

Mission Partner prayer and update 18 May 2025

From the Finnies

There has been a solid period of growth and stability at Dean and Paula's church, *The Gathering*, since the beginning of the year. The soup kitchens are not only providing soup and noodles, but also good quality second-hand clothes, towels and bedding, as well as toiletries. Inspired by the gift bags given away at the Christmas soup kitchens, the church community are planning on making up 100 bags with essentials and a gospel message and sticker inside, assuring people that they are seen and loved. These bags will be given away by church members to those in need wherever they are met.

Linda, a trained primary school teacher, who is a deacon at the church, has started working part time for the Gathering and under her leadership the *Maths@Home* club reopened at the beginning of May. This is a huge answer to prayer and Linda is full of ideas, having had years of experience both at primary level and in very testing classrooms. She will also be running the *Need2Read* club.

On a more personal note, Paula and Dean have excitedly received their first baby as 'safe and care' parents. He will be looked after by them until the social workers find him his forever home.

Please **pray** for:

- Strength, patience, good health and emotional stability as the Finnie's care for their foster child.
- Resilience & stamina for Linda as she navigates her new job.
- Job opportunities for Joel & Eli who are both currently in the UK.
- The landlord will accept the final offer to buy the church building and the application to SARS for Section 18A tax exemption certificate is successful.

Paula & Dean are very grateful for your prayers and support throughout the year. They will be visiting St Andrew's on 21 September this year and very much look forward to meeting you all then.