

Christine and David Torrance

Link Letter no. 2 | March 2022

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The call in action

Dear Friends,

Since our first letter in autumn 2021, we completed the Church Mission Society training course. We can honestly say that the learning and personal growth curves were steep, and we are better equipped to live as Christians than when we started in September. Saying goodbye was challenging, especially now that John is old enough to really notice and miss people. But the Christmas party just before we left was incredible – particularly when an impromptu cross-cultural disco broke out after the little ones went to bed!

Initial training behind us, we are now enjoying a liminal season before journeying our way toward Kondo. A couple from our home church in Southampton graciously invited us to live at their place while they're away, so we've been here since December, and we've loved every minute of being back in our shared hometown.

For Christine, the verses about God restoring stolen years (Joel 2:25) befits this season. So contrary to our initial experiences of becoming parents during complete lockdown, the simple joys of attending toddler groups with other parents, making friends over tea and half-sentences while chasing kids, and the sheer delight of friends being legally allowed to babysit, has all been redemptive indeed. John has settled in beautifully, and one of his weekly highlights is the waving bin-men and their light-up truck, whose appearance we anticipate at the living room window every Wednesday.

Southampton has also been an ideal base from which to visit our supporting churches. Recently, we have travelled every weekend to meet different people who are walking with us in this adventure. The constant movement is exhausting, but spending time with people such a treasure. We suspected we'd enjoy visiting other fellowships for mutual encouragement and worship, and this has certainly been the case so far.

Highlights have included a God-appointed meeting and indescribably delectable chocolate cake in Holy Trinity (Thiele), walking on the windy seashore in Exmouth and John's instant love of our host when she brought out a box of toy cars for him; meeting young Christians eager to show kindness to John (Holy Trinity, Exmouth) and to pray over his experiences growing up cross-culturally (Highfield, Southampton); a leisurely time of sharing in the Spirit across an evening service at Littleham (Exmouth); being given words of blessing and encouragement (St Saviour's, Bath); and praying with friends after Christine's first sermon at St Denys (Southampton). We genuinely look forward to our future visits with all our partner churches.



Name: Christine and David Torrance

Location: Kondo, Tanzania

Our call: To contribute to the theological education of local Christians as we experience together discipleship and ministry in Kondo.

Our role: Teaching at Kondo Bible College, local discipleship and community involvement



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John on the beach at Exmouth

The saying is true: all good things must come to an end! Our gracious hosts are returning to their home, and by the time this link letter reaches you, we probably will have moved away from Southampton. Where to? We are not quite sure yet! You are most welcome to join us in praying for wisdom for where we live in the coming months as we continue to prepare for the big move to Tanzania.

There are no set dates as yet – and if COVID has re-enforced any faith lesson, it's the foolishness of speaking as though any of our human plans are definite! Though we are still hoping for this summer (2022), we'll base the timing of this move on the start dates for whichever formal language training course we attend. We're exploring several options and again, invite prayer for wisdom.

John's second birthday is around the corner; that's the next big family milestone. It's incredible how he just keeps growing and changing, and it's such a joy to watch God at work in the youngest of hearts from front-row seats.

In the meantime, David continues working on the book he's contracted to write, and Christine is working through the long list of administrative tasks that go into preparing for a move – from passport updates to immunisation visits to visas and beyond. Attending an appointment at the US embassy in London was a huge highlight of January for Christine – due to the constraints, John stayed behind with David while Christine got on the 6am bus and had a day out in the Big City! Yes, she got her application turned in, and her interview completed, but she also had tea with a cat and saw the major landmarks along the embankment toward Waterloo Station en route home, including Big Ben and the London Eye.

Despite all the amazing travel, meeting new people, and ticking off lists, it feels like quite an "ordinary" season. We've been grateful for the time and space to rest, reflect, grow and become ready for the season to come.

With every blessing on you in whatever season you're in,
Christine, David and John Torrance

Prayer requests

For us:

- More of the Holy Spirit, to make decisions with love, obedience, and wisdom
- Grace as we say goodbye well to people and places we love
- God's blessing on our future friends and neighbours, preparing us for authentic relationships

For Kondo:

- Continued blessing on Bishop Given to carry out God's vision for the church in his diocese
- Outpouring of the Spirit to continue equipping lay evangelists and pastors as they anticipate further theological training
- God's mercy on all people in Kondo during the current drought, including practical provision for those who need it most

With love,
Christine, David and John



Photos from top to bottom: John at playgroup; waiting for the bin truck; tea with a cat; the "standard" sights of London never fail to delight Christine

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