

Prince Banda's Newsletter

18th March 18, 2022

Hearty greetings, dear friends,

As my time in Scotland is drawing to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you to thank you for your prayers and support for me during my time here, and to share with you my plans for when I return to Zambia in the summer.

My heart is filled with praise and gratitude to the Lord for giving me the opportunity to learn and to grow in my knowledge of Him through service at The Tron Church and being taught from God's Word at Cornhill. I pray that this newsletter will be an encouragement to you and that it finds you in good spirit and in the joy of the Lord.



Two Years ago, at Troon

During my almost two years in Scotland, I feel that so much has changed: my hair has gotten longer, I now use the word 'wee' a lot, and (this one is a slightly controversial one) some would say that I've put on a bit of weight! During my time here, however, I have learnt so much that will be of great value to me in the future. The opportunity to come here has been the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Scotland

Prior to my arrival in Scotland, I was both excited and very daunted, despite this, I could see the whole process was God-orchestrated. Of course, you're thinking, "Well, obviously!" ...but honestly, it still amazes me when I think back to how God brought me here. As we all know, the world was shut down two years ago, quite literally.

I started my application when a lot of things weren't happening; the visa



Last Year, at Troon

office was closed, no one knew when it was going to open again. I started my application anyway. During all the uncertainty, I learnt to trust God more and, through the prayers of some of you reading this - both in Scotland and in Zambia, I was strengthened. The Lord was gracious, and I was able to get my visa just in time and travel during the pandemic. That **still** blows my mind!

Cornhill Scotland

I have really benefitted enormously by being exposed to God's Word week by week at Cornhill. This has reinforced the beauty of the gospel, and the joy of having a Saviour who is steadfast in His love and mercy. The course has taught me how I should handle God's Word faithfully, humbly, and prayerfully, depending entirely on His Spirit. It has also helped me to grow personally, and I believe that in all this, the Lord is equipping me for his work in Zambia.

The course has been eye-opening in a number of ways. I have really enjoyed looking at different topics and thinking through big Bible truths that I had never thought about before. The bulk of our time has been spent looking at parts of the Bible and learning how to faithfully communicate the message of each passage. We've also had sessions where we've looked at themes that run through the Bible such as Creation and Kingship. At the start of second year, we undertook a module called 'The Shape of Pastoral Ministry'. I found this particular class tremendously helpful because it gave me a window into what faithful gospel ministry looks like, its challenges and also the joy and privilege it is to serve in a Christ-like way.

At times, such ministry looked more challenging than encouraging. It is liberating, however, to know that God is sovereign and actively involved in this work, and that he uses weak, unimpressive-looking people and means to advance His gospel.

Another highlight was our mission week in February. The Cornhill students - both first and second years - were sent to different parts of Scotland to help churches, and to learn and be encouraged by other believers. It was a fruitful time and I ended up in Fort William with an amazing team.



Mission Week Team at Kilmallie

I enjoyed being up in the Highlands because it was a totally different experience from Glasgow. I was asked to preach on the Sunday we arrived, and I spoke on Esther 4. I was really encouraged by the chat after the service. There was further encouragement as the week progressed. I met someone who had watched the service online but wasn't a member of the church and she recognized me. I had a chance to chat with her a bit and it was just heartwarming.

It was challenging to see the peoples' commitment to their church and community in a rural setting where people live far apart. They were sincerely passionate about the gospel, lovingly hospitable, and I thank God for His work in their lives.



Lochaber Rural Education Centre

The Tron Church

I have found an amazing family at The Tron! During my time in Scotland, I have been struck by the real importance of church family. I have known what love, care and support is in God's household of faith. The Tron Church has become very dear to my heart; they have really looked out for me and made sure that I've been well during my time here. It will be sad to leave, but I know that I have a wonderful fellowship who will still hold me accountable, and make sure that I keep walking on the narrow path. It is a great joy to have a family that transcends blood relation and is firmly grounded in the Lord Himself, who is Head over his Church.

I have really enjoyed serving at The Tron and I have learnt many valuable things that will help me to better serve the Church back in Zambia. I have been involved in different ministries in the church which have given me practical church work experience. I work with the youth every Friday evening and university students every Thursday evening. I have also been involved with the internationals ministry.

Fridays are a real highlight of my week: growing relationships with the youth, discipling them, and making them feel a part of the church family. It's been highly rewarding to see some of them make visible progress, stepping up and serving the

wider church. It's wonderful to think that I'll stand with them on the last day and worship our Lord perfectly for all eternity.

I'm grateful, too, for all the great opportunities we have, as we meet around God's Word, to share our lives together and learn from one another in other ministries. A recent example of this was at our student weekend away when we were immersed in the doctrine of God. It was an excellent opportunity to think more deeply about the God we serve and worship, but also to foster relationships with the people there. I have formed many good, solid relationships during my time in Scotland, relationships that will last even when I return to Zambia.



First and second year apprentices

We have a large staff team at The Tron, and it has been a great privilege and joy to work alongside more experienced and differently gifted men and women who are passionate about the gospel. I have had opportunities to preach at our prayer meetings, to our Farsi congregation, and to the youth. It has been a joy to be actively involved in the life of the church on a daily basis. Seeing and being a part of everything that goes on during the week outside of Sundays has been enriching. I am looking forward to the rest of my time in Scotland, and I pray that the Lord will use these different experiences to prepare me for his service in Zambia.

Future Plans and Hopes

I complete my course in Scotland this summer. I hope to get stuck into a good, biblically faithful church where I can continue to grow, serve the Lord, and consolidate what I've learnt these past couple of years.

I am also hoping to commence further training at Cornhill Scotland's Pastors' Training Course, Lord willing. I plan to attend classes online and hopefully come through to Scotland once or twice a year. Such training would equip me further for ministry in the future.

My long-term plan is to minister in a local Church in Zambia. By God's grace, strength and in His time, I hope to reach out to all with the true Gospel: particularly those who have been taught and caught up in a prosperity gospel. Unfortunately, this is the case in so many parts of Zambia and I personally came from such a background.

This is the burden that the Lord has placed on my heart: to expose false teaching and point people to the true Gospel and teach what grace really means, in a land dear to my heart.

I would enormously appreciate your continued prayer and support even after I go back to Zambia. I have put in my personal email at the end, and you can email me if you would like to keep receiving news about the work in Zambia. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Prayer requests

- Thank the Lord for the fruitful experience I've had, and for all he has taught me during my time here.
- Pray that I would continue to serve joyfully in my last few months.
- Please continue praying that the Lord will continue to equip me through these last months of serving at The Tron and that He will continue to shape me for service in Zambia.
- Please pray that God will open doors for all these next plans.
- Please pray that the Lord will provide funding for further training.

With love and thanks,

Prince.