



PRAYER LETTER 15 – MAY 2020

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope that you and your families are well as you navigate through this difficult time. We thought we would give a short update regarding the situation in Kenya. After the first three cases of coronavirus in the middle of March, President Uhuru closed with immediate effect, all schools and all gatherings of people. Then, within a couple of weeks, the international airport was also closed down and a curfew enforced (often with violence from the police). Mombasa and Nairobi and certain 'high risk' neighbourhoods were locked down. Since then, although the number of cases and deaths increase daily, the numbers are still very low. The most recent count being 50 deaths throughout the country and 1,100 cases. Of course these figures are probably not / are not correct! However what is certain is that to date Kenya has not experienced anything like the UK / Europe in terms of deaths and cases. It is uncertain if Kenya is still building up to the epidemic.

These restrictions in Kenya have meant that Angel Kindergarten and The Good Samaritan Primary School, The Saturday Dinner Programme and the Rugby Programme have all been suspended until a new directive from the Government. This of course is placing the children and families who are supported by the charity in dire need. They are already selected because of their extreme need and vulnerability and so now with these restrictions they have now have no access to the nutrition and their lives are more intolerable. Malnutrition is very real.

The Government has banned all food distributions unless it is through them! The reason is political and also because food distributions that did happen were very disorganised and resulted in rioting and deaths. As a charity we had already prepared a food bank in February and had begun a food distribution when the crisis started. So we have continued to distribute since March but very carefully. Currently this has to happen very discreetly with sunrise distributions and we are providing for about 116 very needy families. It has been like an undercover military operation!

The most recent news is that due to a rise in Kibera of 15 cases there is talk of locking down Kibera. This would very difficult to enforce but would be awful for the families within if it does happen. So this is the current snapshot for Kenya.

For us personally, as a family, life is much more complicated with coronavirus! It was already becoming more complicated with the frailty of Sally's mum. So we decided to lock down in London due to Sally's mum being at very high risk. At the time of UK lock down, Kenyan lock down happened simultaneously. So we have been in suspended animation in Bethnal Green in East London! We are altogether as a family including Jess and Dave her fiancé. This time altogether has been an unexpected and unplanned blessing. It is such a special time for us as a family especially as we have experienced heartache over the years being on different continents. We have all enjoyed lots of family dinners, banter, cycle rides into deserted central London, many walks over Victoria Park and films! However it has been a strain and upset for everyone to not be able to get "home" to Kenya. We all miss our dogs so much too! For Jess and Dave, they were due to get married at the end of August and sadly those plans have been significantly modified to perhaps 10 guests!

As soon as international airports open we will fly back to Nairobi, but the likely quarantine on both continents makes this very difficult. We always need to be able to get back to the UK quickly and easily for Uni academic terms and for Sally's mum; this ease of travel currently seems a far off reality.

Due to our current state and in addition the decline of quality in education in Kenya for Mary we have decided that Mary should finish her A levels under a school in Hackney. Despite Mary's resilience and the helpfulness of this amazing inner city school, the change has been a strain for her as she is halfway through her A levels. However due to our home in Kenya, the Hackney school are allowing her extended leave throughout the year so she can be in Kenya whenever possible and study some of the time remotely from Kenya. This is not ideal or easy but is the only solution in this season. So we entrust all to the Lord and believe wholeheartedly that His timing and purposes are perfect always, for all of us.

So thank you for reading this and for your prayers. We believe and trust constantly and completely in an invisible God changing our visible reality. We, like everyone else, are learning to live in the moment, to count our blessings and to entrust our everything into the Lord's hands.

With Love,
The McGreevy's xxxxxx

Please pray for:

- The protection of our Kenyan team, in terms of their health and wellbeing, especially those that live within Kibera. Their safety during food distributions, and if Kibera is locked down, protection from mob violence.
- Unity amongst the Kenyan team. Our team DNA is highly disparate from different tribal groups and different economic backgrounds. This is unusual, an excellent team quality but a challenge! They need to work together compassionately for the children with one purpose, trusting one another and with humility before God.
- Pray for our relationship to be covered with the Kenyan team, as we navigate how to lead and empower them in a cross cultural context. We currently employ over 70 staff including the social enterprise international kindergarten that helps to fund the charity.
- Wisdom for us to know how to stand in the gap in this current crisis; for example offering our Kibera Angel Kindergarten as a pop up hospital and the funding to do this if needed.
- For an increased charity profile worldwide in order to grow the support base and provide essential food and healthcare.
- Post-Covid19, for increased favour to scale up the provision of education and that the worldwide economic crisis does not adversely affect the charity.
- Favour for new grant applications.
- For our family, that our comings and goings to and from Kenya would be protected in this uncertain season. For peace, wisdom and faith in this very complicated and strained time as we navigate living, working and bridging London and Nairobi...and for Mary.

Thank you for praying with us.