



## ***FRIENDS OF WORTELGAT*** **JUNE 2020**

We welcome you to this our *Friends of Wortelgat* newsletter for June! It is a slightly different one to our normal offering but one that will bring you up to date with what is happening here and how you can get involved. Feel free to share it with your friends, colleagues and family!

### **GOD IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK**

If God  
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is always  
**O D**  
with us  
**I S C**  
why  
**L O S E**  
is he  
**R T H A N**  
so hard  
**Y O U T H I N K**  
to find?

What has been sad for me as a follower of Christ and Pastor during this COVID-19 experience is the throwing up of hands by all in sundry, saying that God is missing in action and, quite frankly, does not know the plight the world is in let alone cares about our situation. Well, Scripture is quite clear that God will never leave us nor forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**) and knows all things (**1 John 3:20**). In fact, as David writes in the psalms, God is in the pit working, grieving, and in the miry clay knee deep with us (**Psalms 40:2**). So God being calm and unaffected by the troubles in His world is not the picture we get in the Bible.

As NT Wright writes about this Coronavirus situation; "It is no part of the Christian vocation, then, to be able to explain what's happening and why. In fact, it is part of the Christian vocation not to be able to explain—and to lament instead. As the Spirit laments within us, so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities, new acts of kindness, new scientific understanding, new hope. New wisdom for our leaders? Now there's a thought."

# THE WORTELGAT LEADERSHIP TEAM

## Nadia Mos – Programme Co-Ordinator



We, as a team, during this COVID-19 period and its regulations, have moved off the farm as there are no camps so no programming. It has been a time, especially for me, of reflection and a period alone with God. Amongst the struggle and fear of this time, these few months have been a huge blessing in my life as God has been using it to mould, shape, grow and teach me things I believe would not have been achieved had I been on the farm away from people and busy with work. God knows us better than we know ourselves and, more so, what plans He has for us and what we need to grow into the person He created us to be to fulfil our calling. There is a time and a season for everything so trust in God. Being at home doesn't mean that no work is being done. I am working on a Coordinators Manual for who might take over this position in future, as well as bettering the structure and procedures of the service year in general. We're looking forward to starting up again in 2021 and will be running a Service Year so feel free to start sending through applications for the New Year! Blessings!

## Sally Nuss – Office & Hospitality Manager



Whilst we have been on the property from the start of the lockdown till now, we have, initially, been working from home and now in the office and surrounds. As with all of us, this has been an interesting time. Mails and phone calls have been coming in, whilst not as thick and fast as per normal times, still really prevalent. Sadly, it is not "business as usual" yet so we need to abide by the laws of the country (**Romans 13:1-2**). The hospitality ladies are now working 22,5 hours a week in two groups and are busying themselves with, besides cleaning, the painting of cabins in Stables, the painting of Shalom House, and soon the Girls House (the old manager's house). Each morning we take the temperatures of the entire staff complement and, as yet, have had no instances of virus. I would like to leave you with **Philippians 4:13** in this time of uncertainty; "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." If anyone have couches and curtains lying around please consider donating them to us for Shalom House and the Girls House. You can contact me on [info@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:info@wortelgat.org.za).

## Grant Nuss – General Manager



This month we look at the fact that God is closer to us than we think albeit in our current situation during this COVID-19 season, or throughout our entire life. Says author and Pastor John Ortberg; "The central promise of the Bible is not, 'I will forgive you' but 'I will be with you.'" This is so true. God longs for an intimate relationship with us. In **Acts 17** for example, Paul is addressing a crowd in Athens and emphasises how much people search and try to find God, but He is really closer than they think. **Verse 27** says; "that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us." My hope is that we would have Paul's compassion and boldness to let others know that God wants and longs to know them too, and that He is closer than we might even realise. We, who are followers of Christ, know the truth and must not stay silent. I could go on quoting on this topic forever, but here's one more; "The story of the Bible isn't primarily about the desire of people to be with God; it's the desire of God to be with people."

## Christo Mostert – Maintenance Manager



It is great to be included in this newsletter as a See-Eike/HOA employee yet very much a part of the Wortelgat team! We work so well together. I have been here for seven months whilst still on probation and have enjoyed every minute of it. Throughout the lockdown period, along with Danny and AD on a full-time basis who have proven to be absolutely invaluable, I have been responsible for the maintenance of the cottages as well as the farm. We have performed many functions including the continual process of making-good of the camp-sites. Currently, to emulate just what a team-effort looks like out here, we are refurbishing the Shalom House and Girls House along with the hospitality ladies, Sally and Grant! My family are with me here and we are staying out at Tolbos. We are working on a pretty tight action plan on what we plan to do over the next five years and will continue to do so. Although I have met a number of you, I look forward to meeting you all soon. If you need to get in touch with me or want to drop me a line my e-mail address is; [maintenance@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:maintenance@wortelgat.org.za).

## **TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ...**

Due to the COVID-19 virus, we have followed the government's prescribed route during this pandemic. Initially, this has meant that we have not been able to accommodate camps in our camp-sites and cottages. We were also meant to stay/live in our homes to reduce the threat of spreading the disease. I know we and our family were quite *paraat* about this although there were people around us that didn't seem to be too perturbed during this time!

The facilitation team and our programme coordinator are off the property as they are unable to perform their functions apropos the regulations.

With the relaxation in level three, we are now able to house retreats and educational purposes for up to ten people, please see advert below and we have since added other cottages! If you are interested, please let Sally know on [info@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:info@wortelgat.org.za).

Below is a sample advert which Paul du Toit has kindly put together for Cottage 5 which we mailed out to all the churches in the Western Cape as well as Bible Colleges – just over 1,200 recipients. We have had some response which is now starting to increase. There are additional options and not only this cottage can now be used. Again, speak to Sally in this regard.



STANFORD | O. VERBERG

# You need a break!

**COTTAGE no. 5**

The ideal place for a retreat or for education purposes during this lockdown period.

Cottage no.5 is situated on the edge of the Klein River estuary, under a canopy of lush Milkwood trees.

- Spacious 2 story lodging
- 5 Bedrooms, sleeps 10
- 4 Bathrooms
- Fully-equipped s/c kitchen
- Comfortable seating area

**BOOK NOW!**  
028 341 0666

[www.wortelgat.org.za](http://www.wortelgat.org.za)

**Wortelgat**  
Wortelgat Trust

## #Birdwatching@Wortelgat

If you are in the Klein River area please keep your camera handy should you see any birds and/or fauna that you believe are worthy of sending into us for inclusion in the newsletter. It will be greatly appreciated. Please mail your photo/s to [manager@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:manager@wortelgat.org.za).



**Cape Robin - Chat**

A song-filled, perky, shy, yet curious bird that bears an orange throat and a striking white speculum, which separates the blackish lores and ear coverts from the crown. It has become one of the most familiar and easily identifiable birds in South Africa because it has adapted well to living alongside humans in their gardens.

The Cape Robin-Chat is about the size of a house sparrow. It is around 16–17 cm from head to tail; and weighs around 25–34 g. It flits about alone, hopping from perch to ground to next perch, and would often perch on branches or any prominent position. The bird will roost alone up to three metres above ground in dense vegetation cover.

The Cape Robin-Chat can mimic a large array of other bird species, including cuckoos, mouse birds, bulbuls, thrushes, shrikes, starlings, sunbirds, white-eyes, canaries and buntings. Some chats have been recorded mimicking the sounds of hooting cars.

The Cape Robin-Chat occurs in patches from southern Sudan to Kenya, Tanzania, and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, with its biggest population being in southern Africa. In southern Africa, it is common across South Africa.

The Cape Robin-Chat typically occurs in thickets, riparian fringes, and forest margins, in gardens and parks. It occurs at the base of patches of bush and rock on heath-covered hillsides and at the base of cliffs. The nests are deep cut nests, usually situated on or close to the ground, in hollow stumps or on earth banks.

The bird feeds on ground level, mostly in and under bushes, but will from time-to-time gather bark and foliage in tall trees. It is an insectivore, but also feeds on other invertebrates including spiders, centipedes and earthworms. It may add tiny frogs and reptiles to its diet.

The Cape Robin-Chat is a bird of beauty and as such it has become a favourite garden bird. It was voted as South Africa's favourite bird in 2015 in an online poll conducted by Birdlife South Africa with 10 000 people voting in its favour. This shy bird can be daring as well, as it will approach residence porches in the areas in which it occurs in search for food such as cheese crumbs. This bird would easily serve as an alarm clock for bird lovers as it will sing at the crack of dawn and again at sunset.

## DEVOTION: - GOD IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK



I would like you to get hold of your Bible. Turn with me to **James 4:8**. Irrespective of your translation, this verse speaks of a reality that is often not considered greatly by many. We need to. The NIV and NLT speak of a similar understanding: "Come near to God, and he will come near to you" (**NIV**) and; "Come close to God, and God will come close to you" (**NLT**). We investigate the NLT translation of the text in this exercise.

"Come close to God..." Think about this with me; Have you seen nature's seasons and trends not for what they are in themselves, but for what they reveal of the heart that made them? Have you ever just stopped and noticed the divine dream unfolding around you? All of these and others are means to become more aware of His Presence. When we notice these things, and especially when they spark a conversation with Him, we are drawing close to God. There are two major aspects in experiencing God's Presence and drawing closer to Him in intimate relationship: increasing our awareness of Him, and His approach to us. The first is our responsibility, the second His.

I am certain that you agree with me: this is harder than it seems. Why? Well, we let busyness distract us from experiencing God. Our daily to-do lists are His rivals for our attention, and we let them win. Your side of the "Presence equation" is to draw near to God. In every way you can imagine, do that. Then see how He responds to you.

"... and God will come close to you." So once you have really done your side of the Presence equation, God will do His side. In my experience, God is closer to us at some times than He is at others. Have you found that? It isn't always because we have drifted in the opposite direction.

Having been slain in the Spirit and given the gift of tongues at the age of eight whilst singing in the choir of an Anglican church, God's Presence has been really close since then. But, there are times when He somehow feels a little distant. I have found that we can actually make ourselves more aware of the ways God is moving and working all around us, but we can also attract Him to move toward us.

Here is something that you may well not have been taught: We do not earn His favour or His Presence – that is not even an option – but *relational* closeness isn't a matter of earning anyway. What it is though, is a matter of desire, commitment, and level of interaction. When you and I know the attitudes that warm God's heart, we can clothe ourselves in them. And when we draw close to Him, He draws close to us.

Notice what appeals to God: faith, humility, hunger for Him, honesty and authenticity, obedience from the heart, and many more attitudes you can find in Scripture. Granted, fallen human beings cannot manufacture spiritual characteristics without His help. But we are clearly told to put on the right attitudes, so we bear a certain responsibility and initiative to do so. Seek Him in such ways, and you will find Him seeking you too.

Perhaps your prayer today is; "Father, I know that we do not come to You unless You draw us. Lord Jesus, but You also do not come to us unless we draw near to You. And Holy Spirit, that mutual attraction works, I want more of it, so ask You to please come close. Amen."

# **Garlicky Lamb Chops**

*Sally Nuss: Stand-In Catering Manager*



## **Ingredients**

Freshly chopped rosemary  
5 cloves garlic, minced  
Salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
1 kilogram small lamb chops, trimmed of fat  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

## **Directions**

1. On a large plate, combine rosemary and garlic and season with salt and pepper.
2. Press lamb chops into mixture and set aside.
3. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil.
4. Working in batches, cook lamb until nicely browned, about 4 minutes per side.
5. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

## **Serving Suggestion**

Serve the lamb chops with herb roasted potatoes and oven roasted asparagus.



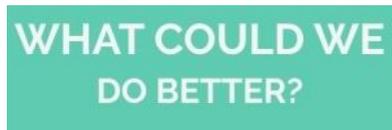
## REST/REFRESH/REIGNITION

### ***Spiritual Rejuvenation for Ministry Leaders***

"Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again" (**John 4:14**). Thousands of people leave full-time Christian ministry every month. It is not because they have lost their love for Christ or their desire to serve Him but, for one reason or another, they are exhausted and simply cannot carry on. How often do you find yourselves burning the candle at both ends in our ministry? We at Wortelgat understand this and offer a facility that will bring rest, spiritual rejuvenation and draw you closer to the One who gives rest. We would love to have you join us for a weekend of spiritual refreshing. Besides a beautiful setting in which you will be able to wander around and spend time in the Word and journal, it is at a rate that will not break your budget. Drop us a line on [info@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:info@wortelgat.org.za) to check for availability, or contact our General Manager who, like you, in full-time pastoral ministry understands the necessity of a retreat in his ministry, life, and ultimately, for the benefit of his family. How about you?



You getting the most out of your stay at Wortelgat is of the utmost importance to us. So, what can we do for you? Perhaps create a camp? We are able to tailor-make packages for you and your group which will ensure that your needs are met. We can work programming/facilitation into your theme and teaching. With a university lecturer on-site content can be created and taught to your group. To suit your tastes meals can be prepared for you. Likewise, weddings can be officiated. The list is endless, so contact us on [info@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:info@wortelgat.org.za) in this regard and we will work out the packages and pricing for you.



Our leadership team are committed to the pursuit of excellence in all we do. In order for us to succeed in this quest we need you! Whether it is a compliment for what we are doing well, or whether it is an area in which we are not performing and meeting expectations, please drop us a line on [info@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:info@wortelgat.org.za). Help us continually to up our game.



Over the twenty years of our camping ministry with just over 240,000 people having spent time with us here, many of them continue to join us with their school group, church group, men's ministry, Bible College, pastoral leadership team, provincial sport teams, and the list goes on are on a journey with us to get involved in what we do to extend the Kingdom. Are you keen to get involved? During our ministry here we have seen thousands of lives restored. But with your help there is so much more we can do. Here are a few ways you can get involved in the ministry;

1. Whilst we through the year have camps for the under-privileged and want to increase those considerably this year and going forward, these can only be realised through funds donated for this to happen. If you and/or your school, church, company, or organisation would like to enable us to reach out to more children and the youth you can do this by either donating on a monthly or once-off basis. Our bank account details can be found below.
2. Become a Wortelgat Volunteer! Whatever your skills and talents, we would love you to join our team of volunteers. Whether you want to fundraise, volunteer at camps and/or events, or in your local church, you will be helping to bring God-given transformation to where it is needed most.
3. You can book a locally accredited speaker with funds going back to the ministry, who will talk about God's heart for the under-privileged, ways in which you can equip your church to respond through giving, prayer and action, and also share in the areas of biblical preaching, teaching, worship-leading, spiritual retreats and men's and women's ministries.

Please contact Grant Nuss either telephonically or by e-mail at [manager@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:manager@wortelgat.org.za) and chat about your ideas and plans in which you could make a difference and grow the Kingdom through the Wortelgat ministry.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

We would ask you to pray into our upcoming camps that those participating will learn a lot, be able to take with them a lifetime of experiences of an amazing place and people and, if they are taking programming, that they will revel in the messages and teaching in that ambit.

## **IN CLOSING ...**

We the staff and leadership team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our amazing facility. Thank you too for the messages of support, prayer, encouragement, inspiration, donations and, when you are in the area, constantly bringing joy and speaking life into what we have been and are busy with this year being major restoration at points, and making good. Whilst we still have a little way to go yet, knowing that you as our friends are in our corner is invaluable. We the Wortelgat team applaud you! 🙌

## **FINALLY...**

If you would like for us to add people to our mailing list please e-mail us on [info@wortelgat.org.za](mailto:info@wortelgat.org.za), and if you would like to unsubscribe please mail us on the same address. We currently reach 452 people and more each month as the newsletter is shared! Awesome! We look forward to both seeing and hearing from you soon!

If you feel led to assist us financially in our ministry we would truly appreciate it as we honour the words of Jesus in **Matthew 28:18-20**.

Our bank account details are as follows:

<b>Bank:</b>	Standard Bank
<b>Branch:</b>	Hermanus
<b>Branch Code:</b>	050312
<b>Account No.:</b>	08 225 1126
<b>Account Type:</b>	Current Account
<b>Account Holder:</b>	Wortelgat Outreach Trust

A member of Christian Camping Southern Africa (CCSA)

**Trustees:** M Bridgman, R Fehrsen-Du Toit (Acting-Chairman), HJ Hendricks, SM Hofmeyr, S Muller, D Rajh; WL Schoonbee; S. Weber