

A new era for Kenya + UK but Christ remains King

Chelashaw news, Autumn 2022

Dear Friends,

In Kenya, we have a new president, William Ruto. It was amazing to see him attending the Queen's funeral which so wonderfully pointed to Christ our Saviour and servant King. Elections here passed peacefully and we pray the new president would seek to serve like Christ.



Kenya's new president: H.E. William Ruto

We had a very happy summer in England, visiting family, friends, and churches. We were touched by the kindness of so many, and the prayerful interest of those with whom we were able to share about our ministry.

We came back to a rather chilly and dusty Nairobi, and a few days later had to rush Susanna to hospital. She was diagnosed with asthma and we'd value prayers for good health, particularly for her and Elijah, who also has asthma.



Peter (in red stripey shirt) teaching in Sunday school

The church did well in our absence. A number of people have spoken about the good teamwork amongst the congregation, and Peter's pastoral care. Peter is soon to fly to the UK to do an apprenticeship with St Andrews the Great, Cambridge, and study at Cornhill, London. Do pray for this transition and that he continues to grow as a minister of the Word.

The children's outreach continues to be a source of great joy as over 100 children come each week, including thirty 12-15 year olds. The children have begun asking searching questions and we pray that this is a sign of growing interest in the Bible. Some of the older teenagers have begun serving as helpers and have been fantastic in helping during craft time, and setting up for the service after Sunday school. In anticipation of his departure, Peter has trained up a young man to lead his group, and it has been fantastic to see this young man growing into the role. Eric, who was with us for his first year of training with *iServe Africa*, has moved onto a new placement, and in his stead, we have a new apprentice called Elisha. He admitted recently that he was never interested in teaching children until he began at *iServe*, and learned why it is such a valuable ministry. He will be serving in Sunday school, the mid-week fellowship in the slum (which is attended largely by children) and the youth Bible study and fellowship. Pray for him as he takes on this new ministry, and for us as we give him some training. Isabella continues to work with us and has now gained the skills and experience to help Rachel with the Sunday



Our former iServe apprentice, Eric (on the left) with the new one, Elisha (on the right)

school preparation. She really enjoyed her recent on-line training with Biblical Counselling UK and she has much opportunity to use what she is learning as she visits families in the slum.

Over recent weeks, a number of teenagers and young people have expressed an interest in baptism. Kip' will be taking them through some baptism classes and we pray that these young lives would be rooted in Christ. We also have some in our congregation who come with friends or family members, but are who themselves not yet sure of their faith. Please pray particularly for a couple of young men who are struggling with serious temptation, and for Kip' as he meets regularly with them. There has been significant darkness in their lives and we pray that the light of Christ would shine into their hearts.

Whilst our home and garden have worked well for this growing ministry, we continue to seek a larger and more long-term venue. We have begun discussing with our congregation about the way forward. Interestingly, although most of the congregation come from the slum, the majority have expressed that they do not want a venue in the slum. Perhaps this is understandable given the squalor, immorality and drunkenness that are so common there. Ultimately, we want a venue that is accessible



Wonderful times spent with Rachel's family during our UK summer visit

to the Sunday school children and to the 15,000 inhabitants of this nearby slum, whilst also being safe enough for outreach to the nearby middle-class community. Pray particularly for guidance as we consider a piece of land that borders the slum, but where access has been blocked off by squatters.

Kenya is wonderfully open to the gospel, and with this, comes a need to train up new workers for the harvest field. Please remember Kip' as he teaches the book of Philippians at *iServe Africa* this term, and as he serves as chairman of the board.

This academic year we have a 17-year old boy living with us, whose parents are missionaries in another part of Africa. He is in Nairobi for school and we hope he feels at home with us! We are looking forward to the visit of Rachel's brother and family at half term and would value prayer for safety and a joyous time together.

Thank you to all who pray and support us in our ministry. May God meet each of you at your point of need.

Blessings in Christ

Kip', Rachel, Elijah, Ezra, Susanna and Bethany

For more about our work see <http://www.ufm.org.uk/member/kip-and-rachel-chelashaw/>

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