



Caroline and Dick Seed

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Location: South Africa



What we do: Training Bible teachers in key theological institutions across the African continent and beyond

Dear friends

Return to South Africa

A few weeks ago we exchanged the long days of early summer in the UK for the short days of winter in Cape Town, South Africa. We returned with thankful hearts for nearly three months of home leave and time to reconnect with churches, friends and family. We think it was the busiest home leave ever, but that is not surprising considering we had three years to catch up on. Sadly, two weeks into our home leave, Dick's mother (aged 91) passed away in South Africa. She had been very frail for several years. Dick's sister was able to be with her for a few days before she died, and sorted out the arrangements. The memorial service will be held on 19 July in Pretoria. We rejoice that she is with the Lord.

Wales and Egypt

Just before Easter, we had a week in Gower, Wales with the whole family. The weather was kind to us and we managed long walks in the hills and on beaches. Unfortunately, Dick and I went down with a respiratory infection (not COVID) that lasted 2-3 weeks and threw a damper on our holiday, especially over Easter when we were staying with Caroline's mother. Nonetheless, Dick managed to preach on Easter Sunday evening and we both found the energy to clear our belongings out of Mum's attic in the following few days.

We flew to Cairo from 25-30 April for the Overseas Council Australia (OCA) annual Mile Deep Strategy Conference. Every year, the leaders of the six hub colleges or universities meet with the OCA team to report on progress made during the year, to spend time in fellowship together and to plan for the next year. We were encouraged to hear of the progress made and especially of the collaboration between the institutions. We gave two talks, which were well received.

This year's conference was marked by the opening of a new Centre for Christian-Muslim Partnership and Understanding at the Cairo campus of Alexandria School of Theology. This initiative in Cairo, as well as the upgrading of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Relations at St Paul's University in Kenya, is being supported through partners of OCA. A whole day was dedicated to the opening, with visits to the Grand Imam and the Al Azhar Mosque during the day and a banquet in the evening before the official opening.

Last month in the UK

We returned to the UK from Egypt to an intense but rewarding time of visits to churches and supporters.



Dick and Craig hiking in Gower

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churchmissionsociety.org/seed

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



Thankfully, we were able to have a two-day break in Ripon with CMS colleagues and then visited friends near Durham at the end of May, which helped us to recover our breath before returning to South Africa. Our last week was spent with the family, which was a lovely way to say goodbye.

Just before we left the UK, we heard the good news that George Whitefield College has managed to raise a partial four-year grant towards the costs of setting up the new postgraduate diploma in higher theological education. A wonderful answer to prayer! Preparing the documentation for the PG Dip will be our main focus in the second half of the year, although there is still a lot else on the go.

Back to work

Dick plunged straight back into preparation for a paper he was due to give at the conference of the Theological Education Association of

Southern Africa (TEASA) on 15 June in Pretoria. His topic was Assessment: Are we training faithful church leaders? He spoke on the need to plan learning outcomes that will enable students to grow in faith, in their commitment to mission and to develop the leadership skills needed for pastoral ministry.

Please pray for Caroline as she runs an intensive course for postgraduate students at GWC from 20–24 June and for Dick as he begins a Teaching Methods course for GWC students in July. Then, over the next few months, we will be leading a team of authors from the Mile Deep Strategy in writing articles and preparing curricula to address the problem of the prosperity gospel on the African continent. This involves monthly meetings with the team and preparation for a residential writers' sabbatical at George Whitefield College in Cape Town in September–November 2022. Pray also for Caroline's group of women scholars from Kenya who are completing the 1–3 *John from Muslim Contexts* commentary (forthcoming from Langham) over the next three months. Caroline still has a lot of writing to do.

Then, there are plans to run Phase 1 lecturer training in Egypt and Uganda and to complete Phase 3 online for the Kenyan group who did their initial training in February this year. Egypt and Uganda want us to come in person, but we are waiting to hear if there are funds available. It is a lot cheaper to run online, of course, but some institutions still prefer to meet face to face.

An encouragement

We had some feedback from the online lecturer training we completed after Christmas for CEP (Chile). When Karen sent their certificates, Principal Cristobal Ceron wrote, "This Thursday we will be praying as a faculty for CEP. This prayer meeting is another fruit of your training, because it made us feel like a team which needs to be together intentionally praying as one body." We give thanks to the Lord for the fruit he is growing through the work of TEDS.

In Christ, Caroline and Dick



Photos from top to bottom: Outside the cathedral in Cairo; Giza pyramids with Sphinx in the background; new centre in Cairo; Ripon Town Hall



Going further with Church Mission Society

Africa Conference: Friday 7–Sunday 9 October. A weekend residential with opportunity to connect online. This year's theme is Out of Africa: Learning together about mission. Book your place now at churchmissionsociety.org/ac2022

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