calling as a future pastor's wife.

I thank the Lord for what He did in the hearts of people. This morning was the first time in months that uncle and aunt Geering greeted me kindly and offered to take me home, with their car.

Our matric farewell was a wonderful success and everything that was done there was done with reverence and respect. The Lord also had His place of honour because every speaker mentioned Him. Our matric class presented a Family Bible to the Principal as a gift with our names written in front. It was much appreciated.

My darling I miss you much these days and I'm counting the days. Wait, it's only 16 days, then I'll see you. Darling, it's six o'clock and I still must get ready and dress for church. After church I'll see you again if you've been sweet, as always, you'll get something sweet later.

My angel, uncle Willie, our pastor, prayed so beautifully for our Youth Council. Funny enough, as I stood there, I thought that in a few months, or even years, I would like to stand in front of that same pulpit to take another oath, like tonight, before God, with you. May the Lord grant me grace that my love for you will never grow cold, as well as our love for one another.

Uncle "Rubie" prayed for me tonight and I truly believe that the Lord touched me and healed me. His word promises us, as Past. Willie Smit preached, that God loves us all the same.

Darling, you might laugh, but I just wore my engagement ring. Funny enough, as soon as I put the ring in, I start smiling. I wonder what will happen when we get engaged? My face will probably stay that way.

I feel so funny tonight. Like I had just come of age. I want to walk my life as a Youth Council member, which live for God. I will strive to be the best Youth Council member. Not that I want to increase my fame, but because I want to repay the Lord for trusting me to appoint me to that position.

This morning when Uncle Willie introduced the two Councils, I was in a complete dream world. I saw you in our congregation, and it was you who pronounced the blessing upon them. On Saturday night, I blushed again after a long while.

This morning, uncle Galie gave his financial report, of the Income and Expenditure, of the church. But when he read these words: "Bro. D.T.E. Nell gave £163.0.0. When he read that, everybody's heads turned to me, and you must have seen Uncle Willie's face. I almost laughed. He had such a knowing smile on his face.

How is your small garden doing, probably good? You're probably going to sleep now? Well, I'm tired myself. If I had been with you, of course, it would have been a different matter. Tomorrow afternoon after school, I want to continue writing. In the meantime, my sweetheart should rest well, dream sweet dreams, and always think of me.

Night, my darling XXX.

Someday I'll whisper it near you XXX.

2nd November 1958

Dearest Helene,

Guess what someone said today? He said when you were here in Brakpan, he thought you were my sister because we look the same.

Tonight, we had a blessed service. Thank you so much for your faithful prayer which I appreciate. I preached on the Second Coming of Christ. (Hand. 1:11). We also baptized nine people. Past. Botha baptized them. He does it in a smooth way. I want to ask him to baptize people one of these days, so I can learn because I haven't baptized yet.

Darling, pray that I will never go out of His will. May He also use the two of us to be soul winners. I wish we could have already been together to work for Him, because soon Jesus is going to come back. I need help and I am glad that God created you to help me. Starting tonight, we have a chain-prayer. My time to pray is from ten o'clock and again from half past twelve – each time for thirty minutes.

All my love,

Danie

8th November 1958

Dearest Danie,

Surely my angel is doing very well. At least that's what it sounds like from your letters. Darling it's now almost 10:10pm and I've stopped my studies for tonight because I'm tired. The work is not difficult, but you get quite tired when you study for about two, three weeks. Why are you so quiet about your exams or are you no longer studying?

In Standard eight, I lost three "Schaefer" pens, which had been stolen, and then daddy wouldn't buy me one again. On Saturday dad said I can't write matric with a regular school pen. Then he gave me another "Schaeffer" pen, and I'm thankful for that. I learn more easily when I underline main points, and before I go to bed at night, I think about possible questions that could be asked. I've even been dreaming about history. My dear, I am obliged to put in a little extra if I want more than just "pass". I prayed for it and so I believe I will receive it.

My darling, you must be careful if people see us two as brother and sister, because then things can go wrong. They are very close to the truth. For some reason, I still think mommy discovered my engagement ring because she has such a smile on her face all day long.

We have Youth Service on Saturday night, and Jolene and I have to give a piano duet. For the past three Sunday afternoons, I have been teaching Uncle Erasmus's Sunday school class (boys between 5 and 7 years old) piano lessons. It's a class of 18 boys. I love them. They fight to sit next to me, and if I tell them something you must see their faces – they are interested in what I say. I think I am better with small children than with older ones. By the way: I am no longer counted as a member of the Bible class because I am now a Sunday school teacher, a pastor's wife, Youth Council member, and choir member.

Have a good night's sleep my dear. All my love,
Helene.

9th November 1958

My darling,

I quickly write a few words to say that I love you with all my heart. I hope you're still doing well. Guess where I was today? With my parents in Pretoria. Everyone really wants to meet you. Alice (my brother George's wife) says the two of us look like we might be a brother and sister.

Congratulations also that you were elected as a Youth Council member. May the Lord give you great grace and accomplish His purpose in your life. I think you are the most wonderful person on earth, and I love you dearly. Ever since you came into my life, there has been a sudden change in my life.

All my love,
Danie

11th November 1958

Dearest Angel,

How are you my darling? What can I do when there is a longing in your heart, as I do? Especially when I consider that I haven't seen you for over a month.

Darling, I wonder if I'll ever grow up, because when I start longing, the tears just won't go away. Then I can't concentrate on anything. On Sunday, Bertha asked if there was anything wrong with you because I looked so taken down.

When I washed my hands one morning, I forgot my engagement ring in the bathroom. This was the first time. And when I got to church and saw no ring on my finger, I felt lost. I phoned from the pastor's house and asked mom to bring it with her to church. Uncle Willie, our pastor, laughed when he heard this.

I told you that Uncle Rubie prayed for me, and you know, darling, I'm perfectly healed. Especially, I want to say thank you for your prayers, because I know that you are the one who prays faithfully for me. I can sense it every moment. I'm healthier these days than I've been in my entire life. All the glory is due to Him!

We started to study for our final exams, so I was at home, when Past. Willie came to visit our home this morning. He said that he would get me a job, and when I asked him about it this morning, he said that I should come and work in his office. He says that I will be an ideal pastor's wife after that. He laughed when he asked questions about our private affairs, and I began to blush.

My darling, does aunt van Staden still take good care of you? Tell her if she should treat you badly, I'll come and get you one of these days and then Brakpan will be without their assistant pastor. Does my darling still love me as much as ever? Ah, I wish I could just look into your blue eyes again. Alice says her husband George's eyes look like yours. He may be your brother, but his eyes aren't as pretty, and George doesn't have such a mischievous laugh as you do, either. My darling I want to be with you so badly. Darling, when I see you again, I won't let you go out from under my eyes.

Guess what, I got our Choir Portrait, and it looks very smart, for one reason, of course. If some of the schoolgirls visit me, then they just want to know where is the young pastor? They can't speak of it enough.

You know my angel, at the end of my school career, I regret having to leave school after all. I'm only now realizing what I'm going to have to cope with. My free life is over, and responsibility will have to rest on me in the future. Although I look forward to it and to be with you and make you happy, I will sometimes long for my school days. Last Friday night, tears flowed freely when we had to say goodbye to the staff and principal, because for four years I was on the student council, and we had to give direct guidance in our school.

One of our teachers told me yesterday that I will marry the first of the whole class because I am a born housewife. She doesn't know how close to the truth she was. Ahhh! What a relief, I have just received a letter from you. I almost thought that you had forgotten me.

I write my last subject on the 2nd of December and on the 3rd of December I start working in Sonop's office. They asked me for two weeks, so I'll only work before Christmas. Mommy is pretty much disappointed that you cannot come. O! My dear, you must now see the inside of our house. All the paint work is done, and it looks beautiful. The porch looks like a dream.

Darling, lots of kisses and hang in there, remember I will be there one of those days. God bless you.

All my love,

Your longing Helene XXXXX

19th November 1958

Dearest darling,

I just came from our party. It was very pleasant, for Sakkie Smit more than for me because he had with him whom he loved, but I missed you terribly. So much so that I heard people whispering about it here and there. It would have been so different if you could have been here, but what the Lord's purpose is we will find out later, my angel. I can truly say up to this point, the Lord has been wonderfully good to me. Especially in the last six months, He has not only changed my whole life, but He has also given me someone to whom I could give all my love and from whom I have received it back triple-fold. Again, a thousand thanks for your love, also your interest especially regarding my birthday.

Thank you very much for the Bible and the records you had played on the radio, and oh, just everything. You're wonderful. I no longer surprise myself at all that I love you dearly. You are truly worth it over-and-over.

I went to a picnic on the Jamneck's farm last Friday night. It was great, we pretty much enjoyed ourselves. On Saturday night I went with Uncle Willie to Wepener. On Monday, he went with me to Barclay's Bank and helped me apply for a job. He also told me that the choir is going to Cape Town for special services in Maitland on the first weekend in March. He's the preacher and our choir will sing that weekend.

The Lord has truly been good to me in my exams, so far. Our typing, bookkeeping, and other subjects were good. The Lord has provided in every way, and I can truly say God is good. Darling, my eyes are burning from all the studies until late at night. I want to go to bed early because we have to study tomorrow. Sleep sweetly and dream of me. I love you very much. He alone knows how much, and therefore He will keep it sacred.

What a lovely morning! God's work is profoundly wonderful and perfect. That is why our love is so perfect, because He is love and when He is in our life, we cannot help but love. What's more wonderful than love? Only our Master and Shepherd.

You know, tomorrow I'm ashamed before the Lord, because when He tests us, we murmur so often. The sunshine and solution He send us overshadows everything. He

repays us so much that we just love Him. It's wonderful to serve such a God. We fall far short of compensating Him for it.

Darling, I hope your exams went well? I've been praying for you, and I believe the Lord will undertake for you. Darling, do you still love me? I'm glad I'm not with you now, because you would hug me to death.

We have an "Old-People Weekend." A reception was arranged for them on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday night, they will conduct a "Youth Service." And all the old people are going to give items. There will be quartets, solos, piano solos etc. I think it's going to be great. Past. H. De Vries is the preacher. Grandma Viljoen, who is 95 years, died Sunday afternoon. She passed away very quietly and was buried on my birthday.

My dear, our time on earth is so short. Work for the Lord more than ever. I will pray that He will give you strength to be able to do what you should. One day we will win souls for Jesus together. Souls that are so precious that they cannot go lost! I truly believe that He will still bless us when we are together. Thank God, it's just one of these days that He will answer my greatest request and fulfil my calling as a "woman." Greetings to all, and all my love for you.

And remember my dear, you are in my mind every moment.

With a lot of love, Helene. XXXX

20th November 1958

Hello, my love,

How was your birthday? I longed terribly on that day to be with you again and to hold tightly against me.

I said to Richard our Youth Leader the other day, that as soon as we are engaged, you will sing one Sunday morning in our church. The Pastor must then announce and say, "Sister Basson of Bloemfontein, Brother Nell's fiancée, will sing a song for us today."

Oh, I'll feel so proud of that moment! There is only one person that can truly sing beautifully for me, and that is you. Did my darling hear the records I had played for you, over the radio? I had two records played on your birthday.

Be of good cheer because I am constantly praying for you and for your Matric exams.

All my love,

Danie.

22ste November 1958

Hallo Blue eyes,

Shame! My darling must feel lonely. I just read your letter.

My dear, I'm scared about next week and ask that you please pray for me. On Monday, I write History; Tuesday and Wednesday Afrikaans; Thursday and Friday English. Then I write the Tuesday on Biology before I'm done.

As for our engagement: I think your advice is good, but we need to pray a lot about it. Tell daddy that we're not in a hurry to get married, or he'll think we just want to get married in a month or more. What do you think my dear? A year won't be too long, especially if I can work first and get my wedding outfit in order.

I love you so much my dear. I wish I could just give you a gentle kiss right now to say thank you for all that my angel means to me. I really want to hear you preach again. It's been almost three months since I last heard you preach. I miss you infinitely. Why did you take my heart and life out of me? It's so lonely without you. It's as if everything around me is unreal. My dear, you have to go to Past one of these days. Botha asks for your holiday. Otherwise, he may organize things for you. Tell him I ask very nicely and will make sure that you will work twice as hard in the future.

Darling, what do you do every Sunday afternoon? It's probably terribly boring or do the young people invite you for a cup of tea, every now and then? Darling, I'm so proud of you. Without your love I am going to be empty. I think that you and I as well as our God makes a perfect triangle, because one person's love merges into the other's. Dearest, take good care of yourself, because I don't want anything to happen to my angel. Let us give Him what is due to Him every day, namely, our life and our love.

All my love for you alone and lots of kisses.

As always,

Your Darling.

23ste November 1958

Dearest Helene,

Thank you very, very much for your welcome letter that I was looking forward to. Truly I thank God for such a darling like you that He has given me. Your photo is right in front of me, and every now and then when I look up your smile. My dear, I love you with a Divine love.

The past week has been bitterly hard because of the emptiness in my heart. Darling, "something" wants to pop out from within. My inside become too small. May God continue to strengthen our love, is my prayer.

This morning, we had a very blessed service. Past. Botha went to Kempton Park to introduce the new church council there. I had to preach here in Brakpan. I talked about "The Most Dangerous Condition One Can Be In." This is the lukewarm state according to Open. 3:15-18.

Ah, I long to be near you. You feel so far away but thank you for all your love. Truly, God was good, and I'm glad He brought us together. What God joined together; no man must separate. Never listen to people and always ask God what you should do. He gives the best advice, for He is the greatest Counsellor. (Isa. 9:5)

My love for you is genuine, and may God grant that it will grow more and more, and that we will truly make each other happy through His power and grace. Ask the Lord to guide me clearly and those who are appointed over me. I have given myself completely to my God and can say, "Just as you will, Lord, do it to me. You're the Potter and I am the clay." (Song 363) Remember Luke 1:37 is for you and keep your eyes on Jesus. Remember, I love you more than ever before, and even throughout the day in our Morris, I pray for you constantly, wherever I may be.

All my love,
Your longing darling,
Danie.

26th November 1958

My only darling,

Thank you so much for your letter, I appreciate your love from the bottom of my heart. I long so desperately, just to take your face in my hands and look deep into your eyes. So deep that I can see your love and your soul in it.

Darling, I can thank God tonight from the bottom of my being for what He has done for me so far. I can never thank Him enough. His grace is truly abundant. Thank you for my angel's prayers, were it not for your prayers, I doubt I would have done so well in the exams.

My dear, you say it's as if you are in darkness, well I've had the same experience. The big reason is, we miss each other a lot. Being separated from each other is fine, but not for two months. Sometimes I take your photo and keep looking at it to see if you might come to life. Darling, by now you're probably laughing out loud, but I don't blame you.

I wish I could kiss you to sleep tonight. I will do it at some point, after all. I'm afraid no one will get us away from each other, if you're here. I'll keep kissing you and kissing and kissing. I want to kiss your eyes and touch you gently because I love you. I wonder how deep one's love can really go. I'd like to pass that mark.

It was very hot on Sunday. I wonder what you would have done if you had seen me on Sunday afternoon. I went to rest after dinner and all I had on were the two most

necessary undergarments for a young lady... That's all. But the blinds were closed, and my room door was locked, so no one could see me. One day you will... wait, I'm getting full of ideas again. I just thought about Past. Nell and his little wife, young and happily married.

These days I miss you extra much but will wait until Christmas. The engagement, your love, and the holiday. I pray for you and give you all my love.
Always your own.
Helene. XXXXX

28th November 1958

Dearest Darling,

Truly, I love you with all my heart. I long to have you close to me now, and to hug you tightly against me. Sometimes I want to cry and sometimes I want to laugh. Thank you for your letters that mean so much to me. They're always worth reading because you're constantly cheering me up. I don't know how to express myself. In one word, you are wonderful, and I desire you more than you can imagine.

You'll run away if you see me. When I left Bloemfontein, I weighed 189 pounds. I now weigh 179 pounds. It's true, I lost 10 pounds. My pants that I had made bigger just want to fall off occasionally. My desire is to walk with God. Pray with me that He will fulfil the desire of my heart. He promised never to give up or leave us. Hallelujah to our King and Lord!

On Sunday evening the 7th of December, just after the service, I will leave Brakpan to visit you in Bloemfontein. But beware if I get hold of you, I'll just eat you alive. Your school will probably close on the 3rd of December. How are you doing in your final exams? My prayer is that the dear Lord will truly help you and give you wisdom as we read in James 1:5,6.

My angel, I realize that God has brought you into my life and give Him the glory for it. All my love... of him who desires much and loves you with all of his heart.
Danie. XXXXXX

1st December 1958

Dearest Danie,

What a relief! I almost thought Brakpan was in America. My dear, I'm getting a nervous breakdown this week of waiting. How am I going to wrap up the week? It's still seven days I must wait. But the prospect is there and where there is hope, there is life. Darling, I'm so excited to see you that my pen doesn't want to write fast enough.

On Saturday evening we were at a Youth Rally in Central Congregation here in Bloemfontein. Past. Le Roux preached a wonderful sermon. The Spirit of the Lord took possession of the service. Past. Castle and Past. Willie Smit was beside themselves.

Darling, the love among the congregations in our city is wonderful. After the service we all went to the Hostel. Five families repented and gave themselves to the Lord.

I miss you very much. I'm so excited that I can't write. I promise to make my next letter ten pages long. I just love you twice after your last letter I read. I want to tell you next week what I think of your letters. You're wonderful. I'm so inspired that I want to sing and play the piano. Funny, I developed a tremendous boldness to do something in His name.

Oh, my world it's three o'clock and I must go mail your letter. Forgive the short letter, but I'll make it up again. All my love for my dear. Stay sweet and take care of yourself.
Your loving darling,
Helene XXXXX

4 December 1958

Dearest Helene,

It's now 11:00pm and it's very quiet... just the clock ticking softly... And here, deep in my heart, there is a longing for you, my dear. It feels so funny to me. I was still close to you this morning, and now there are about 300 miles between us again.

Your brother-in-law, Phillip, dropped me off at Roderick and Botha. The next car that picked me up was a middle-aged man. We went to the garage where the Morris Minor was for repairs but then found out that the parts had not yet come from Bloemfontein. We arrived in Johannesburg at five o'clock in the afternoon. From there I took a train to Brakpan and from the station by taxi to my place of residence. The same rental car dropped me off at the church... I was four minutes in time. But as always, here in my heart was a tremendous longing for my darling.

I was listening to a program on Springbok radio. One can just call them to broadcast a message for someone. It's apparently noon every Sunday. Sometimes I forget things. Therefore, I will have to marry you so that you can help me remember. Is that all the reason I should marry you? No, to keep my Morris Minor and my shoes clean and take care of my stomach as well. (ha, ha, ha)

This morning, we had a wonderful service. But the congregation wept a lot when they heard that Pastor Botha was moving to Benoni. I feel sorry for them, and we should pray for him and his wife.

You are the one I love more and more every moment. You mean a lot in my life, my angel. May God help me (and He will) to make you happy. You only deserve happiness and peace and all that is beautiful. When I think of my dear, my fiancé, my wife-to-be, then I feel something tender in my heart towards you. Then I want to just jump into my Morris now and just come to visit you. I drove about 1200 miles just to visit you for three hours, and it was worth it. I have the most amazing fiancé in our country and on

earth, and if I'm going to give her the right support, by His grace, then she's going to be the best and most wonderful housewife, mother, and pastor's wife there is. And that's the truth.

This afternoon I had the privilege of visiting the Hospital and praying for the sick there. It's a pleasure to do something for your fellow human beings. No wonder the Lord told the parable of the good Samaritan. This afternoon the Lord also blessed me when I went to pray for a brother Boshoff, who was ill. He gave me £6 – and the repair on our Morris Minor was £5, 19 shillings and 2 pence. Isn't the Lord good? All the glory and praise we give to Him.

Many people came to hear of our engagement, and many congratulate us. I also asked the monthly magazine "The Comforter" to announce our engagement. My darling don't greet the people too much with your left hand, they will see "something" that shines. No what, just greet with your left hand. My angel, I love you very much, and may God make our love grow deeper.

Greetings to Past. Willie, your parents, and your sisters.

All my love,

Danie

6th December 1958

My dearest darling,

Is my angel, okay? Oh, I'm so happy Danie, so contented, as if a dream I've dreamed all my years has suddenly come true. I love you with everything that is inside of me. You're the dearest man the Lord has ever created. No, I'm not flattering, I mean it from my heart.

Darling, I pray for you in the three weeks to come, that the Lord will give you grace and strength to be able to do all the work. Thank you so much for all the sacrifices you had to make to get here and make me happy. He will bless you for it. If I come to you, I'll try to make up for what you've done for me.

Darling, now that we're engaged, the people tell me what an ideal pastor's wife I'd make, even our neighbours told me that. I hope that by the grace of the Lord, this will happen. I'll never forget Wednesday night. God had been with us. I know the Lord is pleased with the step we took, so He allowed us to be engaged. Did my angel have a good trip on Saturday and I hope you didn't come home too late? I'm already longing for you again, but I'll just have to hold out and get everything ready for our vacation. Danie, I love you so much. Whether you're talking nicely to me, or you're reprimanding. Everything just bonds us closer together. Take care of yourself and don't long too much. One of these days I will be with you and then I'll make you happy by His grace.

Sweet stay and all my love,
Your darling, Helene. XXXXX

14th December 1958

Dearest Helene,

I really hope that once we get married, you'll get me into bed early, because I'm a real night owl. Physically, I'm a bit exhausted, but otherwise I'm doing very well.

Yesterday afternoon I was in Pretoria to see my parents. Everyone is fine, only mom isn't. Maybe she'll have to go to the hospital for an operation before Christmas. Please pray for her. When I pressed her against me like that yesterday, I realized it was my mother who brought me into this world. Let's appreciate them while we still have them.

Guess what? I got an assistant. I'm the first assistant with an assistant. The church council appointed a Br. P. Breedt, who is a first-year student in the AFM Bible College, to assist me. He is a young man who is married, and they have a son. He's very nice and we enjoy working together. Let us "seniors" teach the "new guys" something. Pray for me, because I'm probably not going to stay in Brakpan for much longer. There are churches that needs a pastor. Just pray that my headquarters will send me to the right place. I just hope not too far from my darling. The Lord is very good to me, and I had to lower my head in shame before the Lord again today. Financially, it didn't go well, but I received a check from the Treasurer tonight as a Christmas gift from the Church Council. Thank God for Matt. 6:33.

Take care of yourself because our children and I will need you very much in the future.
All my love,
Danie.

18th December 1958

Dearest buddy,

How is my darling? Is she still longing? The longing in my heart is terrible... but only six more days... and then big things are going to happen...when we see each other again.

I'm just writing a short letter because there has just been a call that someone is very sick in the hospital. There are ten sick people in our community right now, so you can understand how busy I am. My darling, I yearn to see you know and look forward to the holidays. I desire to have you close to me, and to hold in my arms.

I will pick you up on the 24th of December at Johannesburg station. I'll be there when you arrive. I don't want us to look for each other, because I've been looking for you long enough. Mommy is also very much looking forward to meeting you and the other family members. Everyone has given you a lot of room in their hearts.

Darling, excuse the short note, but I know you understand.

All my love,
Danie.

19th December 1958

My dearest angel,

Thank you very much for your letter. This comes from the depths of your heart. I'm glad you rode well. I'm also happy for the money you received. The Lord has been good, and we thank Him for that.

I feel so safe with my engagement ring. Some girls openly envy me and then I thank the Lord for a man like you. I love you Danie and it's still growing deeper and more tender. The Lord sent you to me just at the right time, when I needed you most. I'll tell you everything one day. Did I tell you that my Bible class gave me a beautiful jewel box? It's really very handy and beautiful.

If no one asks you what kind of gifts they should buy me, feel free to say something for my "trousseau" outfit. You don't have to laugh. I'll have to trust the Lord if you want to get married soon, and a girl can never have enough. I'm so excited about my visit to my in-laws that I can't wait to see them.

I have booked my place on the train today for the 23rd of December, at seven o'clock the evening and will be in Johannesburg the same time, the next morning. If it is not possible to pick me up at the station, let me know and I will make a plan myself.

You have to see how people look at me in the tearoom. Now that I regularly wear a "bun" at the back of my hair, I seem more naturally suited to my profession as a pastor's wife. Thank you for all your prayers, I feel it daily that you pray for me.

Greetings to everyone and all my love to my future husband.

May the Lord bless your work and our love for each other will burn like fire.

Your own treasure,

Helene. XXXXX

22nd January 1959

Dearest Helene,

It is now a quarter to five in the afternoon, and I have now been praying, and here in my heart there is a tremendous longing. I realize more now what God gave me, when He gave you to me. May He help me appreciate your love and give you the love that is due to you. O! May He overshadow us and bind us tightly together with a divine bond of love. I love you now more than ever. I realize how much we need each other. I want to do my best to give you the right support. Now I look forward to that day that we will be united, in marriage. O! May the months go by quickly!

Pray for me, because I am preaching, what is written in Job 14:14 on Sunday morning. I have not yet a sermon for the evening. I am preaching at the plots on Saturday night, and I rely on my darling's prayers because I know God will hear her!

Take heart, for Rom. 8:31 is for you. How I wish you were with me right now; I'll just eat you up.

Darling, I wrote you daddy a letter and thanked him for coming to visit.

Greetings home,

All my love,

Danie.

I sing my song to you again: *"They try to tell us were too young; too young to really be in love; they say that loves a word, a word we've only heard, but can't begin to know the meaning of. And yet were not too young to know; this Love may last though years may go; and then someday they may recall, we were not too young at all!"*

February 18, 1959

My dearest Angel,

A thousand thanks for your letter. I have enough inspiration now to live on it for years. With you, I want to thank the Lord for His benefits to us. Is there a better friend than Jesus? Never! He is my everything, and therefore I willingly lay everything at His feet, also for you. He guides us in our steps. He lights our way and makes the future bright. I'm so grateful that you're happy. I prayed so hard for that. I was at the church for an early morning prayer. O! It was heavenly.

Darling, I feel so comforted after your letter, because after you had to drive to Vryheid I cried a lot, but now I am satisfied. The pain I always have in my heart when you have to leave, is gone because His joy is now in its place.

Shame on you, my dear. You slept on our bed first, in Vryheid, and I'm not even there. We went to Virginia last Saturday, and Past. Willie Smit was happy to see us. Their church was packed, and their choir numbered about 30 members. People who had left came back to the congregation.

You must ask the congregation of Vryheid to tune the piano. "You're the pastor there now, aren't you?" At least your darling is smart, she had it her mind for a long time now to call you "Past. D. Nell", because no one will know who "Mr. D. Nell" is.

Honey, I love you more than you can imagine. One of these days, our love will take on greater form. Take heart! It will be heavenly. My darling, I'm so looking forward to it. Then to have the assurance, you're mine forever until He comes to pick us up.

Aunt Baby van Rensburg (I add: She was my daughter-in-law, Sally's mother) is perfectly healthy. Friday morning, after you left, the tumour she had in her female parts came out – in the toilet. Truly, God has performed a miracle. Thank you for praying for her healing the night before you left, with her husband, Uncle Japie and Aunt Gouws. All the glory we give to the Lord!

Convey my greetings to the Niemann family as well as to our congregation. I feel so sorry for my darling to remain so alone in our Rectory. Oh, I wish I was there to spoil you. You are naughty, and you enjoy it of course, your dear thing.

Thank you so much for your visit – I enjoyed every moment. Somethings I desire, but I can't tell you now, otherwise I'll only make you sad. I hope I will have some of your sweaters finished when I see you again, because you sure need them. Danie, if you need anything else, please tell your "wife" because she would appreciate it very much. You know what I'm really craving right now... for a nice kiss. Naughty one, I want to hug and hug you. You're too far away from me now, so those "blue eyes" can't soften my heart. Darling, remember I'm always with you.

I'm in my job now and its teatime, but first I want to talk to someone who is the dearest on the whole earth. I love you so much, my dear, and to think that you are my darling. It's too good to be true.

Concerning our bedroom, your choice is right because the rings were excellent, so the room set will be tasteful as well. You always know what I like, naughty one. Now that I know my darling is established and happy, I also feel so happy. The Lord must love us, that's why He is so good to us. Dr. Fanie Moller, our President, sends many greetings and he prays for you. Grandmother (Past. Willie Smit's mother) says you get a nice spanking when she sees you again, because you didn't come to visit. She says she prays for you every morning because you're "such a dear boy." If only she knew how naughty the "dear boy" can be. For her, there is only one future and that is heaven. She is truly an asset to a congregation.

Come visit me tonight, then? Sweetheart... beautiful blue eyes, treasure ball... wait I'm getting naughty.

Lots of love, Your only, Helene.

February 22, 1959

Dearest Helene,

Thank you so much for your letter, I appreciate it, and I still want to ask your mother where she bought you?

Darling my home address is 213 Utrecht Street, Vryheid and my phone number is 243. But rather send my letters to P.O. Box 153, Vryheid. What I desperately need is a little woman to love me, and who I can trust with my love. What I need for our house are curtains for my study, as well as the kitchen. For the living room and bedroom, the ladies of our church hung it for us.

Last week uncle de Jager en I drove 400 miles doing home visits. I am not complaining because it is pleasant to be able to do so to His glory. On Monday we visited in town, but on Tuesday we went to the mines. These included Coronation and Cliffdale.

On Tuesday evening after our prayer meeting, the congregation treated me at the rectory. I was also glad to see that the living room and my bedroom were filled with furniture. When everyone went back to their homes, I went to get my things from uncle and aunt Nieman and slept in the rectory. Everyone is really kind to me. But I am really looking forward to that day when I will eat some of your food in the rectory. And don't forget the ice cream that my darling will put on the table! .

This morning, I had only four Bible class children and all four gave their hearts to Jesus. We got on our knees and prayed together. Pray that the Lord will keep them standing and that He will give more children for the Sunday school and also for our Bible class. Today we had blessed services. Tonight, my message was about the Second Coming of Christ. I also dedicated the first child of Br/Sus. Marais.

Darling, I bought a beautiful desk for my study. I wish you could see it. Well, my dear, I'd better shut down because it's time to go to bed.

Enjoy your sleep and greetings to your parents.

All my love.

Your longing darling.

Danie

23rd January 1959

My dearest Angel,

Thank you so much for every sacrifice you have made. The greatest thank you is for your love and the showing of it.

I serve a wonderful Jesus. He heals all wounds and makes the sore heart rejoice. The train journey was terrible. I longed so much and was very sad, my dear. I kept my promise and didn't cry, even though it wasn't easy. However, when I put the phone down at Germiston station, the inner straw broke, as well as my heart. I had to swallow the tears because I didn't want my mommy to see me crying. We arrived here at seven o'clock and everything went well. It's just terribly hot in Bloemfontein, and as you know, heat and I are not friends.

Darling, I don't want to complain, but the longing hurts so much. Deep down it hurts terribly, and besides, my darling is not here to comfort. Oh, Danie, I love you so much that it hurts terribly. Darling, you have to take good care of yourself for the sake of me. May the Lord grant that I will never hurt you. I'm so looking forward to truly being a good pastor's wife. Now that I'm alone again and have a lot of time to think, I realize how much I really want to work for the Lord.

Give to Dad and Moeks, your parents. Each a nice kiss on my behalf. It's also a good thing you're not here now, otherwise I would have done something funny.

Remember, that I love you very much, and that I pray for you.

Your buddy.

Helene.

25th January 1959

My dearest Danie,

I miss you terribly. I thank the Lord daily for your love, and I wish my heart was bigger so I can store more love.

Past. Willie Smit said goodbye to our congregation today. It was almost like a funeral. We had a blessed service, but I cried the whole time, not so much because Uncle Willie was leaving, but because every now and then my thoughts were on another preacher who preached 300 miles from here and who I love so dearly. Darling, I've prayed so earnestly for your services that I know it's been blessed.

Tonight, our choir sang nicely, but I found myself missing you. Oh, my dear, my desire to work for the Lord is growing by the day. You know, on the one hand, it's good that we're not together. It teaches me to become more serious, to pray more, and to trust the Lord more. I want to thank you once again for your love and understanding, and I enjoyed every moment with you. Thank you for the happiness you give me daily.

I also want to thank you for your letter and for the texts. It's so encouraging for me. You are my dearest possession I have. I just prefer to have you every day. May the Lord fulfil all the desires that you have.

I'm back on the Sunday school staff and got my little class again. Ah, the little boys are too durable. They are terribly pleased that I am with them again. My sister Toekie's son, Chris, is also in my class. The Lord is good to me, and I will give my best for Him, which He is wonderful.

My dear, it feels when you left for Brakpan. It's so lonely without you. I wander around and I can't do anything either. I'll just have to pray more and see if it doesn't help. The Lord must grant that the year will fly because I need you so much. Pray for me darling, He will answer because you received in the past when you pray.

I always think of you and will never stop praying.
Your ever-longing darling,
Helene.

February 27, 1959

How is my darling?

I'm not going on a home visit tonight, but I'm staying home to prepare my sermons. But oh! The longing is terrible! The congregation needs you. The rectory needs you. And I need you. Something in here is going to break.

I have already laid everything at His feet, and I know He will undertake. Really, we should never distrust Him. Thankfully, it is written in Ps. 50:10-12 that the cattle on a thousand mountains belong to the Lord as well as the world and its fullness.

Also read: Matt. 6:25-33; Matt. 10:29-31; 1 Pet. 5:7. Darling, we need to trust God more, He will provide in all our needs.

Good news! The church council has already given the dining room set – isn't that wonderful? As for the "Reception", I think we should not spend too much. I'm in the process of compiling a list of who we can invite to our wedding. Please send me your father's initials. We can ask Tom de Wet to drive the wedding car. The photographer could be Danie Brink. I hope he can help because the church is on a Saturday.

I'll have the invitation cards printed right here in Freedom. We can buy the wedding ring together in Johannesburg, during the Maranatha Park Conference. Then I also thought that we could ask someone to sing in church. Who can we ask? Darling, one bridesmaid and one bridesmaid is enough. If I think of anything else, I'll let you know. Leave it to me to write to your parents. I'll let them know about our plans.

Truly, the Lord is good because yesterday Br/Sus. Senekal came to give me a pair of shoes (Number 11). Just what I needed because my current shoes have holes. Last night we had a very blessed house service at Coronation Mine. (It's about 22 miles from Vryheid. There were 12 people visiting the service. Two gave their hearts to the Lord. O! May God save many souls!

Now I need you more to stand by me. Thank you darling for everything and I'm glad I can talk to you. Remember: "Jesus never fails, Jesus never fails. Heaven and earth may pass away... but Jesus never fails!"

Tomorrow night we have a Youth Service and next Saturday we have a braai at the house of Br/Sus. Booth, that lives on a small farm. This Sunday we have Communion, and I want to preach about the necessity of the Lord's Supper. On Sunday evening I will preach on what Jesus said in John 8:36. He alone can set people free from sin and sickness! I hereby include a newspaper clip of our Church services. Vryheid – Gazette advertises us for free.

I pray a lot for you, it's a great pleasure for me. Today I bought a very good iron, and I wish you could see how fancy I look when I iron my pants. Here is a young black guy who works for the church, and he painted the garage and outside rooms for me as well as the toilets at the church. He also washes my car every morning. So, the Morris Minor shines every day.

I wish you were already here in Vryheid, then I could have brought you coffee or tea in bed. In the spirit, you are actually already here. This morning, we had Communion, and the Spirit of God was mightily present, especially during the use of the table of the Lord. Something great happened here inside me. I love Jesus more and I also love you more! May He bind us even tighter together, is my prayer.

Pray that the Lord will send young people to strengthen our Youth, and that He will send us Musicians as well. I also pray for revival in Vryheid, so that many will be filled with the Holy Spirit. After our evening service, I visited the Niemans. I told them about our wedding plans. They were almost happier than I was. Aunt Nieman promised to give you her best support. They say the congregation is already waiting for this. What did your father say about my letter I sent him?
Be sweet and keep your eyes on our Finisher of our faith.
All my love,
Danie

This letter was written when I was received as Pastor of Vryheid.

February 15, 1959

Hallo my darling. Again, we can say these words, as it's written in Nahum 1:7 "The Lord is a good God, and He knows those who hide in Him."

I would like to tell you how I travelled from Bloemfontein to Vryheid. I left on Friday, the 13th of February at four o'clock in the morning and drove in the rain as far as Winburg. All the way I was driving at an average speed of 50 miles per hour. I passed through Brandfort, Bethlehem, and Kestell. Then through Harrismith and over Van Reenen's Pass. I got about 25 miles per gallon of petrol with our car. I reached Vryheid two o'clock in the afternoon. The distance I drove was 377 miles.

Darling, I want to say thank you so much for your sincere love. Truly it means a lot to me, and you mean a lot to me. May the dear Lord give me grace in the future to be worthy of your love. Thank you very much for the pleasant holiday. Everyone here is terribly excited about my arrival. May the Lord give me grace to be worthy in the calling with which He has called me. For now, I will stay with the Nieman's. Aunt Niemann will put the necessary furniture in the rectory until I have bought our own, which er should need. I'm eating at a boarding house for the time being.

Darling, at my welcome last night, there were about 60 adults. This morning in the church I went on my knees in front of the pulpit, with the church council standing around me and Past. Poggenpoel (The Regional Chairman of Natal) who placed his hands on me and prayed for me. After that, I prayed myself, seeing in my imagination my darling was beside me, also on her knees.

After the service, we had a short church council meeting. They consist of 9 members. I was nervous when I was addressed as "Chairman." To think these men are my church council. Everything was like a dream. To God all the praise, the honour and the glory. How can we not love Him? Do you know what the church council decided to do? They decided to buy us the furniture we needed for our bedroom, as a wedding gift. Their budget for this was £142. Isn't the Lord good to us?

Tonight, we had a very blessed service. There were 42 grown-ups in the church, and when I gave the invitation for prayer, half of them knelt at the front. The Name of the Lord gets all the praise!

Darling, do you still love me? Come and stay with me if you're not afraid. I'm afraid to sleep alone. May I come and get you?

This week's program is first to get the rectory in order and get it ready to live there. Tuesday night we have a prayer service and Wednesday night a house service. They only have a Youth Service one Saturday a month. Our one problem here is the sister who plays the organ doesn't do it well. The other problem is that the people are not bold in expressing themselves in their singing. Some people can say whatever they want, but we should be free to clap our hands while we sing. I think what we need is an orchestra.

"Keep your eyes on God, He will see you through."

Heb. 2:18; James 1:5; 1 Pet. 2:21-23. Read it and write it in your heart.

Sleep well and all my love,

Danie. XXXXXXXX

February 18, 1959

My dearest Angel,

A thousand thanks for your letter. I have enough inspiration to live on it for years, with you. I want to thank the Lord for His benefits to us. Is there a better friend than Jesus? Never! He is my everything, and therefore I willingly lay everything at His feet, also for you. He arranges our paths. He lights our way and makes the future bright. I'm so grateful that you're happy. I prayed so hard for that. I was at the church at 6am this morning for an early morning prayer. O! It was heavenly. I wish I could do it every morning.

Darling, I feel so comforted after your letter, because after you had to drive to Vryheid I cried a lot, but now I am satisfied. That hurt that was always in my heart when you leave is gone, because His joy is now in its place. Shame on you, my dear. You sleep on our bed first, in Vryheid, and I'm not even there.

We went to Virginia last Saturday, and Uncle Willie Smit wasn't happy to see us. The church was packed that evening, and their choir numbered about 30 members. People who had left came back to the congregation.

You must have the congregation tune the piano in Vryheid later in the year. "You're the pastor there now, aren't you?" At least your lover is smart, she thought for a long time to speak of you as "Past. D. Nell", because no one will know who "Mr. D. Nell" is.

Honey, I love you more than you can imagine. One of the beautiful days, our love will begin to take shape. It will be heavenly. My darling, I'm so looking forward to it. Then to have the assurance, you're mine forever until He comes to pick us up.

Aunt Baby van Rensburg (I add: She was my daughter-in-law, Sally's mother) is healed. Friday morning, after you left, the tumour she had in her female parts came out – quite a bit in the toilet. Truly, God has performed a miracle. Thank you for praying for her healing the night before with her husband, Uncle Japie and Aunt Gouws. All the glory we give to the Lord!

I feel so sorry for my darling to remain so alone in our house. You must be very lonely, my angel? Oh, I wish I was there to spoil you. You are naughty, and you enjoy it, of course, your dear thing. I almost forgot. Thank you so much for your visit – I enjoyed every moment. Of course, I want you to come and get me. I didn't want to say it, because I'll only make you sad.

I hope I'll have some of your sweaters finished when I see you again, because you sure need them. Danie, if you need anything else, please tell "your wife" because she would appreciate it very much. You know what I'm really craving right now... for a nice kiss. I want to hug and hug you. You're too far away from me now, so those "blue eyes" can't soften my heart. Darling, I'm working tomorrow and now really want to go to bed. I'm in my job now and its teatime, but first I want to talk to someone who is the dearest on the whole earth. I love you so much, my dear, and to think that you are my darling. It's too good to be true.

Concerning our bedroom furniture, I except your choice because the rings you choose were excellent, so your choice will be tasteful as well. You always know what I like. Now that I know my darling is established and happy, I feel so happy. The Lord must love us two in a special way, that's why He is so good to us. Dr. Fanie Moller, our President, sends many greetings and he prays for you. Grandmother (Past. Willie Smit's mother) says you get a nice spanking when she sees you again, because you didn't come to visit. She says she prays for you every morning because you're "such a dear boy." If only she knew how naughty the "dear boy" can be. For her, there is only one future and that is heaven. She is truly an asset to a congregation. Come visit me tonight, Sweetheart... beautiful blue eyes, ... wait I'm getting naughty. Lots of love,
Helene.

February 22, 1959

Dearest Danie,

We had another weekend of blessing! Again, I fell in love with the Lord.

The Children's Choir won the competition. I give God all the credit. Thank you for your prayers because I know you prayed. We will sing at Maranatha Park, where many other choirs will be performing. I am taking my choir, but I have to come back the same

night. The following weekend I will then go up to Maranatha Park again when you are ordained as Pastor.

I'm longing for a lot again tonight. The loneliness sometimes overwhelms me and then the closest is relief... Tears. Our revival services begin on the 6th of March and so I am working and practicing hard, every night. On the 28th of February, we had a rally at the Full Gospel Church. We are expecting great things from the Lord.

Do they take good care of you? Who cleans the rectory? Please don't overwork yourself darling, please take care of yourself, for my sake. I feel worried about you. Maybe it's because you're so far away from me. I pray that the Lord will let time fly, because the Distance between us does more harm than good. Darling, don't you miss your little wife in the house? Ah, I wish I could just come and visit for a weekend.

We expect revival here with us, because the Lord works wonderfully. Every morning at six o'clock there is a prayer service. Oh, it's wonderful to start your day early with the Lord. I get inspired to work with my darling for the Lord. Please give me one kiss...

I can tell from your letter that you are terribly spoiled. You'll have to be content with just one letter a week for the time being, my dear, because I can't keep up. Every night there is something going on at the church. By the time I get home I'm already so tired that I go straight to bed.

On Saturday, I get my salary. Should I tell you what the amount is? It was £34, 13 shillings. Isn't the Lord good? £2 was already deducted for pension. Please send the numbers of your underwear and shirts. But don't worry, I won't waste money, I promise.

Greetings to everyone and remember I pray for you.
Serve Him faithfully.
With all my love I possess,
Helene. XXXXXX

February 27, 1959

How is my darling?

I'm not going on a home visit tonight, but I'm staying home to prepare my sermons. But oh! The longing is terrible! The congregation needs you. The rectory needs you. I need you. Something in here is going to break.

I have already laid everything at His feet, and I know He will undertake. Truly, we should be ashamed to distrust Him. We may say, but where will the money come from? Thankfully, it is written in Ps. 50:10-12 that the cattle on a thousand mountains belong to Him, as well as the world and its fullness. Read also: Matt. 6:25-33; Matt. 10:29-31; 1 Pet. 5:7. Darling, we need to trust Him more, He will undertake.

Good news! The church council has already donated the furniture we need for our bedroom – isn't that wonderful? As for the "Reception", I think we should not spend too much. I'm in the process of compiling a list of who we can invite to our wedding. Send me your father's initials. We can ask Tom de Wet to drive the wedding car, and the photographer could be Danie Brink. I'll have the invitation cards printed right here in Vryheid. We can buy the wedding ring together in Johannesburg, during Maranatha Park Conference. Then I also thought of asking someone to sing a Solo in church. Who can we ask? Darling, I feel one bridesmaid and one bridesmaid is enough. Those are some things I've been thinking about. If there is anything else, I'll let you know. I will talk to your parents, about any changes concerning our planning. Truly, the Lord is good, because yesterday Br/Sus. Senekal came to give me a pair of shoes (Number 11). Just what was needed because my current shoes have holes underneath.

Last night we had a very blessed house service at Coronation Mine. (It's about 22 miles from Vryheid) There were 12 new people in the service. Two made a surrender to the Lord. O! May God save many souls! Now I need you very much to stand by me. Thank you darling for everything and I'm glad I can talk to you. Take heart "Jesus never fails, Jesus never fails. Heaven and earth may pass away... but Jesus never fails!"

Tomorrow night we have a Youth Service and next Saturday we have a braai at the house of Br/Sus. Booth, on a plot. This Sunday we have Communion, and I want to preach about the necessity of the Lord's Supper. On Sunday my sermon is what Jesus said in John 8:36. Yes, He alone can set people free from sin and sickness!

I hereby include a newspaper clipping of our Church services. The Vryheid – Gazette advertises us for free. I pray a lot for you, it's a great pleasure for me. Today I bought a good iron (for my clothes) and I wish you could see how fancy I look when I iron my pants.

Here is a young black man who works for the congregation, and he painted the garage and outside rooms for me as well as the toilets at the church. He washes my car every morning. So, the Morris Minor shines every day now.

Just before our service, I would like to say the following quickly. I wish you were already here in Vryheid, then I could have brought you a coffee or tea in bed. In the spirit, you are already here.

This morning, we had Communion, and the Spirit of God was mightily present, especially during the use of the table of the Lord. Something great happened here inside me. I loved Jesus more and now I love you more! May He bind us even tighter together, is my prayer. Pray that the Lord will send young people to strengthen our Youth, and that He will send us Musicians as well. I also pray for revival in Vryheid so that many will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

After our evening service, I visited the Nieman's. I told them about our wedding plans. They were almost happier than I was. Aunt Nieman promised to give you her best support. They say the whole congregation is already waiting for this.

What does your father say about my letter I sent him?

Be sweet and keep your eyes on our Guide and Finisher of the faith.

All my love,

Your longing,

Danie

1st March 1959

How is my darling? Probably better than with me. I had problems with my kidneys and was very sick today. The pain is persistent, but I know you pray for me, so that I can fight the pain. Within two months, we will be married. The Lord says in His word, if we believe in Him, we will do the works He does, and even greater works than that. Hallelujah!

Oh, it's wonderful to have a Friend like Him, who understands everything and who gives love and life. May He help us so that the two of us do not stand before Him one day empty-handed. Darling, you should know that I love you very much. To think that even before winter I will have my darling with me forever. Darling, you complain that the rectory is so quiet and lonely. Well, you are free to transform it into a "children's paradise". Just keep your eyes on Jesus because He provides for all our needs.

Until next time.

All my love, Helene. XXXX

March 4, 1959

Dearest Angel,

It's 10pm, and it was lovely to hear your voice over the phone again. If you're satisfied, I'd like to ask some teenagers, like Trudy and Wendy, to make an honour guard around us, at our wedding. My wedding dress has already been ordered from Mrs. Du Plessis. She also dresses me and makes sure my hair is done. I thought of having both me and the flower girls' photo taken before our wedding. When we are still fresh, they can take our pictures. After the wedding, the two of us will be photographed. Personally, I think it will save a tremendous amount of time.

Darling, I'm really looking forward to the wedding. I thank the Lord from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful way He arranges everything. Ah, my dear angel, you speak of love... I know that when we come together now, our hearts will overflow with joy. I want you to decide on our honeymoon, just where you prefer. I already had a lot of the things I wanted, so this is your choice, and you surprise me. It's lovely to know today in two months you'll be my husband. I am so sincerely grateful to the Lord for His plan for our lives that He has worked out for us. You know what, exactly in 23 days I can kiss you and kiss you. I want to hold you that you can't walk away again.

I'm so looking forward to my Ladies Council, to love the Lord together and win more souls. My mind is too small to comprehend all of His benefits. I don't deserve it. People offer to help me with the cakes, and there are people who promise linen, and oh, the Lord just pours out his grace on me. Danie, don't, if you pray, ask more for the Lord, just thank Him and He will provide Himself. We serve a wonderful Lord and to think my husband works for him. Ah, I love you, in here, deeply, deeply and tenderly. How intimate it will get when we're together. I aspire only one thing, and that is to be in the service of the Lord together.

Keep going and work for Him. I pray that everything will work out fine.
Your longing Darling.
XXXXXXX All just for your blue eye.

8th March 1959

How is my angel? Is she sleeping? It is now ten past eleven, in the evening, and all is quiet here, with the clock ticking on and bugs making noises outside.

Through God's goodness and mercy, things are going very well. Today we had some of our most blessed services. Truly the Lord answers prayer, and His blessing has been our portion today. Oh, it's wonderful to proclaim His word. With the invitation, souls sought His face. May He give them what they need. This morning, my sermon was from John 6:66 and my theme was: "Why did Jesus' disciples forsake him?"

Tonight, my text was Mark 14:37 *"And he came and found them asleep and said to Peter, 'Simon, are you sleeping?' Have you not been able to watch for one hour?"*

Our Morris Minor was driven places where no donkey will walk. Some of the roads are just terrible. How people can be satisfied with that for years, I don't know. You'll see what I've been talking about, once you're here. I'm looking forward to your arrival and even the church members are looking forward.

Last night we had a barbecue and debate outside of town on a plot. Everyone just wants to know when are we going to have a wedding? Our debate was about, "Who was the greatest Apostle? Was it Peter or Paul? Of course, Paul won, quite by ten votes. Everyone enjoyed it. But don't cry because I know you're defending Peter.

Please listen to the songs I have sent you. I like these songs' words:

*"No rose in all the world, until you came.
No star until you smiled, upon life's sea.
No song in all the world, until you spoke.
No hope until you gave your heart to me."*

*O rose, bloom ever in my lonely heart.
O star, shine steadfast with your light divine.
Ring on, O song, your melody of joy.
Life's crowned at last.
And love, and love is ever mine."*

Darling, I love you very, very much. I thank God for the love that is between us. My prayer is, "Lord, give me even more love!"

My angel, I would now like to recommend that we make the wedding a week earlier, namely the 25th of April. The church council then also gives me ten days special leave for our honeymoon. We can't get married in May, that's when we start Pentecost services, and the church council asks that I will preach in that time, please explain that to your parents as well. Hey, there rings the Dutch Reformed Church's clock strikes exactly at twelve o'clock midnight.

I painted the kitchen, and all the other rooms are also neat and clean. Pray for me too because I still have two subjects that I must complete for the Bible School, before April. I only have two weeks left to do it. It is important to pass these subjects if I want to be ordained at Maranatha Park conference in the month of April.

All my love,
You're longing lover,
Danie.

11th March 1959

Dearest darling,

Thank you very much for your letter. Daddy said tonight he was just waiting for the moment you let us know we are getting married at the end of the month. Lovely, the Lord has undertaken wonderfully in the following:

1. Daddy agreed that we could get married.
2. He will pay all my costs.
3. He buys my wedding dress.
4. I've already got all my linen supplies.

The Lord has provided everything! I feel so deeply grateful for His wonderful love.

I think we're just asking Past. Raper to marry us. Brother Louis Kruger, Past. Kruger of Kimberley's son will play the wedding march. I would like to ask Uncle Kolbe that his "Cadillac" will serve as our wedding car. Plus, Tom Builder and others to transport our eight bridesmaids. I'm dying of excitement! Now that all "paper mountains" have been cleared, I'm looking forward to the wedding. I wish it were already the 4th of April, then I could see you again, for I'm longing very much.

Oh, boy, I'm waiting for you because it's only been a month and 12 days, then I've got you as my own, and won't leave you.

Regarding the wedding date, my parents are satisfied that we can get married on the 25th of April. I'll just go by Past. Raper to hear if he has that Saturday open. Another thing, do we drive through to the place where we are going to have our honeymoon, or do we just sleep in a hotel at one of the nearest towns the first night? In that case, no one should know where we sleep the first night. You know what they usually do? Thank you for the beautiful words of the song, I can say the same because everything is worth it since I have a darling like you.

Our campaign has been wonderfully blessed. Every night we rise a step higher in faith. We also had a heavenly breakthrough. Past. Castle, as well as his congregation, were present every night. Truly the Spirit is wonderful. Everyone was kind to each other.

Well darling, I still have a few more shopping to finish before 2pm this afternoon. I love you very much my angel. Thank you for your prayers and you get a loooong kiss as compensation.

You naughty one I give you all my love.

Helene.

12th March 1959

My darling,

I have just studied Psychology. Tonight, I want to study Liturgy. But for now, I want to say a few words to my darling. I count the days, because the longing just stays there. My darling, I'm really looking forward to taking you back in my arms and kissing you gently. Thank you for your love, I really appreciate it. The Lord's ways are wonderful. Last time at the Maranatha conference, I didn't know I was going to be in Vryheid, and that we would meet. That we would love each other and that we would get engaged. Thank God for everything. The Lord is working in Vryheid. We pray for revival.

I will take care of the following: Carpets for the rooms; printing the wedding cards; the lounge set; the kitchen set. I will pay the cost of our honeymoon. I would appreciate it if you could help with the following: Two double bed blankets; 4 sheets; 2 pillows and also 4 pillowcases.

Here inside of me are many things that wants to come out, but I do not know how to put my love on paper. Wait a little bit longer until that day...

I think it's a wise choice to ask Past. Olly Raper for our marriage. Louis Kruger can play the organ. Thank you for arranging these things already. I will write to Danie Brink, the photographer, and ask if the 25th of April suits him. As for the invitations, I just want to say that I already have 261 addresses. 300 tickets will cost £5 and 15 shillings. I just want to thank the Lord again for everything He does for us.

Greetings and kisses to mom and dad.

All my love,

Danie.

17th March 1959

Dearest buddy,

How is my baby today?

I have just written to our holiday place, and also to your sister Tassie in Grahamstown. Last weekend's services were very blessed. In the morning, I spoke on Gen. 4:7 and in the evening on Open. 3:15-18, which is about the "Lukewarm condition".

On Saturday afternoon, I led a black man to God here in the kitchen. He came to ask me what he had to do to go to heaven, and with the help of my gardener, we explained the way of Salvation to him, and he dedicated his life to God.

As for our marriage, we can get married at 3pm, if it's ok with you? I have already talked with Danie Brink the photographer. You and the flower girls can have your photos taken just before the wedding and come to church from there.

Just ten more days then we'll see each other again. Oh, my heart feels better now because the longing kills me. When I long, I say to myself "just a little more than a week..." Darling for now, that's all, because I must study my subjects, and I don't want to fail and maybe not be ordained as a pastor. Please pray for me.

All my love,
Yours,
Danie

20th March 1959

Dearest Helene, my angel, my everything, my dearest darling.
It's now eleven o'clock in the evening and I just wanted to go to my room to go to bed. Then I first looked at your photo on the desk... I couldn't help but pause for a few moments and thank God. My prayer was, "Thank you for Helene... help me to always appreciate her, and to stand by her what ever happens. Thank you darling for all your love. I praise the Lord, it is only seven days left, then I want to hold you very tight to me. Time passes so slowly – probably because I'm counting down the days and hours! Truly, I have the most beautiful and best woman on earth. There's no better.

Concerning the kitchen, there are no built-in cupboards here, nor in the other rooms. We will talk about this further at Maranatha Park. Really the Lord does a lot for us, all the glory goes to Him. I'm also glad to hear that my sweetheart is full of the Holy Spirit.

I had a three-hour paper on Psychology last night. By His grace, I believe I have succeeded. Tonight, I'm writing Liturgic. Thank you for praying for me. I am writing under the supervision of Br. Andries Nieman. We will see each other at Maranatha Park. Excuse me, but you're going to feel sorry for yourself when I get hold of you.

Greetings to all.
All my love,
Your lover. Danie.

21st March 1959

My angel, thank you so much for your letter, it was as always full of inspiration. Before I forget, as far as the carpets are concerned, I'm afraid you're going to damage the floors, because I don't like carpets. Wooden floors are much better because they can be polished. Mom agrees. I'd be glad if you could wait with that, so I can see for myself what to do.

Things are going a bit crazy now and so I decided to come to Maranatha Park for the Easter weekend, since I must go up with the Children's Choir after all. You shouldn't worry about the linen, because I already have seven sets of sheets and pillows as well as six large pillows. It's only the blankets and a few towels that I need to get then everything is fine. I finished paying for my wedding dress on Saturday, so that's done as well. Daddy gave me the money and I have to say I felt funny on Saturday with such a roll of notes in my handbag. I won't mention the price of my dress, otherwise your eyes will stretch. Daddy refused to buy a cheaper dress. We will see each other in ten days' time. That's something to look forward to, isn't it darling? I pray for you that you will pass your subjects with great success.

I wish it was already six weeks from now, by then we would already be on honeymoon. As for the "Kitchen Tee", someone else organized it, and it will take place two weeks before the wedding. I feel so happy that you want us to marry sooner.

Br. Rubenstein says he can get a large kitchen set for £62, or a smaller one for £50, but we need to talk about that first. Just nine more days then I'm with my darling. Ah, how wonderful that would be. I feel so full of love, full of the Lord and full of His Holy Spirit. The services were heavenly. The Lord has healed people in both and soul. I wish you were here Sunday morning. The Spirit of the Lord swept over the entire congregation, and lives were made new.

Well, my dear, if all goes well, I'll be your legal wife in a few weeks. The Lord has been good, and I love you. I want so much to prove my gratitude to you by making you happy. After all, we are made for each other and belong together.

My angel, "If God is for us, who can be against us!"

Always your own darling. Helene.

10th April 1959

My dearest angel,

Oh, it was good to hear your voice over the phone again. The longing is becoming as it was in the past. But in two weeks I'll be "Mrs. Nell." Good prospect! By His grace, all things we had to do is done, and now we are waiting for the big moment.

On the 4th of April, I fell down a whole floor of stairs, here where I work. My foot slipped on the top step, and I rolled to the bottom, about 15 feet. I was unconscious. On the afternoon when Colleen and Wallace were married, I was lying in hospital. I thought my right arm was broken, but after examination the doctor said it was not. Well, I could have been dead if I had landed on my head. I couldn't move my arm for four days, but my Jesus is alive and I'm perfectly healthy. Thank God I can still type with my right hand. I'm full of blue spots from head to toe, and I was stiff and sore that I could hardly walk. Now all worries aside, I am healthy, and I serve the Lord. How do you feel about the wedding? Are you nervous? I knew that Mister Bigmouth! Past. Raper enjoys it when we're so tensed up and he teases me where he can. At the

church, they mock me and say I should still enjoy my time that is left, because one of these days I am away from civilization. If only they knew how I wish the next two weeks would fly. You dear thing, I love you very, very much. So much so that I'm going to marry you and be your little wife. Rest assured, because in 14 days you will have to keep me warm when I sleep. Wait, I'm getting naughty again. If there are problems with the wedding cards' cost, please let me know immediately so that I can get money to pay for it. Because if the tickets are sent out too late, the people can't make their arrangements soon enough.

The Lord undertook for me again today. Daddy agreed to a reception of 150 select friends. The mothers of the daughters in my group will help with the reception. I can't complain, because His grace is enough for me. Mummy gave me a beautiful double bed blanket yesterday. Oh, it's so nice and soft that you just feel like sleeping.

Your dear thing. Beware if I start to feel like eating you up, then big trouble is going to come. I love you and love you every day. I'm starting to get excited now and don't talk about how horribly I blush these days. At the slightest thing, my cheeks burn with warmth. And of course, those that teases me enjoy it.

Be sweet and don't long. Pray, that's all that makes one happy.

All my love for my dearest husband on the earth.

Your darling,

Helene. XXXXXXX

12th April 1959

Dearest Helene,

Thank you for your love. I appreciate everything my angel does, the Lord will bless you for it. I was glad to hear your voice, it did my heart good. When I look at your picture, I feel happy, especially when I see the smile on your face. There is always a smile on my angel's face no matter what happens. May God always give you strength.

Last night we had a very blessed time in the rectory. I invited some of our members and about 40 were able to attend. I told them that I had already visited them and now they are visiting me. I treated them with cake and tarts that the sister brought.

This morning's service was very blessed. I preached from Heb. 11:1-6 which is about Faith. There were 15 visitors in our church. At the invitation, quite a few of them came for prayer – one was a Roman Catholic. May God anoint me and restore many souls!

Psalm 50 says the cattle of a thousand acres belong to the Lord and the earth and its fullness. "So, God will provide." We need another £5 for the furniture and £5 and 15 shillings for our honeymoon holiday.

With all my love,

Danie.

16th April 1959

My dearest angel,

It's probably the second last letter before our wedding on the 25th of April. It's fun to count down the days and every hour brings me closer to you. Thank you for all your effort so far, He will bless you. If the Lord hadn't answered our prayers, surely, we wouldn't be able to get married.

Today I got all the towels I would have to buy for our home. It would have cost me between £5 and £6 to buy it. Verily, the Lord cares for His children. I hear that the holiday place we go to in Drakensberg is very cold this time of year. My darling should take warm clothes with you, or do you think I'm man enough to keep you warm? I thank the Lord for my health these days. Only 6 days left then you'll be with me. Remember the suitcases as I don't like to take my old suitcases with me. I'll just leave it with mom, otherwise she'll have to buy new ones if she wants to go on vacation. Furthermore, everyone is so excited that one thinks it's half of Bloemfontein West congregation getting married. I'm resting well now because all my resignations have been submitted. I need to go to bed early so that my cheeks can turn nice red for the wedding. I'm naughty again, aren't I? Rest as long as you can because soon Esmaralda, our little girl, will wake you up at six o'clock. I'm in my naughty moods this morning. Give me a kiss first... So yes, now I feel better. I hope your nerves don't give in. Your loving darling,
Helene.

17th April 1959

Dearest Helene,

It's ten to nine now, in the evening, and I came into the house about a while ago. I was in Paul Pietersburg today, with visits – it's 31 miles from Vryheid.

How is my angel tonight? Just one more week before it's our wedding day. I'm really looking forward to it. At this moment I don't have a house, but only a place to sleep... If you are here, it will be a home. Like Past. Poggenpoel told the congregation with my welcome, I also want to say, "Right now, the congregation has half a pastor, but one of these days they will have a whole pastor." I sent 440 invitation cards for our wedding. I hope everyone comes and brings a present or two! "I'm not greedy, but I like a lot."

I just swept the house, so that if we have to receive people, they don't suffocate in the dust. I must go for a haircut, prepare for the weekend's sermons as well as the lesson for my Bible class.

Remember my love grows deeper and deeper for you, my dear. In seven days today... "It is no secret what God can do, what He has done for others, He will do for you."

All my love,

Your enduring darling.

Danie.

Note: I leave Vryheid at about 5am on Wednesday tomorrow and will honk my car's horn as I drive past your office, in Bloemfontein.

Dankie

18 November 1986

Leune Sweetness, (Koning's dogter)

Dis nou wel jou
verjaarsdag vandag, maar sterf
almal jou geluk en voorspoed gaan
toeneem, wil ek van die geleentheid
gebruik maak om my dank en waardering
aan jou te betuig. Waarvoor? sal jy vra.

Vir die volgende:

Dankie: dat jy, jy is.

dat jy gehoorsaam aan Gods Woord is,

dat jy Sy Woord reguit en sinneer
met ons deel;

dat jy meeste van die tyd daer wat
jy pruk! (tong in die kies!)

dat jy lief is vir jou susters

dat jy vir my geleer het van die
skiederegter nh. die vrede van die Here,
wanneer ek besluite maak neem,

dat jy so 'n goeie vrou vir ons
Pastoor is

dat jy Jesus deur jou lewende projekteer.

Dit is goed om die

Here te loof.

Ps. 92:2

Ek lief jou!

Ericka Bouwer.

Helen kept this letter of Ericka Bouwer from Bloemfontein.
She was a very close friend and prayer warrior.

Meet our Family.



Meet these two Lovebirds.



Our four sons: Leon, Gideon, Daniel and Nico.



**Daniel and Laurie Nell (He is our eldest son)
They live in Johannesburg.**



**Nico and Sally Nell (He is our second son)
They live in Jeffreys Bay.**



Leon and Reonet Nell live in Port Alfred. (He is our third son)



**Gideon and Dedrei Nell (He is our fourth son)
Ethan is on the left and Audrey on the right.
They live in Cascais, Portugal.**



**Leon and Rolecia Janse van Rensburg (Leon's eldest daughter)
They live in Port Elizabeth**



Danie and Iris Nell (Nico's eldest son – they live in London)



Johan and Tuanette Nell with Livia. (Nico's 2nd son and they live in Springs)



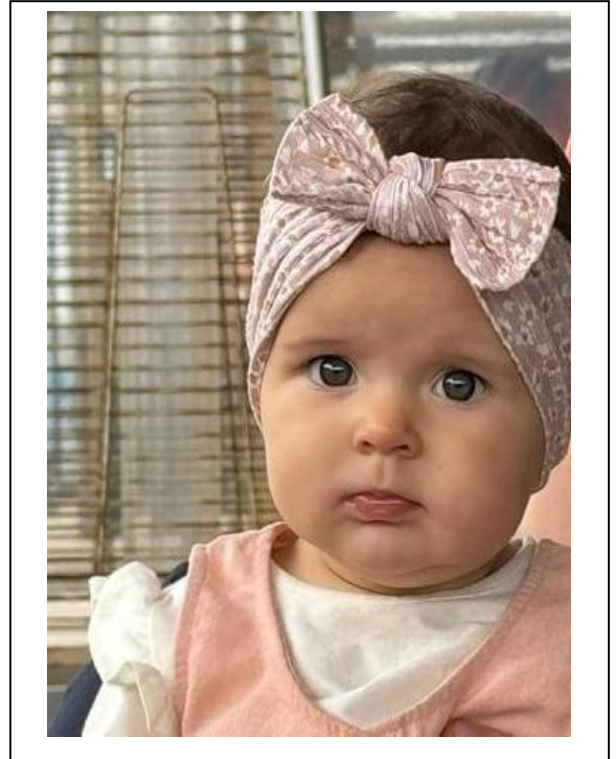
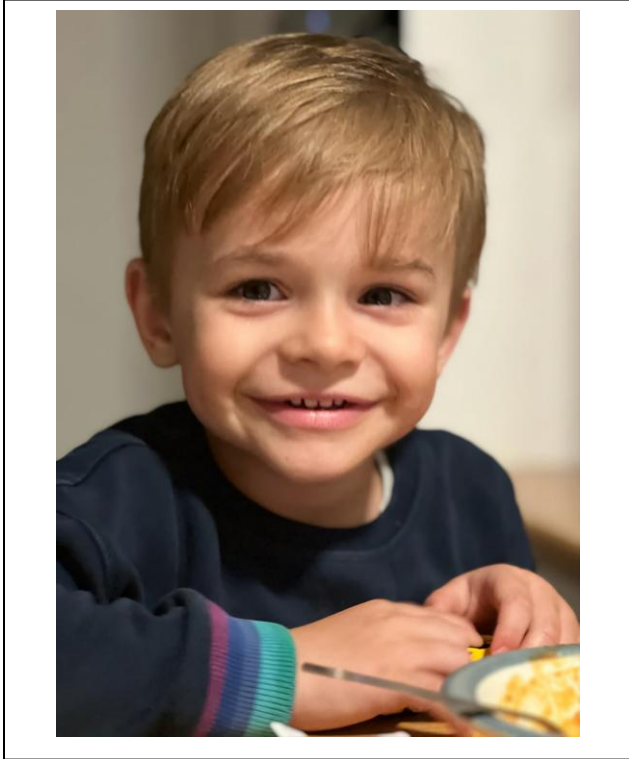
Rowan and Chandre Delport (Leon's 2nd daughter. They live Port Elizabeth)



Kelly and Devon Nell (Daniel's children)



George Nell and Livia (The son of Nico – he lives in London)



**Our three great grandchildren
Aaron, Livia en Elise**

"I hope that you enjoyed reading this book.

*You also have a story to tell.
There are people waiting to hear what you have to say.*

Let your story encourage those that should hear it.

*We live in a broken world, be someone that gives others
hope for their future!"*

Danie Nell

Email: Danie.nell1937@gmail.com

Website: www.equipministry.co.za

Facebook: Dan Nell

Date: "Thanksgiving Day"

November the 28th 2024.

Fort Wayne – Indiana.