



November 2017

'Last things'

... was the dominating theme during the first half of 2017: a last visit to see friends in Swakopmund, a final sermon in our church, a last dinner and board game with good friends, one last time worshipping with NETS students. The countless farewell gatherings never seemed to come to an end. After nine years we had put down our roots and Namibia had become a big part of us. For this reason, it was a special honour that our Namibian church, the Rynse Kerk, had decided to officially send us out as their missionaries to Scotland. Our commissioning service (photo left) took place two days before we left Namibia. We praise God for our church family in Namibia who gave us an amazing farewell, who showered us with love and who, we know, will be praying for us and our new ministry.



Namibian missionaries in England

Since our arrival in Europe we filled our time with practically supporting Thorsten's parents, preaching in some churches, visiting a number of partners in ministry and having some holiday. One special highlight was to visit some churches together with our friends Blessing and Anthea. Blessing graduated from NETS in early 2016 and then became a junior lecturer while Anthea worked together with Kerstin in the admin team. Blessing and Anthea now serve as missionaries in an Anglican church in Suffolk/England. What a privilege it was for those churches to personally meet two 'fruits' of their prayers and financial support and to hear them give testimony of what God has done in their life through NETS.



Nottingham Chinese Christian Church with Blessing, Anthea showing the Namibian flag



'Street evangelism is not really my cup of tea...'

So I (Kerstin) thought before we went to visit one of our partner churches (St. Martini) in Bremen in September. The plan was that we would spend two weeks in Bremen to strengthen our relationship with St. Martini and serve wherever we were needed. Little did I know that the Lord was about to teach me a lesson I would not easily forget. We happened to arrive during the same week when the Evangelical Alliance in Bremen had started a two-week street evangelism project. Twice a day an average of 60 Christians from 16 different churches

would meet for one hour of training and one hour of street evangelism at St. Martini. So, while Thorsten was busy preparing for other church ministry, I joined the training and then we went out into the streets, two by two, to share the gospel.

I braced myself for rejection and ridicule. What I had not anticipated, though, was an astonishing number of people who were curious about what we had to share, some who welcomed our message with open arms and were willing to pray with us leaving behind their contact details for follow up, but also those who virtually ran away in fear as soon as I mentioned God. It was as if they feared that I was about to stab them. But the more people we spoke to the more it became obvious that the Lord had his own story with each and every one of them. Some were clearly running away from him, with others a seed had already been sown and some were ready to receive him. To us all these people were strangers, but our Lord knew them each by name. What an amazing experience it was to see God at work in the city of Bremen. We thank God for a special time with our partner church, for their amazing hospitality, for new friends as well as for a great time of serving, learning and growing.

Your help is still needed!

Thanks to some generous one-off donations we have received clearance from Crosslinks to move to Scotland for at least two years. We are very grateful indeed and praise God for His provision. However, the regular donations only cover about 85 % of our budget. If you had planned to start partnering with us financially, but have not had the chance yet to sort things out with Crosslinks, it would be great if you could email Peter Tibbott at ptibbott@crosslinks.org as this will really help us with our planning.

For regular brief prayer updates on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/686231734913824/>

How are we really doing?

We are going through a roller coaster of emotions. This time of transition is challenging and emotionally draining. But our God is still the same loving, gracious and generous Father wherever we are. If you would like to find out how he has turned problems into provision then follow this link <https://preparinggodspurposepeopleforgodspurpose.wordpress.com/2017/11/02/first-blog-post/>. You may have already read it between the lines, but let us finish by saying THANK YOU for your partnership in the gospel which has an impact not only on us, but also produced fruit in the lives of Blessing, Anthea and many others. With much love in Christ

Thorsten & Kerstin

Prayer items

- Praise God with us for his amazing provision for us (see <https://preparinggodspurposepeopleforgodspurpose.wordpress.com/2017/11/02/first-blog-post/>)
- Pray for those in Bremen who have made first steps with Jesus
- Thorsten preaches and gives three talks at a church conference in Germany on 12 November
- For the practicalities of moving our household items and some furniture from Nottingham to Edinburgh (in Nottingham from 14-25 November) and for settling into ministry and church

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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