



January 2017

Hello from Durban!

Thankfully I was able to return at the end of November and settle in back here! I was able to organise a car and my flat, catch up with some people and be a bit more ready for this year ahead. I was very grateful to God for getting me off crutches just before I left the UK (and I haven't had to return to them!) and also the loan of a car whilst I sorted myself out on arrival. I'm slowly loosing the limp and able to get around so much better (with a way to go yet!). This is just as I hoped so that I'd be able to get around campus without problems. God's arranging of all things is incredible! In all the physio and awkwardness, the time in the UK proved to be a very good chance to stop, read, experience lack of mobility, reflect, enjoy the local church, study a bit and have extended times with family and a few friends.

On my return, I also really appreciated conversations with my team leaders at The Bible Talks (TBT) on my role going forward. In general I shall be focussed on: training and encouraging our two female TBT staff (Enhle and Asisipo); helping with campus activities and events in administration, advertising and evangelism; overseeing what we can do in teaching and equipping girls on campus; and working as part of a team of four senior staff in the leadership of TBT.

This time, as the year kicks off, I thought I'd name some areas where your prayers would be really appreciated:

- For clarity, wisdom and grace from Christ in these **roles!** I get easily distracted especially by new people and ideas.
- Continued good times with **ex-students** in encouraging them and mobilizing them with the next generation of students on campus and at church in Durban and beyond (see three below – Ndumi, Samu and Maphs (past apprentice now working in schools in Cape Town)!).



- I'd particularly like to work with three postgraduates still on campus to **reach out to girls**. We might well start with the 'Pure' course – an excellent resource on relationships and sexual purity. It would be great to have your prayers for take-off for a fruitful team outreach to girls in residences.
- We will be spending the week of 6-10 February **meeting new students** as the year kicks off. We have some fun ideas (including signage, flyers, quizzes, questionnaires, an amazing race, a mannequin challenge...) and need God's strength in these to advertise who we are and what we will be doing.
- Please do be praying for the **stability** of campuses across SA. The problems of last year could totally destabilise the education system in the process of protesting for improved financial access.
- Our **team** has been expanding and we are now a total of nine so I would like to ask for your prayers to work in great unity, love for one another and enthusiasm for the King. This is what two of our new apprentices said they would love prayer for:

Mhleli: "I'd like prayer for my interaction with students and adjusting to everything with my responsibilities with church and TBT."

Asisipo: "...also to have grace to adjust to new environment and form more relationships with the students."



The TBT team 2017

Enhle, Asisipo, Mhleli, Thapelo, Ryan, Tendai, Kwazi, me and Jeremiah (who wasn't there at photo)!

Psalm 115:1 'Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.' I had this verse on my first prayer letter over ten years ago I think. Please pray for this to be true more and more amongst us here.

**With much thanks for all you do as part of the work here with us! With love and prayers for you
always,
Nerena ☺**

PS. A special thank you to some little pray-ers - Molly and Kate - for your Christmas card and prayers!