

September is fast approaching and here is my first update! I'm really excited to begin working as a Reach volunteer with Friends International in just a week's time. As well as getting to grips with the role, it will be a flying start; September is likely to be one of our busiest months, as we meet and welcome arriving students. To this extent the month is likely to involve a lot of planning and university welcome events, and I'm quite looking forward to being back in uni without any assignments to do. Our regular international cafe (Globe) will resume with full evening meals, which I will sometimes be responsible for cooking. Do you think the students will take to beans on toast?! It seems this year really will force me to try many new things. The month culminates in our welcome ceilidh evening, though thankfully we are not the ones who teach the students to dance! Traditionally it is very well attended and we pray once more for an incredible number of students to attend and enjoy the event. I'll let you know how it goes!



*Over 15,000 international students study in Newcastle, out of 450,000 at UK universities. As they arrive, it can be a time of many emotions – excitement, anticipation, anxiety, fear, or lack of belonging in a city and a culture so far from home*



I'm excited to be able to dedicate more time to relationships with students I know already. **Please join me in praying for Antony, Jan, Prafulla, Ray and Travis. Pray for the opportunity to invite them to church and to open the Bible with them.** In the next month, we plan to launch an international student group as part of my church (Destiny). **Please pray for God to reveal a clear vision for the group, and for many students to encounter Him** through it.

**Thank God for the provision of accommodation.** It has been a long, turbulent process but I believe that was in His hands, for a reason

In the next month thousands of international students will arrive in Newcastle. **Please pray for their warmth and safety in new surroundings** thousands of miles from home, as well as for those already here taking English courses. **Pray for many to be excited to come to Globe and welcome events, and to meet genuine and lasting friends there.** **Pray for Christian students to find a church family and to know God's peace.**

Please **pray for me as I adjust to my new financial situation** and the alien concept to me that is budgeting! Especially that I will not be anxious, as Jesus commands in Luke 12:31. **Pray for me to honour Him through the resources given to me and for Him to meet all my needs.**

**friends**  
INTERNATIONAL

August 2018 /  
Matthew Brindley

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Sept : Reach volunteers orientation conference  
7<sup>th</sup> Sept : back to Newcastle to begin!  
10<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sept : international student arrivals and welcome events  
24<sup>th</sup> Sept : welcome ceilidh