

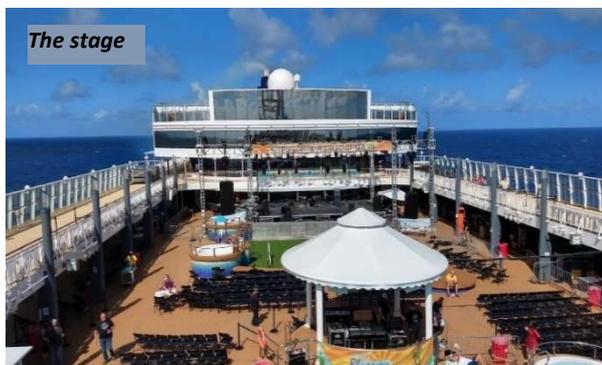
"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" 😊

Hello one and all,

Finally, it has warmed up here – actually it's shot up. We've gone from jackets and blankets (in the living room!) to t-shirts and shorts (by preference, but generally not worn in public here) within a few weeks.

It is often said that we need to balance work and play and that's certainly been going better for us these past few months!! The main event for us since we last wrote is that we have been on an amazing holiday for which we thank God and the NHS who paid out on Megan's superannuation making the holiday possible! Yes, Megan is now officially a pensioner.

We flew to Miami where we got on a cruise ship to Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The main focus of the cruise was not the destination though, but the music: Alan's favourite genre, the blues. It was wonderful for us to have that experience (so many amazing artists) to celebrate our 60 years of life so far. It was also so lovely to swim in the sea in Miami and Ocho Rios. A real holiday of a lifetime!



And now we're already planning our next special trip 😊. Thank you for your prayers as we have regularly been asking that we might get to meet for the first time, our now 2-year-old grandson, Eli, in Vietnam. Suddenly, recently, the country opened up completely, so we can go and don't have to quarantine - the tickets were booked the day we heard! We fly to Vietnam 10th April and return 25th.

And while we're on the subject of travel: we are also moving forward with our plans to be in the UK in the summer where we will meet the other grandson we have yet to meet, Noah (who will be 1 on July 31st), and we are very hopeful that we will finally get to have a full family reunion. It will be the first time we will all be together since July 2018. We are so excited. The first week of July we will be attending a big BMS event called 'Expect 22' where BMS workers and partners from all over the world will be gathering in the High Leigh conference centre. And then we also look forward to actually visiting churches in person and meeting up with many of you, some for the first time. So much to look forward to in the summer! Sorry if you haven't already booked us to visit your church as our programme is now already full.

In between all that excitement we are working, we promise!

As we write, Alan is busy at the HDCS office with visits from overseas donors, or potential donors, all turning up at the same time – just like the buses! While it has meant a busy time for the team in the HDCS office, it is also exciting to see possibilities of how the projects being developed will benefit people in remote districts here. The medical effects of Covid may be receding but the economic effects of months of lockdowns is still affecting many poor families, who lost all sources of income and there is no government social provision.

As part of one of these projects, the office team spent a few days busily packing up thousands of 'hygiene kits' for families in remote areas, around the hospitals that HDCS runs. If you look carefully in the photo, you will see Megan sitting on the floor doing her part. Alan took the photo but did his part too – honestly!



Megan is also regularly in contact with and encouraging the Nepali OTs (Occupational Therapists) across the country. As mentioned last time the 10 OTs of the nation got together in December and have continued to meet remotely as they move ever closer towards getting some recognition as a profession here in Nepal. They had an encouraging meeting with the National Medical Council for Allied Health Professionals and are moving towards registration as a professional group which would give OTs better standing with that Council. This is very much being led by the Nepali OTs with support from Megan, which is a really encouraging position (Megan used to drive most activities!). It's lovely to see their confidence and sense of importance growing.

Much of Megan's work is still very much home based with meetings on Zoom or working on documents via Skype but it is good for her to be here and to be available to offer support as and when needed. This is all moving towards our wider partner support role but, for now, remains with people and groups in Nepal.



Finally as Covid is settling and getting out and about is beginning to feel more comfortable, we are getting to know the area where we live, getting to know and chat with local shop owners and attending face-to-face church not far from our home. It is good that, after almost a year of moving here, this is finally beginning to feel like home.

For those that pray, join us in giving thanks for:

- The opportunity to go to Vietnam for Easter
- The excitement of being all together again as a family in the UK in July
- Opportunities to develop projects to help poor people in remote parts of Nepal
- Going to Nepali church again regularly

Please pray for:

- Successful completion of project proposal writing to the satisfaction of our donors
- For successful recognition of OT as a profession and the Association of OTs as a registered organisation
- Safety in travels
- Ongoing relationship building in the area.

As usual we thank you for your love and prayers and look forward to seeing many of you this coming summer

We pray too for your health and well being

With our love

Alan and Megan