



Aaron Stanbury

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Contact details:
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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

To my wonderful friends and family,

Thank you very much for your continued support. It has been a privilege to talk, worship and pray with you all. It has been amazing to feel so welcomed and supported by so many wonderful people. I have been encouraged through your warm hospitality, your love for God and through your inspiring testimonies. I now feel excited and ready to embark on my new journey to Kenya.

What's the past year looked like?

Over the past year I have continued to work full time as a support worker, looking after adults with varying disabilities, predominantly supporting adults with acquired brain injuries. In addition, I have been travelling around England, meeting with my supporters and link churches, which has been a joy and a privilege. It has been amazing to feel so much love and support. The encouragement I have received from you all has been second to none.

In July, I had a great opportunity to attend a CMS people in mission conference. Initially, I was unsure what to expect, as I have never attended a conference like this before, but suffice it to say, this conference was moving and God-filled. I had the opportunity to hear some incredible testimonies of God working in various countries throughout the world. One of which came from a CMS mission partner called Ann-Marie Wilson, who was an integral part of making female genital mutilation illegal in Sudan in 2020! How amazing is that? I also had the opportunity to meet some of the CMS-Africa team, who I will be in contact with when I am in Nairobi. I met Joan, Karobia and Moses, who were a joy to be with. We were able to have deep and meaningful conversations on differing cultures, being a missionary in a foreign context, potential challenges and the importance of staying Christ-focused. This conference has helped me feel energised and equipped for my move to Nairobi.

Commissioning

On 29 October, I had my commissioning at St Jude's Church in Plymouth. This was a beautiful service. Conveniently, the service, even before it was my commissioning service, was pre-selected to be on 1 Peter 1:1-7, which starts with, "To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance." (1 Peter 1:1-2). When this was read out by Rev Tim Smith, I instantly felt that the journey I was about to embark on was exactly where I was meant to be. These words spoke to me, as if God



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With Jesus
With each other
To the edges



was sending me out with the sanctifying work of the Spirit. In addition, at the end of the service, a lady also told me that when I stood up at the front, she saw a vision of me standing between two large Roman pillars, with God looking at me and smiling with approval. This further confirmed to me that I was heading exactly where God wanted me to be. This was a truly special service.

Now

On 1 November, I ended my employment with my support company and have pursued a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course. This has been a huge step for me. Going from eight years as a support worker to now solely focusing on Kenya has stirred up a whole plethora of emotions. While it has been sad to say goodbye to the clients I have supported over the past years, I feel excited to do the work that

I believe God has called me to do in Kenya. On some days, I am excited and eager to move to Nairobi, excited for new challenges, to meet new people, to learn a new language and to start a new role. On other days, I feel nervous, unprepared and occasionally scared of the unknown. However, I can say with confidence that I am where God wants me to be, and I can see how God has used my past experiences to better support the children I will be working with at Kids to Kids.

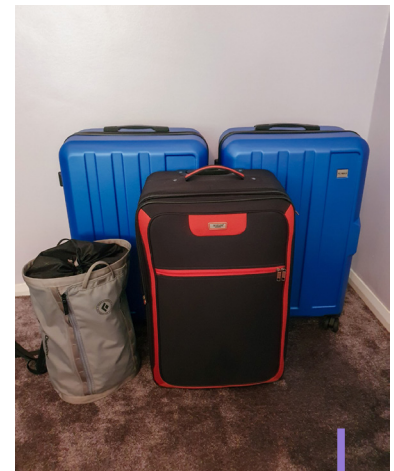
What does the next few months look like? On 2 December, I will be getting off the plane in Nairobi ready to start my new journey. For the following few months, I will be doing language training at a local school to learn Kiswahili in the hope of breaking down language barriers and better connecting with the local adults and children I will be working with. I am also hoping to immerse myself in a church, build relationships and explore the beautiful city of Nairobi.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas! May God's love and grace be with you and your family in the coming year. Wishing you a blessed and joyful New Year!

Prayer points:

- ▶ To build long-lasting relationships
- ▶ To adjust to a new culture
- ▶ To find a new home church

Aaron



Photos from top to bottom: PiM conference with Karobia and Joan; commissioning service at St Jude's Church; all packed and ready to go



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/nevergiveup

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