

Louise and Peter Lynch

A Dose of Vitamin D

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Hello Everyone

In the absence of other places to walk we venture up onto our roof most days for our dose of vitamin D, a sight of the great outdoors and to keep the steps-App on Lou's phone happy.

Seeing as we have all been getting used to living in confined spaces and appreciating some different perspectives on life - we thought we would share with you some of our recent views.



The View from our Window

Usually when we look out of our window it is buzzing with noise and colour. But, in the last few weeks, the YMCA school playground has been used as a distribution centre for families in need. There is no background buzz, just someone shouting and organising the lines of people requesting relief. At one level it is a reassuring sight. Thank God for initiatives by Government, NGO's, churches and individuals that are giving help to people in crisis. But it is also disturbing to think about the human misery behind each bag of rice. The step down to food poverty is a small one for far too many people. Whenever we go outside to shop, we pray as we go. Last week a rickshaw puller was so desperate for our fare and so keen to help us that he followed us everywhere we went. We have our own concerns about safety, but the bigger reality is the many people that are in need. The number of people asking for money has significantly increased. We try to give away what we can in line with what we spend – but if you give to one you need to take care not to create a crowd.

When we shop, we attempt to social distance. We dip our feet, spray our hands, have our temperature taken and buy snickers and diet pepsi as our personal treat.

I imagine you get the picture. In many ways we are comfortable, cocooned in our flat and we have everything we need. For us, lock down is quite straightforward. But in other ways the situation is grave and the challenges very real.



A View from the Villages Coping with Lock Down

We would like to introduce you to the Pastoral Superintendent for the far North of Bangladesh, who went out on his motorbike distributing aid amongst the churches in his district. Here are our questions and his answers:

How did you choose who to help?

"We chose to help people who did not have any other help. No NGO help, no Government help. People who had no work, who were really hand to mouth and not getting anything. When we arrived in the village we went to the

church and the people came to the church and we told them somethings about Corona virus, about hand washing and social distancing. We sang a song and we prayed together. We also told people where the money had come from, from BMS and from some other people."

How did the people respond?

"They're very happy, because they had no money, they had no food and now they can buy food and essentials.

One woman told us: 'this is God's mercy on us'. Lots gave thanksgiving and want to send back thanks to the UK for sending help and for praying for them. We also heard one woman saying: 'because we have this money we will give help to someone, and so someone else can live'."

How did it make you feel, being part of this aid distribution?

"This crisis is a big crisis. What we did was very good because Jesus fed the five thousand. We can't leave them alone. Of course we stand behind them, not only for money, but to give advice, to give mental support. Without prayer money is not enough. Prayer is a good thing, we have to pray together."



A Post-Cyclone View

It is hard to find words to describe the impact of Cyclone Amphan that hit the southwest of Bangladesh very hard. For us, we have felt heavy sadness and grief, especially as it struck a low-lying area already vulnerable to the impact of climate change, an area still recovering from a Cyclone last year, and the impact of the Covid-lockdown. This year has become so much about helping people just to get through. As pictures and accounts of the loss of livelihoods come in from Khulna, we have almost felt

overwhelmed by the scale of our brothers and sisters needs and losses. We also join them in giving thanks and praise to God that lives were not lost. Please carry on praying for the churches in Khulna as people rebuild their homes and livelihoods and as they look to God to give them comfort and meet their needs.



Prayer

On most of the emails we send at the moment I find myself writing "mercy prayers". Please keep praying God's mercy for Bangladesh.

Pray that the infection numbers that are currently rising steeply would begin to fall. Pray that families staring poverty in the face would be spared. Pray for those who are sick with Covid-19. Pray for the BBCS hospital and the staff at Chandraghona.

Thank God for the privilege and blessing that we can stand alongside brothers and sisters and can help to bare some of the burden.

It is a strange time while being instructed to be distanced we are at the same time so closely connected. We are grateful for your support and prayers for us. The churches here appreciate your prayers and support for them. Thanks for taking this Bangladesh dose of vitamin-D with us and for taking a look outside. We pray for all of you in your own circumstances knowing that this is not easy for anyone.

With our love

Pete and Lou

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

