

Dear all,

We are sorry that we haven't been in touch more regularly but we wanted to give you an update as we really appreciate it when you are able to pray for us. We also pray for you and we keep in touch with the situation in the UK, hoping and praying that this virus will stop being such a big health issue and that life can get back to normal.

In the last few weeks here, things are reopening – universities, teacher training, etc. and the plan is that year 12s will return in October but there is no specific date for when other years will return to school. In the meantime, cases are on the rise, more tests are being done and deaths are increasing, still at a much smaller scale than elsewhere but with the country having been in quarantine since March already and the cases are just beginning to rise considerably,

we are unsure of what this will mean for the near future for the country. Many have already lost jobs and are struggling to feed their families and children have lost the whole year of study as the school year goes from Feb – Nov, with many not having access to school work at home or they have no one to help them.

Quarantine hasn't stopped us from being occupied. Liz is attending to six children through play therapy as well as schooling the children. She also continues to coordinate the PEPE project which gives a contribution to each PEPE teacher and helper in this region as well as activities that they can give out to the children that attend their PEPE so that the children can study at home. The activities have been very useful to some parents but other parents don't show an interest or understand how important their role is at the moment in helping their children to prepare for when they start school, many who will start next year. Liz is also preparing some child protection training for the PEPE coordinators via zoom through October and November, and she has been accepted on a training program that focuses on helping children through trauma. It involves 3 weekends of classes and then one week practical. The first weekend will happen in October online and the other two will be next year, hopefully in different countries in Africa. This will be a great way for Liz to build on her play therapy skills and learn how to train others in trauma-informed practice.

Sergio has and is involved in a few projects. He is currently in the process of distributing food kits to those who are most in need in the Baptist Churches in this area, who have either lost a job, don't have any income in the household, etc. There are also kits for people who are not in the Church, so we can bless them and tell them about Jesus through this offering. Thanks to your contributions and those of other Churches, we are able to give this food out to the most needy at this difficult time. One family, who is the family of one of Liz's clients were given a kit on Friday and they were telling the preschool teacher how they were struggling to find money for food and it was difficult. This was before they knew they were getting some food, and she was so happy to receive 25kg of rice oil, sugar, beans and salt that will at least help them to not have to worry about food for the next few weeks.

Chloe and Joshua are doing well. They are happy being at home and now they both go to a friend's house to have a few Portuguese lessons each week, which is a great help. It is now getting warmer here and nearly hot enough to swim in the sea, so they will enjoy that. We could all do with a holiday and to get out of Beira for a while. Liz and the children haven't been out of Beira since we returned from the UK in January and with no places to go on day trips, in can get a bit wearing, but we look forward to taking some time out somewhere in Mozambique in December.

Well this is our news for now. We hope to post on our blog soon and a prayer letter will be on its way soon too, I'm sure.

God bless you all and protect you. Thank you for your prayers, emails and thoughts of us.
Sergio, Liz, Chloe and Joshua