



September 2018

Dear Friends,

It is not always easy to understand people who are experiencing culture shock if you have never considered two or more very different countries 'home'. Here is an example to give you a little insight into our hearts. You know you are torn between cultures when you feel the urge to make excuses to your Namibian friends for the huge privilege of living in a terraced house with two bedrooms and a little garden. But then you notice the shock in your British friend's face when visiting you for the first time in this very house and find yourself making excuses for the fact that you live in such an ugly looking house with a depressing neighbourhood atmosphere. We are torn between cultures, but very happy in our home.



A steady stream of visitors - between mid-May and August we had a total of 18 friends and family visiting us from Nottingham, Germany and even Hong Kong. It's been a great joy being able to catch up with people, but at times it was challenging juggling our time between visitors and ministry.

Since early July Thorsten has suffered from ear infections eventually resulting in a perforated eardrum. He has seen 14 different doctors and taken 10 different courses of antibiotics and antifungals. In addition to the pain and frustration because of hearing loss we also had to cancel our holiday. While all of this has been discouraging, it has also made us reflect on the value of contentment. Holidays (apart from the weather) are the starting point of most conversations at this time of year. At one point it seemed that Thorsten's ENT doctor was more concerned about us not having to cancel the holiday than about the treatment. But, let's face it, we have friends who have never had a holiday in their life. We enjoy a happy marriage, an abundance of dear friends, a cosy home in a beautiful country, effective

medication to deal with pain and infection, and above all we have Jesus and all the benefits and joys of being a beloved child of God - a gift and privilege no-one can take away from us!

A new academic year

September marks the beginning of the sixth full year of courses at Edinburgh Bible College (EBC) and the launch of our new third year Advanced Ministry Apprenticeship Programme. We believe this programme to be unique and meeting a great need for those with a theological qualification who lack practical ministry experience. For more information please visit the EBC website <http://www.edinburghbiblecollege.co.uk/2018/05/22/advanced-ministry-apprenticeship-programme/>.

We are still processing enquiries, but already rejoice over the fact that we will have our highest intake of students in the college's short history so far. EBC remains a small college but being small also has its advantages as we are able to tailor-make courses which can suit a wide range of different people and expectations – or to quote our Principal John Brand: 'EBC is big enough to cope and small enough to care.'



EBC having existed for six years without going into debt is a great testimony of God's faithfulness. In line with most non-denominational bible colleges in the UK, income from student fees only accounts for about two-thirds of our core costs and so we depend on the generosity of our supporters to maintain and develop the ministry. This is why we are forming 'Friends of EBC' and we invite you to become part of it. As a Friend of EBC you would give a monthly contribution of £10 or more to help us cover our core costs. By joining *Friends of EBC* you can play an important part in helping us equip the next generation of church leaders

and expand the work by also training church leaders in Poland. Our prayer target is 150 friends or the equivalent of £1,500 per month. Please contact Kerstin@edinburghbiblecollege.co.uk for more info.

We would value your prayers for various ministry opportunities from now until December:

30/08 – 17/09 ministry trip to Germany

- 1 Sep seminar on mission (T & K)
- 2 Sep preaching at Thomasmgemeinde (T)
- 14 – 16 Sep Bible conference (T)
- 23 Sep presentation at All Saints Preston (T&K)
- 24 Sep beginning of academic year at EBC
- 30 Sep preaching at EBC induction service (T)
- 7 Oct preaching at Dedridge Baptist Church (T)
- 13 Oct Bible in a Day conference at EBC (John Brand)
- 14 Oct introduction to evangelism outreach project at Dedridge Baptist Church (K)
- 26 Oct seminar for carers and relatives of the Autism support group in Broxburn (K)
- 27 Oct preaching conference in Falkirk (T)



We enjoyed a great visit with Dorothy and Arthur at their lovely new home in Auchlochan

- 2–5 Nov in Nottingham
- 10 Nov conference for women at Dedridge Baptist Church (K)
- 25 Nov preaching at New Cumnock (T)
- 2 Dec preaching at St Thomas (T)



The photo on the left shows Thorsten preaching at Grace Community Church, the location of EBC since July. EBC enjoys a wonderful partnership with this church and the new premises not only give us an extra lecture room, but also allows space for the 4000-volume library. We are hugely grateful for your continued support and prayers as we embark on our first full academic year at EBC.

With warmest greetings,

Thorsten & Kerstin

PRAYER POINTS

- For the many ministry opportunities listed above that the Lord may use us for his purposes.
- For the healing of Thorsten's ear and generally for good health and energy for us and our colleagues John Brand and Eric Purves.
- For 150 friends of EBC, for the smooth running of the new Ministry Apprenticeship Programme, for a good number of part-time students from local churches.
- For us as we continue to experience various forms of culture shock.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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