



“The Gospel... is the power of God for all who believe”

Romans 1:16

Dear Friends,

A new year has begun and so a new chapter of my time in Johannesburg. As many of you know I have spent December in the UK meeting with friends, family and partners in the gospel. It was such a joy to spend time with people who have been praying for me over the last two or three years and to share the joys of what God has been doing. Particularly encouraging was the chance to spend a good amount of time at two of my partner churches, Emmanuel Wimbledon and Moulton Parish Church. As many of you know I grew up at Emmanuel and it was wonderful to spend a number of Sundays with them, being encouraged by the preaching of the word and the great interest people had concerning my work in Johannesburg. It was a privilege that my time coincided with Jonathan Fletcher's final Sunday. His faithfulness in ministry is a model for us all and I personally am grateful for all that he has done for me. I also spent some time at Moulton Parish church which is a new partner church, through camps I already had a number of links with the church, it was great to get to know more individuals in the church and spend time with some of the staff to see their encouraging and faithful hard work. Also while I was in the UK met with the vicar and others from St Peter's Harold's Wood which will become a partner church also. The whole time was a reminder of how faithful many people are in their prayers and their giving to help the work in Johannesburg. It was so gracious of many in these churches to welcome me into their homes and church family. Even though I am now in Johannesburg I continue to feel I have great church families in the UK.

On return to Johannesburg I began my role as 'Bishop's Chaplain' which sounds grander than it is! I basically assist Edwin Ngubane, an area bishop, with all things! At the moment we are still based at Melville Union Church where I am now preaching regularly. I have been greatly encouraged preparing and preaching through parts of Romans and being reminded how gracious God is and what a wonder it is that he freely gives the gift of righteousness to anyone who comes in faith. I began the series by preaching on Roman 1:16-17 and was reminded the power of the gospel lies in God's free gift of righteousness. Praise God for his grace in allowing me to prepare these sermons and continue to work in me and those who heard the sermons, that we would be deeply changed by God's grace. From now on I will preaching most weeks at with Melville or Christ Church Hilbrow.



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Frederick



Gerald

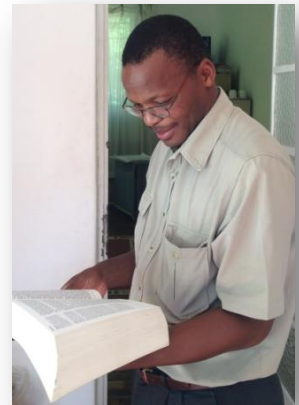
With the start of a new job comes a new team. And praise God for his provision of other godly and able staff members. We have a guy, Gerald, who has just graduated from theological college, Frederick who has joined us as an apprentice, and of course Edwin heading up the team. Both have started well and it is a great encouragement to have fellow workers in the gospel. Please pray for us that we will be gracious and loving towards one another and that we will be effective in our ministry as a team.

At the moment the whole team is based at Melville Union where Edwin is still the minister. We have been planning the start of the academic team to welcome students and put on a good program for them. Although I was involved in heading the ministry up when I was still working at Johannesburg Bible College it is a privilege to be able to have more time to

concentrate on preparing for the students arrival. Please pray for us that we would be able to make contact with the student, particularly first years, and that would be able to build up Christian believers and reach out to those who do not know Jesus.

The plan is to move to the new church in Hillbrow in April. While Christ Church Hillbrow awaits our arrival please pray for the church. With more staff we are able to provide a preacher each week, however it is not the same as a full-time minister. Pray for the council at Hillbrow, in particular, that they would not lose heart and continue to press on in the service of the gospel.

On a personal note it is always a little strange coming back. In a funny way I miss the UK when I am here but when I am in the UK I miss South Africa. Struck by the joy of spending a good amount of time with friends at home in the UK it sometimes feel difficult returning. However, praise God that there are two places where I feel welcomed and I belong. I thank God for the people I know and the friends I already have in Johannesburg. Please pray that I would continue to build up a good set of friends and a good support structure over the next few years.



Edwin

As you may be aware, Crosslinks is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, having sent more than 800 Mission Partners to over 45 different countries since its launch as the BCMS. Today Crosslinks plays a vital role as a mission society and yet it depends on individual members and churches to sustain it. In a new initiative it is now possible to become a *Friend of Crosslinks* by signing up to give just £5 a month, in return for which you will receive regular copies of the magazine and prayer diary. The enclosed leaflet gives all the details – it would be a huge encouragement if you would become a Friend and stand with the society in promoting mission, taking God’s word to God’s world.

In Christ,

Ben

PRAYER POINTS

Praise:

- Refreshing and encouraging time in the UK.
- Increased number of partners making the next stage possible.
- Good start to the new role with an encouraging new team.

Prayer:

- Good working relationship with the new team.
- For the starting up of the student work that many would come and benefit from the ministry.
- Increased good friendship and support in Johannesburg.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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