

June 2016



Dear Friends and Family,



The Book of Psalms is encouraging throughout life's seasons. There are psalms of celebration (145), thanksgiving (118) and victory (18), psalms of lament and sorrow (142), psalms in which the reader is encouraged to put their trust in God when the circumstances look bleak (46), psalms in the face of death (44) and heartfelt cries for mercy and forgiveness (51). As a family, we often return to this part of God's word because they speak to us in multiple situations.



The last two months, particularly, have been times of thanksgiving and gratitude. Along with the psalmist, we declare 'the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.' (Psalm 47.2). We were thrilled to welcome Timothy Ezra into our family on 17 March. Timothy weighed in at 3.1kg and is adored by his older siblings. The biblical Timothy was a man who was commended for his sincere faith (2 Tim.1:5) and partnership in the gospel (Phil 2:22). Ezra was a man devoted to God's law (Ezra 7:10). We pray that our newest son might be equally zealous for God and honour him throughout his life.



We were able to enjoy six weeks of grandparents – with both sets of grandparents coming to South Africa to meet 'Awesome T' as Malachi likes to call his baby brother. We have stored up piles of happy memories to keep us going until we are next in the UK (June 2017 God-willing) and upon their departure have now begun to get back into the routine of washing and cooking for ourselves once more! Ilana and Malachi celebrated birthdays (eighth and fourth respectively), so we are reminded to thank God for the gift of raising children.

Another reason for celebration was Alun's ordination. Many of you will already have picked up via facebook or emails that Alun was made a deacon at the end of April in the denomination in which we work here (the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa – until recently known as

the Church of England in South Africa). Day to day this won't alter his role at St Thomas that much, but we pray that it will enable him to better assist our minister Gary who also serves as bishop in the Western Cape and often has duties at other congregations. Through this we hope that God will use him to further the spread of the gospel more on the Cape Flats. Gary is on sabbatical for June and July, so Alun is carrying the main responsibility for leadership over this period and would appreciate your prayers. What an honour to be used for God's glory!

St Thomas Pre-School is another area of thankfulness. Started on 1 February, we currently have seven children from the community five days a week. We fully expect this number to swell as the school becomes more established, but the gentle start has allowed teething problems to be ironed out more quickly. The kids are learning, being taught the Bible each day, are fed and kept safe – we rejoice over this, but are now looking for a way to reach out to their families. St Thomas hopes to be able to afford a full-time children's worker next year – so we would covet your prayers for this.

Many of you will be well aware by now of how strategic Crossword Youth Camp is in the lives of our youth and young adults. We are beginning to look towards this year's camp in December and want to invite you to partner with some of our Heideveld teens. The camp is a week-long bible-teaching camp where God's word is taught faithfully through many sessions. In previous years we have studied Revelation, 1 Samuel and the Ten Commandments. Those from St Thomas have come back encouraged and built-up by teaching and fellowship. Nonetheless the cost of Crossword has, of necessity, increased year on year and the vast majority of our young people cannot find the full amount of money needed to go. Whilst we expect our teens to work, save and fundraise for some of the money themselves, we want to offer you the chance to help them attend this year's camp. Each camper needs £25 extra funding and Crosslinks have graciously offered to process any giving for this. Should you be interested in sponsoring a camper, please follow the giving instructions in the cover letter and make your donation via Crosslinks.

We are so thankful to God for his work here in Heideveld, and for your partnership in it, and with the Psalmist we say;

***'Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD.
Psalm 117***

Every blessing,

Alun, Debbie, Likhona, Ilana, Malachi and Timothy x