

Jaki North

405 Woodleigh,
121 3rd Avenue, Kenilworth,
Cape Town, 7708.
Jaki.north@gmail.com.



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Dear Prayer Partners,

I want to give you all a BIG, BIG thank you for all your encouragement as I have bided my time waiting for approval for my next visa to South Africa. At one point they asked for more detailed documentation which we didn't have (so we provided what we did have - 'n boer maak 'n plan!). Praise the Lord, it was acceptable and as I'm sure you already know I now have the visa returned with my passport. I am currently sitting at 75% funding and my parents have offered to bridge the gap so everything is good to go for my flight booked on 25 July. The visa, finances and waiting have all served to deepen my trust in God as I moved from "I want to return" to "I am happy to stay, if that's your will".



I have particularly enjoyed my time at St Paul's in Banbury and, despite trying to avoid getting too involved, I have become close with three families in particular. As we have gotten to know each other, I have realised how difficult 'cross cultural' ministry is, and that is because I have found ministry here in the UK so easy! I 'get' the people, they 'get' me and things here just work as you would expect them to!

I am continuing with my CCEF Counselling Course, my current module is 'Biblical Interpretation'. I think this particular module is going to make the biggest difference in my counselling ministry. In particular I read about ways that we can use the Bible to speak into different situations in meaningful ways. The author spoke about the way we often use '**ditch passages**' – the one liners that speak directly into a situation like "...and a wife's quarrelling is a continual dripping of rain", verses '**chasm passages**' – where we can use much larger passages (or even whole chapters) to speak into how wives can relate better to their husbands. The chasm passage will often not appear to have anything to do with the presented situation (e.g. communication problems), but as you delve deeper into it you will find that the Bible has a lot to say about a great many things. The lecturer proved this point when he used a genealogy as an approach to speaking about anxiety! He recommended the best 'chasm passages' are usually the ones we are working on in our own quiet time and that have spoken to us first. *I probably don't need to tell you I'm really, really enjoying the CCEF courses.*

Finally as I prepare to head back out to South Africa I have a few concerns. The first is that I will become a resident of South Africa for tax purposes for the first time. I don't understand the system and it is all very daunting... My temptation is to bury my head and try to keep under the tax man's radar, so please pray for me as I attempt to do this properly. Including this concern (and necessity to manage two systems) in my newsletter is one way to keep me accountable!



With my parents at my nephew's new home



Tower Bridge, London

Please also pray for me as I prepare to head to Trinity Children's Centre / Trinity Church when I return. It is a new environment and a new role and I hope to serve that community well. Pray also for me, that I would seek to grow in my own relationship with Jesus - to stop being the goat at the end of the rope! (See my last newsletter if this last phrase doesn't make sense!)

PRAYER POINTS

Please give thanks for an abundance of blessings:

- The blessing of three families (*soon to be four*): my natural family, St. Stephen's and St. Paul's, who have been a massive encouragement to me. I am looking forward to getting to know Trinity.
- The blessing of a renewed visa, which was never taken for granted.
- The blessing of learning, growth and service through the biblical counselling courses.

Please pray for:

- Me to find a helpful tax advisor in South Africa that doesn't charge a fortune. Pray also that the double taxation situation would not cause financial hardship.
- Additional funding to come through over the next two years (to ease the burden on my parents).
- Amazing relationships and communication with the team at Trinity school and church.

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REF: JakiNorth-YourName

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