



# THE BARRETTS —to— ENGLAND

Dear Praying Friends,

Dec/Jan

What an eventful and busy couple of months it has been since our last update. Our first Christmas and New Year were not without their share of adventure, challenge, and blessing. Liskeard Baptist Church, where we assist the Gossmeyers, had two very special Christmas events. The first was their annual candy cane distribution. A group from the church met in the Liskeard town center and passed out candy canes with an invitation to church. This year was the largest turnout of help from the church of any previous. It was a wonderful time of reaching out into the community together. We also had a Christmas Carol service on the Sunday Evening before Christmas. A couple of visitors attended as well as a solid group from the church.

Also in December, Whitney and I received our provisional drivers' licenses, this is the first step to obtaining our official license. We are now studying for our theory test, which we will take February 1<sup>st</sup>. If we pass, then we can sign up for our driving test. Driving examiners in England have been striking in December, then off and on going forward, due to backlog, the waiting list is likely to be long. Queuing is a time-honored tradition here in the UK, but we are praying to get ours asap.

December also brought along some noteworthy weather-related experiences. Two Sundays before Christmas, we woke to a sheet of ice and a slurry of stuck vehicles literally outside our front door. Our street was iced over, and our neighborhood was locked in because of the vehicles piled up in front of the only exit. It turned into a good opportunity to meet some of our neighbors and lend a hand in getting people unstuck. Around this same time our boiler went out (which provides heat and hot water for our home) and so we went without both for a short period of time. Thankfully, we have a great landlord who remedied the situation and got us a replacement.

Whitney, the girls, and I, took turns with various ailments around the holidays. The week before Christmas I got food poisoning, the girls developed bad fevers just after, and Whitney sprained her ankle just after the New Year. We have mostly recovered, and Whitney has been getting around without a cane for about a week now, but the doctor said it will be 6 months for a full recovery. An unanticipated side effect of the cane was Whitney getting marked by a pickpocket in London and having her phone stolen as we boarded an underground train. Another field lesson learned.

One of the most memorable parts of the holiday was the visit of several of the Barrett Family. Our parents, 2 sisters, and a brother, came right after Christmas and spent time with us in London and Cornwall. It was incredibly special to get to show the family our life and field. Wemberly and Arden loved every minute with their grandparents, aunts, and uncle. We had one sister remain after the family left and she generously flew us all to Spain, covering the rental and lodging too. It was a trip we never imagined being taken on. Despite Whitney hobbling for most of it, we immensely enjoyed the sun and sights. Don't ever believe following God isn't an adventure or filled with wonderful blessings. Each of you are one of those special blessings to our family. We love you!

The Barretts to England

Riley, Whitney, Wemberly, Arden

**Sending Church:** Heartland Baptist Church | Antioch, IL | 847.838.5147 | [www.hbcantioch.com](http://www.hbcantioch.com)

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