



Azaria Spencer de Pocasangre

Link Letter no. 22 | February 2024

Contact details:
azariaspencer@live.co.uk



Location: Guatemala



What I do: Discipling young people and journeying with them as they develop their relationship with God, and training others in impactful youth work

Dear lovely family and friends,

I'm sat writing this link letter in a familiar house situated on a beautiful British street in Oxford. It is the house where I received my CMS mission partner training and where I always spend at least a few days when in England. I was last here about a year ago, February 2023, recently engaged and about to start a new role in Guatemala. I was full of hopeful expectancy for the year ahead. Today I am here with my husband, David, getting ready to celebrate our marriage with family and friends after our beautiful wedding in Guatemala a couple of months ago. I'm enjoying all the elements of the role I've been in for almost a year now and feel like there is a lot to give thanks for in ministry and life. All my hopeful expectancy for 2023 was far surpassed by the abundant, wonderful gifts of Our Good Father. It feels appropriate to share with you all a piece I recently wrote.

"Hurry Down"

Recently I feel like God has been teaching me to stop hurrying through life; to swap the all too familiar "hurrying up" for something new and different, a "hurrying down," if you like. A slowing of pace and rhythm. A pausing to enjoy the simpler moments, the many thousands of moments that make up a whole life.

To stop rushing through life and to make slowing down something I "rush" to prioritise instead.

I feel like this life lesson is a call to enjoy life a little more deeply, to savour all the little things, to rest and be replenished more freely and frequently and to trust in Our Good Father more.

Before I would have described last year, 2023, as a busy year but I'm trying to avoid that word, "busy", as I'm learning that it goes hand in hand with "hurry" and "rush". Instead, I'm choosing to say that it was a full year, full of lots of beautiful, big and bountiful moments.

It started with a proposal and a new job and ended with a wedding and celebrating completed goals and achievements.

I felt blessed by so many things that happened and one of the things that has been stuck in my mind are words spoken by one of our church pastors. He told us, as his fellow team members, that if we did



David and I on our wedding day.

Support Azaria Spencer de Pocasangre:
churchmissionsociety.org/pocasangre

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



not rest over Christmas and New Year, we were not honouring God. Because not resting would be like saying we didn't trust that God would take care of the things that he wanted to see happen; that he could and would do it. It would be placing ourselves in a higher position than we should hold. Of course, we are part of God's work and mission, but he calls us to and for himself first. He calls us to rest and be still, to trust and obey. There are times for rest, for slowing down and breathing a bit deeper and longer. I am finding that life is that bit sweeter and fuller when I live in the present more intentionally and enjoy *all* the moments.

Please join me in praising God for his lavish love for us and the way he meets us in all the moments of our lives with mercy and grace.

Over recent months I've been deepening connections and relationships with people I serve in several areas of ministry and with the wonderful team I serve alongside. I hosted our first online group meetings for mentors where we can "connect, share and grow together"; this is one of those phrases that sounds better in Spanish, "conectar, compartir y crecer juntos". It has also been great to spend more time with the mums in the vulnerable community where I now facilitate a monthly coffee morning and Bible study activity with them, with an intentional focus on building relationship. As time passes, we hope to identify themes for workshops to serve them and their families better. We held a Christmas dinner for the families in Bethania, and it was so great to see that we don't only impact the 20 children and youth but by extension the 60+ people that make up their families. This is one of the areas in which David and I are looking forward to serving in together, with the youth and families in this vulnerable community, through music, art, and discipleship. David and I have continued to mentor two young people from SKD and even though there have been some challenges it is a real blessing to see them grow. We consider it a privileged that they want to share even a small part of their lives with us.

Please pray for the wonderful mentors I work with who go into the children's homes and build meaningful and healthy relationships with children and youth. Please also pray for the vulnerable community where we serve, the children, youth, mums and families. Pray also for our mentees.

As I mentioned, David and I got married and we had the most beautiful day that only God could have orchestrated. It was wonderful to have my parents and younger brother there too and for our families to meet and spend time together. We are excited to celebrate with family and friends here too. This is the last time I will be writing to you solo, next time David and I will be sat together writing and sharing our news with you all.

As David continues to explore what his role will be as he joins me as a mission partner please do keep us in your prayers.

Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers.
Love and blessings
Azaria x



Photos from top to bottom: With our parents at our wedding; the staff team we work with; Christmas dinner with families of young people we work with in Bethania; playing games with families in Bethania.



Going further with Church Mission Society

Could God be calling you to follow him to the edges with CMS? 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

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).