

Mustard Seeds for 1997

Alexandra

12 Jan 1997

Mark 4 vs. 30-34

Text: whole passage Mark 4: 30-32

We are entering a new year: 1997. We have said farewell to 1996 - we will never again see a year 1996! All over S.A. there were huge festivities (Hillbrow, Cape Town, Ransburg Waterfront) with drinks & crackers & dances to celebrate the arrival of the year 1997.

Many of us have also looked back onto 1996 and looked ahead to 1997 and asked ourselves the question: What will the New Year bring? Peace or strife? Health or illness? Income or poverty? Joy or sorrow?

In some or other way we can compare ^{our} ~~the~~ entering the New Year to the planting of a seed - a new year, a new beginning, a new life. For us as Christians the question is: did we plant a mustard seed? Have we planted something for the Kingdom of God?



When we as parents send our children to school, to technician, to university, to work: do we also do it because we are planting a mustard seed?

When we as young people plan our lives for 1997, dream our dreams, discuss our hopes with other young people, do we also do it because we are planting a mustard seed?

When we as a congregation come to church, sing in the choir, serve in some way, do we also do it because we are planting a mustard seed? In many respects the year 1997 will be a crucial, special year for our congregation:

1) On the weekend of 15-16 Feb. 1997 we have the celebration of our minister & his wife & family being in Alex Cong. for 37 years! Thirty-seven years ago he came to Alex - to plant a mustard seed. How big has that seed grown?



2) Our congregation started some years ago to plan & to build a crèche, a day-care centre for the children of working mothers

It was a nurtured seed which was planted — is there hope that we can complete and im-
prove it in 1997?

3) Our minister ^{Rev. B. K.} and a number of ^{the} ~~our~~ members of our congregation are having ambitious plans to assist the whole of Alexandria Township with the C.F.D.N. Dev. Ind. — scholarships, research etc.