



Dear all,

It is my privilege to write to you all again.

It has been a while since we last did a newsletter and a lot has taken place in this world we are living in. Although here we are in a rural area, the covid 19 restrictions that have been put in place have affected us. We are no longer able to meet together for the Bible classes and also the Lord's day services have been stopped. We are still able to move freely within Kwale county, but are not allowed to cross into any other county/country without a negative covid certificate. To get one is expensive and at the moment we have no need to travel. We are still able to make the weekly shop in Ukunda, although the Police checks have increased which can be quite daunting. The roads (for 15 minutes to the main road) are in a poor state after the rains. On the way home, driving along the rough road, Elsie pulled over for a passing motorbike and ended up with one wheel hanging over a deep ditch. Thankfully no harm was done and we put some rocks under the wheel and reversed it out.



We know that many of you are also suffering from the effects of the restrictions that have been put in place, many people's lives have been turned upside down; no work, children off school, holidays/weddings cancelled and even funerals have had restrictions placed on them. All of these things have taken place in a relatively short space of time.

At the beginning of the year we had no inkling of what was ahead. In these times of uncertainty, what a blessing it is to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, and to be found trusting in the immovable Rock and His eternal unchanging Word. Most surely this is the one thing needful, a shadow of a great rock in a weary and ever-changing land. What comfort His Word gives too, that all things work together for good to them that love God, to those who are called according to His purpose, that even in this fearful time the LORD is working for the eternal good of His beloved children. Psalm 103:13-14 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

We are warned in the Word to make our plans subject to the Lord's will. Many plans have been made and are now having to be altered or cancelled.

Hannah and Josiah arrived in England early on Wednesday 4 th March. The journey home went very smoothly with many kind strangers being helpful along the way; thankfully Josiah slept nearly the whole flight! She enjoyed two weeks of seeing family and friends and getting accustomed to English life again before the lockdown started to set in due to the coronavirus. Sam was due to join Hannah and Josiah at the end of March however, on Sunday 15 th March, the Kenyan government announced that all flights to and from the UK would be banned with 48hours notice. Thankfully he was able to change his flight free of charge (along with David Cottingham who

was visiting the mission) and join Hannah and Josiah. It is a very different England they have come back to and it has been quite strange being so close to family and friends but not being able to visit. Hannah delivered Nathan Joseph on the 28th April. He was born weighing 7lb 12. We are thankful to God that all went well and for providing the gift of another son. He has been a happy and contented baby so far and has enjoyed being looked after by Hannah's parents while she has recovered. Josiah has taken to his new brother well (providing Nathan doesn't have anything of his!) and has enjoyed getting to know some of his aunties and uncles. He has especially enjoyed seeing things such as dustbin lorries, tractors, trucks and the emergency vehicles which we don't often see in Kenya. He still often talks about Jim and Elsie and the children in Kenya; he misses the large outdoor space to roam around and rides in 'Jim's land rover!' They had hoped to be returning to Kenya by now, but God's ways are not our ways. Due to the lockdown they were not able to register Nathan's birth until just yesterday. A way was made for an emergency appointment, not only avoiding the very long backlog, but even to register before the office opens for birth registration. We are aware of many who prayed for this, and God heard and graciously appeared. Also, on Saturday (6th), the Kenyan government extended their travel ban in and out of Kenya for another month due to their cases still rising. This is the second significant hurdle to returning back. Please pray for them in this time of waiting and uncertainty.



We (James & Elsie) were due to come back to the UK on 7th July for the 3-yearly home visit in July, but because of all the uncertainty and restrictions we have now decided to cancel and stay on here for another year, God willing.



We are thankful for all the building progress. The mission is at a point of change. The main buildings are now completed, only a generator store and another underground water tank, to act as an overflow for the first one, and to hold the rainwater from the two houses, remain to be built. We moved into the new house at the end of May and are now well settled in. It has been a real blessing for us as the main mission building is very open! Each room opened onto the courtyard so any visitors (and there are many!) would just be able to see into each bedroom. There was no privacy, not to mention the frogs, lizards, bats and bugs, each one leaving their mess behind them! The new house also has glass windows to keep some of the wildlife out. We are so thankful for the Lord's provision.

The main mission building is now being smartened up and re-painted ready for the next phase of the project. We still hope and pray that, if it be the Lord's will, we will open a clinic here, but at the moment there seems to be no way. We also hope to start a Bible school, working with Pastor Dalmas. Students (mostly preachers/pastors) will come and stay here (in the mission building guest rooms) and be taught the scriptures. The need for a Bible school is great, as error is commonly preached all over Kenya and ignorance of the scriptures is commonplace. One recent story was told to us by an old lady who came for food aid. She said that a 'pastor' at a church she



attended who told the congregation that they must all bring 100 Kenyan shillings for an offering (about 70p, which feeds a small family for a day). The next week he increased the amount and then again the following week to 300 Kenyan shillings. Some could not pay so he told them that “..coming to Jesus is free, but to come to church is not. You must pay. You eat fish at home but you don't want to bring money to the church. Sell your chickens and bring the money.” The lady said she would search for work in the fields to get the 100ksh but then she would have no money left for food! She left that church and has not attended a place of worship since. This practice is commonplace here. How true the Word is; 2 Peter 2: 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. She has expressed a desire to join us here and has begun attending the homestead services in her area. We pray the Holy Spirit will teach her and show her Christ and His Word and ways.

As the coronavirus took hold of this country many people left the cities to return to the rural family homes. Also the youth who were in secondary school and college came back to their parents. Normally, it is these family members who send money home from the town to help those working on the farmland. Now this has stopped and the extra people living at the home farms has increased, as has the burden of the families. Adding to this, they've had a very bad harvest and the people are beginning to be desperate. Some of the young men have resorted to stealing livestock. We had 3 chickens taken but the thief dropped one after Mangongo (one of the workers who sleeps here) gave chase. Some have lost as many as 10 chickens! Goats and cows have also been stolen. We have increased our food aid program, distributing green grams from our last harvest, maize, beans and cooking oil. Last week we had none remaining but we thank the Lord for His provision and today (29/06/20) we have had a delivery of 200kg of beans and 300kg of maize. We seek God's glory in the distribution of this food and that the people will come to a knowledge of the Living Bread, the Lord Jesus Christ.

To add to the situation there is also an outbreak of Malaria. Some people have come here seriously ill. Our Jesse also spent two days in hospital with the disease but he's thankfully recovered now. We also know of two children who have sadly died. One little 4 year old girl was from our Sunday school here. Naturally speaking it was due to no other reason than incompetence by the local doctors, who send people home without having a blood test and prescribing the wrong medicine. There is a very strange attitude amongst many of the doctors and nurses. They look down on the rural, uneducated and poor

people, many times not even telling them what sickness they have and what medication they are taking! We have told the locals that if they have any symptoms like that of malaria to come here to the mission and we will test for free and give them the medicine if needed. Many have come, some having been to the doctor already but were given antibiotics and painkillers (which obviously mask the symptoms!) We have bought the test kits and medicine and hope to continue this



work. The photo to the left is of the medication given to the lady above by a doctor. It is piriton, paracetamol and amoxicillin. No blood test was done and when she came here she was very unwell. The green tablets are the fast-acting malaria drug; two on the first day, two the next and, God willing, you begin recovery.

We are still keeping in touch with the members and congregation of the Church here. We have split the people into 4 villages over 4 days. We meet at someone's home to sing and pray and hear a short message from the Bible. This has given me (James) an opportunity to meet the families and neighbours of those who normally attend church. The congregation have expressed a desire that these week day home meetings continue even after the restrictions have been lifted. For this I am very thankful and pray the Lord will bless His Word to those who hear. Isaiah 55: 11, so shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

We thank you each for your continued support.

Christian love

James & Elsie

Sam & Hannah