

# Read family update

## Bible Institute Eastern Cape



Dear Friends,

“How have you benefited from the BIEC Pastor’s conference?” I asked Phumlani Thetha, a pastor of over 10 years at coffee. “I have learnt to stick to the word and how to prepare a sermon and I have learnt to face challenges and not run away” he said with enthusiasm.

The second annual pastor’s conference organised by BIEC gave about 60 pastors from local townships two days of solid, African expository preaching together with the chance to enjoy fellowship with church leaders from other denominations. About 400 Christian books and commentaries were snapped up and Siphwiwo Kiti the BIEC organiser of the conference left a contented man. ‘Each one, teach one’ used to be his motto during the days of the apartheid struggle, but now these words are loaded with gospel meaning as he takes up the role of bridging the gap between the college and the black churches in Port Elizabeth. Please pray for Siphwiwo



who has begun teaching the course on Matthew’s Gospel, in addition to studying for his BTh and continuing his wider ministry.

### Home

We are now well settled into our new home, and giving thanks to God for his provision. The location of the house means there are no excuses for students never to come and visit us and more importantly no excuses for us not to invite them! During BIEC’s orientation week, I saluted Helen who cooked for 40 students and staff in 35°C five days after moving in! For those who prayed that we would use this house well, they were certainly answered that day! It is

great to be able to open our home in this way and we would value your prayers as we seek to share our lives with BIEC students and others who drop in.

### BIEC

During orientation week, we hosted Simon Dowdy and Alan Purser from London, who both gave talks on John’s Gospel. These morning studies were of great value to our students in helping them to see not only John’s teaching on mission, but how we can read the Bible and let it set the agenda. Pray that this year at BIEC would continue to stimulate not only academic study but a true grasp on the Scriptures. There is still a great lack of good expository Bible teaching in the local churches.

It is great to have started teaching again at BIEC and even better to be teaching Bible books and biblical interpretation. If the comments made by Pastor Thetha (above) are anything to go by, then this is an opportunity not to be missed and for which I would greatly value your prayers especially as I try to appreciate the questions that the students bring to the text.

A major strength of BIEC is that it is almost entirely representative of South African demographics, especially in terms of admin staff and students (although sadly not in teaching staff). However, this diversity together with the language and cultural barriers has led to a degree of tension amongst certain members of staff. Please pray for all involved to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel and to resolve differences quickly.

### Family

On the family front we are all well, if a little tired by the move and hectic first couple of weeks of BIEC term. There is great anticipation concerning the prospect of the new baby. Whenever Helen goes to the doctor, Angus looks expectantly and asks ‘is mummy going to get the baby cut out now?’ It appears that to a 4.5 year old, having a baby is as easy as getting a hair cut. Little does he know!



Angus has just had his sports day at school which was preceded by the boys using every waking hour to practice some high-octane race or other. Compared to last year’s sports day it was great to see him so happy and established among his classmates. Conor did us all proud by winning the toddlers race, particularly impressive considering his was wearing Angus’ tackies (trainers) which were about five sizes too big! It is nice to see his hyperactivity being put to constructive use at last!

The other night, Helen ran the first Bumps and Babes ‘pudding and discussion evening’ for young mums in our church. Most of the mums are unable to get to an evening Bible study and at present there is no day time study for them at church. These discussions are intended to fill this void. It was a great evening listening to a talk from the London Women’s Convention and building one another up in the gospel. Pray for Helen and Bronwyn as they encourage these mums to live and speak for Christ at this stage in life.

Many thanks once again for your prayers.

With love,

Jamie, Helen, Angus and Conor

