

# November 2022



## Johannesburg Bible College (JBC)

We are very thankful for the Lord for sustaining JBC through Covid-19 and beyond. This year, we have about 230 students in six separate learning communities across three campuses. Students come from very different backgrounds to study at JBC for a variety of reasons, but it is a privilege to see God's grace at work changing lives and ministries over the course of the one or two years that students spend at college. This year, for the first time, we have had a full-time second year course and it is wonderful to see students finishing their time at JBC with deeper and clearer Biblical convictions and longing to see Christ glorified as his word is proclaimed. John has enjoyed teaching a range of subjects to first and second year students at Auckland Park and evening students in Soweto, and particularly enjoyed writing and teaching a new module on Understanding and Teaching Wisdom Literature this term.

We are thankful too for growing opportunities to encourage the training of Biblical preachers across Africa. In July, John spoke at a conference of 250 pastors in Tanzania, and he is currently planning for the Training the Trainers conference, which will be held in Nairobi in January 2023, with satellite groups also meeting in Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam. We have a team from Mozambique

studying with us who hope to start a similar college in Maputo in 2024. A growing number of international students are keen to study at JBC. Please pray for funding for this to be possible, for visas to be granted without delays, and for John as he oversees international students during their time at JBC.



*Buyi, a second year student at JBC*

JBC encourages all teaching staff to continue learning and growing and so John is studying a part-time online Masters in New Testament with Union Theological College in Belfast. It has been very stimulating and encouraging to have more time to study, as well as a helpful reminder of how it feels to be a Bible college student! Please pray that John's studies would enrich both his walk with Christ and his teaching at college.

Each prayer letter I hope to introduce a different student, expressing the range of students who attend JBC. Buyi is a children's worker at the church we are part of in Johannesburg. She came to Christ whilst studying at university and has a wonderful heart for evangelism and for teaching children. She

studied part-time at JBC whilst being an intern last year and has continued to study part-time whilst helping lead the children's ministry this year. She is diligent and loves studying, but is busy with church commitments, as well as being recently married. She also has the challenge of teaching our children at the church's midweek children's club!

### Family news

We have been encouraged by a few more people joining our Hope Church small group, which was very small for a while! We had six nationalities present this week in the group, and it is a joy to be part of such a multi-cultural, multi-lingual church family.

We are thankful that the boys' visa appeal was successful and so John and the boys now have visas until 2025, but Jenny's application has still not been processed (20 months after applying). Sadly, many aspects of life in South Africa seem to be crumbling a little, with frequent power cuts for up to 8 hours per day and many days without water in the past month. We know that there are many in South Africa without any reliable electricity or water supply, but we are very thankful that generous giving from partners has enabled us to buy a small solar-powered system which has made a huge difference to us during power cuts. Jenny continues to home-school the boys in the morning and drive them to various sports and activities in the afternoons – kayaking, tennis and Cubs / Scouts being current favourites. We are looking forward to a visit from John's parents in December.

### Prayer points

#### Give thanks:

- For God's gracious work transforming students during their time at JBC.
- For growing opportunities to encourage similar ministries elsewhere in Africa.
- For rain refilling reservoirs and more reliable water and power in recent days.

#### Please pray:

- For a fruitful Training the Trainers conference in January, and more international students to be able to study at JBC in 2023.
- For John's studies to enrich both his walk with Christ and his teaching at college.
- For Jenny's visa to be granted soon
- For wise and servant-hearted government across the nation that helps people to flourish.

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