

DECEMBER 2018



Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to the end of term (12 December) as I'm completely exhausted... There is a reason I've avoided children for most of my ministry! But despite that I am loving where I am, and particularly getting to know the 'after-care' kids better. These are the kids who stay on after official school lessons to get homework done, or to wait for parents who are working. Many of the parents I'm working with have their kids in after-care so it works really well. I am also finding the environment super supportive, without exception the staff look out for one another and are a constant encouragement when others are feeling spent and tired.

Lots of people have been asking me if I am enjoying my new role. And although enjoyment isn't really the right word, I feel like I am definitely in the right place in terms of ministry. Within my own faith I am trusting God to guide me more and more and this has brought me incredible peace despite very difficult situations that myself and Yolanda (who I'm training up in this role) find ourselves in.

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I couldn't send a December newsletter without wishing you all a *very Happy Christmas!*



Two of the TCC staff got married recently – this photo is of some of the staff at a wedding in Stellenbosch.

Yolanda herself has been an incredible blessing and as we have gotten to know each other are developing not just a great working relationship but a friendship too. She is incredibly practical and wise and has already stopped me from acting impetuously on more than one occasion! I know I am supposed to be mentoring her, but it really is shared training (at least 50/50).

Finally, I couldn't send a December newsletter without wishing you all a *very Happy Christmas!* Christmas started back in November for us as we were invited to a shoebox event (people pack a shoebox with goodies, clothes and stationary to give to the TCC children). We got 91 boxes donated! Yolanda gave her testimony – how her six year old daughter Alex shared the gospel with her based on what she had learned at TCC. I gave a brief talk on Isaiah 53 speaking about what Jesus received rather than gave. Using The Message version

helped me to see that not only did Jesus take on my own personal wrongdoing but he also took on the wrongs that others have committed against me, the sins that cause pain and brokenness. He took them on himself so that we could find wholeness and healing.



*We looked down on him, thought he was scum.
But the fact is, it was our pains he carried—
our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us.
We thought he brought it on himself,
that God was punishing him for his own failures.
But it was our sins that did that to him,
that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins!
He took the punishment, and that made us whole.
Through his bruises we get healed.
We're all like sheep who've wandered off and
gotten lost.
We've all done our own thing, gone our own
way.
And GOD has piled all our sins, everything we've
done wrong,
on him, on him. (Isaiah 53:4-6)*

Prayer points

Please give thanks for an abundance of blessings:

- M being released from Pollsmoor prison to re-join the U-turn programme.
- For T (a Muslim lady), telling her sister that the only way for her to get off drugs is to turn to Jesus – The God of Jesus answers her prayers but Allah does not!
- For the best outcome following her sentencing (God delivered beyond even what we had prayed for).

Please pray for:

- Protection around my relationships at TCC and at Trinity Church.
- Opportunities to go 'deeper' with T and M.
- A quiet and peaceful Christmas break for all the staff living in Mitchell's Plain (*apparently even the gangsters take Christmas off...*).
- C who is lying and manipulating rather than facing up to the truth of her situation.

To support me financially:

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