

Barrow's Buzz...

“Until I came into the sanctuary of God, then I perceived their end” (Psalm 73:17)

Dear Friends...

We recently heard Psalm 73 expounded by a gifted and godly expositor and were not disappointed. The ‘hinge’ of the Psalm comes in verse 17 when Asaph, essentially a troubled worship-Pastor, drew near to God and gained a completely new perspective on his troubles. Beforehand he almost stumbled due to his envy of the arrogant wealthy because following God hadn’t paid-off as he’d expected (vv.3-4); but now their calamitous ‘end’ was all-too-clear to see (vv.18-19). The shift from his own self-destructive and harmful thoughts to God’s liberating truth came when he went into the temple sanctuary. Today the sanctuary we go to is Jesus. As we foster His thoughts and allow His mind to eclipse our own then our troubling doubts begin to diminish. I for one am grateful for God’s guidance through Asaph as seldom do I voice my own troubling doubts as Asaph did.

It’s been over three months (Nov 2012) since we last wrote so there is quite a lot to mention one way and another – where to begin? Someone commented recently that we are beginning to look like a typical missionary family with family members flung here and there around the globe. With Michael and Sarah in Tampa, FL and Ben now in the UK it is beginning to feel that way but **please pray** concerning our hopes to come together in the UK as a family in December 2013. We mention this early hoping that in doing so it will be more likely to happen! It is almost two-years since we were last with **Michael and Sarah** although connecting with them by skype is always fun. Their circumstances in Tampa remain fairly unchanged although a couple of weeks back they relocated to be closer to their work and to enjoy a more desirable location closer to the ocean. Sarah travels nation-wide regularly, on many occasions filming, editing and compiling auto desert racing or dog-show productions. Michael works in the studios of a national TV shopping network as a visual coordinator. **Pray** that Michael and Sarah may soon find the right church for them. When we last wrote **Ben** was just weeks from finishing his degree and a month from expiration of his study-permit requiring he leave South Africa. We are thankful that sandwiched between these two highpoints we were able to take time away with Sacha and Gabby. Although it has been a tough few



weeks (for all concerned) Ben has done well in his move and transition to the UK, and to Guilford, Surrey. His first week was spent living in a caravan parked under a farmyard barn, which was made slightly easier by the fact he was sharing with another guy from South Africa who he went to University and played rugby with last year. We remain thankful **for your prayer** for Ben who is coping with huge adjustments. After a few days he accepted a job-offer which gave ability to move into a house-share in Guilford, which is more centrally located for his work – which interestingly has nothing in common with the bio-kinetics

degree he studied. He is making friends and now plays first-team rugby for Guilford RFC which was the main reason to locate there in the beginning. **Please pray** as Ben contemplates further studies, also that he might be able to return to collect his degree in April. **Sacha** was back at Rhodes a week or so early as she has been quite involved in the orientation of new students coming into her Res. She took the 12 hour drive to Grahamstown in her stride which we were thankful for. We’ve spoken a few times since her return and she has slipped back into the routines well and is happy to have her own room this year. Throughout her educational life Sacha has always been one or two years behind Ben and it has been good

to have each-other around during her first year at university. She has always looked up-to her 'big brother' so now she will miss the times just to chat... **Please pray for Sacha** with the various demands she will face this year. **Gabby's** 2013 academic year commenced almost a month ago now. As a grade 10 'senior' student she has now selected the subjects she will pursue through to grade 12 matriculation in 2015. She has also been voted onto one or two student committees and the cricket season is back into full swing – except when the fixtures are cancelled due to the summer rains! Gabby's study permit expires this year as does Tim's work permit in 2014 – the renewal of both will be necessary for the completion of her high school studies at Jeppe Girls School here in Johannesburg. **Please pray** that both permits will be renewed without complication, the more tenuous one being the work-permit. **Pray also** as Gabby becomes involved in Church activities.

As program/project director, **Tricia** has now taken on more responsibility for the Rays of Hope child-headed household ministry in Alexandria Township. One way or another she is absorbed daily in the lives of the kids and the program itself – whether tending to a hospitalized girl with severe paraffin burns, or compiling an application for another girl to receive a bursary to attend a leading South African school, or meeting with multi-national company executive to win a grant to run a sports-camp ministry, or meeting with a professional soccer coach to volunteer time to training 'volunteer' coaches for the sport's ministry, or helping guide the boys and girls support group mentors, or attending the Rays of Hope meetings and Board meeting – to name but a few of her activities. **We do praise God** that a company recently made a sizable grant available for a meaningful training and sports program to run in May. **Please pray** for the planning and logistics that will be necessary for this to happen. **Please pray** too for the visit of a Church team from Atlanta, GA and the evangelism ministry this will involve including the training of some boys and girls in how to share their faith. **Please pray** for Tricia as she keeps a hectic schedule... As someone recently said, "...there are volunteers, and then there is Tricia". December and January has also seen a good number of SIM missionaries come to Johannesburg for medical related issues – **again pray for Tricia** as she supports these missionaries, interacts with the local health professionals and manages insurance claims. The first three months of 2013 will see trips to Namibia (completed), Zimbabwe (Feb 19-20) and Botswana (March 8-11), plus a trip to Cape Town for the SIM SA Council meeting (March 1-2) for **Tim**. **Please pray** that new SIM missionaries Walter and Ella Madimutsa (Zimbabwe) will be able to raise support and begin their important mobilization ministry in some of the regional countries. Having graduated, the Madimutsa's returned from N. Ireland at the beginning of January but are unable to begin ministry until up to full support. **Pray likewise** for Caiphas Ngarivhume who we believe will be well suited to pick up leadership for SIM's work in Zimbabwe. **Please also pray** for Chris and Nancy Maphosa as they raise support to begin the Today for Tomorrow children's ministry region-wide. **We praise God** that David Ratovo was recently appointed as country director for SIM's work in Madagascar. **Please pray** for him as he faces a steep SIM learning curve. **Pray too** for the tremendous potential for ministry growth which exists now that David is in this position of responsibility.

We want to thank you for **praying** concerning our financial situation during December. You might remember the 100% support requirement to avoid a 'cut' in living allowance, thank you this was achieved. Likewise we give thanks for school fees for Sacha to begin at Rhodes and Gabby at Jeppe Girls High School. **Please pray** concerning a second installment that will be needed for Sacha before the end of May. January saw our year-to-date support drop from over 100% to 90% with only 31% of our monthly requirement received that month. We know God is well aware of this situation **but thank you for remembering it in prayer.**

Praise and Prayer Pointers

- ☞ **Botswana:** For the Botswana Spiritual Life Conference (March 8-11) which Tim and Tricia will attend. Pray for Roy Comrie as he speaks.
- ☞ **Islands:** For Pieter Labuschagne (ROSA Islands Strategist) as he visits Reunion and Mauritius (Feb 19-26), for good discussions with churches on both Islands, for transitional administration issues in Mauritius. Praise that Jacque and Sheila Godin (Mauritius) have been accepted as SIM members through the France Council. Pray as they go to Europe to help raise support
- ☞ **Zimbabwe:** For Caiphas and Sekai Ngarivhume, Chris and Nancy Maphosa, and Walter and Ella Madimutsa as they raise a support team.
- ☞ **Namibia:** Wisdom for Dagmar Henchoz and the advisory council as they face a difficult decision concerning a large financial/property matter.
- ☞ **Family:** For Michael and Sarah in the US, for Ben in the UK, for Sacha at Rhodes Uni in the E. Cape and Gabby at Jeppe High School (see details above). For a time to meet in the UK in December.
- ☞ **Tim and Tricia:** For correct focus, perspective, strength, stamina and His abundant grace.

WITH OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE

Tim & Tricia, Ben, Sacha and Gabby