



Dear Friends,

March 2016

Odd things happen...

Some find rational explanations, some call it Murphy's law, some the devil's schemes. In the African worldview everything has a spiritual dimension whereas the European worldview neglects this area and focusses more on the rational side to explain life's circumstances. We have realised that both views in their extreme are not helpful. Having lived in Africa for almost eight years, we have experienced that odd things happen at the wrong time – be it a technical failure, sudden sickness, a misunderstanding or tragic event which get in the way of God's work. In such cases it is not always easy to decide what to do. When you pray for our ministry in Namibia, remember that it makes a huge difference to us when you pray for wisdom or protection.

Only recently Thorsten was meant to speak at a men's conference. He had put a lot of time into preparing, but on the day when he was down to speak he had such strong abdominal pains that he could neither sit nor stand. 24 hours later the pain had gone as mysteriously as it had appeared. Thorsten has never experienced anything like it before. Please do not underestimate the important part you can play as you pray for those working in Christian ministry.

Preparing Namibians for 'Namibian culture'

As part of the NETS curriculum Thorsten teaches Intercultural Studies. We recently met with two graduates. One is from a rural area in the north. She was placed in a city congregation where the first language is Afrikaans. She has never had to speak Afrikaans. For her it is as if she has moved to a different country having to learn a new language and serving young people - although Namibian – who are from a very different ethnic origin. The other, who had moved back to the rural north, shared: "I thought it was going to be easy because I was going to minister amongst my own people. But I had not realised how much I had changed. After four years of living in the capital I had forgotten, how much time my people have, how laid back they are and how long it takes them to get to the point." NETS students often share how much they appreciate that NETS not only teaches biblical subjects, but also prepares them for situations such as these.





Taller fences or bigger tables?

We were recently shocked to hear on Namibian radio that 46% of the population were suffering from hunger. The gap between rich and poor in Namibia continues to grow, exacerbated by the current drought crisis. This also has an impact on those training to become ministers of the Gospel. While it is no problem for many to be appointed as pastor to a congregation, they often need to find additional employment because their congregation cannot afford to pay a salary to the pastor. One of our recent graduates, Kambau, is now an Anglican pastor in the rural north of Namibia but also works as Distance Co-ordinator for NETS. The salary from NETS is his only income. In Kambau's congregation many live below the poverty line and Kambau often faces the dilemma of how much he can share from his own food without making his own wife and children suffer. Please remember this dear brother and others like him in your prayers as he works hard to serve God as a family man, pastor and teacher for the distance programme.

Home Assignment plans

Our home assignment plans are coming together. You are warmly invited to come along to any of the services where Thorsten will be preaching or join us for our presentations about Namibia. If you would like to meet up please email us at kerstinprill67@gmail.com. We would also appreciate your prayers as we will be travelling a lot through both Germany and England and meet many different people.

In other news

The NETS Board has sourced local funds to pay for a leadership salary (Principal or Academic Dean). We praise God for this great news. Please pray for great wisdom as they fill these crucial positions.

Crosslinks Church and Member Team Leader Alan Purser came to visit us for a week in February. We thank God for his three lectures on John's gospel as well as good discussions and meetings with students. The photo shows Alan with four students in our home who receive a scholarship from Crosslinks.

We really look forward to catching up with many of you in April. Thank you for your partnership and support.

With love in Christ

Thorsten & Kerstin

Schedule in England		
4-9-Apr	time to visit groups and individuals in Nottingham	
10-Apr	14:45	Thorsten preaches at Nottingham Chinese Christian Church followed by a presentation after the service
11-Apr		in Reading
12-15-Apr		in Bristol
16-Apr	time to visit groups or individuals in Nottingham	
17-Apr	10:30	being interviewed at Cornerstone Church followed by a presentation after the service
17-Apr	18:30	Thorsten preaches at Cornerstone Church
18-23-Apr	time to visit groups and individuals in Nottingham	
24-Apr	10:45	St. Michael's in Bramcote/Nottingham
25-29-Apr	time to visit groups and individuals in Nottingham	
30-Apr		in Preston
01-May	10:30	Thorsten preaches at All Saints Preston followed by a presentation after the service
2-4-May		in Coventry



Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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