



Nathanael Smith

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Leaving Bournemouth

In late August and September we had a hectic time leaving Bournemouth, though we did manage a few beach trips. Nathanael manages to squeeze in his Type Rating application (still pending) before finishing work in the hanger. We also had the joy of welcoming family and Joel's godparents for his dedication celebrated with St. Paul's church. Praise God our house is now rented out and everything we are taking to Madagascar is in storage awaiting shipping.

In our parents footsteps

We are finding ourselves repeating some of the actions of Nathanael's parents as they started in missions 30 years ago. This term, September - December, we are attending All Nations Christian College in Hertfordshire, on the 'En-route' programme. This is the same mission training college that Nathanael's parents attended for two years in the early 1990's.

Our course, however, is much shorter and we don't have to learn Hebrew or Greek. Instead we have classes on living and integrating with other cultures, world religions, mission and our identity in Christ.

We live in site in a beautiful old stately home (the floor above where Nathanael's father stayed) and all our meals are provided in the canteen. It's been a great privilege to live in such a multicultural community with so many languages spoken (our class of 13 people have lived/worked/have family connections in 44 countries).

Church visits

While we are living more centrally in the UK we are taking the opportunity to visit some of our supporting churches nearby. Our church in Norwich hosted a celebration for 60 years of sending missionaries across the world. It was a joy and an inspiration to look back over so many years of see God at work in the congregation there as well as globally. We got the opportunity to talk to and hear from long term missionaries and those, like us, who are just setting out (again following in the trail of Nathanael's parents who were sent by the same church).

Joel's new normal

Joel has been having a brilliant time soaking up all the attention at All Nations. There is hardly a mealtime where he is not whisked away by someone to be doted on and spoken to in a different language. During classes Joel and another baby in our group have a crèche set up at the back that means the mums can join in all the lessons.

He is now over five months old and due to incessant feeding has started on some solid food, which he seems to mostly enjoy (his first food was fried plantain). He is ever wiggling, always kicking and hardly ever sleeping.

By the time we move to Madagascar early next year Joel will be almost exactly the same age his father was when he first moved to Africa!

Praise

- The great community of All Nations that has loved having Joel to dote on.
- Being encouraged in Christian missions, both at college and our Church.
- The MAF Madagascar team who are helping us prepare for serving there.

Please pray

- That we continue to learn and apply what we hear at All Nations.
- Joel would learn to sleep for longer.
- For the logistics of transitions after college.
- That we keep trusting God in all the changes



Last beach trip



Joel's dedication with family and godparents



In front of All Nations Christian College



Celebrating 60 years of missionaries sent from Holy Trinity Norwich



Joel with Nathanael's godparents in Bedford (who were also mission partners from Holy Trinity)



A significant milestone?