

Louise and Peter Lynch

If Truth Be Told

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We sat down with the village holy man. It was their annual celebration event. The scene was busy with vibrant colour, the smell of food cooking, the sound of drums and trumpets. There were people from all religions at the event. Respectfully, they came and paid their respects to their spiritual leader. We had been taken forward to meet him, were greeted warmly, and then sat and watched the events unfold around us.

Seekers after Truth

While we watched, a deeply troubled man was shouting and gesticulating. We asked if we could pray for him –but before we prayed a local healer came and insisted on praying first. Then it was our turn. We laid hands on him and asked God to give him peace and restore him. After we had finished – he walked away, and we did not see him for the rest of the day. The religious leader then leaned over to speak to us. He thanked us for coming. Quietly, he told us that he and his people were all seeking the truth and he recognised that we also sought truth. He welcomed the opportunity to search with us. This scene is a small picture of what truth sharing looks like for us. It is exciting to meet people with open hearts and minds - those who are seeking some truth.



In the last months, whether it is news about the Covid-pandemic, vaccine side-effects or politics in general, the need for fact checking and truth telling is right at the front of our minds. It seems that the question put to Jesus about “What is truth?” seems as relevant as ever. We want to thank you for all of your prayers and messages. As you will gather, we are back in Bangladesh! Quarantine went smoothly and we are very pleased to be back in our flat and going to the office. The Government is keeping a close eye on the situation here, but we are all hopeful that the schools and colleges might reopen next month for exam students. Meanwhile we wear our mask all the time, wash our hands lots and appreciate being able to move around a bit more than we could last year. As you can imagine our thoughts and prayers are very much on the different situations our family and friends are in, back in the UK.



Teachers of Truth

The next day after the village visit, we were interviewing candidates for the different courses at the Christian College of Theology. There were 25 candidates from different denominations, all wanting to pursue their sense of calling to serve God and wanting to study at BTh, MA and MDiv. levels. In Bangladesh, where Christianity is a minority religion and where the religious “marketplace” is crowded, the need for teacher’s who can engage with questions of truth is vital.

We often hear of the need for training teachers for simple grassroots contexts in rural settings; and for higher level training so that well educated leaders can interact confidently with different ideas and beliefs. We are blessed to part of a team of national leaders and overseas faculty who are training those who will teach others. But, what is most exciting is to meet men and women who are passionate about being teachers of truth in Bangladesh.

What Does Truth Look Like?

On our visit to the village, we were talking with the General Secretary about how we work in Bangladesh in new areas. He said, "First, we build a relationship, then we build a strong friendship and so we build trusting partnerships and tell them the good news". Truth, as well as being told is demonstrated. It looks like good news. It feels like good news. It sounds like good news. Like Jesus said, we can recognise truth in the fruit of the lives of "truth-tellers". (Luke 6:43-45).



Praise God that our return arrangements went as smoothly as they did.

Please join us in praying that the people we meet who are seeking and hearing the gospel for the first time will become believers.

Please pray for our colleagues here who are moving into new areas of mission, that they will settle and become established in the new communities.

Please pray for us and the students as we prepare to teach at the Theological college.

Please pray for us as we pick up different parts of our work, that we will be discerning about how to use our time and energies.

Pray for the BBCS schools, pre-schools, hostels and programmes that have been badly impacted financially and emotionally by the Covid-related closures.

As always, we are so encouraged to know you are praying with us for the work here. It was great to see many of you remotely and a few of you in person during our home assignment.

We look forward to keeping in touch.

Peter and Louise

(for sensitivity reasons there are no photos in this letter other than some shots of us back at home in Dhaka)

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.

