

21 October 2024

Dear Friends,

After having our Sarah write our letter last month, it has been hard to motivate ourselves to write one this month! Neither Steven or I like saying positive things about ourselves and to be honest – this last month has been very hard going. It's true we are older (and not always wiser!!) and the hot season has been very HOT. However, we do have lots to thank God for:

- Finally, a Pastor who has settled very well in the village – Blessings has been visiting members of the congregation, both past and present, in their homes to encourage their walk with the Lord. He has also made a rota so that 2 of the other preaching points have regular visits on Sunday mornings.
- Young Life has had a family visiting from another group for a month and this has been such a blessing. They have visited and encouraged each of the 3 main group leaders and teams. They are hoping to buy a field so that Young Life Nanjoka can be self-sustaining financially.
- Also, Marilyn Barr (the owner of the Farm and a wonderful Missionary with some hilarious stories – we are awaiting a best seller!!) has been here since mid-Sept. (First 3 weeks were on holiday with 2 other ladies- such fun.) Last week Jo joined her to visit the mother of her “adopted Grandson” at the Malawian refugee camp that is only an hour away from us. Boris and his family are from Burundi and by an amazing God-incidence, he has been chosen to study at the University in Canada near to where Marilyn lives. It was such a joy to visit and meet his Mum, Pastor and brothers.
- Sarah graduates from Chester University on Nov 8th and we are so proud of her achievement. She is battling the next challenge – to become a Teacher. The one-year PGCE course is very intensive and we have given up counting the number of times she is near to quitting! But she hasn't!
- Incredibly both Jo and Steven are travelling out of Malawi THIS WEEK! Jo travels to UK to spend half-term week “blobbing” with Sarah and then attending her Graduation. She is struggling with visiting UK without seeing every one but she is SO tired. Steven is away for 4 days taking part in a SIM Regional Council meeting in South Africa. He is also tired. Please pray for our travels and for our Joy in The Lord to be restored.



Please continue to pray for some of the dear children we have mentioned before: Tammy – doing better but still with a very big head which makes it hard to sit in a chair. Jo hopes to find a simple foldable buggy in the UK; Martha – still not walking but Jo now realises that we need to have a special device made; Siyala – not doing very well.

Please pray that the Farm workers, Church members and those around us will walk with the Lord and that the power of the traditional religion over their lives will be broken.

Please pray for good rains and an abundant harvest – everywhere is so dry and, for some, there is such a lack of daily food.

With our love and thanks,
Jo and Steven



Diary dates

- October 23rd / 24th – Jo to England;
- October 24th – Steven to South Africa;
- October 28th – Steven back to Malawi;
- November 5th – Pastors' fraternal at Sani;
- November 8th – Sarah's graduation!
- November 11th / 12th – Jo back to Malawi.