

Louise and Peter Lynch

Resilience

May 2021



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Hello Everyone

If we had to pick a word to describe the last two months, it would have been 'disrupted'. Since 5th April, all our plans have been disrupted, transport across Bangladesh has been disrupted and lives have been disrupted as the second COVID wave spread across Dhaka and out into the country. As we write, we are still in a form of lockdown and everyone has their eye on the 7 Districts that border India, where the infection rate is rising. Amidst this disruption, however, we have heard God's invitation to find our resilience in Him. So, that is our theme for this letter.

Resilience and Calling

When we went back into lockdown, we wrestled to find purpose in the isolation. The jump from action to inaction and from socialising to shielding was abrupt. We knew that we could use the time well to prepare and catch up with work, but we have always felt that we were called to live amongst people, not lock ourselves away from them. It is an ongoing dilemma for us as we balance taking sensible measures to keep ourselves well, with doing the right things to help progress the work we have been given to do.

One of the ways of doing this, has been to go back to zoom. Louise has had to let go of all the ways she likes to train and has rewritten her leaders' child protection training to do on zoom. Two-hour sessions over three days. We have consulted with the Youth Leaders and have a clearer idea about their aspirations and their training needs. We have been able to pray with the Pastoral Superintendents and to join others across Asia praying for the situation in India.

With everyone desk bound, we have been able to spend more time with Rev Ashim and Rev John, the senior leaders of BBCS. This has helped us do some detailed planning, especially in relation to setting up a Mission and Evangelism hub (which Pete is involved in), and

how we both can help BBCS move towards their goal of ordaining women. We have also been able to prepare our course on Wisdom literature for the Theology College that we teach in July - hopefully face to face.

We find that when we are in the office, we are more available to people, to have conversations we might otherwise have missed. Often it is challenging as people bring dilemmas, ask us for help and share their burdens. It is hard not being able to provide solutions to all the problems that people bring, we have found it necessary at times to just pause and lament at the depth of need.



Resilience and Gratitude

This week, we have celebrated Jonah's birthday and his Graduation. Calum has sat exams and the two of them were finally able to meet up. It gives us great joy to see them thriving in their work, studies and relationships. Pete has taken up some nocturnal habits recently in order to enjoy Man City's march to the top of the league and has stopped talking about the Champions League. We have learned from our friends here that the key to enduring the weather is to focus on the benefits it brings, and now we are enjoying the fruits that come from hot weather and rain: an abundance of lychee and mango. Most of all we are grateful that God has put people around us who demonstrate their care to us. In Bangladesh this is often expressed by questions about the state of our food supplies. We have really appreciated joining services in the UK by zoom, receiving emails, birthday wishes and even chocolate - so thank you.

Resilience and the Nature of God

When the trains started to run again last Sunday, it was an answer to prayer. We had been praying with our friend Esther (who is the pre-school co-ordinator, supported by BMS) that she would be able to travel to be with her family for the birth of her first child. Timing was everything, the longer the travel restrictions were in place, the less likely it was that she would be able to travel at all. The doctors had already refused to let her travel by car or plane and so the train was her only option. When she and her husband bought tickets on the Sunday night and we knew that she would be travelling on Tuesday (the day before Cyclone Yaas was due to hit Bangladesh) we saw it as God's perfect timing. Not only was the timing perfect, but it turned out that the two other people in her cabin were both doctors. She phoned and said 'I knew then that I did not need to be worried and that I would be alright on the journey'. God answered our prayers that she could travel and God answered her anxiety about making the journey.



Requests

Please keep praying for Bangladesh, that it will be spared a third wave. Pray that the children who have been out of school for 14 months will be able to go back to school. Pray for a vaccine supply for the country.

Please pray for the Christians living in and around Chilla, whose livelihoods were devastated by Cyclone Amphan last year and whose lives have again been disrupted by Cyclone Yaas.

Please pray that we will have wisdom to use our time well. That we will soon be able to register for a vaccination and that we can find ways to have a break when we need one.

We are learning so much about resilience and faith from the people we share our lives with here. We are mindful that life in the UK is also challenging and stretching, and we want you to know that we pray for you also.

Thank you for your support over these months which has been a real encouragement to us.

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.



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