

Brian and Jackie Chilvers

Waiting

February 2021



www.bmsworldmission.org/bjchilvers

We had very much hoped and anticipated that this newsletter would be our first from Chad, that we would have arrived, quarantined and begun settling into life at Guinebor II hospital. Sadly this is not the case, we have still not been able to travel so remained in the UK.

We feel blessed to have been able to stay in a cottage on the Wiltshire/Somerset border, not far from our home town and within reach of countryside or canal walks (The photo was taken as we walked the footpath through Farleigh Hungerford Castle on our one snowy day). We have been able to continue with the online French teacher we were connecting with last term - in a group and an individual lesson, which has given us something to look forward to a couple of days each week, as well as helping us keep a focus on maintaining our French. We have also been watching plenty of French language TV programmes/films, and reading French books. A good friend previously lived in Belgium so we have had a very accessible French DVD library for when the 4G internet signal isn't too good!



One of the most challenging things about the latter half of 2020 and 2021 has been the amount of time we have

spent in the UK. We were very prepared for the challenges of transition (having experienced some in France already), but this latest transition has been really quite the opposite of what we were expecting. Some of this is the physical environment - cold, muddy and dull rather than hot, dry and sunny, and being isolated rather than in a community. The other side is social and emotional - expecting the challenges of being far away from family, rather than frustratingly close and not able to see them.

We had both really hoped to be able to be involved in the Covid-19 vaccination programme while we are here. However despite having had successful interviews and employment checks the process seems to have just halted. We have found out that this is in part due to the number of applicants for the posts, which of course is an amazing response from nurses and health professionals, but it has been hard, just waiting.

As Christians, and perhaps especially as mission workers we put some pressure on ourselves to feel ok about the uncertainty, and that the waiting should be a time of positivity and productivity. However we were sent a very helpful article yesterday (<https://www.biblicalcounselling.org.uk/coronavirus/waiting-2/>) which reminded us that it is normal to feel frustrated, sad and even bored. In this worldwide pandemic we feel like very small players, but we do know that that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose".

We are so thankful for your messages of care and support over the last few weeks, they have really encouraged and helped us.

Please pray for clarity as BMS seeks to get us to Chad and is exploring travel plans - but first and foremost that the borders would re-open to arrivals from the UK.

Please pray for our BMS colleagues Claire, Mark and Andrea as they are also still here in the UK waiting to return to Chad (You may have seen us recently referred to as the Chad Five, which bought a smile to our faces!)

Please pray for the all the staff at Guinebor II Hospital, working hard, awaiting our arrival and still finding time to contact us and encourage us, which has been really helpful.

Please pray for our family too, in this time of uncertainty and waiting to depart.

Thank you again for all your support, we hope and trust that our next newsletter will be written from Chad!

If you would like to support Brian and Jackie Chilvers by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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