

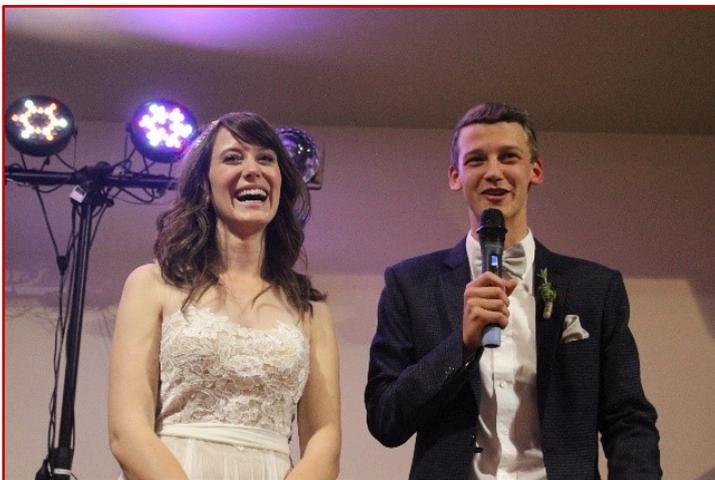


November 2016

Dear Friends,

Sam and Melanie

It was a great joy to celebrate Sam and Melanie's wedding on 12 November. We had a wonderful day rejoicing in God's love for them and their love for each other. Some of Melanie's family from Switzerland joined us, along with friends of Sam and Melanie's from Nepal. The wedding service took place at our church, and I had the privilege of leading them through their vows and officially marrying them. We had a great party in the evening at a beautiful hall in the hills outside Melbourne.



Mr and Mrs Williams

We are travelling to Switzerland in early December and will have a second celebration in Zurich with Melanie's family and our family from England. Sam and Melanie will be looking for a home to rent in Melbourne when they get back in January. Sam begins his new job soon after that and Melanie will begin looking for work. Please do pray that a suitable role would quickly open for her. They expect to live in a different suburb and find a new church – so lots of change. They continue with Melanie's visa application.

Back to Kenya

In September and October, Rachel and I visited East Africa for a CMS-Australia pastoral visit. We spent time with colleagues in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya; I preached in each country on consecutive Sundays, which was great fun!

While we were in Ethiopia we visited the Anglican ministry in Gambella, a province on the border with Southern Sudan. Gambella has seen large numbers of Nuer and Anuak refugees enter Ethiopia from Southern Sudan. Many of these refugees are Christians, and around 100 Anglican congregations have formed and are meeting in towns and refugee camps. This led to the opening of a small bible college in Gambella – St Frumentius College. It was a great privilege to meet staff

and students there, serving Jesus in a challenging place. We were told that the hottest temperature they have recorded is 63 degrees celsius. Thankfully it was not so hot when we were there.

We spent ten days in Kenya, our first visit back since we left in 2007. Nairobi has changed almost beyond recognition in the time we have been away. There has been a massive amount of infrastructure development with an exploding Kenyan middle class. This is all great news for the country. We visited Kibera slum, where it didn't feel as though things have changed very much. It was a joy to meet up with old friends, former students and colleagues. We visited Carlile College and Kipepeo Designs. Both ministries have been through ups and downs in the last nine years and have faced some huge challenges. We listened to many stories, some sad and some encouraging. We loved visiting our friends in Kibera and returning to the Centre for Urban Mission.

Other news

In our last prayer letter, we shared that one of our colleagues, Jeni, was leaving to move to Sydney with her husband. At around the same time, another colleague, Isabel, was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. This has rocked our whole team, as you can imagine. We have served at St Andrew's Hall with Isabel and her husband Lauren for the whole of our time in Australia. Isabel has started targeted chemotherapy which has made a wonderful difference to her symptoms and to the size of the tumour. Please pray for a long and sustained remission for her.

Jonathan

Jonathan will be studying the final semester of his undergraduate degree at the University of Exeter, on an exchange from Monash. He is also exploring the possibility of staying on in England for a ministry internship. We are praying that his time in the UK will give him an opportunity to reconnect with his roots and will be a year of great personal and spiritual growth.

With our warmest greetings and very best wishes for a Happy Christmas,

David and Rachel, Tom and Mia, Sam and Melanie, and Jonathan

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for:

- Sam and Melanie's wedding
- The encouragement of seeing former students in East Africa

Please pray for:

- Jonathan as he settles into life in Exeter, especially that he would quickly feel part of church and Christian Union
- For Isabel, our colleague at St Andrew's Hall, that her treatment for lung cancer would continue to be effective
- For God's grace for us as staff team at St Andrew's Hall as we look forward to two full semesters in 2017
- For Sam and Melanie, for a new church, a new home and a job for Melanie
- For Rachel and me, empty nesters for the first time. Another transition to walk through...

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Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1XF Tel: 020 8691 6111 pletters@crosslinks.org
Crosslinks, 32 Montgomery Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim BT6 9HL Northern Ireland Tel: +44 (0) 28 9079 6028