

Whatever happened to the Kanes in Mozambique?



It is now six months since we returned to the UK following a decade of missionary service in Africa, including the last five years in Mozambique. We've rented a house in Gloucester, put our boys into local schools, and made a start at putting down some roots. We can't say that this comes very naturally to us after so many years of living overseas. The words of Jesus in Luke 9:58 could have been applied to us: *"Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."*

To grant you an insight into how we're tackling this period of transition, here are six short but candid personal narratives from each of the members of our family. In a recent email, one of our regular supporters wrote the following perceptive comment about our monthly newsletters: *"I was always struck by your honesty. You told it how it was, not as some would like to imagine."* In a similar vein then, here's a revealing insight into where we are up to at the present time..



The past few months have seen me tearing round the country talking passionately about missions at a number of churches. In between visits, I have been doing a lot of reading, trying to get my head round some of the changes in the British church that have crept in during our time abroad. As part of this process of relearning, I have been accepted on to the part-time MA programme at Regents Theological College. I'm looking forward to sitting down with a peer group of theologians and practitioners as we look afresh at the world in which we are called to minister the love of Christ.

While Sharon has been working long hours to complete her medical re-entry, I have taken on some additional duties around the house, including the cooking, the ironing, and the school run (violins please!) I have also been serving as a volunteer with Gloucester City Mission, ministering to the homeless and drug addicts, as well as assisting in the Life Link charity shop that's attached to Gloucester Elim Church. At some point I received my P45 from Elim Missions, signalling the end of what has been an important era in our lives. Ultimately I'm keen to return to full-time pastoral ministry within a local church and I'm in ongoing discussions with my Regional Leader towards this end.

From the age of about ten all I ever wanted to be was a missionary. It is with mixed emotions then that I say goodbye to that phase of my life which saw me living in Africa for ten of the past 18 years. And it is with unreserved gratitude that I say thank you to those of you who have stood with us during all the ups and downs of those adventurous times. Our return to the UK was turbulent, especially given the time of separation when Gregory and Daniel remained behind in Mozambique. It came as quite a shock that I had to undergo such an arduous process in order to get back to work as a GP.



However I give thanks to God that I have cleared all the hurdles so far and am within sight of finishing my period of retraining. By April I hope to be able to look for paid work as a GP. I am enjoying what I am doing and remembering why I do actually love my job.

It is strange to think that I moved to Gloucester just five months ago knowing no one here. Although we are still having to work hard to make friends there is at least now more of an easy familiarity with the city which is the first stage of it becoming 'home'. Socially I am enjoying the challenge of singing with the Gloucester Choral Society, and I'm keeping fit by swimming regularly. Later in the year I will be taking part in the Great London Swim in the River Thames, raising money to help a friend in Mozambique build a house.



My name is Josiah. I was born 17 years ago in a village hospital in Zimbabwe. My parents are Irish and Welsh, and my formative years were spent in Manchester. I have lived in nine cities. I have worn nine school uniforms as well as being home schooled for a number of years. Asked where I'm from, I point to the planet. Asked where I'm most comfortable I point, ever the Geek, to the mirage of cyberspace. My family returned from serving as missionaries in Africa six months ago, and we now live in the city of Gloucester. I am convinced that everything in life gets easier with practice except perhaps changing

and then changing back. I know that friends left behind in Africa can only be missed, friendships forged stronger than ever by the shared wonder that is Africa. Most memorable is a sensation of warmth in the air and in the hearts of the people.

Even so this country has its very tangible advantages and opportunities. Since returning home my brother and I gained places in the local grammar school, where I am studying for AS exams in Standard and Further mathematics, Physics, Economics, and Psychology. I have also managed to spend time playing chess, fencing, debating, and honing my ICT skills by offering help on a few online IT help forums.

Hey there, Dan speaking. The change from living in Moz to coming to live here in England has been a rather large one, to say the least. While this isn't the first time I have had to move from Africa to the U.K., it never gets easy.

Every time we make this move something else hits you. This time the things that have hit me hardest have been the cold and the attitude of other children, especially at school. The cold aspect is reasonably obvious – it was hot in Mozambique, where a cool day was 25°, and here the warmest it ever gets is about 10°. The fierce winter has been



really annoying, but thankfully we seem to be out of the cold weather, which is a massive relief. A more challenging problem I face is the attitude of other boys at school. Most of the boys at school are very disrespectful and lazy, and don't seem to care about learning at all. Having reached that vulnerable teenage age during which your peers are a big influence on your life, it has been hard for me to stand out as a 'good person'. Thankfully my parents have trained me very well, so I have managed to grit my teeth and bear it thus far.



Hi, my name is Nathanael. I miss Africa for its cheap fruit, our big garden and our dog. However I do like living here a lot. Mainly because school is at a much higher standard than it is in Africa and people here speak the same language as I do. The only annoying part of school is the rowdy children. The school I am going to is Kingsholm C of E Primary School and I have made a number of friends. In school I am in year 6 and I am practising for my eleven plus. This term's theme is *Go Wild* and we have been learning about plants, food chains and animals.

I have joined the Cathedral Junior Choir and I am enjoying it a lot. We rehearse every Saturday in part of the huge Gloucester cathedral and soon we will be joining with two other choirs at a big concert. So far I have sung in one concert.

Hello my name is Samuel and I am 7 years old. I go to an ELIM pentecostal church in Gloucester the pastors name is Ben Oliver and the sunday school is lovely.

I love the school that I go to, my teachers name is Mrs Stewart

I miss the heat and the freedom to run outside barefoot.

Oh I forgot to tell you something. I am seeing a lot of cats around. There are not many Lions, crocodiles, tarantulas or mosquitoes.



As has already been expressed, we are conscious that we owe a great debt of gratitude to those people who have stood by us over these past ten years. For this reason we recorded a short two-minute video tribute and we have posted this on our *YouTube* channel. We would like to invite you to click below (anywhere on Josiah's nose will suffice!) to call up this video in a separate browser window and hear for yourself how much we have valued your love and support.



This short video forms the introduction to our latest DVD. During January 2011 Gregory spoke at a number of churches in England and Wales and arranged for three of these talks to be recorded. He has since edited these missionary presentations and squeezed them all onto a single DVD. The three topics addressed are as follows:

1. **Wise Funding** - a look at the danger of creating dependency in overseas churches and some of the strategies we adopted to avoid this.
2. **Missionary Trials** - a call for more specific intercession for missionaries with an overview of some of the specific challenges we faced.
3. **Youth Evangelist** - a brief look at one life transformed by our ministry, that of Jaime Iambane who was saved, baptised, disciplined and now serves as a youth evangelist in Mozambique.

We are offering to send a free copy of this DVD to anyone who so requests. The talks are probably too long to show to an entire congregation but would be useful in a small group setting or for individual perusal. We didn't get around as many churches this time, so requesting a copy of the DVD is one way of helping to inform, educate and entertain people with regards to international missions. I know it's not the same as having us speak live but at least with a DVD you can press the pause button!

While we are on the subject of multimedia, our *YouTube* channel continues to be a fantastic resource. Here are links to four of our more popular and entertaining videos. As before, simply click on the image below to open the video in a separate browser.



This delightful video details a visit that our children made to a traditional Mozambican blacksmith where they learned how to use an anvil, heat a furnace, and wield some fierce looking tools



This is a live performance of a missionary song that relates to our first year in Mozambique. Learn and laugh with us as we disclose some of our hopes and frustrations



In November 2009 we ran a month long course to train evangelists. This fast moving video highlights some of the many activities that saw us putting all that theory into practice

This brilliant compilation contains excerpts from our top ten videos from the Kanes in Mozambique. Viewed together they provide an inspiring overview of our life and ministry

In conclusion then, feel free to keep in touch even though we won't be sending out any further regular updates. Elim's Regional Missions Director for Southern Africa has taken on day-to-day responsibility for the ongoing work in Mozambique. Please do keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we settle back into life and ministry in the UK. And let us know if you would like a copy of that DVD. Our contact details may be found in the signature at the end of this email.

Grace to you
Gregory and Sharon Kane
Elim International Missions

Sharon's Joke of the Month

Things My Mother Taught Me

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me RELIGION.
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL.
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me LOGIC.
"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

My mother taught me IRONY.
"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.
"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about STAMINA.
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about WEATHER.
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION.
"Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ENVY.
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do

My mother taught me about RECEIVING.
"You are going to get it when you get home!"

My mother taught me ESP.
"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

My mother taught me HUMOUR.
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.
"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS.
"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM.
"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

And lastly: My mother taught me about JUSTICE.
"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

If you enjoyed these, Sharon also recommends the [Mom Song](#) on *YouTube*

Gregory's Quote of the Month

"Letting go doesn't mean giving up... it means moving on.

It is one of the hardest things a person can do. Starting at birth, we grasp on to anything we can get our hands on as if we will cease to exist when we let go. We feel that letting go is giving up, quitting, and that as we all know, we are all cowardly.

But as we grow older we are forced to change our way of thinking. We are forced to realize that letting go means letting go of things that cannot be. It means maturing and moving on, no matter how hard you have to fight yourself to do so.

- *Unattributed*

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