



February 2018

Hello from Durban!



It is **wonderful to be kicking off the year again** here in Durban. I have defrosted from my cold-filled but joy-filled trip to UK in November/December. I was really thankful for the birth of my niece, for being mum to my nephew for a week, for Christmas day with my parents, meeting/chatting to church partners and cycling (in the snow sometimes!) to friends around London (when I wasn't smothered with flu!). I'm sad January is over where I enjoyed preparing for the year, having some catch-ups with people here and there and chances to see a few students again. But February now brings us back to campus full time and I'm looking forward to what the year holds.

We got to know a **really great core group of students** through our bible studies in the second half of the year last year. It is these and some others whom I would love to get to know more and see be grown by God this year. We had a braai (BBQ!) and games with some of them last Friday as we told them about the plans we have at The Bible Talks (TBT) for the year. Some of them told us what



TBT Staff Team 2018 - two missing due to visa struggles: please pray for visa provision to be able to continue here in SA - that be brilliant to have these harvesters with us :-)



they hoped for the year.

Shy Sphelele

said 'I want to know Jesus more deeply and be able to tell him to others.' Please pray for God to richly strengthen his people in him. Our main activities with students in the week are:

Mondays – Bible Ministry Training – equipping students to handle the word for themselves and be able to teach it to others. We would love to see them be able and willing to start teaching others in their residences this year. Please pray for these groups to sprout up!

Please pray for us staff to model love and truth to them and be examples that help them imitate the Lord Jesus too.

Wednesdays – Bible Studies/Growth Groups – small groups where we will have two groups with one looking at Mark's Gospel to see really who Jesus is, and the second group in 1 John, growing in confidence about who a Christian really is. Please pray for hearts to know Jesus for themselves and Christians joyfully certain of their faith. It is a small 40-minute session but do pray the time in the word is effective. Please pray students would be free and disciplined to come consistently.

Fridays – Evangelism and Talk – though we don't want evangelism to be only from 10-12 on a Friday, we are thankful for the focussed time to reach out to students who are chilling in between lectures. Please pray for simple, creative, loving telling of Jesus and fruit from the conversations as seeds are planted. I had the joy of talking jazz (he's about to switch to studying it!) with a student at church this morning who was gently persuaded over time last year that Jesus was worth knowing. May God continue to draw these young people to a lifetime of following Jesus Christ, Lord of All. He even saved me 20 years ago in this way at university!

I continue enjoy living in Durban and thankful for the relationships God has given me at church and in the neighbourhood. Please pray I could be a blessing at church in knowing and loving people despite the limits of time. My Hindu neighbour is a blessing, especially in feeding me delicious food! Please pray for opportunities and wisdom to share Christ with her (and learn how to cook better from her!).

With much love to you each from here! Please know I think of you each who receive this, thanking God for you and praying for His grace to you in all its various forms.

Nerena ☺



Some of our students

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1XF Tel: 020 8691 6111 pletters@crosslinks.org
Crosslinks, 32 Montgomery Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim BT6 9HL Northern Ireland Tel: +44 (0) 28 9079 6028