

## **March 21, 2007 – A BIG, BIG Day!**

Today, my dad turned 76. When I called him to wish him a Happy Birthday, he said, "Can you believe it?" Living that long is something special. However, we are all going to live spiritually somewhere, FOREVER, and that is quite a bit longer and more important.

Yesterday morning, about 10:00 AM, Janine Stubbs, took a huge step in her preparation for that eternity. Janine is Adriaan Le Roux's young secretary of several months time. He has been teaching her the whole time. Janine is an intelligent person from a religious background, and she had been quite active in a major denomination. Her family and friends are not particularly happy about her decision to be baptized into Christ, as they do not understand it. Janine is one who counted the cost and made the decision to obey the whole teaching of the gospel of Christ. Though she did so at a potentially high cost, she decided her soul was worth it! We are overjoyed at her decision and pray for her continued courage and commitment. Well done, Janine!

But hold the phone - that's not all! Though the angels in heaven were still rejoicing over Janine's decision yesterday, tonight they got another call for rejoicing. Following Bible study, Paul McCourt was baptized into Christ about 8:15 PM. He was introduced to the faith by Lee-Anne Walker and has attended several church meetings. He had also studied with her and her uncle, Mike Baisley. Paul said to me, "I want to be in Jesus' church." What a neat and scriptural statement.

When Paul rose from that watery grave, he turned to the congregation with his fists held high above his head and shouted, "Yes!" He was so excited to have learned the truth about the importance of obedience to the gospel, including baptism, worship, and lifelong service. I noted that I had not seen anyone act so excited about their conversion in over 24 years – since I was baptized myself a little after midnight on January 15, 1983. I experienced and expressed a very similar overflow of joy and relief. Debbie and I could hardly sleep that night. We just wanted to tell everybody what had happened to us. It brought back some very sweet memories. Thank you, Paul.

Just under a month ago, I sent out a report of two new souls being added to the Lord's church. Con Badenhorst wrote back and said, "You don't need to baptize people just to email us!! hahaha!!" Well, Con, I did it again, and I would love to be able to send out a similar message everyday!

*Rejoicing with the angels in heaven,  
Bill Elliott*