



**October 2017**

### **Hello from Durban!**



It felt like a couple of weeks when I wrote last but I realised a whole term has gone past since I did! We had a really exciting mission week at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) at the beginning of August. The talks drew a good number most days (apart from when Julius Malema visited campus!) and it was excellent to engage with people each day beforehand. Evangelism skills were challenged and sharpened! We ended up getting to know about 20 new people better

through the follow up course, 'Discover Jesus' in Mark's gospel. It was fun having some food'n'games evenings with them hosted by my team mates: I really enjoyed those (see photos)!

A lot of my time is spent with young ladies in one-to-one meetings: 25-40% of my time depending on the week. So I'd love your prayers for this. At the moment a few of them are young Christians just finding out about the faith; some are learning to read the Bible for themselves and teach it to others; and a couple are staff members at different levels. So I'd love your prayers to have wise love for each: where to



#### **Here are some of the responses at the end of the course to 'What more have you discovered about Jesus?'**

*'How awesome that Jesus has power and authority over all things: death, gives life, over demons... everything!'*

*'The impact of Jesus' death: being forgiven of our sin and the ability to enter God's presence.'*

*'I've learnt so much in the Scriptures that we've been studying, things that I've never noticed while reading the Bible on my own. I've got to know who Christ really is and not how I thought he was with my own understanding. He's much greater than our understanding and how we've experienced him.'*

challenge and encourage, where to develop, how to help and how to pray. A couple of new students need to be established in a church so please pray for the desire and commitment to this from them.

Last week, Durban was surprised by the worst storm in decades. The eye of the storm was just south of Durban and was like a small tornado, ripping off roofs. Some were trapped in cars with water rising even above them. Huge ships in the harbour were torn from their moorings with shipping containers falling like dominoes. In our slightly less-affected area, trees are down in many roads. The cost of damages is estimated at one billion rand. Please pray for the city to recover physically and for lives to turn to bow to the Lord of all.

And a little review of what has happened in other parts of life... I had a very interesting time at my neighbour's daughter's wedding (see pic!). The Hindu priest explained the procedures well and I was welcomed. I couldn't help but see that *'they... exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles'* (Romans 1:22). Please pray for witness to Jesus Christ as I continue to get to know the family better.



### Coming up...

The end of the university year is nearing as students now wrap up lectures and go into exams. Please pray for a great End of Year function on Friday 27 October organised by the apprentices and student committees of each campus. Please pray they would be equipped to stand firm in the Lord Jesus during time with family and friends and to be used to spread the true gospel in their home areas. Thanks to The Gospel Coalition we have given out hundreds of 'Prosperity? Seeking the True Gospel' (an excellent book!) and had the opportunity across the two campuses to tell the gospel to about 500 students across the year. Please pray for fruit to grow in the holidays in the hearts of those who have received and heard.

As a staff this is our big review and planning time of the year so it would be wonderful to be praying for: encouraging and sharpening staff appraisals, good ideas for next year and wisdom for how to divide the time and serve the students best, and humble dependence on the Lord in the process.

I shall be visiting the UK late November and early December. It will be excellent to see many of you again and to meet some I've not yet had the chance to meet! This is the plan, with days in each place around these Sundays:

**26 November** St Andrew the Great, Cambridge

**3 December** St Catherine's, Birkenhead

**10 December** St Botolph's, Barton Seagrave

**17 December** London

**24 December** London

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