



**March 2018**

## **Hello from Durban!**

This week is the last week of the first term. It feels like we have only just got going! But thankfully it's been sufficient time for students to find their feet in their timetables for the year and for meetings to get into their rhythm. And enough time for us staff to get some regular highlights of the week!



***Popcorn retailers on campus are back in business***

It's been encouraging to see **new staff settle** into their (new) roles. I like having Asisipo, second-year apprentice with us at Westville campus, full time on staff: she has grown into roles as she enters her second year and is building relationships with some of the female students in 121s and beyond which is encouraging to see.

One of our big days on campus is a Friday with the morning spent in evangelism and a lunchtime talk. We have been explicitly looking at who Jesus is this term through John's gospel. Inevitably, in conversations we come down to **the uniqueness of Jesus** over the plethora of other 'ways' people are following: Muhammad, Krishna, Shembe ('see next page), or a Jesus of people's own making.... In particular, it has been good to have some students join us for our evangelism time (much easier going on pairs!). It's always painful before starting and we all admit to rather being in bed reading, but by God's grace we get going and have a mix of all sorts of conversations with students (and are really glad we didn't stay in bed!).

**Shembe** is a popular religion here in KwaZulu Natal. It has four million followers apparently but was started only just over hundred years ago (1910). The general line is that “Jesus is for whites, Shembe is for blacks” (this is a product of apartheid). The teaching is taken from the Bible and Shembe is revered as a prophet to restore the teachings of Moses, the prophets and Jesus. The Shembe church is called the Nazarite (Baptist) Church.



Pictures show their long trumpets (remember those vuvuzelas from World Cup 2010!?! ) which they play, along with the drums and dancing. They always seem to play right outside the venue we have our Friday talks, at the exact same time! This time, we were busy preaching John 14, “Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”! **Please pray for witness to this group** on campus who I have personally found quite hostile in the past.

Otherwise, I’ve been enjoying times with the ladies on campus I train on a Thursday afternoon. They’ve had lots of good questions and good humour! It’s been a difficult term in other ways – the Christian life is never without those challenges is it!?! The Lord has helped me particularly through 1 Peter and with a little book called, ‘The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment’ by Jeremiah Burroughs. It has certainly helped me to be **more ‘mindful of God’ (1 Peter 2:19) and His everlasting goodness**. I need your prayers to not fall into many temptations and to love God and love my neighbour!

**With many prayers of thanks and grace for you each too, much love, from Nerena ☺**