

November 2023



Johannesburg Bible College (JBC)

It remains a huge privilege to train students from across Africa for Bible teaching ministries. We are in the final term of the year, and I have been listening to some of our second-year students preaching on 1 Peter this term. It has been wonderful to see the progress that students have made in understanding and teaching God's word. Part of my large pile of marking recently has been their final doctrine class test and again, we thank the Lord to see the progress in understanding that students have made while at college. One of our staff team has been in Zimbabwe this term applying for a visa, which has made the term feel very stretched, with a part-time Masters on top of JBC responsibilities, but we are thankful for the Lord's sustaining throughout.



Pastor Jabu

Each term I introduce one JBC student. Jabu is a pastor from Ennerdale, a town 40km south of Johannesburg. Every day he drives a carload of students to and from college. He is one of the older students and his mature character and wise contributions mean that he is well respected by the class. The founding pastor of his church died about a year ago, so Jabu has been leading the church since then. It is encouraging to see him growing in biblical understanding and applying what he learns to the church that he leads.

A significant part of my work continues to be leading JBC's partnerships with other Bible training ministries across Africa. It has been a joy to meet for one-to-one Bible studies this term with Pastor Raymond from Tanzania in addition to the weekly international student group. After term finishes, I will have a short trip to Malawi to preach at the ten year anniversary of a partner training ministry there and I will be preparing for our Training of Trainers conferences in 2024. We are planning conferences in Johannesburg in January, Accra in May and Kampala in August. Please pray that these would be very helpful to ministries across Africa involved in training preachers, and for growing partnerships

that would be fruitful in ongoing ways. It has been good to hear of some Tanzanian pastors heading to Kenya in 2024 for some Bible training in Swahili, through a connection made on a Training of Trainers conference, and we would love to see more and more fruitful partnerships like this. JBC has also had opportunities to encourage other Bible colleges in South Africa and we would again love for this to continue and grow.

Family news

We thank God for the small group we lead at Hope Church, which has grown both in numbers and in our relationships. It remains a joy to be part of a group with six nations represented every week. Jenny has been helping with the 11-13s at church and I have been helping with the 14-18s and the boys continue (mostly) to enjoy their groups. The senior pastor has been off work this term due to health issues and we pray on for his recovery.

We are thankful that homeschooling is going well, with Jenny teaching most subjects, although David now learns English and coding online. The boys are rapidly growing taller and are enjoying their kayaking (David), football and drama (Matthew and Samuel) and Cubs and Scouts. They continued to support England during the Rugby World Cup, although happily transferred allegiance for the Final! We have applied for permanent residence in South Africa, which would mean an end to needing visas every three years and are praying that the process would not take too long. The water supply is getting steadily worse, but we are looking into installing a back-up tank and are thankful that this is an option for us in a country where many struggle on with increasingly erratic electricity and water supply.

Prayer points

Give thanks:

- For encouraging growth in JBC students during their time at college.
- For weekly Bible studies with the international students and with Pastor Raymond.
- For a good year of homeschooling.

Please pray:

- For students to continue to apply what they have learned beyond their time at JBC.
- For a fruitful Training of Trainers conference in January, and growing partnerships with similar ministries in South Africa and beyond.
- For a safe and encouraging trip for John to Malawi (28-30 November) and for Jenny looking after the boys at home.
- For joyful service and a wise and sustainable pattern of family life and ministry at JBC and Hope Church.



Second year JBC students at work