

SEPTEMBER 2019



Hello from Cape Town :-)

I have just returned from a heart-warming mini-trip to Durban. It was really lovely to be back with old friends there: rejuvenating for the soul! It was excellent to see and hear of God at work in the student ministry and in individuals. Though we might long to be altogether with the Lord in Heaven, it was encouraging to consider the work he has given us and to be dreaming dreams of what he might do here. May God bring his dreams to fruition!

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It certainly feels like training and I find each subject very useful - even if I can't take it all in at once! Please do pray I would be sharpened and shaped by God's Word...

It doesn't feel long ago that I also enjoyed the wealth of encouragement, hospitality and fun in the UK with brothers and sisters in Cambridge, London and Barton Seagrave. It was particularly sweet to enjoy time with people after the adjustment to being in the books in the first semester! I'm still adjusting to that as this semester is more challenging (and apparently it gets increasingly challenging!). It certainly feels like training and I find each subject very useful - even if I can't take it all in at once! Please do pray I would be sharpened and shaped by God's Word as we study together as students with

the lecturers. A highlight was one day in a Pentateuch lecture when we were looking at Exodus 32-34 and grasping some of the links to Jesus: 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14) – the very joyful group is pictured right.

There is a daily need for grace to learn and have the godly discipline to do so. There is much to glean which will be useful for future work. The challenge is making the most of the opportunity now for that end. Each student has their



own challenges so please pray for us to have the Lord's help and one another's encouragement in it all! Most of us have our 'quitting' moment(s)! Please pray for us to keep on despite illness, pressure of multiple responsibilities, being away from wives, learning in a language which isn't your mother-tongue, and plenty of good distractions. Please pray too that we would resist sin and temptation and have and learn godly habits and patterns. I add here some prayers I came across yesterday which would be wonderful content to be praying too:

Prayers of J.C Ryle for Gospel ministers:

- *Pray that we may be kept humble and sensible* of our own weakness, and ever mindful that in the Lord alone can we be strong.*
- *Pray that we may have wisdom to take the right step, to do the right thing in the right way and to do nothing to cause the Gospel to be blamed.*
- *Pray, above all, that we may go straight on, even to the end - that we may never lose our first love, and go back from first principles - that it may never be said of us, that we are not the people we once were, but that we may go on consistently and faithfully, die in harness**, and finish our course with joy, and the ministry which we have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God.*

**to maintain a calm demeanor and think clearly in a difficult, stressful, or troubling situation
**on the job*

Well, there's some fuel for prayer from here! I continue to pray for you each and very thankful for you being willing to partner with me as we strive on! I am slowly settling into church and would value prayers to play my part well as part of that body of believers, including the kids!

With much love from the bottom of Africa!

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