



Across the Pond

Reign Ministries

June 2009



My mom and I!

I need you to pray!

I asked last month for your prayers for myself and others trying to work under the new laws which the British Home Office has put in place recently. They are now working on a points-based system which is much like Australia's – with the primary question being what merit is it for the UK to have an individual settle and work here.

My Visa expires in two weeks and I urgently need your prayers because it looks like we need a miracle ☺

Here's the situation:

- ◆ My visa expires on the 17th June. Under the new law, to turn an application in for a visa renewal, you need to have a license sponsor's number on it. The license sponsor's number comes from a church or organization that have been approved by the Home Office to be a sponsor.
- ◆ The Fellowship of churches here I serve with and Reign Ministries have both applied for sponsorship status. The Home Office says this is a 6 week process. Reign applied in March and just received the word that they were denied the sponsorship license and are now re-applying under another bracket. The Fellowship turned their application in about 9 weeks ago and still have had no response.
- ◆ I've talked to the Home Office again this week and they have confirmed that to renew my visa I need to have a license sponsor number. When I've told them we don't have sponsorship status yet because we are still waiting on their response, we've been told that all we can do is check daily and let them know a visa is about to expire.

What we can pray: We can pray for a couple of things:

Pray that miraculously the Fellowship gains sponsorship status in the next 10 days so I can have the number before my visa expires.

Pray also that if this doesn't happen, that someone gracious handles my case. I will still turn my visa application in by the 17th even though it doesn't meet the qualifications, and we are praying it will be accepted in light of the situation.

We really believe that this is a spiritual battle – The church and I are greatly affected by this, but many others trying to serve the Lord in this country are as well.

I'll keep you informed!

Hi Friends

Recently I was able to spend two weeks with family and friends which provided a much needed break! As always, being away helps me realize once again why I'm here:

I love what God is doing in and among these people. God is at work in the UK to bring his people back to himself. Faithful servants are needed and I'm thankful to be counted among them ☺

Thank you so much for being a part of this ministry and journey!

Since being back, I have been slightly overwhelmed! So much is going on! Our café is now up and running which is amazing! The response from both the church and community has been so encouraging and we are already thinking/praying into how to expand the work. I'm helping manage the volunteers and am taking a turn at serving 2-3 times a week here at the beginning.

Our small groups are all starting a study on spiritual gifts which will lead up to our church weekend at home at the end of June. I'm really excited to see how God will use this study to encourage us. I believe He wants to teach us how to live more and more by his spirit daily!

Please read the note to the left about the Visa situation – to be honest in the midst of all that's going on, that is what is weighing on my heart.

Love and Blessings...
Alysen



Who: Jackie (yellow) and Tracey (red)

Their stories: Both these ladies were born with cerebral palsy. They met each other at a disabled school here in Birmingham when they were young. Both had numerous surgeries through their childhoods, Tracey couldn't walk even with braces until she had a surgery when she was young that broke and re-set both legs.

They both married and had kids. Tracey's husband left her when her son Colin was just a few days old and Jackie's husband left her when her two kids were both under the age of five. Now they live one street away from one another and can be seen racing to each other's homes on their scooters.

How I know them: They both came to an Alpha course at church a few years back and came to faith. Last year I started meeting with them and one of our leader's Mary every other week for bible study and prayer. They are two of the funniest, bravest, ladies I know. Although they both can only walk short distances with braces and mainly get around in chairs that never stops them. They still take trips together, most recently to Scotland to see Tracey's sister. Being with them is always a joy and a humbling experience.

How to pray: Tracey just had surgery and will need to go to the hospital every 12 weeks for "upkeep". Because of their handicap, they both deal with infections all the time. Pray that they will stay healthy and continue to cope with the daily struggles of having cerebral palsy, keeping up homes and children. Jackie's two kids are 19 and 21 and both are looking for jobs right now, and Tracey's son is 17 and just taking exams at school. Pray that their kids look towards God in all they do!

- ◆ *We have our first ICY graduation at the end of June. Three students are graduating with youth and Bible degrees – pray for them as they finish and decide what to do with their lives! Mark and Pete are continuing to serve in their local ministries, and Zara is taking a year out to decide what to do.*
- ◆ *Our church weekend at home is also at the end of this month. We went away last year, but this year to save money for our families we are staying here. Pray for our new church members as they join in!*
- ◆ *My Monday night small group is adding three new members this week. Pray that these new Christians fit in well and that the rest of us can adapt well to the new small group dynamics. Our new members have all come to faith in the last 6 months – pray for them, Malcolm, Brenda and Richard.*

Wanting to Give?

There are three easy ways to give...

- ◆ Ask Alysen to send you a packet with information on giving.
- ◆ Go online! Visit www.reignministries.org and following the link to give online.
- ◆ Send a check to Reign Ministries, 5401 West Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55428-3505 with my name earmarked on it!

All gifts are tax deductible. Thank you in advance - your partnership makes this ministry possible!



Here's a picture of our cafe! We have completed our third week and everyone loves it!

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