



# *McGoldrick News*

## *No 73*

### *September 2021*

#### *Praise*

- \* For safety, provision, safe travel and good health since our arrival in England, and for the opportunities to spend time with family
- \* For the adoptions being registered in England!
- \* For smooth transitions into school for Jacques and Asher and for friendships they are making
- \* For the community and care of Barley Hill and St Mary's Churches in Thame, especially as England enters a new phase of life in the pandemic

#### *Prayer*

- \* As I, Stephen, along with Aloys continue to liaise and coordinate Acts13 work in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Congo, please pray for good connections (both internet and relational!)
- \* For opportunities to visit and speak at churches and prayer groups over the next few months
- \* For the preparations for the Burundi Acts13 conference in November

#### *First Burundians join WEC*

- \* It's been great working with Aloys over the past few years, and now he and his wife, Aline, have joined WEC! Their orientation was via Zoom (when the connection allowed), with teaching given by folk in Canada, UK, France, Ghana and Singapore!
- \* Please pray for them and their 3 children as they lay the foundations for their ministry.

#### *A Journey Like no Other*

Over the years we have gone on a number of "different" journeys while ministering; motorbiking through the Congo rainforest, walking through seas of mud in thick jungle to get to a serviceable road, helicoptering over mountain ranges in Sierra Leone

Our first journey on home leave as a family of 4 proved adventurous, though not quite as risky as previous travels undertaken by Stephen and myself!!

With the Burundi borders and airport closed, it seemed that home leave was a long way off, but then the border with Tanzania opened briefly. We felt this was our window, and so we got our house in Burundi ready for visitors while we were away, packed our bags and headed out.

After travelling by car to the border and then taxi to Kigoma, Tanzania, we spent a few days on Lake Tanganyika.



We then flew to Dar es Salaam, in order to get the boys' UK visas (as we were still waiting for their adoption to be registered in England).



### *The Journey continued!*

4 weeks later having hosted friends heading back to Burundi by the only route possible, we found a way to live in a country where there were no coronavirus restrictions, and having lived through yet another internet shut off due to Presidential elections, we had the visas in hand and booked our flights to London. That was when things got interesting.....



4 days before we were due to fly out of Dar, England went into lockdown and first one, then another flight was cancelled. Suddenly we were being re-routed onto a local airline via Zanzibar, having to find out if we now needed covid tests to fly (was there even time to arrange one here in Tanzania?), all while keeping two 4-year olds entertained. It was a stressful few days. In the end we flew out of Dar via Zanzibar, Nairobi and Paris on a fantastic flight with lots of room and arrived at a very quiet Heathrow to be met by a friend with their car to lend us, ready for the drive down to Cornwall where we were to quarantine near family.

3 weeks stretched to 3 months due to covid-related restrictions, and we finally moved to Thame to be with Barley Hill Church in February. For the next couple of months we spent a lot of time on the phone with the UK authorities, but finally, after a lot of prayer and just days before we would have had to hand in our notice to move back to Burundi at the end of the boys' visas, the adoption was registered! All four of us are now British citizens! What an answer to prayer.

### *The next few months*

\* I, Stephen, continue to be in weekly contact with the Acts13 team in Burundi, coaching and developing strategies with them. Land borders have only just re-opened, but covid rates across East Africa remain high, so travelling to visit our other mobilisers has not yet been possible. The conference planned for November (just after we would have returned) is still going ahead, but it's likely to be mainly Burundians attending.



\* We were living out of suitcases until the adoptions were registered, and so it has taken a long time to settle back into the UK. We've felt a bit overwhelmed during our 're-entry' and are aware we are only just re-engaging with many of you - thanks so much for your care and understanding.

\* Jacques and Asher did a term in Reception, and have just embarked on Year 1 at Barley Hill school in Thame. They are loving school, and making lots of friends.

\* WEC UK advised us to stay longer than we had planned, and so we will remain in the UK until the end of the year. This will allow us to complete some medical tests, as well as visit churches and see friends and family, now that covid restrictions have lifted.

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