

Brian and Jackie Chilvers

My Ways are Not Your Ways...

June 2020



www.bmsworldmission.org/bjchilvers

We started the last update by saying how much had changed in a short time – and again that is so true. Life is different all over again. It has felt rather like one of our much loved walks – you look at the top of the hill just ahead and think you know when the hard bit will be over – only to discover that behind that hill are many more peaks and troughs you just couldn't see before!

Text:

There has been a gradual re-opening of shops, hairdressers, restaurants etc, and parks and public places are all now accessible as long as you remember your mask to wear on the public transport. Churches have been allowed to open with certain measures in place, and we had the joy of attending a service last week, with social distance and masks inside but singing outside so we could take our them off!

Face to face school life resumed during May, with certain measures to restrict distance and sharing of objects in class. When we reconvened it was encouraging to see how we had all progressed despite the limitations of online learning and staff illness bringing challenges for the teaching team. We are pleased to report that since our 'present tense' theme last time we now have 5 tenses to choose from...

We took some tests earlier this month – and we are both really pleased as our results were better than we had hoped, which is so encouraging. We feel this in part due to support from French speaking friends and the arrival of Lucie, an intern who has helped us with conversation and conjugation!

Lucie has brought so much energy and life to the school. As well as supporting students with conversation and helping look after children she has been holding watercolour classes, which Brian has joined in and really enjoyed - his painting has improved along with his French!



We are thankful that our family in the UK have been clear of coronavirus. Jackie's mum has ongoing illness and is quite unwell at present, so we would be grateful for your prayers for her. Our daughter and her boyfriend have both recently been offered new jobs in the Plymouth area, where they lived previously -which is amazing given the current work climate. Our son is also doing well and has taken up outdoor roller skating in response the closure of the ice rinks which don't look set to reopen for some time!

We have recently moved to a different apartment within the school - It's lovely and give us more space and privacy, which has already been good for us. It may only be temporary but we are really thankful for it.

We are already learning that one of the hardest things about mission is saying goodbye – students have been gradually leaving over the last couple of weeks as we neared the end of term. We were so blessed to spend great days out in Paris with them to mark the end of their studies but so sad to see them go. These are tense times for some of them – heading for mission in Europe and Africa– as they wait in their home country for borders to re-open or travel restrictions to be clarified. But as one wise friend says, even though our season with each other may be short now "It's not *au revoir* it's *à la prochaine*".



We won't pretend that the last few months have been easy, even since starting our training with BMS last September there have been many personal challenges & battles alongside the world-changing Covid-19.

The biggest lessons for us have been that even though we know we are in God's will, the plans we make may not be what He has in mind for us. He provides exactly what we need at the right time, be that physical, emotional or spiritual. We have seen how much more powerful God's word is when we are thirstier for it, but also experienced how He can draw near to us even when we are finding it hard to draw near to Him.

Please join us in giving thanks for school and their commitment to supporting our learning and wellbeing over the last few months and the months ahead.

We are grateful that we have been able to move, for the time being at least, to a more new apartment in the school.

Please pray for Jackie's mum and for wisdom for us regarding visiting as we hope the quarantine restrictions will be lifted soon.

Pray that we will continue to gain confidence with our language learning.

Pray that we will be able to sort out the practical things we need to ahead of going to Chad.

Please pray for the students who have left Les Cèdres to work in various missions, that their practical and travel needs will be met and they will continue to know God's blessing.

We are so thankful for all the support you give us – prayer support, messages of encouragement and giving to BMS so that the most marginalised people can know Jesus and the abundance of life that He gives. We really do fix our eyes on this goal daily, and in doing so remember and pray for all of you who are making this possible.

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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