

FEBRUARY 2020



Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued prayer, it is hugely appreciated by the team. We have been continually reminded of how God is answering prayer and we are excited to share what we have been doing with you. Since our last prayer letter we have been up to lots, so buckle up and let's begin.



Just after the last letter was sent out, we finished the mission week that we were a part of, at Brikama Campus with GamFES. We had sports on the Thursday and a Christian-Muslim dialogue on the Saturday. The dialogue was on 'Is Jesus the Son of God?' and over 200 people showed up to listen, which was a huge answer to prayer. The dialogue was very interesting to watch. It was encouraging but also hard at times as the Bible was being taken out of context to argue the Muslim argument. We were thankful that the event was able to take place, as we know there are many places where something like that couldn't happen, and we

are thankful that it opens up the conversation between the Muslims and Christians there. Please pray that God will be working in the hearts of those Muslims that attended, that he would reveal himself to them, as we know he is the one that has the power to change hearts.

Our chocablock weekend continued on Sunday afternoon as we attended the Muslim wedding reception of the son of one of Tom and Ellie's teachers. It involved the true Gambian experience (that most of us have been able to avoid up to this point) of eating chicken benechin (at least we thought it was chicken) out of one big bowl, on the floor, with our hands. It was far from a flattering sight, but we were excited to be fully immersed in the culture. This was followed by dancing to some drums, where we all took to the dance floor one by one to showcase our God given 'talent' to the circle of onlookers. Even though we never actually met the bride, it was a great experience that we all enjoyed (I definitely woke up the next morning questioning if I had just dreamt the whole thing), and helped us build stronger relationships with some of Tom and Ellie's teachers.



The busy weekend was followed by a more relaxing week. It was Independence Day on Tuesday so we enjoyed a day off school, which we spent having the much needed chill day after a busy few weeks. On Wednesday we were back at GamFES for our weekly bible study in Esther. We are really enjoying these studies, seeing how God is working in the story of Esther even when his name isn't stated. Along with this we have finished our sermon and bible study series in 1 Corinthians 8-10 and we are starting sermons in Zechariah, and starting bible studies in John 12-17. We are starting to prepare and lead the bible studies, one by one, with the help of Ed and Sarah, which is a great opportunity for us to learn that skill and grow together.

Later on in the week, Grace and I had our Sports Day at Agape School. Grace came first in the female teacher's race and in the male teacher's race, let's just say all the tapalapa I have been eating has taken its toll (tapalapa = Gambian baguettes).



On Saturday, Ed and Sarah planned a little surprise for us. They had found a brand new hotel very near to us that was completely empty so we spent the day there by the pool, reading, watching the rugby/football and getting very burnt (Ed and I were the only ones who fell into this category). Sadly the rugby didn't provide a satisfactory ending to some of the team's day (sorry Dan). Dinner in the dark has become a regular occurrence recently as power cuts have become much more regular. Some days we only have power for a few hours, although we have been told by Mama that we are finally having the true African experience.

We were all excited for pancake day on Tuesday and we decided to go all out, firstly by buying a duck off Mama, so we could have crispy duck pancakes for lunch (I'm yet to find out how that is related to lent). We then bought all of Mama's chicken eggs for a few days, but it was worth it as Sarah and Ellie did a cracking job at making pancakes, even though we ran out of flour before we could have proper (British) pancakes.

Recently a few of the team have been heading to a nearby area called Kotu, as we were able to form a few contacts there with Muslims who are really interested in finding out which is true, Islam or Christianity. Prayer for that situation would be really appreciated, mainly as organising a time when they are around to chat is tricky. There have been multiple times we have gone and they haven't been there. Please pray for patience, that we would trust God's timings and that we would be able to meet up with these people regularly, build relationships with them and share the good news of Jesus.

Lots of love,
Bobby *on behalf of the whole team*

Thank God for:

- Rest last week after a busy few weeks
- Safety in travel and living
- Strong team dynamic
- Great teaching from God's word and the opportunity to learn to prepare and lead bible studies

Pray for:

- Response to the Christian-Muslim dialogue and of Missions week as a whole
- Relationships and conversations with Muslims we meet
- Patience when our plans are changed due to power cuts
- Grace who has an injured knee, for swift recovery