

Louise and Peter Lynch

A Bucket and a Plastic Teapot

March 2020



www.bmsworldmission.org/lplynch

Dear friends, we know that life in the UK has changed, possibly beyond recognition and that you are facing new challenges and stresses as well as the familiar. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch to ask about the situation here and thank you now for taking time to read this.

It feels surreal to have switched from being busy to an almost complete stop.

In February ...we were teaching full time at CCTB and supporting the life of the college. We taught our "English for Theology Students Course" each morning and spent afternoons in Faculty meetings and working on strategic planning. Those plans have all been interrupted now as students have gone home. Please pray for them and for the college as they adjust to an unknown future.

At the weekends we travelled, met, preached, prayed and encouraged. The highlight was the weekend in Sreemangal working with a BMS supported couple who are church planting. They took us first to a remote village where a local leader enabled us to gather the people. It was the first time any foreigner had visited them and the first time the name of Jesus had been heard. It felt like holy ground. The next day we were in the tea garden area providing "WASH training and Worship" (water, sanitation and hygiene) with about 150 people of all ages. Not a bad model of holistic mission! BBCS want to buy some land here to establish a mission station.

Watch this space!

In Marchwe went ahead with our trip to Thailand. Louise provided Child Protection Training for the Thai Karen Baptist Convention. It felt like a significant day as people shared their professional expertise, personal experiences and talked about the challenges they face in trying to keep children safe from abuse. Following on from the training we met to talk about next steps and a small group has been formed to work together to write some advice and guidance for everyone who works with

children. Louise will continue to support them through this next phase. Our work ended with a morning at Hope Home, providing training on Safeguarding children with disabilities.



We then took, what felt like a well-earned break and spent a week, cycling and walking in the hills around Chiang Mai. We were watching the news updates throughout but decided to make the most of the opportunity we had to be active. On 15th March we returned to Bangladesh and were asked by the authorities to go into home quarantine for fourteen days, which we are doing. We have been supported by local friends and by everyone in the UK who has video called. We have also been monitored by the Special Branch Police.

Bangladesh is shutting down. The schools are closed, religious gatherings are banned, only essential shops are open, there are only 3 flight routes out of the country, public transport is being closed down and from 26th March to 4th April the Government has declared a "National Holiday" for all offices. During that time people may only go out to buy food and medicine. When our quarantine ends everything will be locked down. There have been a small number of deaths and confirmed cases at present, but the fear of uncontrollable spread is real.



At a personal level, it seems like all the things that God has been teaching us in the last 22 months are now tested again. We have been in our flat for the last 9 days in isolation. Everything is stripped back. What should we do? What is our role? How can we communicate? How do we stand alongside our brothers and sisters? Will we get back for home assignment? Most of last year we lived with uncertainty and tried to learn how to function well day to day. Now the same challenge exists, but in more extreme circumstances.



If you would like to support Louise and Peter Lynch by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.

The good news in Bangladesh is that no one is worried about toilet roll. A bucket and a plastic teapot are enough. It is simple. You fill the bucket from the tap – and then you use the tea pot to water the parts of the body that need cleaning. No need for toilet paper. All very hygienic – as long as you wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.



We have just briefed BMS on the situation in Bangladesh and we have seen that the appeal for help is “live” (<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/appeal/covid-19-coronavirus-appeal/>). We know that all of you have so many challenges of your own – but please don't forget the millions of people here living in poverty with no money, no safety net, no free health care who will need your prayers and your help.

Be assured of our prayers for all of you, your churches and your families and please continue to pray for us, our churches and our family back in the UK.

With our love

Peter and Louise



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