
“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” (Eccl 3 v 1)

January / February 2017

Dear friends,

Over Christmas, I was considering how Jesus came ‘when the time had fully come’ after the people had been waiting a pretty long time. In recent weeks, I’ve had plenty of time to reflect on God and His timing, knowing that He is good, His ways are perfect and His timing is always right and best. Waiting hasn’t always been easy, but it has been encouraging to look back and see some of the purposes God has been working out in me, and how I have benefitted in so many ways from the season of waiting.

In the last couple of weeks, things have moved forward quite quickly and considerably, for which I am so thankful to God! So the time has come to update you, and tell you about my next few steps.

A Season of Interviews

At the beginning of December, I had an interview for doing some physiotherapy work in Carmarthen area, and have been offered a short term full-time position here. I worked in many of the hospitals in this area before going to South Africa, and look forward to brushing up on my physio skills once my DBS check is back, and induction is sorted. I’m also looking forward to spending time with my home church in Carmarthen, and strengthening relationships there.

I’ve also had an interview with New Hope Uganda, and two meetings with UFM. In each of them, I’ve really been aware of the Lord’s help and presence with us, as we’ve discussed and as I’ve answered questions, and stilling my heart and keeping me from being anxious. Last week I had an email, saying that I can be recommended for service at New Hope, subject to satisfactory completion of ‘the institute’. The Institute is their training course, which lasts for 5 months, and happens in Uganda. Amongst other things, it looks at worldviews, mindsets, cultures, the orphan heart, and will be really helpful in understanding the culture and context of this ministry in Uganda. The studies are part time, which will allow me to see different aspects of the ministry at New Hope, build relationships, and learn some of the language. There is also mentoring and discipleship. During this time they will be assessing my ability to fit into the team, and my suitability for working there. As far as I know, the next course will be in July 2017. The plan is to stay with UFM and for there to be an agreement between UFM and New Hope.

A Season with Family

I’ve been blessed over the last few months to spend more time with my family. I stayed with my parents when I was doing my physio placement in Chesterfield, and was blessed to spend time with them and my siblings again at Christmas and New Year. Spending time with my nephews and nieces was also precious, as they’re growing up so quickly. Here’s a snap of all of us from Christmas eve – although it’s already out of date, and I’ve become an auntie again in the last few days. I’m looking forward to meeting Faith next week!



A Season of Preparation

I’m well aware that my season of preparation isn’t just beginning now! Through my time at MusaweNkosi, the short trips to Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda, time with my home church and

family, physiotherapy updating, and many other ways that I'm sure I've failed to recognise, God has already been preparing me for these next steps. He has put a specific work and group of children on my heart. He has provided opportunities for me to prepare to work practically with them as a physiotherapist. He has given me peace at each stage in the application process, and as I've talked with others about New Hope. He has placed in my path Christians reaching children with additional needs with the gospel, who I can gain insight and learn from. He has provided me with friends who are faithfully supporting me in prayer and financially.

But as the Lord has given more clarity as to where to be serving Him, it does mean a more focussed period of preparation and planning is beginning. There will be practical things to work out and consider - thinking about how best to learn Luganda, and where to store all the stuff I seem to of accumulated! Over the next few months, alongside working as a physio, I will be attending a few short courses, which will give me further skills to help the children at New Hope. I am looking forward to visiting friends and churches, and talking with them about these next steps, and the work at New Hope.

You can find out more about New Hope Uganda on the websites – www.newhopeugandauk.org or www.newhopeuganda.org. Or if you have specific questions, do get in touch! It is quite a broad ministry. The specific area which I will be involved is “Treasures in Jars of Clay”, which supports children and young adults with physical and learning difficulties. Some of these youngsters live at the centre and need lots of input and care to meet their basic daily needs. Others live in the surrounding villages, and attend the “Treasures” school class, or monthly community outreach. I see myself using the physiotherapy skills God has given me, in physically assessing and treating the children, but also passing on knowledge and skills to other care-givers. Also I hope to work alongside others in teaching these children about God, Jesus and from the Bible in ways they can understand.

In my last update, I mentioned about baby Reuben who was very sick in India. He is the baby Kate, the head of special needs is fostering. He had heart surgery in early December, and made an amazing recovery post-operatively, for which we can really praise God! They were able to return to Uganda a couple of days before Christmas.



Thank you for supporting and praying for me, in what has seemed a long season of waiting. I am so grateful to so many who have been standing by and encouraging me through this time. I am excited and looking forward to these next steps. It is encouraging to look back over my journey for the last few years, and to see God's hand, provision, protection and guidance. So I'm eagerly anticipating and preparing for the next steps in this journey, knowing that He who promised is faithful, and is going with me and before me. Thank you for praising God with me, and praying that as I continue to take one step at a time, that God would continue to lead, guide and go before me.

Love Susanna x

Finally, some things to praise God for, and a few things to pray about:

- ❖ **Praise** God for the short term physio work I'm able to do near to my home church.
- ❖ **Praise** God for his help with all the applications and interviews, and for the peace He has given me as I've been pursuing these next steps.
- ❖ **Praise** God for his goodness to baby Reuben and the family, and that he has made a good recovery after heart surgery.
- ❖ **Pray** that as I start the physio work, that it will be helpful in preparation for the work at New Hope.
- ❖ **Pray** for the practical steps I need to take in preparing to go to Uganda.
- ❖ **Pray** that in all the busyness of the coming months, that I would stay close to God.

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