



**CLLR ANDREW MAPHETLE – EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF  
POTCHEFSTROOM  
VISIT TO THE METHODIST CHURCH  
IKAGENG  
08H00  
SUNDAY – 06 AUGUST 2006**

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Moruti Hadebe;

Baruti le Bagogi botlhe ba ba leng teng;

Bagolo ba Kereke;

boMme ba Thapelo;

Borre baMadodana;

Baswa ba Kereke;

Bagolo botlhe dumelang;

As sure as death and taxes, all human beings are born on a particular day. Everyone has a birth date. I have to congratulate BoMme ba Thapelo ba Kereke ya Wesele for choosing such an initiative for raising funds.

I am told that the members of this church, especially our Mothers and Women in the Prayer Women's League – have seen a need to raise funds and extend the church building. This is a proof that this church is growing and would also want to look smart. John 10: 10 say that God wants people to celebrate life abundantly.

Is birthday-keeping innocent fun– or does God hate it? Does it even matter? If you bought a new computer, you would expect it to come with an instruction manual. Without a manual, you would have to learn how to use it through trial and error– and possibly delete necessary files and software in the process. The instruction manual saves users many headaches.

Believe it or not, you also came with an instruction manual– the Bible! God's expressed will and purpose is written throughout its pages. Every word of Scripture is God's message to you– who you are, what you are, why He created you and how He expects you to conduct your life. Everything you need to know about the true purpose of life is written in God's Word (John 17:17; Matt. 4:4; II Tim .3:16-17).

When you read the Bible, God is talking to you! He shows you how to live a happy, fulfilling, abundant life. Pick up your instruction manual and examine what God says about birthdays.

I really admire your idea of having a Birthday for All sermon like this one. In this way, there is no one who can say he/she is not covered. Everybody should fall within a specific date within the calendar year.

I am also reliably informed that BoMme ba Thapelo ba ithaopile go ntsha bonnye R150 motho ka mong go etleetsa Kereke. Ruri seno ke tiro e ntle thata – ke tshupo ya gore M m angw ana o tshw ara thipa ka fa bogaleng .

Having hosted this fundraising in the month of August, a month put aside by government as a Month for Women – I believe that you will raise more funds with the blessings of the Almighty. We should not feel guilty about raising funds – after all, the Bible says – that when Jesus was born, the wise men from the East brought with them gifts, gold and frankincense and worshipped Him. It is commonly supposed that these were birthday presents for baby Jesus.

Ladies and Gentlemen: God can and will give you eternal life. He wants you to have it. He wants you to live life to the fullest and experience the way of life that produces real peace, joy, abundance and security. But life has to be lived His way, according to His rules. Paul wrote, For since by man [Adam] came death, by Man [Jesus Christ] came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive .

When we celebrate this day today – let us also think about those less fortunate than us. I am humbled by the invitation that I received from this church – and I believe that as an elected leader of the community, my presence here will be seen as a gesture of goodwill to everyone.

Happy birthday everyone – and may the Love of God be with you all.

I thank you.