

Neil and Sue Browning

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The call in action

Dear friends and family,

Since our last newsletter much has happened – the good, the bad and the ugly. Working here in Moyo and South Sudan is a series of ups and downs, but it is certainly never dull.

We spent much of December in the UK, the highlight being an introduction to our first grandchild: Verity, born to Stuart and Yanah on 29 November 2021. The gift of a child must be one of God's great gifts and miracles. We were also able to spend Christmas with the family in Cambridge, which has not happened for some time. Unfortunately, Sarah and Franz, who were supposed to join us from Cape Town, were taken out of circulation when South Africa discovered the Omicron variant and were immediately listed as a red country.

We also took the opportunity to have health MOT's for which we were hugely grateful. Somehow having a big plastic tube stuck down your throat into your stomach is nowhere near as intimidating when the alternatives are considered.

We thank God for a wonderful time in the UK.

The hospital continues to be a difficult and frustrating place to work. I (Neil) have been here fifteen months now and the hospital has hit a new low with patients having to buy nearly everything – intravenous fluids, antibiotics, painkillers, naso-gastric tubes and even their own surgical instruments. And there is also the cancellation of surgical operations due to lack of oxygen or anaesthetic agents resulting in adverse outcomes. As a result, I requested a meeting with the hospital board and we have decided on some actions to try to raise extra funds, to fund this lack of consumables. There are also competency and efficiency issues that need to be addressed. I have also recently met with a leader of local government who has also promised to help which is very encouraging.

On the positive side, while in the UK I purchased all the orthopaedic equipment for the orthopaedic service we hope to set up. I am humbled and grateful to all those who donated money to make this possible. Rotary Australia are well on their way to sending us a forty-foot container containing X-ray machines, anaesthetic equipment and much else (thank you to Sophie Cochrane, Bronwyn Stevens and all those involved). Recently, I met with the representative of a US charity, Pipeline Worldwide, who "just happened" to be passing through Moyo – another God coincidence. They have undertaken to provide me with the orthopaedic training I need. They also will provide me with the pins and plates to do the job – all free of charge. I hope to have the orthopaedic service up and running by May/June this year.



Name: Neil and Sue Browning

Location: Moyo, Uganda

Our call: To go somewhere new for God, doing his will, using our gifts and skills as we share the good news about Jesus.

Our role: Neil works as a surgeon at the local government hospital in Moyo and Sue as a lecturer at Kajo-Keji Christian College (KCC).



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Sue was ordained at Kajo-Keji cathedral – a joyful event!

Working relationships with the nurses on the ward remain very good – a team is being built and I am excited to see this develop. Theatre is still a challenge, with a series of difficult meetings up ahead – please pray for this.

Without doubt one of the most exciting events of 2021 was being present at Sue's (6 hour) ordination at Kajo-Keji Cathedral in South Sudan. I was thrilled and proud to be part of the ceremony. Another event that "just happened".

Sue comments:

I thank God for the blessing of being ordained in the Kajo-Keji Cathedral after a valuable week of retreat/training. I am yet to work out how being ordained will change my role here, especially as Neil and I use much of our free time working with the Sunday school team already. Even though many students have travelled for school, we are still getting 70 plus kids each week. We would value your prayers for wisdom as how to grow the team and see youngsters come to faith and grow in faith.

I started back travelling to Kajo-Keji College in mid-January and the plan is to travel weekly, staying over one night. The roads are at least dry at the moment, which is a help, and the guards at the border are getting used to seeing me too. I have enjoyed seeing colleagues and students again after a long December break. I pray I can be relevant and stimulating for the students.

It is the dry season and, apart from one exceptional week of rain, it has been dry, hot and windy here with cool mornings of about 23°C, which sees many people in thick jackets. I have even been known to wear jeans and a long sleeve shirt over my light weight top! We are both well, learning new recipes and grateful for solar power and running water when many of our neighbours don't have either. Our immediate neighbours continue to look after us like family, for which we are very grateful.

We so enjoy getting news from friends and family – it keeps us going, as do the Zoom prayer meetings we get to at times and the phone calls.

Please join in prayer with us for:

- Neil's relationships at the hospital.
- The way forward for the hospital to be able to provide the necessary essentials for patients.
- The Sunday School team, committed teachers and growth in faith among the youngsters.
- Safety on the journeys into the college in South Sudan.

May God bless you richly in 2022,

Sue and Neil



Top and Middle: Patients have needed to provide equipment in order to have operations: one bought his own Humby knife for a skin graft, and another brought water for us to scrub for the operation; Bottom: Staff at Kajo-Keji Christian College

GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

Are you pondering a call to cross-cultural mission? We'd love to connect and help you discern what God might be saying. Find out more about how we can help you to step into God's mission at churchmissionsociety.org/explore

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400

You can give to Neil and Sue at:
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