

Nicci's update – February 2024

Dear family and friends

I can't believe that the first month of the new year is already over! There are a few things to tell you about since my last update in September. Here goes...

The Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H) course in Liverpool was great. We were a diverse class in terms of age, nationality, medical specialities and overseas experience and we learned a lot from one another as well as the lecturers. I found the course interesting and challenging as well as very up-to-date and relevant. There were long days of lectures and practicals and a huge amount of information to study and absorb with 4 rather stressful exams, including a laboratory practical test, at the end. I'm absolutely delighted to say that I passed....with distinction! Not only that, but I was genuinely shocked to be told that I had won the prize for the highest marks in the Tropical Disease Biology component of the course - a certificate and £50 to spend on Amazon! Thank you to all those who prayed and supported and encouraged me as I got back into formal study.

During my three months in Liverpool I continued to have tests and investigations into what might be going on with my health but still have no clear diagnosis. My strict control over my diet, exercise and rest seems to have paid off eventually and I have gradually begun to feel much better. I am now very grateful to be able to walk as far as I want to at sea level and on relatively flat ground without shortness of breath or chest pain. A real joy! Stairs are definitely getting easier and I'm looking forward to testing myself on hills and at higher altitude in the coming months. Thank you for your prayers!

After the course in Liverpool ended, I moved back to Oxford where I hope to be based for the next couple of months. I spent a lovely week in Plymouth over Christmas seeing friends and then spent most of January in South Africa seeing my family. After a gap of about 15 months, it was brilliant to be able to see my family again. Although I didn't manage to do everything I had hoped to do, I really enjoyed the beautiful warm weather and some time at the beach.

I know from my email inbox that many of you are very keen to find out what my next placement with CMS might be. So am I! Over the past few months there have been several meetings and plenty of emails and WhatsApps about different opportunities and one seems to have emerged as a good potential match, however it's still too early to share specific details. I'm sorry, I know you really want to know!

The good news is that I will be in East Africa in March to visit that potential placement as well as join the CMS People in Mission conference in Kenya and pay a short visit to friends and colleagues in Kisoro. So, watch out for the next update because I hope there will be some more news to tell you when I return.

If you want to know more about what I'm up to before the next edition of this update, please have a look at my blog (niccimaxwell.wordpress.com) where I try to post something every few weeks, especially if there's interesting or important news to share. There's a post all about the DTM&H course and the most recent one includes photos of my time in South Africa in January.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers!

Much love to you all,

Nicci



Beautiful Durban on a glorious day taken on an early morning walk with my sister-in-law.

For your prayers

Give thanks for:

- *a definite improvement in my health*
- *time spent on the DTM&H course in Liverpool and a very good exam result*
- *the opportunity for rest and relaxation with family and friends over Christmas and in January*

Please pray for:

- *wisdom to know which possible placement I should say "Yes" to*
- *planned travels in East Africa in March, for the necessary visas to be granted and for smooth and safe journeys*
- *me to be 100% well again very soon*