

Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.*

Each week the kids have scripture passages to memorize at school and Psalm 23 happened to be Jacob's a few weeks ago when Robert's Aunty Louise passed away. It has been a difficult time for the whole family circle but verses such as these genuinely do bring comfort and hope in the midst of sadness. Death is a reality we all will face yet we take comfort in the fact that Louise had trusted Jesus for salvation and was at peace as she passed into eternity.

Here in Senegal we are surrounded by millions of people who live and ultimately die without that. The Bible is clear about their destination in eternity and yet it is so easy to live our lives being consumed by our own comfort and pleasures. Pray that God would give us a heavy burden for the people of Senegal and that the sadness of the death of a loved one would inspire and challenge us to renew our commitment to serve Him and make Him known.

We have been back in Senegal now for nearly 2 months and have settled in well although the first few weeks were difficult enough. It has been great to get back into our home and neighbourhood and see folk again. We do feel part of the community & neighbourhood here now and are getting to know more and more people. Please pray for those that we see and chat to regularly, that we would be able to know how to share our faith with them appropriately.

Family Life

Micah got quite unsettled after we got back and hasn't been sleeping or feeding as well as he had. We have increased his reflux medication and also Kyla has gone dairy free as she is breastfeeding to see if that will help as it seems similar to Daniel when he was that age and had a dairy intolerance. He seems happier and more content during the day now but the sleepless nights are tiring so please pray that we will continue to see an improvement.

The others have slotted right back into life here. Jacob and Manuela love school and being outdoors a lot. They have good friends at school and also some Senegalese kids who call at the house to play with them. Daniel started at a French speaking nursery this week and although there were some tears he enjoyed it. Pray that he settles well. He will do 2 mornings a week.



Holiday with a difference. We had a good response to this idea and have 2 families who have booked flights to come out in July which we are really looking forward to. It will be a chance for them to combine their family holiday with time to see where we live, get to know a bit more about life and mission in Senegal and understand better how to pray for the work here. Please pray that this will be a special time for them and also for good health and safety during their stay. Some folk were not able to commit to coming this summer but are keen to come sometime in 2021 so if you would be interested in this, keep in touch.

Summer Mission Team. We are also excited to be hosting a team from the CE (Christian Endeavour youth group) in our home church. The team will play some matches, coach kids and also visit a youth prison, orphanage and slum area. We are looking forward to this and trust that the team will be able to help us continue to build relationships through which we can share the gospel. More about this in our next newsletter.

Castlederg/Kenya. For the last few years Robert has been working alongside 2 churches from Castlederg in Northern Ireland. A good friend from school (Peter Ferguson) is now the Church of Ireland Rector there and, alongside the Presbyterian Church, they sent a team to Zambia in 2017. This summer another team is planning to go to Kenya. Robert hopes to join them for part of their time and we would value prayers for all the planning and fundraising efforts in the build up to the tour. Please also pray that this would be a spiritually life changing trip for team members and those they meet in Kenya.



Senegal. Having been home for nearly 8 months it was good to get back out and re-connect with the guys here. I (Robert) have 3 other missionaries who are involved and we have been thinking and praying about the opportunities here. Over the past few years my main focus has been helping to oversee the work across Africa. It was great to be able to visit, encourage our workers and see what God is doing, but moving forward we want to have time to give to the work locally here in Senegal and will share more about this in the coming weeks and months. I will also continue to be involved with the work in Congo since we lived there for 2 years and I am still on the board.



A few weeks ago we came across the Casa Sport Football Team training on a dirt field at the side of the highway. Casa Sport are a Premier League team from Ziguinchor and we actually played against them a couple of times when we brought tours from Northern Ireland over 10 years ago. It was great to make the connection again and then the kids and I went to their game the following day.

Congo. It's great to get photos from time to time and hear reports of all that is going on. Just this past week Pastor Martial sent through some photos of an outreach in one of the Aca Pygmy villages. Please pray for this and other outreaches as they use the opportunities they get through football to build relationships and share the gospel.



Guinea-Bissau. Robert's parents and sister (Jayne) hope to visit us in May and we are looking forward to that. During their time here Robert and his Dad plan to travel down to Bissau for the 80th Anniversary Celebrations of the WEC churches in Guinea Bissau. It will be nice (especially for Dad) to get back to Bissau, see old friends and encourage the church folk there. God is building His church around the world and it will be nice to be part of the celebrations of what God has done over the past 80 years.

Thanks. Thanks to so many of you for your ongoing prayers and financial support. We really appreciate it and couldn't continue to do what we do here without it. We are also thankful to many who gave us various gifts before we came back. This has helped us cover school fees for the kids and various other costs we have had since getting back so we are very grateful!

God bless,

Robert, Kyla, Jacob, Manuela, Daniel and Micah

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