

This far I have come, with the Lord on my side....



PUTMAN NEWS

November 2024

Dear Friends

As we write this, it's exactly 2 weeks until the day we fly back to England for the first time in 18 months! We are really excited to have some time with family and friends, and to enjoy some of the home comforts that we have missed (mostly food!). Also we are looking forward to sharing about AIM's work, our roles at RVA and the impact the ministry is having across Africa, and of course to be able to thank many of you in person for the way you uphold us in love, prayer and finances.

This term has been a big adventure as a family while we found our feet as dorm parents to seven 7th grade girls. Juggling all of the practical requirements, from displaying fire procedure notices to coming up with prizes for winning cleanest room, to organising birthday dinners to leading daily devotions to watching sports tournaments to communicating with parents, has been challenging when also trying to keep up the planning and assessments for our teaching roles, attending staff meetings, being employers for two local Kenyan workers and maintaining our immediate family life. God has provided for our every need, and blessed us beyond our needs as we give each day to him.

We will be in the UK for 4 weeks. On Christmas day we'll be staying at Zoe's mum's house in the Wirral and attending our home church, we can't wait! Our itinerary is yet to be finalised but it will roughly look like Heathrow-Evesham/Worcester-Leeds-Newcastle-Wirral-Midlands-Bedford-Heathrow. We will be borrowing cars from John's parents and Zoe's mum (thank you!) to help us get around. Unfortunately we won't be able to visit all of our supporting churches or individuals but we hope to return again in the summer holidays so will plan to connect with others at that time.



Our house helper, Cecilia shopping, and making dinner with Sadie helping her; they are good friends!

Amber putting up the Christmas tree.

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Part of our visit will include collecting some of our personal items that we did not think we would need and have missed! We'll be bringing a couple of empty suitcases home to fill and bring back.

Christmas gifts

We do not expect anyone to buy us gifts, and will not have much room to carry things back, but if you would like to bless us, we would appreciate receiving things that we can take back to Kenya and use in our ministry as dorm parents. We are short of things like:

Stationery e.g. greetings cards, post cards, teen birthday party invites, thank you cards and blank cards with teen friendly graphics/designs, plain coloured card, ink pads for stampers (we have lots of stampers but no ink!)

Reward stickers!

Craft items e.g. safety pins, crochet hooks, origami, hama beads, small envelopes.

Fancy dress/accessories e.g. santa hats, silly glasses, superhero costumes (age 5-7 for kindergarten)

Décor items e.g. ikea plastic picture frames, bible verse posters, decorative/quote/inspirational postcards

Story books for kindergarten

Technology – We are in need of replacement phones. If anyone has a good reliable unlocked phone that they no longer need please let us know.

Financial Support

We are so blessed to have so many people partnering with us in this ministry with Africa Inland Mission, but we are still short of our financial target. If you would be able to either increase your giving, or if you know anyone who might be interested in our work, please get in touch!

Prayer points:

Thank God for sustaining us by his generous grace for 18 months and providing the opportunity for us to come home and see family.

Thank God for the fruit and growth we have been blessed to witness with the children we live and work with.

Pray for our travel plans that God will protect us and help us sort out the finer logistical details.

Pray for our conversations over the Christmas period that they will have purpose, saltiness and warmth.

Pray that we can be a blessing to our church, our friends and our families.

Pray that Sadie and Amber will reconnect well with old friends.

Pray that we can rest as we spend time away from work.

Pray for our workers Cecilia and John that they will have a blessed Christmas time too.