

Nicci's update – June 2024

Dear family and friends

The next chapter of the “Crazy Big Plan” is about to begin. As I type, I have just two days left in the UK before I hop on a plane to South Sudan.

It was only around 10 weeks ago that it was properly confirmed that I'd be going to Juba so things have happened quite quickly. I'm glad things moved quickly because I was becoming increasingly frustrated by being out of work despite being back to health again.

More details about what I am likely to be doing in Juba have been put out in various formats but if you missed it, here's a quick summary...

I'll be seconded to a non-denominational Christian organisation called ACROSS which works with various communities in South Sudan including working with the UNHCR to provide assistance and protection to refugees in Gorom Refugee Settlement and urban refugees in Juba. Their work includes education, health, shelter, water and sanitation, and supporting medical referrals and logistics for refugees coming to Juba from refugee camps throughout the country. My role will be predominantly in providing basic outpatient and emergency care for children attending the Gorom camp health facility and following their care through to hospital in Juba if needed. I hope to establish a training programme for nurses and lay health workers in the refugee settlement.

I will also spend part of each week at Al Sabah Children's Hospital in Juba, providing medical care to newborns and older children and will hopefully be working to establish a high quality neonatal service in the hospital. Alongside this I will be training current and future paediatricians to supplement the very small number of paediatricians in the country and hopefully inspire a future neonatologist or two as there are currently none!

I have found a one-bedroom flat on the compound of another NGO in the city and I'm really looking forward to having my own living space again and hopefully feeling a bit more “permanent” than I have over the past year. It will obviously take a few months to settle in a new city, a new job and a new community but I'm excited for all the new opportunities.

If you want to keep up with my activities, I will send this update letter every 6 weeks or so. If it's no longer of interest, please let me know and I'll remove your address from the mailing list. I will also be trying to blog regularly (niccimaxwell.wordpress.com) and my CMS link letters (sign up at churchmissionsociety.org/maxwell) will continue every 3 months or so.

People have asked about sending things in the mail...the post doesn't work in South Sudan so, for now, please wait until I have had time to explore alternative methods if there are any.

And just a tiny reminder – don't fall victim to a scam! I will never ask for a specific amount of money to be sent to a person or account. If in doubt, please contact me or CMS.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers!

Much love to you all,

Nicci



A glorious sunny day in Oxford - Magdalen College, from the Botanic Gardens

For your prayers

Give thanks for:

- a new assignment in Juba, South Sudan
- a relatively smooth pre-departure period, including a very quick turnaround of my visa application
- the opportunity to rest and recover over the past year

Please pray for:

- safe travels and safety and security wherever I go in South Sudan
- settling in quickly and making good connections in my new home, work and community
- wisdom to know which of the very many work tasks I should concentrate on