

Brian and Jackie Chilvers

Encounters

December 2019



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We are writing this as we come to the end of our preparations at BMS Birmingham. It has been a busy time, with blessings and encouragements along the way, so we thought we would share some of these 'encounters' with you. These are by no means exhaustive, it was hard to choose out of so many!

First, we must of course mention the Action Teams! It was a bit strange leaving our home and moving in with a bunch of young adults, but we were so encouraged by their faith, their willingness to spend time with us, and let us be part of some of their learning and worship. We love following their blogs and news, and still feel part of the 'action' by being able to pray for them.

Next, the 'Air B & B' facility is a great opportunity to meet people. One lady in particular gave us great encouragement at a difficult time, just by sharing her reasons for visiting, her family history and sharing some of her faith journey with us. She sensed our struggles, and we felt so blessed when she asked if she could pray for us and are encouraged as we know she will continue to do so.

An entertaining few days was spent with a group of ex-BMS missionaries who had worked in Congo. They were so lively, very kind and quickly connected with us, wanting to know who we were and where we were going, Word quickly spread that there were mission personnel in training and we soon learnt how to kill rats with flip flops, snakes with broom handles and how to get rid of the snake living in a tree outside your house. We are sure they spared us a lot of the more difficult experiences, but we were so encouraged by their continued excitement about mission.

A more recent encounter was with a lady who was attending a course here. She clearly had such a gift of caring and encouragement.

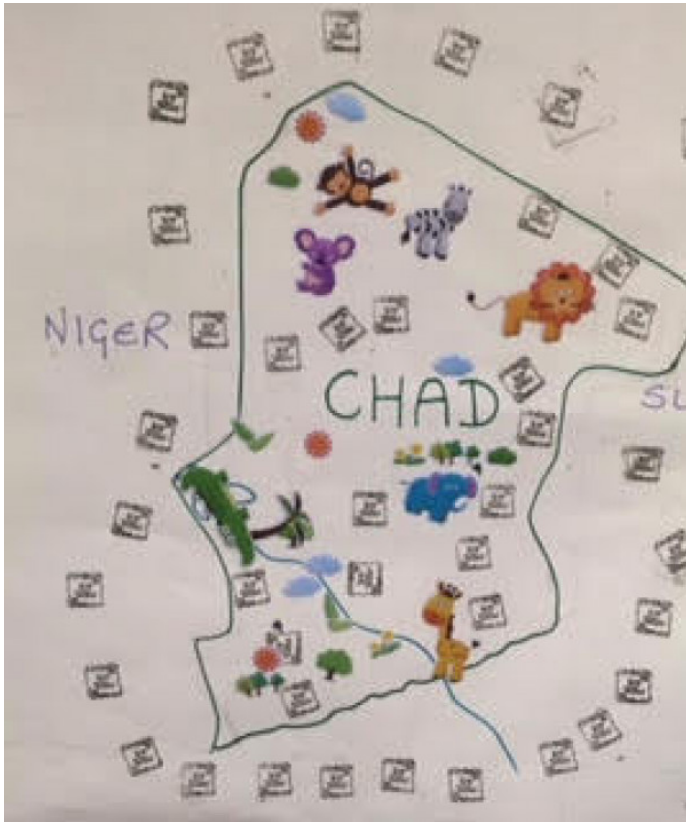
She invited us to join a small group of people praying and worshipping in the evening, there was a real sense of the Holy Spirit's presence with us and connectedness with each other as brothers and sisters.

We hope that in some way we were also an encouragement to the many people we have encountered.

The last few months has had its ups and downs. We have learnt a great deal and loved getting to know people both here at BMS Birmingham and in Didcot. There have been challenges with family illness and day to day practicalities. We have had some fun times too, with a short break in Shropshire, a graduation, visiting friends and a wedding.



Whilst visiting Cheshire for the wedding we were able to visit Sandbach Baptist Church. We had a great time with them and were thrilled that as well as the grown ups hearing about what we will be doing the children also spent time in their groups thinking about the country of Chad. They made us this super picture!



We were able to attend the Engaging Islam course at All Nations College earlier this month. We learnt more about Islamic culture and beliefs and how we can connect with our Muslim friends wherever we are in the world. It was great to mix with so many people training for or engaged in mission of one kind or another and hear how God is working in the lives of people across the Muslim world. One of the biggest challenges was to be praying even now that we are able to discern the 'person of peace' that God is preparing us to meet in the future.

Thanks and Praise:

We are so grateful that people are praying for us in our preparations, and to those who have been involved with our training.

Thanks for God putting people in our way, giving us these 'encounters' to encourage and strengthen us.

Please pray:

For our children, parents and siblings as we head out to France for language study in January.

That we will learn the language easily!

For the team already at Guinebor II and those who will be joining them in the new year.

Thank you to all those who are supporting us - whether through prayer, church partners or individually. There are so many more encounters we could mention and we know that many more people are praying for us. We may not have met in person but when we hear that this is happening it really is an encouragement - not just to us now, but because we know that God will hear and there will be more blessings for the staff and patients at Guinebor II.

We hope that you have a good Christmas, a happy new year and know the peace of God in 2020.

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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