

14 May 2023

Update and prayer request from The Finnies

Our Mission Partners, the Finnies write:

"We continue to adjust to having "lost" Eli, our youngest, to life in the UK, finding it hard to see him leave at such a young age; made even harder because his army application was rejected on account of the spherical refraction of his eyesight - a genetic condition which may still get worse and may not respond to laser surgery - a hammer blow all round. **Please pray for him** as he picks himself up and decides what direction to now look in. He will stay in the UK due to more opportunities but needs to find lodgings, a new career path, or further education.

Joel, too, has experienced quite a blow as the waitering job he took on whilst growing his photography business, let him go. He now finds himself without an income and focusing full-time on building his online profile. **Please pray for** some big breaks for him in the wedding industry and in couples portraits.

We are also enjoying and adjusting to having our full-time teen lodger who is living with us as a place of safety. **Please pray that** God continues to move deeply in her life and bring healing.

The Gathering continues to go from strength to strength and brings us so much joy! What should have been a time of immense frustration and disappointment, as our landlord refuses to sell us the building, has in fact been a time of explosive growth for us! Our Homework Club is a God send to the community. We have 32 youngsters enrolled and were thrilled to receive a gift of 12 new android tablets from a local company. Soup kitchen and food relief generally continues to be our biggest outreach, particularly as the squeeze is being felt more and more with increased prices, job losses and at least 6 hours electricity load shedding daily here in South Africa. We have been trying some new, creative, ways of sourcing food and reaching out to our Firgrove community. More recently a barber friend came and gave free haircuts to any men who wished to partake - what a joy that was! We have sent our two main co-leaders to Bible College part-time this year and this growth in understanding and spiritual enlightenment is already reaping wonderful rewards in church life. We value **your ongoing prayers** for us as we grow and for our landlord, as we truly believe the building is ours, even if he is not quite there yet!"
