**Christ Church Alsager and St. Matthias’ Hanford visit to Kimilili 13th - 30th October 2019: programme and prayer requests**

The main purpose of our stay in Kimilili is to discover and experience all that we can of the many and varied aspects of IcFEM’s work, to broaden our understanding of it, and to bring back to you all as much information and enthusiasm for the work as we can!

Inevitably, our visit will be overshadowed by the death of Esther Juma, wife of the Mission Chaplain Macdon and mother of three children and foster mother to two or three orphaned children. Pray that we will be able to bring support and comfort from IcFEM UK.

Please pray that the Lord will change us and that we will see a real move of God during our visit.

Pray that the Lord will use us to encourage His people into deeper fellowship with Him, and to look to him increasingly, especially following Esther’s death.

Pray that language barriers will not be an issue and that God’s voice will be heard. For most people in East Africa, English is their third language. They have ‘mother tongue’, the traditional Swahili, and English – the ‘official’ language.

We are trusting that we go in God’s name; He has sent us, therefore He will use us.

There are six of us in the team: Martin & Buff Oram, Gill Bowers, Gill Cooper (all from Christ Church, Alsager), and Rev’d Debbie Aitken & her daughter Alex from St Matthias’, Hanford.

Each morning we are there we will have the opportunity to share in Morning Devotions either at HQ or at the Hospital. The day’s work always begins with worship and prayer. We may be asked to contribute to these.

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| **Date** | **Programme** | **Prayer request** |
| **Sunday** 13th  at 1700 | Travel Manchester – Paris / Paris – Nairobi / Nairobi - Kisumu | Pray for good health for all of us for the duration of our stay, that God will grant us safe flights without interruptions or delays, that even as we travel God will use us for His good purposes. Pray, too, for trouble-free passage through customs.  May we be filled with God’s Holy Spirit so that He can inspire and guide us to carry out His work during the whole visit. |
| Monday 14th  at 1015 | Arrive Kisumu. Travel by road to Kimilili (3 hrs in Mission minibus). Amos Lusweti & Irene Masika welcome us and take us to the Guest House which will be our home for the duration of our stay. | That no luggage goes missing! Pray that our 3 hours minibus trip to Kimilili will not be too difficult. Pray that there are not too many creepy crawlies in our accommodation! Or that we’ll have the grace to deal with them!! |
| Tuesday 15th | Meet management team at IcFEM HQ, go through the IcFEM orientation programme for visitors.  Hosted by Rosemary Muyekho | Pray for enthusiasm and strength after travelling.  Pray daily for the minibus (or our legs) as we journey around the surrounding villages and that we are always kept safe.  Pray that we will adapt to our change of diet/settled stomachs!!!  That we bond as a team and have rich fellowship with everyone we meet. |
| Weds 16th | Visit to Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH)  (Chaplain Silas Tendet & Bernard Dickson) | Pray for the fantastic work done by all hospital staff who manage with few resources; may we get a real feel for health care and faith within a different culture. As we visit the Hospital may we see the great work done through and for our Lord. Pray that our visit comforts and brings hope of the Lord Jesus to all the patients we meet. |
| Thursday 17th | Visit to Dreamland Hospital with Ruth Nabie & Leonard Wanjala (Martin and Gill Bowers join the party after a visit to the IcFEM demo farm) | As we meet with patients and staff pray that we each will have words of comfort and compassion. Pray that we will show the love of God through all our words and actions. |
| Friday 18th | Meet **Pillar** leaders in Cheptais Local Transforma-tion Unit (LTU) who enable the mission’s core values to take root and bear fruit across the area. | Pray that we will discover how the **Pillar** leaders entwine God in every aspect of life, enabling us to do the same on our return to the UK. |
| Saturday 19th | Day visiting Webuye Falls and possibly Mt. Elgon (local attractions) with Nancy Wawire. The border with Uganda passes through Mt. Elgon | Please pray that we are able to rest and enjoy each other’s company in God’s wonderful creation. We hope the Webuye falls are full of water! They’re a bit disappointing otherwise…. |
| Sunday 20th | Attend ACK church (Anglican Church of Kenya) at St. James in Kimilili. | Pray for the presence of God. |
| Monday 21st | Kamukuywa Disabled Ladies’ knitting group (morning). Nalondo school (afternoon) with Leonard Wanjala, Ruth Nabie & Amos | Pray that we learn from the ladies’ stories; that we may under-stand a little of their world and how they live with their disabili-ties but find hope and some independence through their work. |
| Tuesday 22nd | **Alex Aitken departs** for home. // Visit to Namwela LTU and children’s home with Amos, Patrick, Wilkista & Irene Masika. Debbie will meet Edwin Wanyonyi, one of the children sponsored by the Thursday morning growth group at St. Matthias. | Pray that as Alex travels alone she will have a safe journey with no interruptions or delays. Pray that Debbie and husband Peter at home will trust God for her and not worry.  Pray for Edwin as he begins university training.  Pray for all the children growing up in the home. |
| Weds 23rd | Visit Kibengei LTU with Amos, Patrick, Wilkista and Macdon | Pray that this visit will bring glory to God and teach us more about the way LTUs impact the lives of people in the several villages in the LTU. |
| Thursday 24th | Community Health programme with Miriam. | Pray for all staff running the community health programme from the hospital, treating people where they are if possible, but also finding and bringing in people who need inpatient treatment. |
| Friday 25th | Visit to Maeni LTU with Amos, Patrick and Manyonge | As for Wednesday. Each LTU has a distinctive character, moulded by the local needs and personalities. |
| Saturday 26th | A day of prayer and fasting with IcFEM personnel. We might be at HQ or out with an LTU | Pray that today we can rest in God’s presence and pray effectively with our Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ. |
| Sunday 27th  (now 3 hrs ahead) | Visit to ACK (Anglican Church of Kenya) with Macdon Juma | Please ask God to prepare us for anything that we may be asked to do. |
| Monday 28th | Visit the craft shop with Irene Masika | Pray for the success of the craft shop as this supports local families. |
| Tuesday 29th | Depart Kisumu airport at 18.40 travelling to Nairobi and on to Manchester via Amsterdam | Please pray that God will allow safe flights without sickness, interruptions or delays. |
| Weds 30th  at 0820 | Arrive Manchester | Pray that we will adjust to the overwhelming normality of being back home in the UK, and that we can adjust back into our culture whilst incorporating wonderful experiences learned from our time in Kimilili. |

**Notes:**

1. **As with all things African, the programme is flexible. Anything can crop up!**
2. **HQ has reduced its secretariat and devolved more responsibility to the LTUs; ideally, each LTU becomes a kind of mini IcFEM.**
3. **Kenya is 2 hours ahead of BST; 3 hours ahead when UK reverts to GMT on 27th October.**

**Ephesians 3:20-21: “Now to him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. AMEN.**

**Thank you for praying with/for us.**