



Nicci Maxwell

Link Letter no. 29 | September 2026

Contact details:

drniccimaxwell@gmail.com

Blog: niccimaxwell.wordpress.com



Location: South Sudan



What I do: Providing paediatric and neonatal medical care to local and refugee communities, and training and supporting local paediatric teams



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to reach their God-given potential

Dear friends,

These link letters seem to come around very quickly and this year seems to be flying by. Life in Juba has continued with, like in much of the UK, some unseasonably hot weather. June and July are usually cooler, rainy months in Juba, but we have had very little rain (just enough to make it uncomfortably humid) and temperatures have not been below 35 degrees most days. We have a British “heatwave” 365 days per year in Juba!

The ward at Al Sabbah has been very, very busy again. Most days we have had over 40 patients but sometimes up to 60 mum-and-baby pairs on our 20-bed ward! Conditions on the ward have been uncomfortably hot as a result of the weather and the overcrowding, but our new solar power system should be up and running any day now and the engineer has assured me that there should then be more than enough electricity to run the oxygen plant and at least one air-conditioning unit (but hopefully two!) in the hottest room on the ward. That will be an answer to prayer because we have really struggled in recent weeks as the hospital generators both broke down, leaving us without power to run the oxygen plant or individual oxygen concentrators.

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to be a huge concern. At the time of writing, over 5,800 cases have been confirmed and over 2,700 people have died as the virus spreads rapidly there. We have repeatedly been reassured that no cases of Ebola have been identified in South Sudan but it seems very likely that there will be some in the near future. Training of health teams is ongoing but the health system in South Sudan is already at breaking point. I did my part by delivering an afternoon of Ebola education to the staff at Usratuna which was well received. It's always good when finishing a teaching session to have someone ask whether you could come again next week and tell them more! Do please pray with us that efforts to stop the spread of Ebola in DRC will be successful and that it will not cross into South Sudan. Please also pray that those working to develop treatments and vaccines will achieve their goals.

Apart from work, there have been lots of things going on socially too. June brought an invitation to the British Embassy for the King's birthday party. It was a lovely occasion and a useful opportunity to meet not



*Ebola training with staff at Usratuna
(photo credit: Sr Marika)*

Support Nicci Maxwell:
churchmissionsociety.org/maxwell

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



only embassy staff and fellow British people, but also people from all over the world involved in interesting projects, particularly supporting education, healthcare and the environment, in South Sudan.

South Sudan celebrated its 15th Independence Day on 9 July. I enjoyed a quiet public holiday at home and our customary “potluck” supper with neighbours on the compound in the evening. I joined in the celebrations at church the following weekend, where we had a wonderful spoken word presentation as well as some excellent singing and traditional dancing and we also had a lovely meal for my friend Laura, who shares a birthday with South Sudan!

We have said farewell to several members of our little community on the compound in recent months but have also welcomed some new residents, including a family with children, who we are getting to know. One of the features of people leaving is the sale or passing on of various household items before they leave. My recent acquisitions include a bookshelf, a shoe rack, a tablecloth, various baking dishes and about 2kg of chocolate chips! I’ve been working on my chocolate chip cookie baking skills!

I certainly was not expecting to be writing this letter from the home of some lovely friends (and former CMS mission partners) in Buckinghamshire. I really hope I will be back in Juba by the time you read this but let me explain how I ended up in England for quite a bit longer than originally expected.

My grumbling health concerns changed rather suddenly and worryingly towards the end of July and after some discussion with a doctor friend and CMS, I flew to the UK with just 48 hours’ notice. I was exceptionally well looked after by the NHS and thankfully nothing nasty was found. The treatment I was prescribed has helped hugely and I’m feeling better than I have all year! Hallelujah! Unfortunately, my South Sudan work permit expired in early August and there have been numerous delays in processing the renewal. Each time I think I might be able to travel back to Juba within the next couple of days, a new delay crops up. I have been incredibly grateful for the kindness of friends in and around Oxford for their generous hospitality during this unexpected break.

Despite the interruption caused by my health and the work permit delay, I’m still hoping to keep my home assignment plans unchanged. The diary is already filling up so if you’d like to catch up while I’m in your neighbourhood, please get in touch.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for me and the work God has called me to in South Sudan.

Every blessing,
Nicci



Photos from top to bottom: With friends (and some cream scones) at the King’s birthday party; drumming and dancing at church for Independence Day; out to lunch for Laura’s birthday; a beautiful day in beautiful Oxford



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

I hope that you’re inspired as you read about Alison in Kyiv, Ukraine, who is seeing many answers to prayer as she faithfully serves God. And that you get a moment to read about the displaced disciples in Ethiopia – church leaders taking part in bespoke training designed for people living in refugee camps. Read more stories about empowering people pushed to the edges at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

Please note that opinions expressed in updates are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society. If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this update on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).