

# APRIL 2019



Hello from Cape Town :-)

The Lord has brought me safely through the first term of theological college here in Cape Town. There have been the joys of discovering more of who Jesus is: for example, in our Mark's gospel class, I'd never noticed before that in Chapter 5 Jesus cast out 2,000 or more evil spirits from Legion and restored the man to be a disciple of his. That's power and authority! This passage was a topic of great discussion as any work in Africa requires much teaching on demons, evil spirits and witches. One Zambian brother was telling me that on any visit to a rural Zambian church the first thing expected of a preacher would be to talk about witches/witchdoctors (and a Christian response, I presume). As a college in South Africa which bridges Western ideologies as well as African, please pray for God's wisdom for staff and equipping for all students, many of whom will return to the more African end of the cultural spectrum.



*My college fellowship group end of term lunch*

It's also been a cultural adjustment for me at church, which is very different from my small, multicultural church in Durban. Give thanks to God for this body of believers and please pray

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for getting to know people bit by bit for mutual encouragement. The 10-12 year olds I have been teaching were very patient with me as I adjusted from teaching students to their age group... and there is more adjusting needed to go! Please pray for wisdom and creativity in teaching them a series on prayer in May and June. I got started in reading John's gospel for myself in the holidays and it's made me not want to keep it to myself so please pray for opportunities to make Jesus known - I'd love a 121 with someone!

One of my most enjoyable courses is 'Ministry' which is taught by a brother leading a church in Khayelitsha (the biggest township in CT). He is a brilliant storyteller so classes are fascinating! To give you a taste for life in Khayelitsha, someone once put a banner up at its entrance which read, "Welcome to Hell" - the crime, the squalor, the challenges... It is therefore a great challenge for anyone to serve Christ there. The cost of being a Christian is also high when African family traditions reign. This brother has been threatened with his life from a family for telling a family member what it will look like to follow Christ rather than traditions. Please pray for courage for us graduates of GWC to serve in difficult places with abundant love. For example, really showing what it is to be Christian family when someone's family disowns them for following Jesus. This is felt acutely in a culture with very strong family bonds and expectations.

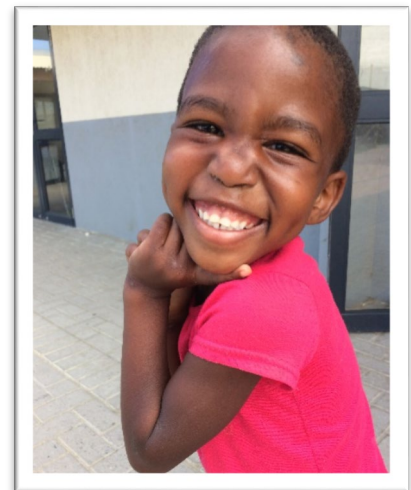


*At the soup kitchen in a local township church*

At the end of last term, as part of a 'ministry project', I visited a soup kitchen linked to a local township church with an Afrikaans brother and a Zulu brother. The faithful minister had started with a group of five nine years ago and now there are about 40. 95% of those who come to the soup kitchen do not yet come to church. The minister faithfully preaches and prays on. I have also had a mini-introduction to prison ministries and restorative justice through one of my classmates. I hope to find out more about that. But for prisoner or for you and I, I was greatly encouraged by

John's declaration at seeing Jesus: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). "Takes away" is a marvellously freeing truth. I shall be praying that our knowledge and joy in all that Jesus has done for us will be refreshing each of you this Easter.

Finally, please do pray on for studying well: I am learning new levels of discipline (slowly!) and find less people time a challenge at times! New Cape Town stomach bugs and missing my normal South African companions in Durban haven't been easy but I'm thankful for God's help through the initial adjusting and his gracious provision in new ways. Thank you so much as always for enabling this by your prayers and your generosity, 'a fragrant offering' indeed (Philippians 4:18) - they smell great to me too!



*At the soup kitchen*

With much love,

Nerena :-)