

News from Across the Pond

Life in Transition

It's hard for me to believe that it has been less than 6 months since I moved to England. In many ways it feels like I have been here a lot longer than that. And I mean that in a good way. It feels like home. That doesn't mean that there haven't been the moments of transition that everyone goes through when life is frustrating. You can't figure out how to do something simple and you keep telling yourself that you are actually a fully functioning adult, but you feel like a lost child.

I experienced this one day as a result of emails from my utility company. They wanted me to submit meter readings. It seems like a simple request - I know how to read a meter. The problem here is that my meters are in closets behind locked doors and I don't have a key to those locked doors. So when I got repeated emails from my utility company telling me they really, really needed a meter reading from me (seriously, that is pretty much what the emails said), I wanted to comply...but I couldn't. I tried to get keys from my property management company and was told that they don't have any, nor does my landlord. How is this possible, I wonder? And one day, after receiving another email asking for a meter reading that I couldn't give them, the tears flowed and I realized what was going on - I was experiencing the frustration stage of transition to another country! (Since that day, I was able to borrow a key to submit readings and make arrangements to borrow it again when the utility company comes to install smart meters - a great long-term solution!)

There have also been many good things in this transition. I LOVE all the flowers and plants here, many that I have never seen before. Those who are connected to my Facebook or Instagram accounts have no doubt seen the multitude of pictures I have shared there. And I have taken way more pictures than I have shared!! One friend asked what I was going to do with all the pictures I was taking and I said I didn't know. But I sure love taking them!!

I also love being able to go and work in the office every day. I enjoy being part of a team, working alongside my colleagues, sharing lunch each day and taking time to pray together. I also love the excursions we do together, some as a whole and many more as different groups of us take in what that group enjoys - a Jousting Competition at Arundel Castle, working to solve the clues and make our way out of an Escape Room here in Horsham, hosting dinner at my flat for the single women on our team. These are all activities I have enjoyed in the last several weeks.

Jousting festival at Arundel Castle

Dinner at my place

Child Sponsorship Program

TeachBeyond has been working on developing a Child Sponsorship Program for several months and it is being launched now, in the month of August. We have partner schools who want to be able to provide an education for children in their communities - children who can't afford to attend school. Without an education these children are destined for a life of poverty. With an education, they have a chance at a different future.

One of the things I love about our sponsorship program is the same thing that I love about TeachBeyond - our emphasis on the gospel. We recognize that as important as education is to these children, the most important thing we can do is introduce them to the God who created them and loves them, the God who died to forgive their sins and offer them eternal life with Him. He is the One who can save and transform them.

If you would like more information about the sponsorship program you can find it on our website at

<https://www2.teachbeyond.org/sponsor/about-sponsorship>

I was able to show my niece and new nephew around two of my favourite places - London and Arundel - when they visited at the end of their honeymoon

Buckingham Palace

Big Ben and the Parliament buildings

Westminster Abbey

Tower Bridge

Arundel Castle

Lessons from Jeremiah

I have been reading through the Bible chronologically this year using a reading plan called The Bible Recap. We have been in what's felt like a long season of reading the books of the prophets lately. This means many days filled with God's prophecies of judgment and wrath. Days of that can be hard but I have been encouraged in the last couple of weeks by things that God has been showing me in Jeremiah. I'd like to share two of them.

As I read Jer 3:11, I was struck by the idea that one day in eternity we will finally live without shame and without pride. We so often exist in the tension of these two, sometimes living mostly in shame, sometimes more in pride, and sometimes walking in both at the same time. One day we will know truly who we are in Christ. And in that knowing will be great humility without shame and great honour without pride. I look forward to that day!

Another day I read Jer 32:38-41. I had previously underlined most of this passage in my Bible and had written part of it as a prayer in the margins. I want this to be true in my life - and in yours.

"They will be my people and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me...I will never stop doing good to them and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good..."

I love God's heart in these verses. He says He will never stop doing good to His people and even rejoices in doing us good. He wants what is best for us and He is definitely what is best for us! Singleness of heart and action, to fear God and never turn away from Him. That is my prayer for us!

More flower pictures!

The flowers in the courtyard outside the Fitzalan Chapel at Arundel Castle are all white all summer - different flowers in different months but always white.

A trip across the ocean...already

Before the pandemic, we held an orientation each June at Wheaton College near Chicago. The last two years, that orientation has been online, but this year we were once again able to hold it in person. I am part of the planning team and play a significant role on the logistics team in the area of food. Some of that happens beforehand as I calculate numbers of guests and communicate regarding the meals we eat in the cafeteria. Another part is organizing certain meals that we provide ourselves - like pizza or Chick-fil-A. I also have a role as a finance person from Canada, and one as a mentor and part of the global member care team. So, I boarded a plane again and made my way to Chicago in mid-June.

After the conference, I returned to Canada to be able to attend my niece's wedding in Saskatchewan. It was good timing since it fell within a week of the end of orientation. It was wonderful to be able to attend this family wedding and to be able to help out in whatever way I could. And since I was there anyway, I figured I might as well make the most of the money spent on flights and stay for an extended visit. It's one of the great advantages of working remotely.

I had an opportunity to make a very quick trip out to BC near the end of my time in Canada. I was not able to see everyone but I enjoyed making that short visit and connecting with some of you. It was also such a blessing to be in my home church once again. I haven't yet settled on a home church here in England so that made it extra special to be at SCC.

Praises and Prayer Requests

Praise the Lord for:

the opportunity to take part in our in-person Canada/USA orientation again this year
time with family and friends in Canada

good flights and no lost luggage, which has become quite common these days

for the many new members joining TeachBeyond as the school year begins again soon

Prayer Requests:

I have taken on new responsibilities in finance here - please pray that I will be able to get all the things done as I learn this new role

for our new members - some who are still raising funds to be able to leave for the field; some who are purchasing tickets for flights and saying good-bye as they follow God's call to overseas ministry in the next couple of weeks; some who are settling into new homes, jobs, schools, countries and experiencing all the emotions that come with this huge move they have just undertaken

for TeachBeyond's Child Sponsorship program that kicks off this month, that God would provide many people who want to come alongside and change a child's life through education and the gospel

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