

A Collection of TRIBUTES for Michiah Lancaster

Dear Family and friends of my brother in Christ, Michiah, who has gone to be with the Lord.

I greet you in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*It is my prayer that the Lord, our Comforter will grant you His **“peace which passeth all understanding and keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”** Philipians 4:7*

Literature4Africa have approximately four tons of free Christian materials palletized and waterproofed ready to be transported to Zimbabwe later this month. Michiah's fingerprints are all over it. As I led and guided them with the first pallet, I made sure they understood the importance of using the most square and solid boxes as the foundation. The other three pallets, they packed and wrapped on their own.

It was not less than 30 degrees when Michiah, his brother Isaac and young Ray were labouring on material for God's people in Zimbabwe. There was no shade. Thirty to forty boxes per pallet were stacked one upon the other as I constantly reminded them to drink water and not get dehydrated in the African sun. I will always remember that day, as Michiah so willingly put his hand to the plow to assure that Literature4Africa will be ready with the 30 tons that will be transported to Zimbabwe.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” 1 Peter 3:15

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Romans 5:5

*Be encouraged: As a household in Christ, your circle is not unbroken. You have representation in the eternal realm. It was an honour to have known and worked with Michiah and I am looking forward to fellowship with him about our short time together here at the Mission. **“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”** 1Cor. 15:55. May God Bless and keep you in His grace*

Jonathan Soeker

Literature4Africa Manager – Cape Town

Last year I witnessed a drowning of one of my church-brothers.

We were desperately searching for him under the water when he didn't resurface after jumping into one of the dams at our varsity grounds. We found him 10-20 minutes later, pulled him up the ridge with much struggle and immediately attempted to do CPR on him. I cradled his head, but he did not breathe and his pulse was gone. All of us split into two cars, one car rushed with our beloved brother in the back to the nearby Medi-Clinic and the rest of us stayed behind, praying and pleading with God to have him live.

When we arrived at the hospital, we took a guitar and started worshiping God, trusting Him for resurrection and that He would pour life back into our friend's body. After a few minutes of praising God, the doctor appeared and somewhat baffled, he explained that our friend had recovered his heartbeat and that he was stable. What an awesome and faithful God we serve! We started discipling our brother afterwards and he gave his heart to God and had no organ-failure despite the hour-long lack of oxygen. He is alive and praising God all the way for a second chance!

Through this, I learned that God is gracious to those who need to make right with Him, but He does not play around with His Salvation. It is costly.

Similar to my resurrected brother last year, I firmly believe that Michiah's passing away is a wake-up call for all who still need to make right with God.

The beauty of both of these experiences to me, is that whether in death or whether in life, God **will** glorify His Name and prove Himself to be faithful on account of all who trust in Him and call upon His Name (Romans 8:28). This is enabling us as a collective body to identify emotionally with the pain that some of these members are feeling at present and what a privilege that is!

Michiah's passing away is nothing short of an incredible opportunity for more people to meet this loving Saviour, who can shape beauty out of chaos, mould battered clay into sanctified art and breathe life over a valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37). I am more than convinced that God has a greater testimony in store for all of us individually and collectively through this difficult time, because our Father has a way of sculpting in unique ways to sanctify us and call unto Him a holy people, a mighty army!

Through my previous experience, holding my friend's head while CPR was done on him, I realized that pain purifies worship and that to identify with Christ in happiness, requires of us to also identify with Christian suffering and pain. I want to encourage you to: **"Sing... for the spiritual children of the desolate one will be more than the children of the married wife, says the Lord. Enlarge the place of your tent and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; spare not; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes, for you will spread abroad to the right and to the left and your offspring will possess the nations and make the desolate cities to be inhabited..."** Isaiah 54:1-4

Shana Visagie

GCC Participant – Cape Town

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." Matthew 5:16

I had the privilege of meeting and knowing Micaiah, although for a very short time, but he is the kind of person that leaves a lasting impression on you. A fellow brother in Christ who was the embodiment of the above verse.

His light shone so brightly without him having to try, as it was his love for his Heavenly Father that was on display for all to see. In all Michiah did he reflected the righteousness of Christ, in the way he treated those around him, in his zeal to bring the Gospel to those who needed it the most. He had a heart for missions and Africa in particular.

We went on a few outreaches together and Micaiah's dedication to going out and making disciples of all nations, will leave a mark on me that will not easily fade. He was completely assured in his salvation and with that attitude lived every moment to give Glory to God our Father in Heaven. Micaiah will be missed by all who knew him, but we can be sure of one thing and that is that we will all be reunited in Heaven and rejoice in Eternity with our Heavenly Father. He was an example to us all of what it means to be "Salt and Light" to the world.

Vaughan Luck

Frontline Fellowship IT - Cape Town

It was a great blessing to know Michiah for the last week. On Sunday the 14th Jan, Micaiah and I, together with other five other GCC participants, attended the Christian Reformed Church in Bellville. I was assigned to preach. Before I preached, Michiah gave his testimony of how his brother drowned nine years earlier, which was how God called him to be Saved. He read from Romans 8:28. Before we left the church we took a photo, but he put the camera on timer so he could be in it too, as he was the one who always took the photos. Be comforted that Michiah has passed into glory!

Reginald Mabasa

GCC Participant – Limpopo, South Africa

First of all my condolences on the loss of your son and brother.

Jan 14th was a tragic day for you, Michiah's friends and us here at the GCC in Cape Town, but a glorious day for him as he passed into life eternal. He is more alive now than he was here below!

I was with Michiah along with five other GCC participants at the Christian Reformed Church in Bellville the morning of the day when he passed away. Michiah gave his testimony of how God used the tragic loss of his older brother's death by drowning, to his Salvation. He related he was self-righteous prior to that point. He read out Romans 8:28-31.

*I believe this text, especially verse 28 was precious to him. Re-reading that Scripture, **"...whom He justified, them He also glorified..."** Praise God this is true for Michiah even now. Beholding the glorious face of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, free from sin, pain and suffering, together with Timothy.*

*The second thing that stands out is the passage, verse 31, **"...if God be for us, who can be against us?"** Truly God's ways are higher than our ways and I do not understand why He took Michiah home at such a young age, but I do believe God is for us. He makes no mistakes!*

*I thank God that I got to know your son and brother albeit brief. Without a doubt the name Michiah Lancaster will always be in my memory when witnessing and sharing the Gospel with others here in South Africa and back home in Canada, Lord willing. The urgency of the Gospel **"...today if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts as in rebellion..."** Hebrews 3:15. That is Michiah's legacy in my life.*

I thank God for the sure hope we have as Christians. Death is not the end but a portal to a glorious future. I look forward to meeting your brother and son and friend to me, again in Heaven. Forever praising our Lord and Saviour for His glorious Salvation and victory over sin and death! Soli Deo Gloria!

Marvin Heyboer

GCC Participant - Alberta, Canada

*We know that **"...all things work together for the good of those who love God; those who are called according to His purpose."** Romans 8:28*

I am filled with compassion, sorrow and anguish as I am writing this letter. Firstly I want to sympathise with your entire family for your dear loss. Words cannot express how much your son has impacted my life and through his great humility and kindness, he has opened my eyes as to how I still need to mature in Christ. I am truly taken aback by just how wise and knowledgeable he was in Christ and how content he was with living a simple life of fearing God.

I am the one that God chose to have made contact with him last. I want to apologise that I was not able to do more and I ask for your forgiveness that I was not able to swim with him to safety. It is with a heart burdened with sorrow that I am informing you of this. From what Michiah has shared with us about his life, I have come to the conclusion that he is an amazing God-fearing person who had the utmost trust in the Lord, for he believed with all his heart in the Risen Lord. I on the other hand am a recent convert and up until last year had not known the Lord. I was also guilty of wretched things and in all fairness it should have been me that had gone down. I am earnestly searching for the meaning of all this.

In his time of great distress he was extremely calm and did not make a sound. You truly have raised an amazing son as he was nothing but a blessing to myself and all of those that he encountered. So I thank you for the opportunity of meeting Michiah by sending him to this course, as you are responsible for ensuring that I (one of the earths previously worst sinners) will never turn to my sinful ways ever again, due to the events of 14 Jan 2018.

I am truly appreciative for this massive strengthening in my desire for God's Salvation and God's will to be done. Yours sincerely,

Kyle Martin

GCC Participant – Cape Town

*To the rescue teams and services, thank you for your help and efforts. We understand that you tried your best and ask for your forgiveness for our irrational actions in our desperation of trying to get help for our friend. Proverbs 16:9, says **"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."** Jeremiah 29:11, says **"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."***

*We believe that God is in control and that right now Michiah is in Heaven. His favourite verse, which he read while giving his testimony at a church we visited, is Romans 8:28, **"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."** He also spoke of his older brother who had downed 9 years ago and how that was a turning point to which he invited Jesus into his life.*

Lili-Jean Geere

GCC Participant - Cape Town

My condolences are with your family during this very difficult time.

Michiah loved his photography and taught me a few things about it. His brother Isaac was in my discussion group during the BWS camp and he has been an excellent example of a disciple for Christ. Michiah and Isaac love the Lord God with all their heart and I know I have learnt so much from both of them in this short period of time. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-8.

Christopher Hammond

Frontline Fellowship – Audio Visual Department and GCC Participant – Cape Town

"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..." This is exactly what Michiah did.

"You will seek me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13. That is exactly what Michiah found, this man truly walked with God! I cannot even begin to imagine how much he will be missed, but I do know that we have comfort. Like Michiah we will not find our trust and strength in ourselves, we will find it from our Father who is always with us and who decided that it is time to take Michiah home.

All of us learned so much from this man, we are all deeply touched and where we were selfish or trusted ourselves, worried or tried to figure things out on our own, we are now humbled. Once again God made us realise that we are nothing in ourselves, all we can do is surrender, trust in Him and seek Him with all our hearts.

Michiah told me about this very close friend of his, Richard, who lost his wife about a month and a half ago and about what a strong bond they had that they lived like one. Michiah said he had so much respect for Richard. Richard feels like a part of him is also in Heaven, since his wife is in Heaven now. He has peace that only God can give.

He talked about how life on earth and material possessions are so temporary. We both agreed that our typical work routine and world systems and lifestyles we have today are so pointless, that God wants us to do more than that and that he will show us how to live to His glory in whatever circumstances we might find ourselves in. He told me that while he was in a managing position in a construction company, he started to feel like it was all pointless and that God wanted him to go to Africa and Mozambique in particular. He prayed and asked God to show him the way. Even when we are unhappy about our circumstances, we should turn to God and ask Him to show us how we can use it to His Glory.

He knew a lady who had a coffee shop which they used to have Bible Study classes in and the first time he had to lead he almost couldn't talk. When he started to pray and ask God to put the words in his mouth, God gave him strength and courage to talk. They studied the Attributes of God which helped him to grow closer to God. God used this as an opportunity for Michiah to grow his trust in the Lord and not depend on himself. He was hiking, walking, singing, eating and doing everything to the glory of God. This was all so encouraging for me as I struggle with evangelism. We must put our trust in the Lord to give us the ability and the words to bring Him glory.

He also told me of how much he admires a particular old Amish lady and how he loved to worship with them, she was so pure and humble and living for God, an excellent example for him to follow.

I know that God is always in control and all things shall be according to His will. I know that many lives and hearts are changed by the life of this man God worked through. Our lives will never be the same again, but are changed for His glory. May we become humble and lay our lives at His feet. May we pray like Michiah did: "Lord show me the way and whatever I do, may it be to your glory." We thank the Lord that we can know that he now has everlasting joy, no sin or sadness, only peace and love and your holiness. Thank you for sharing this wonderful child of yours for a while. May everything we do be to God's glory.

*Alieske van't Voort
GCC Participant – Cape Town*

*"Nothing is a mistake in God's hands. Nothing is a mistake in God's Kingdom." These were the very first words out of Isaac's mouth. The faith of your family in our Saviour astounds me. Psalm 34:1 says, **"I will extol the Lord at all times, His praise will always be on my lips..."** You have been a true testimony to this. Truly inspirational!*

I am so sorry for your loss, but we know that our loss is Heaven's absolute gain. Michiah is now worshipping our Lord with all the saints that have gone before us, in perfect harmony. As we all know how perfectly he harmonised.

The morning of the 14th Jan, Michiah and I were put on the same team, to do a church service to a low-cost housing area. A few of the men gave testimonies, of which one was Michiah. He told us about Timothy and how his passing opened his eyes and that is how he truly came to the Lord. He didn't seem grieved as he spoke, but rather so grateful and completely at peace. He then read his life verse: Romans 8:28-30. I was so moved by this. As you could see by the way Michiah lived, he truly believed this.

*That evening while we were all praying and worshipping together through our tears, I suddenly remembered that while Michiah was reading those verses in Romans that morning, I put a box around those verses and wrote Michiah's name next to it. I've never written anyone's name in my Bible, so why I felt led to do that, I have no idea. He was speaking about Timothy at the time, so I don't know why I would have written Michiah and not Timothy. The Lord works in mysterious ways and his hand has definitely been present through all this. Though we may not understand it, we know that **"As the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts."** Isaiah 55:9.*

After Michiah's testimony, I went and read a few verses to the congregation, the first of which was Lamentations 3:21-26, **"This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I hope in Him! The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."**

Looking back now, all the verses I read that day and all the songs we sang were so appropriate and perfectly reflected Michiah and his life.

The second verse I read was Jeremiah 29:11 **"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

The last one was Isaiah 55:9, **"For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."**

Michiah was in the palm of God's hands, the most perfect place to be. Proverbs 16:9 says that we can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. Nothing happens in our lives without the Lord making, or letting it happen. What a comforting thought. Our Lord is all powerful and we are His prized possession.

Michiah had such a gentle and quiet spirit, yet on the morning of the 14th, I had never seen him more alive. It was the most I had seen him laugh and he just seemed so utterly content and at peace.

I am so grateful for the time I got to spend getting to know him and share the Lord's will and share love to others with him. His light for Jesus shone so bright and he just emanated God's goodness. Paul said in Philippians 1:21: **"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."** This was Michiah to a tee, even until his last breath, everything was Christ!

Now he is with God in Heaven and has fulfilled the Lord's will for his life. I know that the Lord would have said, "Well done My good and faithful servant." Michiah glorified God with his life and he is even glorifying God with his passing. Many people's lives have been touched and changed and I believe that many will come to Christ through this tragic miracle.

Your family has been such a pillar and a blessing. Even though I have only had the pleasure of knowing the two of you. I know I have brothers in Christ for life and eternity.

These are the lyrics of the last song we sang with Michiah:

Lord I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the grace that I've found in You. Lord I've come to know the weakness I see in me, will be stripped away, by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me, bring me near, draw me to Your side.

And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on, in the power of Your love.

Lord unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face, the knowledge of Your love, as You live in me.

Lord renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life. In living every day by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me, bring me near, draw me to Your side

And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle and I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

The other songs were: Great is Thy Faithfulness, It is Well with My Soul and Here I am to Worship.

Looking back it astounds me how amazing God is, as those songs were definitely divinely chosen that morning, leaving us with peace and assurance and an overflowing joy and excitement to be reunited again in Heaven.

“I will never leave you nor forsake you... Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:56,9.

Emma Vaughan-Jones

GCC Participant – Mozambique

I've always seemed to be in a convenient location whenever you phone Isaac and heard every conversation he has had with you. What overwhelms me is how you have comforted those around you as well as us. We knew him for 2 weeks, even though Michiah was a reserved and quite a deep thinker.

The last day was when we bonded the most, we sat for two hours just talking about everything Christian, to the New Testament church, favourite Reformer and Revivalist from the Reformation, Books of the Bible and even these modern false teachers. That's the most I managed to get out of him in terms of words. I like how he would speak at random times and moments and moments you didn't even expect, they were funny and sometimes even weird.

I am saddened by his passing. He was supposed to come back and together we were supposed to edit all the pictures he took of the outreaches we went on, on his laptop.

When you spoke to Isaac on the phone, you were right when you said, when God wants you home, there is not a thing anybody can do about it. I don't know the answer as to why He took him so early. But its God... and all we need to do is take comfort in that, because God is always right, all of lifes mysteries will be answered when we become more like Jesus because when we shall see him as he is. I hope one day I have the maturity and peace to handle death in the way in which you have. We talk about the fact that our loved ones are in Heaven with God but it is a far cry from our reactory behaviour. Everybody has a right to mourn in their own way. I am humbled and honoured to see such strength in the Lancaster family. Yours faithfully

Ndumiso

GCC Participant – Cape Town

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See also:

[The Extraordinary Testimony of Michiah Lancaster](#)

The Testimonies of Great Commission Course 2018 participants on Salt and Light, Radio Tygerberg, can be heard on our [Soundcloud](#) page on www.FrontlineMissionSA.org.

The audio of the message delivered at the Memorial Service will be heard through our [SermonAudio.com](#) page on www.FrontlineMissionSA.org.