

Hello friends,



Us with Nác and Marta's father and family



Christmas in Marromeu, dress code: RED!



We hope that your Christmas and New Years were special, despite disruptions from Covid. We spent ours here in Marromeu, and although it's been hot we've had a great time hanging out with our team and other friends here.

#### Our Big News:

We've got some important news to share with you as our friends and supporters. As some of you know, we have been homeschooling Marta and Nác for quite a few years now. In 2019 they were diagnosed with quite profound dyslexia and we've realized we need a lot more help with schooling. It's time for the twins to be in school and have access to trained teachers. And so, after lots of prayer and deliberation we have decided the time has come for us to leave Marromeu and move to England.

Although we're excited about being nearer family and friends, we are very sad about leaving Marromeu as we love our team and believe very strongly in what God is doing here. We are aware that our leaving will have a big impact on the team that continues to work here and we are going to miss all of them greatly. Having said that, the twins are Mozambican and still have family here in Marromeu and so we still have an important connection and commitment to this town and its people. We still plan on visiting, supporting the work here, raising awareness and being involved if we can from a distance.

#### The Plan (for what it's worth?)

It's a bit of a crazy time in the world to be making plans (as you all no doubt have experienced), but our current plan (visas and COVID permitting) is

- To leave Marromeu in June 2021 and move to Sheffield in the UK.
- To visit Leanna's family in the United States in late June or as early as we can (Covid permitting) as we haven't seen them in a while.
- To enroll the twins in school to start in September.

*Don't worry, we know some of you might be laughing out loud right now at our timetable, and we know we will have to be flexible about it but this is still what we're aiming for right now.*

### The Process - Visas and immigration etc.:

For this to happen, we have submitted an application to the British Home Office requesting British Citizenship for Marta and Inácio. This application can take up to 6 months to process normally, who knows how long with lockdown delays? After that, Leanna can apply for her visa to live in the UK. Right now our plans look very unrealistic because of the time it takes to process these things. Please pray that our applications are successful and that things can move forward quickly and that we remain flexible. In the meantime, we will be busy working with our team to prepare them and us for the big transition ahead.

### What will we do in the UK? – Continued partnership with YWAM Marromeu

Once settled we will look for work, right now we have no idea what kind. We would also really like to be able to continue working 1 day a week for YWAM Marromeu. There are lots and lots of administrative and financial tasks, many of which need to be done in English, that we can do from a distance – reporting, accounting, translating etc, and this is something we can do to support the rest of our team as they do all the hard work here on the field on a daily basis. It's not that they cannot do all these tasks but rather we know how time consuming they can be and that this would free them up to focus on other areas of ministry. Working 1 day a week for YWAM Marromeu will also help our whole family stay connected with Nác and Marta's hometown and all our dear family and friends here.

### Summary and Prayer points:

We would be lost without your prayers, thank you for interceding for us.

- British Citizenship is not guaranteed simply by the fact that the twins have been adopted. Please pray the Home Office accept our application and that they do so miraculously fast!
- Leanna's Visa
- School places and the right support for the twins (a huge concern for us right now)
- The right jobs for Leanna and I that will allow us to work 1 day a week for YWAM Marromeu
- A home to live in
- Continued peace and good mental health in the transition. This is a big move for us. We're very nervous about it if we're honest. Lots of families find the move off the mission field very difficult and we're trying our best to prepare but we know there will be many challenges. Pray especially for the twins who will be moving to a new culture and a new school system and will likely feel very overwhelmed by the whole thing.
- For our team who will also need to adapt once we leave.

So, that's our big news and our big prayer requests. Please continue reading for further information about financial giving (I'm sure some of you have questions about what will happen once we go). If you have any other questions or queries we will do our best to answer them, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you and much love from Alison, Leanna, Marta and Inácio.

A note to all you dear people who give or who have given to us financially over the years....



*For those that support us financially we'd like to first thank you whole heartedly for the way in which you've partnered with us and made our life here in Marromeu possible. We are truly grateful for every donation and are continually humbled by your generosity. We know that many of you will be facing your own financial challenges at the moment and we want you to know we are praying for you and are inspired by your obedience to give.*

We just have a couple of things to say about the future.

Financial support for YWAM ministries or other staff:

We know many of you may support the **work** and **ministries** that take place here because of the relationship you have with us, and we want to assure you that our relationship with YWAM Marromeu will continue even once we are living in the UK. For those who do give financially, we invite you to pray and ask God whether that support should continue after we have left. We do understand if you feel that you would like to stop giving to YWAM Marromeu once we are gone, that's absolutely fine, please just give us as much notice as you can so we can budget and plan and as always, pray for God's provision.

If you would like to continue supporting the ministries here, we **thank you**, they most definitely need it and we all appreciate it. We will still do our best in making sure you have regular feedback as to how the work is developing. We also want to clearly affirm our team here - they are faithful and trustworthy to steward team finances well and that they will continue leading, developing and growing the ministries here in Marromeu with passion and integrity. We have always done our very best as an organization to make sure that every penny donated to any ministry always goes directly to that project and as a result, together we've been able to help so many people over the years.

If you have any questions about money, (or anything else) don't hesitate to get in touch.

*We are currently fundraising for the year 2021 and you can see a reminder of the ministries we currently have going on at the end of this letter, just in case you've forgotten. It's good stuff.*

Support for us as a family:

Again, we really appreciate your financial support and want to take this opportunity to say another BIG thank you for continuing to partner with us. You are amazing. You are fantastic. You are super stars. Thank you! We are still living and ministering in Marromeu and will still be sending our personal updates and news about all that we are doing here over the next several months.

**A reminder of all the wonderful ministries you can continue to support here in Marromeu.**

On-going (Covid permitting)

- **Preschool** (2 classes of 20 children from local nensa area)
- **Primary school** (grades 1-4 children from local nensa area)
- **Widows ministry** (20 elderly people receiving food packages each month, weekly fellowship meetings (pre-Covid) and support accessing the hospital etc. and some help with housing when necessary)
- **Childrens ministry** (20 +/- children from local community who have been referred from social services as needing help with accommodation, food parcels, baby milk and mentoring / parenting)
- **Helicopter outreaches** to the remote villages of the Zambezi Delta – mobile clinics to those without health posts or hospitals nearby, literacy classes for those without schools nearby, agriculture projects, evangelism and discipleship and church planting
- **Radio program** – 2 time slots per week reaching across the district, particularly valuable when churches have been closed due to Covid, but also reaching those who wouldn't normally attend church
- **Small group bible studies** (Covid permitting)
- **Community work** – visiting the sick, responding to emergencies etc.



Currently unscheduled but planned future ministries:

- **Discipleship Training School** – 3 month lecture phase, 3 month outreach phase. Students learn biblical foundations of faith and application.
- **Community Health Worker training**
- **Health seminars**
- **Pastors seminars**
- **Women's seminars**
- **Small group bible studies**
- **Youth retreats**

Other costs we have not associated with a specific ministry:

- **Building maintenance**
- **School and base guards' salaries**
- **Truck/vehicle maintenance**

