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Dear Friends,
 It is a long time since we wrote a letter with pictures!

As we come to the end of 2023, we want to thank you all so much for all your loving, prayerful support throughout this past year, and throughout our time as Area Directors. We have so often been aware of God's presence, assurance, intervention, ah-ha moments and leading, and know that we owe a lot of this to your faithful praying. However, we do remind ourselves that it is not the power of prayer, but of course the power of God which is at work.

Well, we have finally and truly handed over our Area Director role and are now having a few months sabbatical, seeking God's next for us, and enjoying having less responsibility, for a time. We have soooo much to thank God for during these past 12 years; His goodness, faithfulness and patience have carried us. Of course, there is lots that we miss, particularly our friends and colleagues. We are still processing, and learning, but right now, we are ready for a change.

Our last visit was to Mozambique, at the end of October. This was a very helpful time, and we are so grateful for the way God helped with some potentially sensitive meetings and topics. It was great that Roger and Kathy, new AD's, could be there also: Roger's devotions were much appreciated. We know that our Portuguese was *far* from perfect, but we were conscious of God's wonderful enabling in translating from both Portuguese to English and vice versa.

The seascapes around the island were (are!) stunning and the food – well, imagine eating squid, prawns and sea bass as the 'ordinary' midday meal each

day! It was such a pleasure being together with the team for a week, on the Island of Mozambique, and enjoying fellowship and all the amazing perks of the island life! However, the other side is that there are many needy people on the island: physically, spiritually and emotionally. Please do be praying for the development of this Mozambique team and for Roger and Kathy's involvement with them. The



Momade and Celia

language is one challenge, and they are praying for God's solution.

And now?

At long last we are completing a few jobs in the house, attempting a radical clear-out of the loft, filing cabinets, boxes under the bed and bookcases, as well as enjoying some time for reading and reflection, being creative and exercising. We have loved using some tokens we have been given as gifts for birthdays, such as for the theatre.

We are pleased to be serving in the church a bit more regularly, and not being quite so 'here today and gone tomorrow'. It's great -and challenging, joining with others inviting those living and shopping near the church to our Christmas services. As with many in Sheffield, we are prayerfully engaging with people and using the Christmas candy cane. Both of us are still involved in Galeed, the centre of friendship with Muslims in one area of the city. This week both the men's' and ladies' ministries have events for Christmas. Our prayer is that we will be able to share the Truth of Jesus in a helpful and engaging way.



Next year?

We are very grateful to our UK leadership giving us time to talk with them and learn more of what is going on in the UK. There are definite possibilities for serving in a reduced role, with a shorter week. (both receiving our government pensions) So we are praying....

One area we would really value prayer for is David's health. Just a couple of days ago he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and hopefully will be starting treatment before Christmas or in the early new year. We are not sure yet what the treatment will be; that depends a bit on today's bone scan. Of course, the implications of all this are fairly unknown and there is uncertainty, but what we do know is, that our loving, unchanging Heavenly Father does know and is in perfect control; we are at peace and trusting Him for His best way ahead.



Family

Ruth and Mark continue to have full and fulfilling days with Betel. At this time of year Betel folk sing in various shopping centres, which rather depletes the staff in some of the base ministries. Ruth has been thriving on helping in the Aston Rising Café. A pleasant change from lots of documents and office work! She also sings with a local



community choir, which she loves. Mark continues with fulltime work alongside his Master's degree. Harvey and Sophia have both had good terms at school and are great fun and lively. We look forward to being together after Christmas as Ruth and Mark are on duty over Christmas.

Esther has just completed her second week of a new job, as the administrator of a Nursing Home, walkable from where she lives. She has found there is lots to learn and plenty to do, but is appreciating the challenge and change. Not great timing and out of her control is the fact that she has Jury duty in these 2 weeks before Christmas and would value prayer for that.

There are still a lot of unknowns, but probably we will only send out a letter about twice a year from now on. If you feel that this is a good time to stop receiving our letters - or updates, please do let us, or Zilla know. We are so very grateful for your years of faithful support; we understand that we all need to make changes at times.

In your different circumstances, our prayer is that

Jesus the Prince of Peace, will fill you with His peace,
Jesus the Light of the world, will guide you,
Jesus as Saviour and Redeemer, will give you His assurance and hope,
Jesus, who is the source of all joy, will give you His deep joy.



With our love,

David and Margie

We are very grateful to Mrs Zilla Lowries who has been sending out our letters for over 30 years now.

A huge thank you!

Please let her know of any changes:
25, Bahram Rd, Polegate, BN26 5JB