

MAY 2019



Where did the time go?

It only seemed like yesterday when we anticipated with dread our second Scottish winter. After many years of abstinence, we so enjoyed our first winter with all the snow that surely the following one would be harder to cope with. But here we are in May having almost 'sailed through' the dark and cold weather thanks to God's sustaining grace and due to other more challenging and important aspects of life that kept us preoccupied and distracted.

Sadly, Thorsten continues to struggle with hearing loss and the surgery in January has not made any difference. The graft has not been fully taken probably because of a fungal infection. As a result, there is still a hole in the eardrum. The consultant wants to give the ear another six weeks to see if the hole closes by itself. If not, there will be another operation. As the medics advised against flying and because ongoing treatment was necessary Thorsten was not able to be at his mother's 80th birthday. To our great disappointment we also had to cancel our ministry trip to Poland. Kerstin visited Thorsten's parents for nine days in April providing some practical support with admin and house work.

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Highlights during the winter term at Edinburgh Bible College have been evidence of God's transforming work.



News from the college

The two distinct highlights during the winter term at Edinburgh Bible College have been the evidence of God's transforming work in the life of our students and the successful series of Christian ethics lectures. We rejoiced in the fact that, week in week out, an average of 22 people from various churches came to be better equipped; we thank God for the competence and passion of the different speakers who taught on issues

such as marriage, gender identity, homosexuality, abortion, cloning and stem cell research from a biblical perspective.

The summer term has just started and Thorsten will be teaching modules on world religions, bible overview, homiletics and pastoral ministry. Kerstin will also contribute some lectures looking at aspects of multiple relationships in pastoral ministry and how to deal with anger and depression in the church context. Please join us in prayer as we hope to see people from various churches attend a module or two or join us for a particular lecture relevant to their needs.

At the recent meeting of the college's board our principal, John Brand, intimated he was planning to stand down at the end of 2019-2020 college year. John also pastors Grace Community Church in Broxburn and the growth of both ministries has reached the stage where each need full-time leadership. Please pray with us as the board and staff team seek the best way forward.

Reaching Corstorphine for Christ

Going through the church neighbourhood of St Thomas' Church in Corstorphine (Edinburgh) to knock on people's doors can provoke a whole range of feelings. It seems one can go between excitement and embarrassment, expectation and hopelessness, optimism and discouragement all within a very short period of time. Like no other this type of ministry can also make you very aware of your shortcomings. You wonder about missed opportunities and seem to know the seemingly best words to say when the door has closed. At the same time, it is also a stark reminder of the great needs on our doorstep – be it alcoholism, loneliness, bereavement, depression or else.

The Wednesday before Easter was the third time within a year that we visited folks who live nearby to offer prayer support and invite them to church services. As always there were also those who simply were not interested. But we were delighted about a great deal who welcomed the fact that the church was making contact with them and even referred to previous visits. Some thanked us for the 'Try praying' booklet we had dropped through their door the previous week saying that they found it meaningful. One Jewish



lady asked us if we had any other literature and gladly received a bible from us. Others were happy to talk, shared personal prayer requests and asked for information about worship times. We thank God for all those encounters and that he is sovereign and able to overrule in any and every situation. We pray with expectation that he will draw people to himself.

But we are conscious that knocking on doors is only one of many possible approaches to reach people for Christ. Please pray for St Thomas' in all our outreach efforts, that the Holy Spirit may awaken a growing love and passion for him in all believers which has an impact on those we come into contact with.

As we look to the next four months...

We need the Lord's strength and enabling for the summer term at EBC, for various ministry opportunities at St Thomas' and other churches, for a module on congregational care as Kerstin continues her counselling studies and the re-connecting with churches and individuals who faithfully support us with prayer and finance. Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer, for personal messages of encouragement, visits, as well as for all your financial support.

With love in Christ
Thorsten & Kerstin

Prayer items

- for the search of a new principal for Edinburgh Bible College and a good number of new student applications for the new academic year in September
- for a renewed love and passion for Jesus in us and all believers at St Thomas' so that we may reach more people for Christ
- for fruit as a result of the door-to-door visitations and recent holiday club at St Thomas'
- For the healing of Thorsten's ear
- For Thorsten's parents as they struggle with their physical health and the need to adjust to the changes that accompany old age

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