

16 September 2024

Dear Friends,

Moni, hola, and hello to you from the Wheatleys! Although it would be lovely if all six of us wrote an update for you, I'm afraid it's just me, the proud Aunty Sarah. I always enjoy writing the update for you all when I come to visit Mum and Dad because I think it's nice that you see/hear about things from a different aspect (plus I get to boast about how amazing they are!).

I landed a week before Peter, Lina and Saraiah, enabling me a chance to catch up with Mum and Dad and some of their mission work. Many of you will know that Mum and Dad partner with Ahava ministries down south in Chikwawa, visiting once a month to do some jobs and clinic work. This time I was able to go with them before we set off to Nanjoka farm where they live and see them do even more ministry, jobs and clinic trips. Everything has stirred up of a whole bundle of memories of back when I lived here, like the crazy minibuses and how many people fit in one car, but then also noticing the changes.



Mum is still the caring and loving, yet fierce physio she has always been. Arriving at the Ahava clinic, Mum came expecting only three patients due to funds or transport problems but in the end, she saw 14 children in the clinic. Watching her as she started the session with a bible story followed by praise (all in Chichewa) and then physio work, knowing and understanding each child's needs. The majority of the equipment used was mine and Peter's old childhood toys, donated, or ones that Dad had made to fit the child. I brought multiple things out with me, including some splints for Mum to use with her patients and I was there with her as she gave a splint to Diness. I could see the gratefulness yet pain in his face as the splint was placed and instructions were given... but, as Mum instructs them, they must exercise and stretch the muscles or they will not work anymore. Just as the patients must exercise and work hard, so must we for our God and everlasting healing awaits us on the other side (Matthew 5:12). Alongside her physio work, Mum continues to be her extroverted self with people in the farm and village,

working with the Sunday school and women's group at church. God's love is languageless and there is no language that prevents us from sharing God's love with others. Regardless of that language barrier, Chichewa being her fourth language, Mum is spreading that love!

Switching to **Dad**, the 101 jobs at once guy is still that same one. When down in Ahava ministries Dad was fixing windowpanes.... In the middle of his jobs, I had to grab him to ask him to adjust the corner chair he had made for one of Mum's patients as it was a bit too high. Of course, he had the right tools to fix it there and then, and like that, a child was able to go home with a chair fit to support them! At the farm in Nanjoka Dad continues to fix everything alongside preaching, encouraging pastors in the area and managing a farm. Both Dad and Mum act as mentors for the **Young Life** ministry in the area, supporting the local youth leaders as they go out and work with the youth. Though 'young' doesn't quite fit in their picture, our friend Job targets this matter: *"Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long-life bring understanding?"* and *"[he] thought, 'Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.'" (Job 12:12; 32:7).* While we were there, there was a Young Life leaders' meeting and Peter and I were



asked (we were volunteered by our mother!) to take part, share a small testimony and play some games. It was very moving to see the leaders come together from different areas up to 10 miles away to hear how God has worked in our lives, when really, I think we should have been hearing from them.

Holiday:

This trip was in fact the first time Peter has been to Malawi since we moved in 2017, and of course Lina and Saraiah's first time anywhere in Africa! So obviously we had to fit as much as possible within those two weeks, trying to create an image displaying that previous "home". Obviously six Wheatleys don't fit in one 5-seater with Saraiah's car seat, so you might ask how did we do that...? Well, one person was



thrown in the back (either me or Mum) among the luggage and all was good. Seating plans worked and Saraiah got some good sleep in most car trips. Now about where we actually went... After the Nanjoka Farm, we travelled to Liwonde Game Park for two nights, truly recognising and appreciating God's creation around us and what He has given us. Saraiah found that she like Grandpops' toast and stole his breakfast... Have you ever had elephants wake you up in the middle of the night or walk through the Lodge as you're trying to pack the car? Well...us Wheatleys got to experience that! After the Safari Lodge, we had a short stay at a friend's house to show Lina (and Saraiah) the beauties of Zomba Plateau. We had a lovely and restful time there, enjoying evening fires together, a big breakfast buffet treat, and Dad's delicious cinnamon buns!



Sadly, it came to the time for me to head back to England and get ready for my PGCE year, but the others continued travelling and

visiting Malawi. As of now, we are all back in our "home" lands and getting back to the "normal" life.

*Thank you for all your prayers, support and love,
Sarah and the Wheatleys*

P.S. **Blessings Milisi** and his family have arrived to Pastor the small AEC congregation in Nanjoka! They are settling in well, getting to know a lot of people. Please pray that we (Jo and Steven) would know how best to support, encourage, challenge, teach, learn, and generally work together.



Diary dates



- September 17th – travel to Blantyre for various meetings;
- September 20th – Chikwawa clinic;
- September 24th – Marilyn Barr arrives with two friends;
- October 8th – Pastors' Fraternal.