

FEBRUARY 2020



Dear friends,

It's hard to believe that we are well into our second month here! Thank you all so much for your continued prayer for us, we appreciate it so much and it's great to see how God answers prayers. We have had a very packed couple of weeks so here is what we have been doing.



This week we have been going to the Brikama campus of The University of The Gambia for their Mission Week. It has been great partnering with those students and the staff of GAMFES (The Gambia Fellowship of Evangelical Students) to speak with the students on campus. We spent Monday talking to the students and filling out questionnaires about faith. Yesterday we gave out free tea, which we found was very helpful when trying to talk to people as everyone wherever you are loves a freebie! Today we are putting on a morning of sports activities. Please could you pray for the Christian-Muslim Dialogue happening on Saturday 14th, which is the main event of Mission Week.

We have also enjoyed spending more time at our schools and we have been getting more used to teaching classes in our various subjects. Chad and I (Latrikunda Upper Basic) have enjoyed getting to know the Christian Studies teacher more as well as getting to know our subject specific teachers. Last Thursday our school had their Inter-House Sports Day, which we both loved getting involved in. Chad watched the events, while I was helping cook lunch outside for the 100 members of staff! We have also had the opportunity to put on a weekly Christian meeting where we hope to encourage the Christian students to invite their Muslim friends. However, please pray for us as we have experienced a few difficulties within the school.

Grace and Bobby (Agape) are thankful for answer to prayer as they have increasing amounts of confidence as they are teaching and are also enjoying deepening their relationships with their teachers. Next week, they will begin teaching the recorder to some of their students! Each Friday, Bobby, Dan, Lucy and Grace go to Agape to do the Friday Devotional in which they are doing a bible overview throughout the five months we are here. It is such an amazing opportunity to talk to a mainly Muslim audience about the Bible!

Lucy and Dan (CCLK) have also had the chance to get involved with their school Sports Day, even in different teachers' races with Lucy coming second in one of them and Dan coming last. Sports Day was also an amazing way for them to get to know the teachers a lot more and they are continuing to build relationships with them.

Ellie and Tom (Greater Banjul School) are thankful for growing relationships with teachers - their principal has even invited the team to her son's wedding! One of their teachers also gave Ellie, Lucy, Bobby and Dan a cooking lesson, cooking Gambian style food. Please pray that they would be able to get more involved with the Christian Studies lessons at their school. We have all found that everyone here is very welcoming which we are all so thankful for as we continue to settle into living here.



Ed and Sarah spent their mornings preparing seminars and bible studies for the team as well as giving a seminar to the GAMFES students on relationships as Christians. Ed has enjoyed reading with B, a secret believer who the team have all enjoyed getting to know. Ed and Sarah have also been visiting a compound in Kotu, often with members of the team, to speak to a few Muslims there who are keen to discuss Christianity and read the Bible.

We have been doing lots of fun activities on the weekends. We visited Katchikally Crocodile Pond which was very fun. It was great to learn a bit more about Gambian culture in the museum next to the pond as well as seeing the crocs (one of which I almost stepped on!). We have also been to Fajara beach club, which is a 25 minute walk away and has a TV where we can watch the Six Nations as well as the football! There is a swimming pool there too, which we have loved using. We also love spending time just resting at the Smile House, playing games, chatting and spending time with Mama and helping her chop vegetables outside. We have beaten Mama's record for the number of chillies she has ever put into a Smile Team's food and she now thinks we are absolutely crazy!

Love from Sophia (on behalf of everyone)

Thank God for

- Building relationships with the teachers in schools.
- Getting used to living here, especially with the heat.
- Opportunities to share our faith in Mission Week.
- Continued good health.

Pray for

- Growing relationships formed over Mission Week.
- The main event of Mission Week this Saturday, the Christian-Muslim Dialogue.
- Usefulness of Ed and Sarah's teaching for the team.
- B to grow in faith and to have wisdom in knowing how and when be an open believer.

