



Hi Friends,

September 2022

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1 NIV

"Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take."

Joshua 1:9 MSG

It took quite a lot of faith to leave the familiar and board a ship over 15 years ago, sailing the Mediterranean and trusting God for safety and provision for the two years aboard. It took just as much faith to be missionaries in the UK for two years, discipling young people and growing as leaders. It felt like a huge leap of faith to move to Croatia, build a team, pioneer the Discipleship Training School (DTS), buy a boat, start a sailing ministry, help plant a church and invest in a local community. But God was faithful...

Now it feels like we need almost more faith as we re-settle in the UK, leave the mission field and transition into a more regular way of life. Job hunting, Amariah starting school, living with family, high cost of living, making new friends, re-connecting with old ones, finishing a master's... It all feels daunting, at times discouraging but we continue to see God's faithfulness and provision as we trust in Him.

Thank-you to everyone who has been on this journey with us and for continuing to support us in our transition.



Saying goodbye to friends.

YWAM team retreat.

## What's been and what's next?

### Packing

We spent April and May packing our belongings up and saying our goodbyes. It's amazing how much stuff you can acquire over the years and it was great to be a blessing to so many with the things we left behind. We currently have boxes and pieces of furniture stored in the garage of a generous friend here in Bromley and we are very thankful we could send a van load of our stuff ahead of us to use in our future home.

### Retreat and DTS

Jarod ran a retreat for our team as part of his studies and it was a rich time of thankfulness and looking back together at God's faithfulness.

We were also able to join the 'Journey' DTS as they came to Croatia for part of their lecture phase over Easter. Jarod had previously led their staff training so it was great to see them again. Our good friend Lisa Whitaker was teaching that week so it was such a blessing to host her in our home for the last time. She has been a major part of our Croatia journey.

## Goodbyes

This was the hardest part! We formed so many deep friendships in our 9 years and it was like leaving family behind all over again. Our team mates Daniel and Ana Morosan have been such a big part of our lives, so have Kent and Cheri Pickslay, our ministry partners, and our hearts will always be on the island of Hvar with Prezo and Natalija. These are just a few names, there are many more and we are so thankful to God for these people.

## Canada trip

We had a lovely 6 weeks in Canada over the summer, reconnecting with supporters, friends and family. Amariah got to know her Canadian family really well and celebrate her 4th birthday there too. The last time we had been back was in 2018.

## St Brendan

We felt like God was saying that although Jarod's sailing days are not over, the season of St Brendan, our sailing boat, was to end. We're thankful that it is a good market for selling boats at the moment and we were able to sell her reasonably easily. The payment covered the loan we still had so we are so thankful not to walk away with debt. A huge thankful to everyone who made owning a boat possible. St Brendan was a blessing to many including the many years of experience Jarod has gained

## What's next for us?

Bexi is job-hunting and applying for a variety of positions mainly in the charity sector and hoping that something opens up that is a really good fit. She would love to work with reconciliation and peace building but knows this is quite a difficult area to get into. Please pray that God opens doors for a good role that is a great fit for her and one that can support the family in this next season.

Jarod is finishing his Master's in Christian Formation and Discipleship. He is starting his final module which finishes in December and then he has his thesis/project, which he has chosen to be based around pilgrimages. He is also looking to apply for a part-time job. Please pray for his studies as they come to an end and that he would find a suitable job that is a good fit for him.

He is still praying about what the future looks like and if he will be staying in Christian ministry or work in a different area. Please pray for wisdom and God's leading in this.

## Prayer points

- Please pray for our transition and settling. We're having some debriefing which is helpful but adjusting to everything being new is tough for all of us.
- Pray for Amariah starting school. She's had a few days so far and loves it! Praying this continues and she can make good friends.
- Please pray for jobs for us. That opportunities come up, successful interviews and we enjoy the work too.
- Prayer of praise for the successful sale of St Brendan.
- Prayer for faith! Faith for all the new challenges ahead and boldness and courage as we face them.

Thanks for walking this journey with us over the years. We couldn't have done it without you.

With love, Jarod and Bexi



DTS Team



Amariah starts school.