

# Peter and Louise Lynch

## Prayer letter, August 2017



**Name:** Peter and Louise Lynch

**Country:** Bangladesh

**Region:** Asia

**Principal Ministry:** Church / Leadership

**Sending Church:** Worle Baptist

### Hello!

Hello and welcome to our first prayer letter!

We are Peter and Louise Lynch and we are joining BMS World Mission to work with the Baptist church leaders in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a mainly Muslim country and Christians make up less than 2% of the population. With the population of Bangladesh being over 168 million people that is a significant demographic and within the Baptist (Sangha) denomination there are 374 churches. These churches trace their history back to the original missionary work of William Carey, and so the close links between BMS and the Bangladesh Christian community have deep roots. It is a little daunting to think about following in such well known footsteps and a huge privilege to be invited by the Bangladesh church leaders to work alongside them. These churches do some significant work in serving and teaching some of the poorest people in the country and in providing education, hostels and health care through their social care projects that operate under the umbrella of the SHED Board. We expect that our role in working alongside the Church leadership may involve training, teaching, support and pastoral care, underpinned by keeping strong partnership links between the Baptist churches in Bangladesh, BMS and their other partners.

### Who we are and how we arrived at this point

We both have some experience of working overseas and before we met and were married had felt called to mission. We had thought that would be in an overseas context but instead have spent the last 25 years learning what that means at home. It is exciting to now be at a point where something that has been part of our sense of calling for so long is becoming a reality.

Peter used to be a Geologist and worked in the oil industry before retraining in theology (at London School of Theology and Bristol Baptist College) and becoming a Pastor. Peter has pastored churches in Aberdeen, Stafford and Worle (Weston super Mare).

Louise began with a degree in Theology at London Bible College, worked in a Christian outdoor centre and then trained in Social Work at Aberdeen University. She has spent most of her working life employed by local authorities, initially as a child care Social Worker and over the last 10 years in training social workers, developing policy and in the professional development of the children's workforce. We both enjoy the great outdoors and have a sense of adventure. Peter retains an insatiable interest in rocks and sport and Louise enjoys music. Together we like to cycle, run and climb mountains and have a feeling that these activities may need to be modified to some extent in our new home. We have two boys, both of whom are at University and this will be our first venture without them.

In our Christian calling we have always tried to be open to God and to be willing to go where He sends us. Seven years ago Peter wanted to use his sabbatical to link Worle Baptist Church with a church in another part of the world. BMS helped us to create a partnership with a church in Albania. The experience of spending weeks in mission and walking in the shoes of Christian brothers and sisters from another part of the world has been an important part of our re-emerging calling to overseas mission. Conversations with BMS, family and friends and a meeting with one of the church leaders from Bangladesh have also been important steps in our journey to this point.

### What next?

We are really pleased that our next step in preparation is to go to IMC in Birmingham for two terms (from September 2017 to Easter 2018). We are hoping that this will give us a chance to think, learn, pray and prepare. We are also hoping that it will enable us to de-clutter our brains and find some space for the next challenge of language learning.

### How Can You Support Us?

We have always been grateful for the kindness of our close family and friends who pray for us, make us laugh and lend a helping hand. If you would like to pray for us and the church in Bangladesh, hear about how we are getting along, and offer support then please let us

know.

As this is a first prayer letter you may not be aware of how BMS works. One of the ways that you can commit to supporting us and BMS is by joining the BMS programme called 24:7 Partners. Further details are on the BMS website at [www.bmsworldmission.org/partners](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/partners).

### **Please Pray For Us**

- Pray that we will think of everything (!) as we take the practical steps of packing up home and relocating to IMC, Birmingham.
- Pray that there will be a lot of joy and God's strength as we say goodbyes and meet new people.
- Pray for the church at Worle and for all of our friends and work colleagues.
- Pray for good preparation, that we can be curious and open to the full opportunities that our time at IMC will afford us (even in ways we are not expecting).
- Pray that we will quickly work out what being a family will look like with us all in different parts of the country (and then the world), especially for Calum and Jonah and Louise's mum and dad.
- Pray for the churches in Bangladesh and for their leaders.
- Pray for all of the practical arrangements in Bangladesh and that when we arrive we will quickly forge new friendships as well as new working relationships.

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



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