

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR NESER

14 AUGUSTUS 2008

I have known Uncle Frikkie for twenty two years. He was the most remarkable person and incredibly intelligent. During his time, not just anyone could have obtained a masters degree in Maths. His best characteristic was however something totally different. He was always so anxious to share his friends with you. I am so grateful that I could get to know his friends for the past twenty two years. It was such a privilege.

It started as follows: Right at the beginning of our friendship he said to me one day: "You know Willie; I want to introduce you to my lifelong Friend. Funny, we look the same and you know, it is written in the Bible; read Genesis 1:26 and 27." During another conversation he asked whether I knew that some of his friends entered into a contract with God and that God will always provide and care for us. "You know, you are also included in this contract. These friends are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is wonderful and He said that this contract is forever. Please read Genesis 17 and 35 and then also Hebrews 8 and 13."

Uncle Frikkie always talked about the Bible. I could see he knew his friends very well. One day he said: "You know, Moses is the clever one in the Old Testament just as Paul is the clever one in the New Testament." I then questioned him about Moses. He answered "Moses is teaching us steadfast obedience to God because God do not tolerate disobedience. Even though Moses led God's beloved nation out of Egypt, he should never have struck the rock." (Numbers 20) I then said "Luckily God forgives everyone and everything." "Well," Uncle Frikkie said, "I do not know about everyone and everything because, you know, another friend of mine, Joshua told me that God will not forgive the Amorites." (Joshua 24:19)

We are sinners and sometimes we ask questions to which there are no immediate answers. I discussed this with Uncle Frikkie and naturally he tells me of his friend David who also asked questions such as how insignificant is man? (Psalm 8) He also told me that as a child David was astounded that a Philistine could so arrogantly challenge the armies of God. (1 Samuel 17:29) He said "You should know that it is due to this that he is the apple of God's eye."

I requested that he tell me about his other friends. He paused for a moment and said "Isaiah and Ezekiel, but also Micah and Daniel." He said that Isaiah told him that he forms part of the contract and that God called him by his name (Isaiah 43:1) and that he must never be scared because God

formed him and chose him. I asked "and Ezekiel, Uncle?" "Oh! Ezekiel speaks so beautifully about how God will gather Israel at the end and it gives me courage." (Ezekiel 37)

"Daniel must always be read with Revelations because he already knew then what Jesus talked about approximately 100 years after His birth in Revelations. Micah is so courageous. For God, he is prepared to stand against Ahab with Elijah. And Elijah, he was summarily snatched and taken to heaven." (1 Kings 19)

I wanted to know more and more about his friends. All these friends have one friend in common, Jesus. Wonderful, Isaiah speaks of terrible things that will happen to Him (Isaiah 53), but He did it for us as His brothers because we are God's children and Jesus was send by God directly. Jesus says He is the path to the eternal kingdom (John 10:9) and that he fixed everything for us with our Father. He also said that he will give His life for us. Is that not a wonderful friend?

Paul and Peter are very good friends of Jesus and they also became my friends. They talk about Jesus.

Paul writes a lot. He always starts with: "I am a borne Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin and circumcised on the eight day." (Philippians 3:5, Romans 9:4) Uncle Frikkie is thus also a borne Israelite from the tribe of Zebulon. No wonder their thoughts are so similar. Both understand the Word of God perfectly. Paul said the Word of God was revealed to him. (Galatians 1:12) I am convinced that it was also revealed to Uncle Frikkie. Yet Peter says that he did not always understand what Paul meant (2 Peter 3:15 - 17) but, that we must believe regardless, or else ignorant or unstable people will rob us of eternal life. Peter says that he knows without doubt that we (Israel) as God's nation were reborn not out of perishable seed but imperishable seed. (1 Peter 1:23)

About two weeks ago I paid my last visit to Uncle Frikkie. He said that he now wanted to reside with his friends permanently. His whole life, he strived towards that and also to meet other loved ones such as Eugene (his son). He spoke to me very seriously and said "You must never stop serving our great Friend. Carry on with His cause against the old snake on this earth. Willie, Jesus warned four times against deception. (Matthew 4) Be aware. Read the Word, gain knowledge and learn." Furthermore he said "Willie, as did Paul, when I preached I never held anything back that could have benefited you, (Acts 20:20) you must learn and have faith."

He spoke again "Willie, Jesus said: 'I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps My Word, he will never see death.'" (John 8:51)

"I know Uncle Frikkie, thank you for all these exceptionally valuable lessons. I bid you farewell, rest softly and securely in our Father's arms, you more than deserve it!!!"

Willie Coetzee

Prof Willie Coetzee is also the author of the book "God's Descendants" written under the pseudonym - Professor Stefanus.

This book is dedicated to Pastor Nesor and is also available at Ekklesia's Library