

Brian and Jackie Chilvers

December 2020

December 2020



www.bmsworldmission.org/bjchilvers

First of all, thank you to each of you who is reading this and has supported us, prayed for us and cared for us over the last year. We couldn't have done it without you! We are both agreed that this has been one of our toughest years in many ways, but that your prayerful support has upheld us throughout.

Of course, there have been some fun moments (usually based around sharing food and games with fellow residents!) and surprise moments. In class we followed the regulations around Covid19 – masks, hand hygiene, distance and fresh air. Fresh air was certainly the theme – one day our teacher was opening a window to keep the air flowing in class, and the whole window frame fell out, injuring her hand and arm. There were four nurses in the class so she was in good hands – Brian was able to examine her hand and use some of his medical French to determine that she needed an X ray, while the rest of us searched for ice and scarves for a makeshift sling. Another memorable occasion was one afternoon when the noise of building works taking place in the school was just too much to hear each other speak (especially in our masks) so we all took our chairs outside. The November afternoon was 'fresh' to say the least. Another class took pity on us by holding signs up at their window, though more practical help was gratefully received in the form of blankets from a member of staff!

We were able to continue our studies as planned until, sadly, Jackie's mum died at the beginning of December. Obviously, this has been a sad time for us and our family, but she often talked about her love for Jesus her saviour and knowing that she is now with Him is a huge comfort. It was sad to leave our friends in France so quickly and suddenly, without even a goodbye to some. After a year we had built some strong relationships and we miss our friends, but we are grateful to be able to keep in touch and pray for each other, knowing that the friendship has a firm foundation in Christ and our different callings that have placed us all far from home. Strangely it was also sad to miss our final exams! However we were both encouraged by the feedback from our teachers and some of the practice tests we had been doing.

Yesterday, having literally just finished packing our cases and shopping for the last couple of small items, we received the news that we are unable to fly to Chad on 5th January as planned, due to the rise of the new variant of C-19 meaning that like some other countries Chad will not allow arrivals from the UK. Obviously, this is hugely disappointing, bewildering and unsettling. So, having spent a lot of 2020 not knowing what the next few weeks look like, once again we are in the same place.



We have learnt to expect the unexpected this year. We have learnt that being obedient to a calling does not necessarily look like you think it will. However, we have also learnt that along with the challenges, come blessings – from the generosity of people who can provide a home when you need to, to the simple messages of care and support received in a text.

We saw an amazing answer to prayer during all this – when Jackie urgently needed to return to the UK our passports had been submitted two days before for a visa application, so she was unable to fly the same day. This was so distressing, but with the help of Rosemary our BMS colleague, the next day we were able to recover the passports but leave all the papers ready for the application to be approved.

There were many people praying as we travelled into the City, and we found the officials to be gracious and kind, as well as grateful that our passports were easily accessible. The process was subsequently completed with no complications.

We would be grateful for your continued prayers, especially in relation to the current situation – we are not the only people affected of course, our colleague Claire is also in the UK following home assignment, and there are missionaries from other organisations who are not able to enter/re-enter Chad.

We are all praying for a better 2021. As we hope that the roll out of vaccine will be a success in preventing the further spread of Covid and the devastation that it has caused, we are have an even more certain hope in Jesus – and pray also that we can all "...hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10 v 23).

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.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity (number 1174364) and a company limited by guarantee (number 10849689)

If there are any changes to your contact details, or you wish to unsubscribe from this prayer letter and/or other BMS communications, please contact the BMS Supporter Services Team by phone on 01235 517638, by email at supporterservices@bmsworldmission.org or by post to the address below. For more details on how we use and protect your data, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/privacy