

'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.'

(Matthew 7:7-8)

Dear friends,

We continue to be amazed by the blessing that Anna Mirembe is to us. She has changed so much in the last two months. Her smiles and laughter light up her face and she sometimes seems to be chatting away with us. Who does that remind you of? She loves music and movement and enjoys dancing with Taata and kissing Maama! We are understanding deeper something of the extent of the Father's love for his children. We're thankful for answered prayer in having precious time together, getting to know her better and for opportunities to read Bible books and pray with her. We've even managed to have some of our own more lengthy devotions (complete with coffee and a square of dark chocolate) just the two of us! So thankful for that! Back in January, we asked for prayer for being able to provide for our little girl. We have been absolutely blown away by the cards, gifts, clothes, books, meals and help that we have received. We've learned a lot about how to support families with a newborn!



The three of us: Rachael, Bernie and Anna Mirembe



Lake District: climbing up Cat Bells

Thank you for your prayers for our time away in the Lake District. We find being in the countryside restful and that was the case this time despite a few difficult nights. We particularly enjoyed getting up Cat Bells (a hill in the Lake District) with Anna and spending time with Rachael's family. We then travelled down to Exeter for the wedding of one of Rachael's old youth group members. It was a Christ-centred, joyful occasion and an absolute delight to see, over the weekend, 16 people who Rachael knows from her time there as a children's and youth worker. It was also special, at church the following day, for us to have our second communion together as a family (the first being at the ordination service of a dear Oak Hill friend earlier this month).

Next on the horizon is a month-long trip to Uganda. We would value your prayers for this time away: for packing, the travel and logistics, to have a positive time introducing Anna to her other country complete with family and friends, for safety and health, for quality time with people and ministry partners, for the four kiddos to really bond with Anna and for pockets of rest with time to invest in our marriage. Particularly pray that when

the four kiddos stay with us (for the last two weeks) we would take every opportunity to speak of the Lord, his presence with us and how we can trust him with every aspect of our lives. Praise God for recent, encouraging school reports. Pray for us as we continue to support them in various ways and please pray especially for Roger (9) who struggles on many levels academically and emotionally. Pray we would love them well despite greater levels of exhaustion than we're used to.

Contrary to what was communicated in our last prayer letter, Rachael will not be doing her field research for her master's dissertation. She has been wisely reminded of the amount of work this requires and has been encouraged to, instead, focus on time with the family and people back in Uganda. We are grateful for such sage advice. We also asked for prayer for Razia, the wife of the headmaster of the primary school that Rachael used to teach in. We are delighted to report that she has made a full recovery. Please do keep Uganda in your prayers more generally. The political situation rumbles on and lack of basic safety measures continue to propel stories of tragedy. Two weeks ago, many children on a school trip died in a road traffic accident. Sadly, these preventable occurrences are not rare and bring much sadness to our hearts.

A prayer letter from us would not be complete without an update on all things 'admin'! We are very thankful to report that Anna's passport arrived in time for our upcoming travel. Bernie sat and passed both his driving theory test and practical test, his UK visa was extended, he passed all his exams and assignments and has been accepted to do a master's in theology (the same one that Rachael has started) commencing this September. He has also officially begun the discernment process with AMiE. References have been completed, next come interviews. We would appreciate your prayers for this continued process. We would also love your prayers for funding. We are a bit behind on applying to various grants and trusts but we need to raise a fair amount to cover the cost of Bernie's masters and the second half of Rachael's (these costs aren't covered by Crosslinks).



Bernie and Anna: Rachael's birthday breakfast

Finally, on a studies front, we have both greatly enjoyed our studies this semester. Rachael loved delving into the 12 minor prophets and understanding how they work both individually and together as a whole. It's been a joy to listen to God, understand him more fervently and love him more ardently. She has also benefitted from a wonderful module looking at how the church can help with complex pastoral needs, particularly thinking about loss at various stages of life. She will attempt to complete one module next semester looking at the spirituality of the child alongside caring for Anna with help from family and friends.

Bernie, through his writing project, has enjoyed surveying the history of the church in Uganda, its interaction with power and thinking about how that has affected the church's ability to live out its mission. There is much to ponder on and pray about as we continue to consider the role God has for us upon our return to Uganda. As always, please pray that our studies grow our hearts as seen in our words and actions, equip us for life-long ministry and enable us to pass on to others what we have received.

We would not be able to do any of this without you. We are deeply grateful for your support of us in so many and various ways. Thank you! We love hearing from you (and seeing you) and endeavour to pray regularly.

With much love,
Rachael and Bernie

Rachael and Bernie Muluuta training for ministry in Kampala, Uganda

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