

August SEND News - Updates from some of our Away Team

The Harbornes

Derek & Nerina Harborne are missionaries working in Mbarara, Uganda. Derek is a doctor in the hospital and Nerina lectures in the university. They are part of an AIM team which centres on 'transformational development' - the change in behaviour that the gospel brings. One of their teammates is Zillah, who is sister of David Whitehouse! They work with students, particularly helping with discipleship, Bible study, and teaching them how to be Christian professionals. They pray that through their ministry students will be better equipped to be Christian leaders and church planters.



Derek writes: 'We have had another useful and profitable semester in small student groups and bible study. We are grateful for the work and spiritual growth of St Lukes student leaders including Patricia, Joseph, Annet, Joash and Shamim. Shamim became a Christian as a senior school student from a Muslim background, and Derek acted as her Godfather at her baptism this semester.'

Please pray for:

- The work of AIM, particularly in reaching unreached peoples.
- Discipling students and witnessing to colleagues.
- Resilience in busy working lives at the university.

Post Early for Christmas!

Earlier in the summer, we received a letter from Gabriel and Deborah Kijambu, Away-Team members working in their home country of Uganda. Why? Because last Christmas we sent them (and our other away-team partners) Christmas cards which you may have signed.

This is what they said: "Greetings. Thank you so much for the Christmas messages you sent. We felt so honoured for Christmas and for Baby Jesus to be born again in our lives. We thank God for the prayers and love you always send and show to us. We would like to thank all those who signed the card. May God bless you all."

They went on to tell us about some of the work of the Luwero project in school and on the farm. Their letter ends "We thank God for your love and continued support towards the Luwero community. May the good Lord be with you all".

Two small Christmas cards sent with our love and prayers meant so much to them, and probably to our other Away-Team, because these small items show they are not forgotten, that we care about them, and pray for them.

So why not write a short note, or send a postcard from your holidays, to one of our Away-Team? Little things like this can encourage and cheer, especially when they are far from home.

And when the Christmas cards appear at the hubs in November, please sign them. Thank you. **SEND Task Team**

Post Chihuahua, Mexico - Julia Reeves

Two years ago my whole life changed when I stepped out of the plane onto the dusty desert streets of Chihuahua, Mexico, to work with New Tribes Mission. A place I never knew existed, now I call home. It's certainly been an adventure; seeing Mexican mountaintops, colourful beaches and shimmering sands - I have been amazed at the beauty of God's creation. But these were just a bonus, the cherry on the cake. I went to Mexico to teach English, Music and Drama at Colegio Binimea missionary school. The school provides education for the kids of New Tribes Mission/Ethnos360 missionaries, those that work within the Chihuahua area (LightShine), and local pastors' children. My main role was teaching secondary students. However I also led after-school dance classes for the primary students - a wonderful way of getting to know them better too!



Highlights...

For me, the greatest highlight was seeing the Tepehuan Tribe New Testament published in their own tribal language! This is definitely something to shout about! Kevin and Wendy Case (American missionaries) have been working for about 10 years on this Bible translation, so to be a part of the completion and publication stage was incredible and a reminder of the real reason I was there - to reach the unreached. Another highlight was getting to experience tribal life first-hand. When you're teaching in the school day to day, often you get so caught up in the business of life that you forget what's really going on. I'd prayed that God would provide an opportunity to visit a tribe - and He did! In March I visited the Tarahumara Tribe in the mountains of Caborachi. It was so refreshing, humbling and eye-opening. There are many that still either don't know God or reject Him in favour of animism, but (praise the Lord) there are already two churches planted in the Tarahumara Tribe with several believers!

There are also many school highlights such as directing *Mary Poppins* and *Beauty and the Beast*, but as I'm running out of my word allowance...!

Challenges...

Loneliness and culture shock were the biggest challenges. I had a triple whammy culture shock: Mexican, American and Mission! When you're suddenly immersed into not only 1, but 3 unknown cultures it can be very daunting and lonely. Being the youngest, single female staff member onsite during my first year was probably one of the hardest things I've ever experienced. However God is faithful! It was during these moments that **He taught me** to completely depend on Him and know that He will never leave me. And that it's not about me. It's **never** been about me. **It's all about Him.**

Julia