

John and Jenny Miller

November 2024



We are drawing towards the end of the academic year and there is much to thank God for. We have had over 300 students with us at JBC this year, and it has been wonderful to see many lives and ministries changed by God's word. It continues to be a huge privilege to teach students who are so keen to learn, and to work in a united, prayerful Christ-centred team.

After term finishes, I have four weeks of study leave to complete my Masters in New Testament. It has been helpful to be challenged to read more widely and deeply and I trust it is enriching my college teaching in various ways, although I will be thankful to have more time for family and for JBC work when it is finished.

There are various important documents that we are waiting on South African officials to process. Please pray for JBC's accreditation to be renewed very soon as it will be difficult for international students to obtain study visas without this. Please pray for planning permission to be granted for JBC to develop its property for JBC Alex campus, for JBC's South African Trust to receive its certificate to allow businesses to claim tax back on gifts, and for the council to correct JBC's bills to charge it as a non-profit organisation rather than as a commercial business. Please pray also for our family's permanent residence applications to be processed; sadly, if they are not processed by the end of November, we will have to face the expense and hassle of applying to renew our three-year visas.



Each term I introduce a student. Thato (left) came to JBC as a fairly new believer, encouraged by his pastor who had studied at JBC. Thato has grown lots during his two years with us and is keen to serve the Lord. While we love to train those who are already leading churches or teaching people God's word, there are many students who have had little experience in teaching others before coming to JBC, and we pray that they would be equipped to continue in faithful Bible teaching ministries throughout their lives. Hearing him preach yesterday was very encouraging in seeing the progress that he has made over two years at JBC.

We continue to love being part of Christ Church Blairgowrie. On Sunday, the church celebrated its 60th birthday, with much joy and thanksgiving to God. Coming from the UK, it is striking to us that a 60-year-old church is regarded as one of the older churches in the area, but we are conscious that there are few churches and families with many generations of faithful biblical teaching.



Jenny continues with homeschooling, which is a growing task with David beginning to work towards GCSEs. She continues to lead at Cubs and has also been helping to train some children's group teachers at Christ Church. David has just sat his first piano exam and continues to enjoy kayaking and scouts. He has started to help with projecting slides at church and is beginning to feel more settled there, although there aren't others his age at present. Matthew enjoyed his first rugby season with a local club but has been struggling with a foot injury in recent weeks. He has just moved up to Scouts. Samuel is enjoying tennis, soccer and Cubs. We have been enjoying family Bible studies in 1 Samuel and now Proverbs.

We are thankful that the new government of national unity has remained together so far. The electricity supply has been much more reliable this year, but Johannesburg is now seriously struggling with supplying water, with an old and poorly maintained system unable to match demand and close to collapse. We now have a reserve water tank, which has been a great blessing to us, but many areas in Johannesburg have been without water for days or even weeks at a time.

Prayer Points

Thanks

- For an encouraging year with students growing in character, convictions and competence
- For a united prayerful staff team and students keen to grow
- For 60 years of faithful biblical ministry at Christ Church Blairgowrie

Prayer

- For students to continue growing and serving faithfully beyond their time at JBC
- For John to finish his Masters before the Christmas break
- For JBC's reaccreditation, tax-free status, planning permission and rates issues to be processed soon
- For our permanent residence application to be granted before the end of November