

Peter and Louise Lynch

Prayer letter, January 2018

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Dear Friends

We have a tradition in our family on New Year's Eve, that we have a meal together and over the course of the meal we review the year that has passed. We take it in turns to name a category and then each of us answers. No matter what the category the boys will always want to talk about funny things their dad has said or done and we always spend a lot of time celebrating successes and reliving the holiday adventure we had, as well as acknowledging challenges. At the end of the last term we went through a similar process at IMC as we reviewed our learning and had a quiet day to reflect and be still before God.

Looking Back

There has been much that has surprised us. We have been surprised by the things that we haven't missed and how much we have enjoyed living in community. A heavy fall of snow across Birmingham gave all of us a chance we hadn't expected to be excited by our surroundings and to take delight in the beauty that a blue sky and snow laden trees provide.



We have appreciated the lectures and all the teaching we have received; the process of stepping back from what we have been doing and taking time to explore the realities of cross cultural mission has been an enriching process for us. We give thanks for the staff here for their wisdom and insight and we are very thankful for having this time to prepare and think.

We are relieved that we have had a chance to pause, reflect and reconnect with ourselves, others and with God. We feel that our prayers and hopes for this time are being answered. The rhythm of our life is a healthy one for us and the gift of time has been amazing. We have loved being able to catch up with friends and family.

We have learned more about what it means to trust God for our family. If you have followed our blog you will know that our niece and Pete's brother have had significant health scares and we thank all of you who joined us in both urgent and ongoing prayer for them. This Christmas seems to have added poignancy as we have more time than we have ever had before to spend with our family, but know how different next year will be. Learning what it means to trust God for our family is an ongoing process and when we contemplate saying our goodbyes we know how close to the surface our emotions are running.

Looking Forward

We will soon have confirmation of our date of departure for Bangladesh and expect it to be in April or early May 2018. This is the hot and humid season, just before the heavy monsoon rains arrive. Acclimatisation and cultural adjustment is likely to be quite absorbing in the early months.

As we prepare to work in partnership with the leadership of the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha, it has been incredibly useful to know that BMS have spent fruitful days in discussion and consultation with this significant partner. We are inspired by their vision for leadership in the church and their communities, and it is helpful for us to have this awareness of their hopes and aspirations so that we can purposefully prepare ourselves. In our own preparation, it has helped us that a couple of BMS colleagues who work in Bangladesh have recently been on a visit. We gleaned all sorts of helpful tips and look forward to working with them. We have also met future colleagues from Liebenzel mission who are partners with BBCS.

Over the next three months at IMC we will begin learning Bangla and will have some teaching on language acquisition. We also plan to start to meet members of the Bangladeshi community in Birmingham. Our teaching timetable will focus more on specific country studies as we focus more deliberately on life in Dhaka. The need to embed ourselves in Bangladesh culture and language in our new home will determine where we live and work during the first year. All that will remain then will be the small matter of packing the things that we might need and leaving behind things that won't fit comfortably into a few suitcases and bags.

Please Pray For Us

- Please join us in giving thanks that packing up our home, moving to Birmingham and settling into life at IMC has been positive for us.
- Thank God that we are adapting to new ways of staying in touch and are enjoying friendships, even at a distance. Thanks also that we have enjoyed good times with old friends.

- Pray for the church at Worle (our sending church) and for their leaders as they continue the work in the communities they serve and plan for the next phase of their life together
- Pray for good and purposeful preparation during this term at IMC. Pray that we will use the next three months well.
- Continue to pray for Pete's brother, for Calum and Jonah (our boys), and for Louise's mum and dad.
- Pray for the churches in Bangladesh and for their leaders. Specifically, for the BBCCS churches and for the work they engage with through SHED Board.
- Pray for all the practical arrangements being made for our leaving the UK and arrival in Bangladesh. Pray that when we arrive we will quickly forge new friendships as well as new working relationships.

Peter and Louise

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



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