



June 2014

In a nutshell: We have had a very good year, all round – both personally, and in terms of having a good impact at the seminary. We hope to return to the UK and Ireland for a few weeks over the summer.

Looking back

Things have continued to go well at the seminary. Rick has developed good working relationships with faculty members, and some strong discipling relationships with a few students. In classes, he has continued setting the students lots of reading to do. This does not always go down at all well at the beginning of semester; but by the end of semester, everybody seems to have learned to enjoy it (some of the time, at least!).

Rick is mostly teaching the “systematic theology” courses. He has been enjoying this, because what you cover is fairly wide-ranging. It includes topics like sin and salvation, who Jesus is, the Trinity, faith and repentance, healing, magic, heaven, hell and new creation – and many more. Because so much ground is covered, all sorts of questions can come up in class. This provides good opportunities to help people find biblical answers, and also to learn how to go about tackling difficult questions.

This time last year Rick had been rather concerned about a run of rather “erratic” preaching that



there had been in the Seminary Chapel. But in the past 12 months there have been several good encouragements on that front. The Seminary has had a couple of extra-curricular conferences on expository preaching, both of which were well attended and well received, and another conference is planned for September. And overall, people seem to be working harder to do a better job when preaching.

Also, in the new academic year, the Seminary will also be starting a new BA programme specialising

in Expository Preaching, which Rick will be heading up. This should be a great chance to help students work more on becoming better preachers and teachers.

Alanna has continued studying (when she can) for her theology degree that she is taking by distance learning at London University. This year she has been studying "Ethics", and enjoying it. Her exam was in early May.

Asha, Conor and Jack continue to enjoy things here. They now have some good friendships with other kids on campus. Asha, who is now six, loves reading, enjoys history and science, and tolerates maths. Conor, who is now four, likes history too (especially anything "scary"; the Romans have been good value on that front), and maths, and is just beginning to get to grips with some reading. Jack, who is two, is becoming increasingly more chatty (though is still more inclined to keep his own council than Asha and Conor ever were.) This year everyone's health has been excellent, and we have had no visits to A & E.

Looking forward

The semester has now ended. For Rick that means lots of marking; though if all goes to plan the marking should be finished by the time you get this.

The seminary also runs intensive summer programmes, for part-time students. Instead of doing five or six courses across a whole 15-week semester, students do one or two courses crammed into 15 working days (i.e. three weeks). It is hard to learn well during such a tight programme but it may be the only way that is viable for some people. Rick is expecting to teach on three of these courses in late May / early June. This will be pretty hectic, as it will mean eight hours of teaching each day for the three weeks.

We are also planning to be back in the UK and Ireland for several weeks in June / early July. We are hoping this will be a good time to catch up with lots of people, and we hope it won't be too exhausting(!) especially for the kids. Quite a bit of dashing about will be inevitable, but even then we probably won't be able to get round everyone. Alanna and the kids are going to travel back a few weeks early (while Rick is teaching on the summer programme), to have a little longer to catch up with Grandparents, cousins, etc.

Praise and prayer requests

Give thanks to God

- for continued good health, and safety
- for strong relationships developing with various staff and students
- that Rick's teaching is going well

Please pray

- that Rick will be both clear and faithful in teaching over summer, and in the new Semester in August
- that the renewed focus on expository preaching will bear fruit (especially the new BA)
- for continued good health
- for safety in travel – to and from Abuja, and back to the UK
- that we will continue to build good relationships



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