

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given (Isa 9:6)

Dear friends

Christmas greetings to you wherever you are.

This year we will not be taking a break between Christmas and New Year as it is the best time for the Anglican College in Chile to run the online Phase 3 intensive and complete their teaching certificates. Please pray for all concerned as we run between 27-31 December 2021. Then in January 2022, we will run the same phase online for lecturers from George Whitefield College (17-21 January) because South Africa is now in its 4th wave of Covid. Please pray for stamina as we engage with the lecturers and help them deepen their understanding of teaching and learning in theological education.

We are grateful that Karen, a CMS-Australia mission partner and educationalist, has joined TEDS on a part-time basis to assist us with some of the training. It is wonderful to have another pair of hands available. We also thank the Lord that GWC wants to participate fully in TEDS and offer an online Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Theological Education as one of their own course offerings. This will make a certified teaching qualification available to lecturers in theological institutions across the continent of Africa and beyond. We will be writing the curriculum document and submitting it to the South African authorities for accreditation in 2022. In anticipation, GWC has given us a bigger office space with and a soundproof booth for Zoom sessions. Such a blessing!

Thank you for praying for us and for TEDS through 2021. It has been a busy year for the basic teaching certificate, with several online Phase 1 intensives at the beginning of the year and the first online Phase 3 intensive in July. We also ran training for curriculum development with theological colleges in Kenya and Bangladesh. Other requests for curriculum development training have come in from Madagascar and Tanzania, which we have not had the capacity to run this year. In addition, we have both had extra teaching responsibilities for GWC, as well as our normal supervision of postgraduate students. In November, we conducted an external programme review for GWC.

This was the final writing year for Caroline's team of authors in East Africa on the Johannine Epistles commentary. The project should have been completed by 31 December, but various family and work-related problems experienced by the authors caused delays and so Caroline will be aiming to guide them to completion in 2022. Please pray that there will be no more serious delays as this commentary needs to go to the publishers and then to the translators (for the Kiswahili version) during the coming year.

Another writing project is on the horizon for the Overseas Council Australia (OCA) Africa Mile Deep Strategy. We have been assigned a team of African scholars to oversee as they write a curriculum and training materials for theological institutions and churches on generosity (as a response to the teachings of the prosperity gospel). That project is due to begin in February 2022 and will involve several training and writing sessions through 2022. Please pray for wisdom for us as we plan that work with them. At the moment, we cannot plan to meet physically due to border closures.

Thank you for all who have sent us prayer letters and news for the Christmas period. We appreciate the opportunity to catch up with you and your family. We pray that the Lord will bless you all with his grace and peace through this Christmas season. This Christmas we will miss our family in the UK for the third year in a row, but we are looking forward to home leave in March- May 2022 (Covid permitting).

Every blessing in Christ,

Caroline and Dick