

John and Jenny Miller

March 2025



Celebrating our visas

We are beginning March with thankful hearts after a packed start to the year. We had a wonderful time at Africon, the Crosslinks conference gathering mission partners serving across Africa for a few days together in Kenya. It was a refreshing time for us as a family and encouraging to meet other mission partners and hear something of the Lord's work across Africa. On returning, John was leading a Southern Africa Training of Trainers conference, a great few days together with those training preachers and Bible teachers across Southern Africa. We thank God for Bible training courses that have started in Mozambique and Namibia in the last 12 months, using JBC teaching materials, and for a new course that started in Malawi in January.

We had an eventful few weeks with visa applications, as our permanent residence applications seem to have been rejected leaving us needing a last-minute visa renewal. We thank God that we were wonderfully granted an emergency appointment which went very smoothly, and on 28 February received visas to stay until the end of 2027 – a wonderful answer to prayer. We felt very encouraged by people praying and encouraging us, and we pray on for our permanent residence applications to be accepted.

JBC has also now received its reaccreditation so we can apply for study visas for international students again – another wonderful answer to prayer. JBC Term 1 has started well, with nearly 400 students this year across our three campuses. Our Alex campus is offering the full first year course this year

(previously students could only study half the course in Alex and then had to complete it at the Central Johannesburg campus), and our Soweto evening classes have expanded, so there are more classes happening than ever. With my Masters now finished, I have an increased teaching load, so I have the privilege of teaching Christian Ministry & Leadership, Colossians, Doctrine of God, Doctrine of Salvation, Preaching Workshop, Leviticus, Ephesians, 2 Timothy and 1 Corinthians each week, plus overseeing international students and the course as a whole. It's a full schedule but so far has been a great joy.



Wisani

Each term I introduce a student. Wisani (above) is a student from Alex township – he founded and pastors a church of about 100 that meets outside, which is not uncommon in South Africa. He also regularly preaches on Alex FM, a radio station in the township. He started in Alex and is now a second year student (all second years study at our Central Johannesburg campus), and is one of the students on the elective stream we started for church workers last year.

We continue to enjoy life at Christ Church Blairgowrie. The church is growing in number, maturity and ethnic diversity. We enjoyed three baptisms of young men last Sunday. Jenny is leading the group for preschoolers and I lead a Bible study group. David still doesn't have a friend his age at church, but he has started attending the youth group of another larger church nearby on Friday evenings, which he is enjoying.

Jenny continues with a full homeschooling schedule and leading at Cubs. She is finding life tiring with the increased workload at school and church. Matthew has started singing lessons instead of drama, and the boys continue to work hard at school and to enjoy their sports in the afternoons.

We are thankful that the government of national unity remains in place, although it is struggling to agree the budget or address issues like water shortages.

Prayer Points

Thanks

- For visas being renewed until the end of 2027
- For JBC receiving reaccreditation for its courses
- For an encouraging start to the JBC year and for lots of students keen to learn and grow
- For many opportunities to open God's word with students every week

Prayer

- For students to develop deep and lasting gospel-shaped convictions about life and ministry
- For John to be servant-hearted and loving, encouraging individuals alongside a full teaching load
- For energy and wisdom for Jenny teaching the boys and leading the preschoolers group at church
- For each of the boys to grow in confidence in Christ and their identity in him



Recent baptism at Christ Church Blairgowrie