

Nicci's update – November 2025

Dear family and friends

It's been a little while since my last update but, as you know, I've been on home assignment in the UK for about 9 weeks preceded by a short trip to South Africa to celebrate my mum's 80th birthday. It was actually a very busy time with over a dozen visits to supporting churches and a couple of other speaking engagements as well as various meetings and appointments and trying to squeeze in seeing friends too. There were lots of people I would like to have seen but just didn't have time! I sadly don't feel that I got as much rest as I really needed.

Although I loved the autumn colours in the UK, I really felt the cooler weather. Brrr! It's good to get back to the warmth of Juba (it's been about 32-35 most days since I've been back) but I'll soon be complaining about the heat again because it's scheduled to reach 39 degrees later this week and hotter after that as the dry season takes hold.

The welcome back has been very warm too! From the ACROSS staff member waiting at the airport to give me my new work permit seconds before I had to show it to the immigration official to friends on the compound and colleagues at the hospital, there have been plenty of warm greetings, hugs and handshakes!

I have found the ward to be clean and tidy but absolutely crammed full of patients - not quite two patients in every bed....but close! The staff seem to have done well in my absence and have continued to do many of the things I'd been trying to introduce - hallelujah! It's really helpful to see which things "stuck" while I was away and what I need to work on next.

In just a few days since coming back, I have already been asked to take on several new tasks, including formal teaching for all the paediatric registrars and setting up a new follow up clinic for children with development/neurological problems. These are exciting possibilities but I know I need to balance my workload so I don't burn out.

This will probably be my last update for the year but there will be a CMS link letter published at some point in the next few weeks too....I just need to find an hour or so to write it and they will take a couple of weeks at least to approve it! So, if you haven't signed up and want to receive my link letters, go to churchmissionsociety.org/maxwell now and enter your details. I can't do it for you because of data protection rules!

I love hearing from friends and supporters but please understand that I can't always respond to individual requests for updates. If this update and the link letters leave you wanting even more, I write a blog post almost every week (niccimaxwell.wordpress.com) and if you subscribe (look for the button, usually bottom right on a laptop screen, I can't do it for you!) you can get it straight to your inbox as soon as it is published.

The list of those receiving this update just keeps growing, so if it is no longer of interest, please just let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list - no offence taken!

Thank you for your consistent support for me and the work that God is doing in South Sudan.

Much love to you all,

Nicci



Autumn in the UK – Westonbirt Arboretum

For your prayers

Give thanks for:

- a busy home assignment where I was able to share my work with hundreds of supporters and friends
- a safe return to Juba and my work permit being ready at the airport
- the good work done by colleagues while I was away

Please pray for:

- peace in South Sudan which sadly remains in a very fragile political and security situation
- the neonatal ward team at Al Sabbath - we have lost 3 senior staff due to a corruption problem and the new leadership on the unit is inexperienced but has great potential. We will also lose our only medical officer after Christmas, so please pray for a suitable replacement who I can train and work with over the coming year.
- the wisdom to balance work and rest and the energy to do all I feel God is calling me to!