

Dear Doug

Please would you pass this message on to all who attended the conference with us this year.

Greetings to you from the UK!

I would firstly like to thank all of the Mighty Men from Benoni who attended this years MMC for their warm welcome and accepting me as part of their team.

Having never camped before (honest!) and never wanting too, I must admit that I was unsure of what lay ahead.

I'm in Africa, camping, surely it will always be hot, even at night, what kind of animals may try and enter the tent while we were sleeping, wilderbeast, rhino, even a lion! What about the animal noises at night, the croaking of toads, the clicking of crickets- or the roar of a lion! etc. Would I be able to sleep....

Well my first night I was absolutely froze, it may not have helped that we had no front door on the tent! But boy was it cold!! And I even had a thermal emergency blanket to keep me warm. As I was awake for most of the night (unlike the snorers) I can confirm that no animals even came into the tent, it was probably due to the sheer amount of cars, bikes, lorries and coaches passing by our tent. It would have been quieter camping on the R21 !

Thank you to all concerned, not only did you feed me and put a roof over my head, but with Dougs help even kitted me out at night with a tracksuit and beanie hat to sleep in. A special thanks to Ray and his sioux chef for the fantastic food – what a blessing you guys were to us all.

Thank you all for making me feel so welcome at the camp, I truly experienced what it should always be like when you are part of Gods big family.

A huge thank you to Prince and the Haven boys. When you look at the photo that we took at the garage in Benoni, it was difficult for me to spot anyone who looked like they could kick a football, so it was great to have a kick around with you guys!

It was a pleasure to meet Lawrence, Tsepo, Tobagh, Christopher and Prince – for guys who may think they have so little, you make up for it with your smiles and zest for life.

Your start in life may not have been what you had wished for, but you are now part of Gods family and as long as you put your trust in Him you will ALWAYS be looked after.

On our travels after the conference, we passed by the Bunjee jump at the Bloukrans Bridge, there motto is 'Fear is temporary, Regret is forever'. As Christians we are no use to God if we are comfortable – God wants us out of our comfort zone because thats when we put all our trust in Him. As we all go back to our churches many of us will feel refreshed and with a new sense of purpose for God. But as we step back into our churches we can become fearful of change. God has a plan and He wants us to move forward. This may take us out of our comfort zone and others along with us, but do not be fearful, stand up and be counted for God. DO NOT look back at this moment one day and feel regret that you didn't obey the Lord.

I came to the conference in faith. I have never stepped out in God like this before, but not only did God lay this on my heart, he also confirmed it with various passages of scripture.

Having booked my flight to come to S.A. I was praying one morning in my office in the hope that God would keep reassuring and re-affirming my visit to S.A. – and God did. I opened my bible and ISAIAH 41 v 9-10 was there in front of me..... “

“I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

AMEN !

An amazing event happened on our last night in S.A. when we were in Capetown. We had gone out for an evening meal and on leaving the restaurant, a waiter who was not allocated to our table, spoke to us as we were leaving. He said 'blessings' to which we replied 'God bless you'. Then unprompted he uttered the words 'Holy Spirit'. He then continued to recite the exact same verses of Isaiah 41 v 9-10 that God had given to me before I left in faith to go to S.A.... how totally amazing! My wife and I were so struck by this that we travelled back to our hotel in silence, in awe marvelling at what God had just done. Yet more confirmation to me that this was all in Gods plan.

Last year, without going into too much detail, I had a dream, a 'God' dream in which among other parts a text was clearly visible, it read:

'it is time to stand up and be counted'. Angus also quoted that we should stand up and be counted...

Standing with 200,000 men at the conference and hearing the men shout 'Amen', was so powerful. We were like legions of soldiers ready to go to battle.

Friends in my home church are keen to hear what I have experienced and what the MMC was like – did I see any miracles. Well....

1. Angus and his recovery after a suspected heart attack
2. Thousands of men giving their lives to the Lord
3. Mark Waterhouse – camping!!

What struck me about the conference:

1. 200,000 men singing praises to God, in particular the passion expressed when singing the Afrikaans song 'The King is Coming'
2. 200,000 men shouting AMEN – a legion of souls
3. The sheer size of the conference
4. Friendliness of the men and the good fellowship shared
5. The presence of the Holy Spirit

I have been encouraged, built up, reassured that God is very much at work and alive in me. I know in His timing and His good and perfect will, that as I build my faith in God that there will be more experiences if I continue to put my faith and my trust in Him.

God Bless you guys, until we meet again – AMEN !

Your brother in Christ

Mark Waterhouse

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And finally – Doug.

Well, without you my visit to S.A. would not have been so easy or possible. The MMC 09 has been a massive experience that we have shared together and I feel totally blessed to have met you and now call you my friend and brother. I would encourage you to push the boundaries of your comfort zone and in faith to realise that you are indeed a Mighty Man of God.

AMEN!