## Prayer Letter, August 2020



Theological Training in Africa for Africa

- 1st Term 3 is underway, and except for two modules, where students have class on campus, lectures continue online. Pray for the lecturers, that they will stay on top of the extra work that online lectures bring.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thank the Lord that many Explore groups are beginning to interact again in Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa and Malawi. Pray for those who could not attend Zoom meetings; that the new initiatives their leaders are putting in place will enable them to continue with their studies.
- **3**<sup>rd</sup> Alumnus, Robin Ho, plans to complete his masters in Theological studies at Tyndale University. Robin requests prayer for wisdom as he plans to travel to Canada and also for all the resources necessary for him to go, especially during the pandemic.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Give thanks for the smooth-running of GWC's online Open Day with attendants from across Africa and overseas. Pray for wisdom as to how best to use this new marketing tool to effectively recruit students for 2021.
- **5**<sup>th</sup> Pray for the college's Board, Faculty, and Administration as they attempt to plan in the light of a lot of uncertainty around 2021.
- **6**<sup>th</sup> GWC's traditional Golf Day will not take place this year. Pray for the Lord's guidance as the marketing team rethinks the college's events that will take place while COVID-19 restrictions are in place.
- **7**<sup>th</sup> Praise the Lord, Registry is functioning well working remotely. Pray for the department as they work diligently to process student applications for 2021.
- **8**<sup>th</sup> Give thanks for donors and partners who have been so faithful in supporting GWC again this year. Pray that the Lord will bless our efforts to establish additional supporters for the college and find significant funding to meet the revised fundraising figures in the light of COVID-19.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Alumnus, Quentin Van Rooyen, Rector of Cross Central Parow, gives thanks that despite lockdown they have been able to send sermons via WhatsApp to their congregation. Please pray that God would continue to encourage and bring hope to these families.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Pray for the students, who to various degrees find remote learning a challenge, not just in increased screentime for lectures, but in reading, writing and studying as it takes a toll, causing mental and psychological fatigue.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Please pray for the acceptance of a funding proposal, which has been made to a UK Trust for an Explore facilitation training session to be held in Botswana in 2021.
- 12<sup>th</sup> August is a busy month for the postgraduate students. Several modules have been delayed, and so honours and masters students are having to study two or three modules at the same time. They also need to keep working on their dissertations. Pray for good time management, clarity of thought, and an attitude that honours Christ.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Applications have opened for 2021. Pray for the right students, with gospel hearts, to apply, and that enrolment numbers applying won't be affected by the pandemic.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Praise God that the timely completion of the Hope Centre has allowed the college to safely house and feed students in 2020. Pray that we will be able to welcome new students to the campus in January 2021.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Faculty, Dr Mike Roe, and family had recently arrived when the effects of the pandemic hit South Africa. Pray for their peace of mind, and that of far-flung family, as they continue to serve the GWC community.

- **16<sup>th</sup>** The new GWC website and rebranding of all marketing material is almost complete. Pray that the final steps will go smoothly and that these will be effective in making the work and mission of the college widely known.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Thank the Lord that the Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Uganda has agreed to house the Explore initiative under his umbrella. Pray that the South African Reserve Bank will approve this change in partnership.

  18<sup>th</sup> Pray for wisdom for the Principal's Office as they research and explore new gospel partners for GWC.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Alumnus, Alistair Anderton, praises God for the Essentials Outreach Course held at Lansdowne Community Baptist Church in Edmonton, Canada. This has led to new people attending their services and one person committing their life to Christ. Pray that God will lead many more to Him.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Some members of the GWC community are single and live alone, having to grapple with feelings of isolation while in lockdown. Pray for their good mental health and that they will draw strength from God's Word.
- 21st Alumnus, Cristóbal Cerón Pi juggles his time as pastor for an Anglican congregation in Santiago, Chile, and Rector of Bible College, Centre for Pastoral Studies (CEP). Pray for the Lord's guidance as he steers CEP in being faithful to their mission in training future ministers.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Bring Principal, Mark Dickson, before the Lord as he, the Board and the REACH SA Presiding Bishop continue to steer GWC into the future in a changing educational landscape. Pray that the Lord will bless their plans.
- **23**<sup>rd</sup> Pray for the Lord to provide suitable partners for the development of the Explore strategy in Malawi and Botswana.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Pray for peace of mind for students who are currently separated from their families with no clear assurance of when they will see them especially those who are unable to make contact due to Internet restrictions in Africa.
- **25**<sup>th</sup> There are students with children who are currently being homeschooled. Pray for their perseverance and discipline as they see to their children's schooling while keeping up with their online studies.
- **26**<sup>th</sup> Bring Business Manager, Manny de Freitas, before the Lord as he shoulders a great deal of GWC's convoluted logistics at this time. Pray that the Lord will pave the way to him finding the best solutions.
- **27**<sup>th</sup> Many of the GWC staff are still working from home. Pray that they will continue to encourage one another albeit online or with a phone call.
- 28<sup>th</sup> GWC Alumnus, Aimable Manirambona, gives thanks for the lives saved during a crusade held at the inauguration of Gospel Life Ministries church in Kabezi, Burundi. Pray that these new Christians will be nurtured toward maturity in their walk with the Lord.
- 29<sup>th</sup> The Graduation Committee has to rethink the way graduation will take place in 2020. Pray for inspired ideas that will result in graduation being a great celebration and acknowledgement of graduating students' achievements.

  30<sup>th</sup> Pray that the Lord will pave the way for our students, both local and international, to see their families this year.

  31<sup>st</sup> The chaplains are pressing on to provide spiritual care and pastoral support to the students, online and over the phone. Pray that the Lord will use them to bring comfort and encouragement to students.