

Festo and Grace Kanungha

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The call in action

Dear friends,

Is it too late to say Happy New Year?

We hope that you all had a blessed Christmas and New Year period, not too hindered by all things COVID, and that 2022 has begun with hope and expectancy.

For the Kanungha family, the past six months has been a time of settling in to being together as a complete family. We managed two short breaks over the summer: one at Lee Abbey for some much-needed spiritual refreshment and one near Dartmouth, making use of a dear friend's home so that we could holiday as a family.

Much of our focus since moving to St Martin's Liskeard has been navigating what we can do to reach out to and serve our local community with the love of Christ within guidelines and restrictions. Over the summer we felt a need to get out and be known as workers of God, so we set up camp twice a week in our local park, gave out cakes and drinks provided by our congregation and organised games of football and frisbee, etc. It was low-key, but enabled us to build some great relationships with families, young people, and dog walkers. Off the back of that, we found ourselves with a group of 12 young people coming each week to the church centre to watch a movie. One of the girls made a beeline for me on the second week and said, "Tell me why you are a Christian. I have already decided I don't believe in God." What a great opener to the fantastic conversation that developed.

Festo has now been in the UK for seven months and is finding his feet here. He has a big responsibility to care for his family back in Tanzania and it hasn't been easy to work out just how to do that from so far away, and it's still a work in progress. In terms of ministry here, Festo is slowly settling in. Quite a bit of his time is spent in the local school, supporting children pastorally. The social deprivation here is even greater than we had first anticipated and so many of the children are in no position to learn because their home life is so chaotic and changeable. But Festo was encouraged over last term when we began to see some fruit from his efforts in school: families began to filter from the school into some church-based activities that I headed up, mainly due to Festo's efforts in building relationships in the school.

Please pray for Festo as he continues to adjust to life in the UK, especially during the winter months, and that he continues to find his place here and opportunities to use his gifts and skills.

This term our partnership with Transforming Lives for Good is being launched as we join 10 others from the church



Name: Festo and Grace Kanungha

Location: Cornwall, Britain

Our call: To share the love and hope of Jesus, particularly with families, in a context of widespread spiritual poverty

Our role: Supporting local churches in their ministry to children and young people, working closely with St Martin's Liskeard and resourcing other churches where we can



Continued over the page

Zeph, William and Hannah meeting Father Christmas at our community Christingle event

in being trained to be TLG coaches. Coaches offer emotional support to students for whom there is no other support. We are excited that it looks like our coaches will be operating across three schools in Liskeard including the secondary school. In all things our hope is to both serve and meet people where they are while also sharing the light and love of Christ with them.

Last term we ran a Kids Matter parenting group: six sessions for parents sharing the highs and lows of parenting and learning from each other and the course material how we can make positive changes in our parenting. As a parent who also leads a Kids Matter group, I can tell you that each time I go through the course I learn something more and make a few more changes. During the final session the parents review the goals they set themselves in the first session. There were squeals (literally!) of delight from some of our parents as they could see just how far they had come in a short time. One parent said, "This group has helped me in more ways than I had ever thought it would! Not only is everyone so friendly and non-judgmental, being involved with others that are going through something so similar to me, makes me feel less lonely and more determined to get the support that I needed." Personally I am really proud of this parent and the positive changes she has made and is making for her children. Please pray for her and her family as they continue on the journey of being a strong family unit.

Zeph, William and Hannah continue to be a daily joy. Zeph was so pleased with his Spiderman costume at Christmas that he could have had nothing else, and continues to put it on at least once a day. William is so knowledgeable on all things to do with creation and the universe. He continues to be fascinated by dinosaurs and has a wealth of knowledge that we sometimes have to google to understand. Hannah is PAW Patrol-mad these days and can spend much of her day making up rescues for her pups to attend to. She enjoys going to nursery two days a week and loves nothing better than a muddy puddle – regardless of whether or not she is wearing wellies!

December for us was an incredibly busy month of Advent and Christmas activities, but oh such a joy too, to seize the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus. We spent a lot of our time with the local schools as well as holding our own church events and were really blessed by the response of the community. Do pray for us that we are able to deepen these relationships and use the opportunities God brings us to speak well of him and make the path clear for those seeking Jesus.

With our love

Festo, Grace, Zeph, William and Hannah



Photos from top to bottom: Christmas Day lunch; Boxing Day and Festo's birthday trip to the panto; presence in the park over the summer.

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You can give to Festo and Grace at:
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