

John and Sue Wilson

God will make a way!

January 2022

www.bmsworldmission.org/jswilson



Hello,

As we enter a new year, we are conscious of the faith of those in the past who were confident that "God will make a way" (Isaiah 43:19) Over the last two years, we have all felt the frustration of not being able to plan ahead. Living by faith and not by sight requires us to move forward despite not having control over our circumstances. We thank God that he is making a way for us to share the Good News in Paris despite many challenging situations.

For us, the Christmas season began with our Christmas market which brought financial support to our meals for the homeless. With trips to a large wholesaler we also made good purchases for the months ahead to enable the various teams involved to prepare meals. An evangelistic event gathering families around the theme of God's generosity was well received. The actor/singer songwriter, a member of one of our Baptist churches, humorously crafted a story around an ambitious hotel owner forced to face up to God's agenda.

These happy events were overshadowed by the death of a church member, who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer only months after getting married. A previous youth leader in the church, his thanksgiving service brought together so many young people as well as those from the theatre and the arts where he was a lecturer. His testimony reminded us of the saying that it is not the years in your life that count, but the life in your years!

Whilst we were so looking forward to the arrival of our children and grandchild for Christmas, it was not to be. All the family had booked tickets and then the border closed between England and France. Exactly as it happened the year before, except this time we suspected that Brexit rather than Covid was the underlying reason, as people arrived at church from the United States and the Middle East!

Our unexpectedly empty Christmas suddenly became filled with other preoccupations. The manager of our hostel had taken holiday over the Christmas period, but her replacement came down with Covid.



That meant that Sue had to run the hostel over Christmas and New Year. She got John involved in fixing curtain rails and bleeding radiators and other small DIY jobs. As with the Christmas sketch, we realised that the innkeeper's agenda sometimes needs rearranging!



Our high's and lows are nothing in comparison to what others are going through. Julie suffers from cystic fibrosis and we were able to house her and her mother in the small flat above our own, so that she can study interior design in Paris. Fadi, her father is trying to support the family from Lebanon where the economy is collapsing. It was a great joy to have him here for a month over Christmas and to discover more about their faith journey as a family.

Whilst here, Fadi was struck by the needs and opportunities of reaching out to the Arabic speaking community in Paris. Please pray that God will make a way for them as a family, that their needs will be met and that God will use them to reach people who like themselves are challenged by economic and political migration.



Please pray that those who are bereaved will be comforted

Pray for strength for those who are going through tough times, especially remember Julie and her family

Pray that the Church will be inspired to make a way and shine a light in dark places

Pray that we will not grow weary but that hope in the Lord will renew our strength.

Thank you for your ongoing faithful support for BMS World Mission and for your prayerful encouragement.

Yours in Christ,

John & Sue

As we enter a New Year, we pray too that you will know the inner strength that God gives. "We struggle and work hard, because we have placed our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all and especially of those who believe." (1 Timothy 4:10)

May the hope of Christ light our way in dark times and give us joy in believing.

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



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity (number 1174364) and a company limited by guarantee (number 10849689)

If there are any changes to your contact details, or you wish to unsubscribe from this prayer letter and/or other BMS communications, please contact the BMS Supporter Services Team by phone on 01235 517638, by email at supporterservices@bmsworldmission.org or by post to the address below. For more details on how we use and protect your data, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/privacy