



BAKER BULLETIN

LOCKDOWN, APRIL 2020



Hello everyone,

This is going to be an emotional prayer letter to write as it may be our last as AIM workers. In our last letter we said that these months of Home Assignment were about resting, finishing my studies and planning our next step in ministry and life. Quite early in our Home Assignment it became obvious that our ministry in Mayotte had sadly come to an end before we would've wanted and as things stood we wouldn't be going back any time soon. This is not what we had planned back in 2016 when we went to Paris to learn French and then back to Mayotte. We wanted to be in Mayotte for a number of years, and up until last summer we were still planning along those lines. However, with the situation at the International Church in Mayotte, and then with my subsequent struggles with burnout we have decided not to go back to Mayotte or indeed Africa for the next part of our lives. Soon, then, our time as AIM employees and mission partners with you all will come to an end. As things stand we do not yet have a 100% definite end date, but it is likely to be the end of May.

TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS: We understand that at this difficult time some may need to stop their giving to us. We would ask the rest of you, if you are able, to not cancel any financial support until our finish date is confirmed and you receive further communication from ourselves or from AIM directly. There is a chance that our start date at our new job will be delayed in the present climate. So, if you can, please wait until we contact you again. We are so incredibly grateful for your gracious support over these last months in particular.

The good news from us is that we have a new ministry to move on to. I have accepted a job, official title: Associate Minister (Youth and Families) at St Peters Harold Wood in Essex. Like I

said above, I hope to be able to start in June, but we are waiting on a DBS to come through. For a couple of months we will continue to live here in Felixstowe until hopefully moving down to Harold Wood in July or August. The provision of this church has been an incredible answer to prayer and is a job and a church we are very excited about. The current pandemic will obviously affect how we are able to join the church and how I am able to work, but in whatever form it takes we are excited to start this new challenge.

It is now over 10 years since we first went to Mayotte. Young and energetic and excited about sharing the good news of Jesus with a people walking in shadow - with almost no local gospel light. We spent 5 years in total in Mayotte, 1 in Paris and another 1 in between times - meaning we have spent around 7 of the last 10 years as AIM missionaries. Some of you reading this have prayed for us during those 10 years, some during the last 4 or 5. Those years on Mayotte have been difficult. But we have no regrets. Mayotte I think will always be with us. It's people, the colours, and sounds, and smells of the place. The beaches!! The smell of Ylang Ylang in the evenings with fruit bats flying over head whilst the call to prayer is blaring out - is amazing. To have lived somewhere so exotic and yet so broken has obviously affected us deeply. We have made lifelong friendships there; learnt languages; learnt about a different culture; and learnt about ourselves through successes and struggles.

Above all we have had the incredible privilege of partnering with you all to bring the gospel of Jesus to some Mahorais people. God is good. He keeps all his promises. He said from the beginning that all peoples of the Earth would be blessed in Christ, and we have been a very small part of Him blessing the Mahorais. Mayotte remains a dark place for the gospel. There is still no local expression of church in the local language and culture, even after decades of work by AIM and others. But in His grace, our Dad allowed us to witness to some about his Son and to even see a few repent and put their trust in Him.

Please remember Mayotte in your prayers from time to time. Please continue to look out for the excellent work of AIM and consider supporting them or another AIM worker. And please join us in thanking God for our years of gospel partnership.

We will aim to write one last letter once we are in Harold Wood to let you all know that we have indeed moved on from AIM into our new role. For now please wait for further communication about finances before acting on that, we will be in touch soon.

In Him

John, Alma, Anya, Micah -x-