



Aaron Stanbury

Link Letter no. 4 | December 2024

Contact details:
aaronstan.cms@gmail.com



Location: Kenya



What I do: Connecting with children and helping them with basic literacy, setting them on a path for an education that will help them out of poverty

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope this message finds you well. Thank you once again for the love, prayers and encouragement you have shown me.

A Season of Challenges

The past few months have been filled with unexpected challenges. I have been dealing with a significant back injury, a bulging disk and a tear, which has affected my mobility and daily activities. This, coupled with the complexities of securing a work visa, has created hurdles to serving. The political conflict in Nairobi and my sudden return to England in July have also placed strain on some of my work relationships in Kenya.

After much prayer, deep reflection and seeking God's guidance, I have made the difficult decision to step away from my role with CMS. This was by no means an easy choice, as I deeply cherished my role in shepherding and guiding the children and youth in Nairobi. It has been a source of immense joy and purpose for me. I also recognise the trust you placed in me as my supporters, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to represent Christ in this capacity.

While this decision has not come lightly, I am confident that it is the right step forward as I consider how God is calling me to serve in this new season of life.

Medical Leave

When I returned to England on medical leave in late July, I expected to be home for no more than a month or two. However, ongoing medical issues and visa delays extended my stay far beyond what I initially anticipated. This longer period of leave has also given me a unique opportunity to rest, reflect and grow spiritually.

Through prayer and quiet moments with God, I have experienced a profound renewal of my faith. Despite the challenges, I have felt God's presence more deeply than ever before. This time has also allowed me to engage in thoughtful conversations with CMS, exploring every possible avenue to resolve the challenges that ultimately led to my resignation. These discussions, though difficult, have provided much-needed clarity and peace about my next steps.

A Life-Changing Experience in Kenya

Reflecting on my time in Kenya, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve in ministry. It was a season of profound growth, learning and transformation, and stretched me in ways I could not have imagined.

One of the greatest joys of this experience was working with the children and youth, helping them grow in their faith and understanding of God. It was a privilege to witness their enthusiasm for learning and their desire



Enjoying nature in the UK.

Support Aaron Stanbury:
churchmissionsociety.org/stanbury

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



to build a deeper relationship with Christ.

Beyond ministry, I had the chance to explore Kenya's breathtaking landscapes, encounter its incredible wildlife and immerse myself in a vibrant and resilient culture. From elephants walking by the roadside to the awe-inspiring beauty of the Masai Mara, these experiences deepened my appreciation for God's creation and the diversity of life around us.

This journey also opened my eyes to new ways of living, helping me develop resilience, independence and a broader perspective on the world. While I faced challenges, I also experienced incredible moments of grace and joy. Spiritually, this time has been nothing short of transformative, teaching me to lean on God's love and guidance through every uncertainty.

Gratitude and Farewells

Serving in Kenya has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life, and none of it would have been possible without your generous support. Whether through financial contributions, uplifting words or heartfelt prayers, your partnership has made an immeasurable impact. Your prayers, encouragement and financial contributions have not only supported me but also touched the lives of the children, families and communities I served. For that, I am eternally grateful.

It has been an incredible privilege to meet so many devoted followers of Christ, to worship and pray together, and to witness God's work across different communities. These moments of fellowship and shared faith have left an indelible mark on my heart, and I will carry these memories with me as I embark on a new chapter.

Looking Ahead: A New Season

I returned to Nairobi on 27 November to pack my belongings, bid farewell to the children and teachers, and return to England. While the thought of transitioning to a new career and relocating is daunting, I am confident that God is in control. He has always been faithful, and I trust that he will continue to lead me as I explore new opportunities in ministry closer to home.

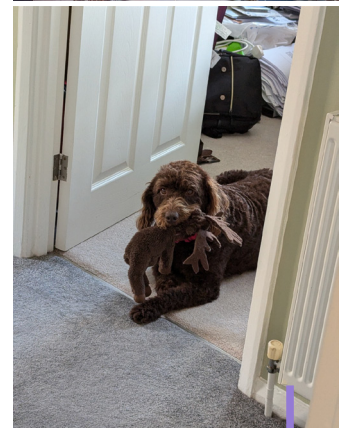
As I navigate this season of transition, I am reminded of the promise in Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* This verse has been a source of great comfort and reassurance as I look to the future with hope and faith.

While my mission journey with CMS is ending, I remain committed to serving God and sharing his love in new and meaningful ways. I know that CMS will introduce you to my fellow mission partners and I would warmly commend them to you as amazing people to support going forward. If you have any questions about how to continue supporting CMS or would like to connect with their team, please get in touch with the lovely supporter care team at hello@churchmissionsociety.org or on 01865 787407.

Thank you, once again, for being a vital part of this journey. Your love, prayers and encouragement have been a beacon of light, and I am forever grateful.

With love and gratitude,

Aaron Stanbury



Photos from top to bottom: Spending time with family; it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas; even the dogs are getting excited for Christmas



Going further with Church Mission Society

CMS people in mission are following Jesus to the edges in 40+ countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe. Mission partners like Aaron commit to working alongside local people, listening, learning, building relationships and becoming a part of communities. Be part of this unfolding story at churchmissionsociety.org

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters 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 link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England. Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).