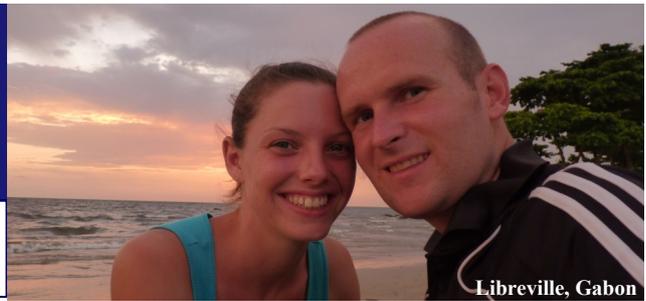


Robert & Kyla



June 2011



Kyla and I have been reading through Genesis lately and God has really been speaking to us through many of the stories there. Just like Abram and many of the others we have read about, God calls all of us on a journey. Ours isn't necessarily a physical journey, but we are called to walk with God in our own daily lives. Abram grew closer to God on his journey and that happened through many difficult times and circumstances he went through. His faith strengthened and his relationship with God deepened.

Abram was also promised that 'all peoples would be blessed through him'. As Christians, our purpose is not simply to know God, but to make Him known. Whether that's our neighbours, our work colleagues or whoever, God wants to bless others through us. He has called us to be his 'ambassadors'. Working with AIS, I can sometimes feel that I'm doing my bit and yet, as we have moved into a new neighbourhood, we feel that God has called us to be here and make an impact for Jesus where we are. We value your prayers and support not only in the work with AIS, but just in who we are and the journey God has called us on. Thanks so much!

On a personal note, we are both doing well although Kyla is really beginning to get uncomfortable at times and is finding it more difficult to sleep. She is well though, and we are grateful for good health for her and the baby. It's an exciting time but will be a steep learning curve as we adapt and make changes to our lifestyle!

This time last year we were sleeping in a tent (right) and so it is great to have just moved house and now live in Keelmount Grange which is near my parents and the AIS office which is handy. We are so grateful to George Ruddock for his generosity in offering us his house to stay in over the winter but with the baby due, we are now looking forward to settling somewhere a little more permanent.



Kyla has now finished work and the remainder of her contract will carry over after she returns from maternity leave. We praise God for this job back in Craigavon Hospital which Kyla really enjoys and where she has made good friends.

West Africa Role

This year I have taken on a role to help oversee the development of AIS in West Africa. In March I was able to visit missionaries and pastors in Gambia, Senegal and Guinea Bissau who have already started or are hoping to start some sports ministry. Sports is a key way not only to reach out to others, but to disciple young people in the church. In Muslim areas, sports seems to be a really effective means of building relationships through which the gospel can be shared. Please pray for those pastors and missionaries who have sacrificed so much in order to see others come to know Jesus. Pray especially for my friend Kevin Williamson and his wife Debbie in Senegal (right) learning the Fula language and planning to move to Guinea to work with the Fula people next year. It was great to be able to visit them for 2 days and encourage them in their ministry.



'bringing hope through football'

Interns

It has been brilliant this year to have had our interns with us. Dan Bell and Katelyn Reuther have been full-time with Mark Baxter and Stewart Glass part-time. They have been a huge blessing to us and have made life in the office much more interesting! Pray for them as they look to God for their futures.



AIS Membership

With our work beginning to grow and develop around the country, we felt we needed a way to keep in touch with people and tell all the stories of what is going on. We came up with our Tactics magazine which will be sent out three times a year to all our members. For £2.50 per month or £30 annually, you will receive the magazine along with our members pack and ongoing information on AIS and the work we do. If you want to support AIS or are simply interested in the work we do, please consider becoming a member.



Over the past 3 years we have partnered with Bangor Elim Church to run a week-long soccer camp. Around 110 kids attended and the theme for this year was 'Answer the Call'; based on the story of Jonah.

Jonah eventually answered God's call on his life but the story is a challenge to all of us of how God gives us second chances and how he wants to use us to tell others about Himself.

It was a brilliant week with skills sessions, Bible times, memory verses, assemblies, the dreaded 'Hot Seat' where a coach is grilled by the kids and all building up to the World Cup tournament at the end of the week. We had a great time, the kids all enjoyed themselves and Stewart then shared at the Sunday evening awards service about how Jesus came to be our substitute and died to forgive our sin. Pray for the volunteers at the Church as they follow up through the year with many of the kids who made decisions to follow Jesus.



AIS Leaders Conference

At the beginning of January, I travelled to Brazil to attend the AIS Leaders

Conference. It was brilliant to spend a week with 45 others from every continent and representing over 20 countries. The theme for the conference was 'building together' and it was encouraging to see that God is truly building His Church all around the world. AIS is a relatively young organisation and as we grow, there is much to learn. In building together, our aim is to improve what we do and together, to be able to see God use us to bring many more to faith in Jesus. It was really encouraging to hear so many stories of people coming to know Jesus in different countries and see how God calls us to be part of bringing people to Himself.

Praise:

- for a lovely new house near family and work.
- for good health for Kyla and the baby.
- for a great year with our interns.

Pray:

- for safe arrival of the baby due on 7th June.
- for all the upcoming events and five soccer camps over the summer.
- for wisdom as we develop the work of AIS.
- that we would settle into our new area and be able to share our faith with our neighbours.

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SMTC

Sports Ministry Training Course
21st May at Belfast Bible College



With many churches beginning to develop sports ministry, we decided to run one big training event rather than do individual ones for each church. We had a great day with over 40 people representing Churches from all over NI. Pray for us as we follow up with these Churches and try and support them in developing the work in their community. It was great to have Aaron Tredway and Dave Oakley with us for the day and was a really encouraging event!

AIS is a faith mission with all missionaries required to raise personal support. We are grateful for the generosity of so many which enables us to continue the work we do. However, having met with both our AIS board and the Church missionary committee, we have been asked to try and raise our support levels. I realise many already give to various missions, but if you feel God leading you to support us then you can do so by direct debit or by using the missionary envelopes through 1st Portadown Presbyterian Church, or through the AIS Staff Support Membership which includes the AIS Membership outlined above. Both of these benefit from the gift aid scheme if you are a tax payer. Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers and support.

Robert and Kyla