



# Mission Lines

*An occasional newsletter of mission news and activities*

14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

No. 50

*"As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people"  
Galatians 6:10*

## **MISSIONS UNDER CONTINUING LOCKDOWN**

Six months ago, when the last Mission Lines focussing on missions under lockdown was written, who could have imagined that we and many others in the world would still be in a lockdown situation! In some areas, things have eased and life has been getting back to normal, making things easier for aid agencies and missions to continue their work. We praise God that in many of the countries in Africa, case numbers have remained low and hospitals like Guinebor II in Chad, where Claire Bedford has been working, have not been overwhelmed. Bible translation work that was interrupted because of travel restrictions and bans on people meeting together have now been able to resume in many places and dedications of newly completed New Testaments have even been able to be held.

However, especially for those whose ministry depends to some extent on travel, life continues to be very challenging and unpredictable.

**Peter and Louise Lynch** were able to travel to UK for their delayed home assignment and after two weeks in quarantine enjoyed communicating with family, friends and supporters, albeit mostly remotely. We appreciated Peter's sermon on one of our Sunday on-line services and several of us enjoyed talking to both Peter and Louise about their life and work in Bangladesh during the after church Zoom chat. Right up to the last minute, they were unsure whether they would be able to travel as planned on 7<sup>th</sup> January but they were able to leave and the latest news was that they are in quarantine in a hotel in Dakar. They would value prayer for guidance as they set up their programme of teaching, leadership training etc. for the next months.

**Claire Bedford** was also able to travel to UK for home assignment and was kept busy communicating with friends and supporters on Zoom. She was planning to return to Chad early in January but Chad closed its borders to UK citizens, so she was unable to travel. She has no idea how long the closure will last, so she is looking into ways in which she can help the hospital remotely. Pray for her at this unsettling time and also for those at Guinebor II hospital missing her presence.

**Cally Magalhaes** returned from Brazil shortly before Christmas to spend a few weeks with her boys in Bournemouth. She was planning to return to Brazil on January 2<sup>nd</sup> but her flight was cancelled. It was rescheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> but again it was

cancelled. In the event, she could not have gone then anyway because she and the boys all became ill with COVID. Fortunately, they are recovering and she was able to stay on at the Airbnb where she was. She asks for prayer that they will all get better and that she can get a negative COVID test so that she can fly back to Brazil in God's timing.

**Ray and Kitty Sherrod** and family were able to return to their field of service shortly before Christmas. Ray is involved in setting up various projects to help the local internally displaced people find ways of earning a living. Part of Kitty's role is to care for the overseas personnel involved together with them and this has been particularly challenging in recent days. She and their daughter, Robyn, tested positive for COVID and spent the school vacation in quarantine rather than on holiday. They would value prayer that they will quickly recover full strength and not suffer any long-term effects.

## **THE GUERA TRANSLATION PROJECT IN CHAD – an encouraging story**



As a child growing up in the Guera area of central Chad, Halime remembers the first missionaries who came to her rural village in the 1950s. They started a school and a church at the foot of the mountains. Halime was one of the first girls in her village to get any sort of education and was the first in her family to follow Jesus. She had a thirst for learning and after six years of primary school, she wanted to sit the exam that would enable her to attend secondary school. However, her parents couldn't

afford the fees so she stayed home and married at the age of 18.

After 15 years of marriage, her husband converted to Islam because he believed it would help his career. When Halime refused to convert, he divorced her and took two other wives. Losing her husband was hard enough, but in her culture being divorced meant her husband would keep their three children. She had no choice but to return to her village and try and support herself. She would love to have turned to the Scriptures for comfort and guidance, but she only had the Bible in French, which she was a foreign language for her. She went through a time of great depression, thinking it would be better if she would die.

Then, one of the men who had come to help translate the Bible into her Migaama language somehow saw her potential and regularly asked her to translate a few verses. As she translated more and more verses, the words became alive for her. Eventually, Halime began formal training and became a member of the translation team. Now the New Testament is completed and the team are praying that many others will find life through having the word of God in their language.

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Since the Tearfund Connected Church scheme, through which we have been partnering with Cambodia Hope Organisation for some years, has come to an end, we are looking into other opportunities for partnering to further the spread of the Gospel message and demonstrate its effect on daily life. We have been made aware of two possibilities. One focuses on evangelism and discipleship while the other focuses more on the care of our world and the people in it but seeks to do it in accordance with Christian principles and in a way that honours God and seeks to make His word known. It would be possible for us to support both.

### **SAT-7**

SAT-7 is an organisation engaged in the production of TV programmes with Christian content in various areas of the Middle East and North Africa. They are looking to create partnerships that enable churches to support and connect with them in their ministry. The programmes are all produced by local people in accordance with local cultural sensitivity and with one exception, they are prepared in studios located in the areas in which they are to be shown. The programmes are aimed at a variety of audiences and partners can choose which of the areas they would like to focus on.

One area focuses on teaching children about Jesus and about biblical values in areas where there are few opportunities for them to hear of Christ's love for them and where many are not able to go to school. The programmes also help those growing up in Christian families that lack access to resources and spiritual support to help them.

A studio based in Lebanon produces programmes in Arabic and these are regularly watched by over 21 million people. In another studio, educational programmes are prepared for primary school age children who have no opportunity of going to school. These programmes are very popular and are watched by over 8 million children. There are also special programmes for women and others for encouraging isolated groups of believers in Turkey. The one studio not based in the Middle East is one in London where programmes are produced for isolated Persian-speaking believers in Iran and elsewhere.



Partnership with SAT-7 will mean supporting the programmes in prayer and financially, while the organisation will provide regular news updates and, when circumstances allow, enable face to face communication with personnel involved. They are also happy for supporters to visit their studios when travel is allowed again. Visiting the studio in London might be a possibility.

### **TEARFUND ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME**

Tearfund has been passionate about ending poverty for many years and in recent decades, there have been huge steps forward with extreme poverty halved since 1990. However, climate change is threatening to unravel this progress. Tearfund personnel believe we need to act now to stop this unraveling and this is why they are making environmental and economic sustainability (EES) a priority through a wide range of community development projects and targeted campaigns and advocacy. Their driving force continues to be God and His word, and they have

partnered with theologians and regional consultants across the countries where they work to create a theological framework that guides all EES work.



Currently there are EES programmes operating in at least 14 countries covering waste management, renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture. Many of them are working through churches and self-help groups. The strategic project manager of this programme is our own member, Liu Liu, so we could be kept well up to date with developments through him.

*Solar light enables Paulina to cook in the evening*

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### **Continue to pray for others involved in mission work overseas:-**

**The Leprosy Mission** is asking that we pray for breakthroughs in the various research projects being undertaken in various areas of the world. These include trials of new treatments to help ulcers to heal more quickly, finding more accurate ways of diagnosing leprosy in the early stages and finding ways of preventing transmission of the disease.

**Prabhakar Salvi** and his wife working amongst the Korku people in India in very difficult circumstances due to the coronavirus situation and the increasing persecution of Christians in the area.

**The Bench Translation Team** have completed proofreading the Bible in the Ethiopic script and are now working on the Latin script edition. Pray that they may be able to do an accurate job and that they will be guided through the last details before the Bible can be sent for printing.

**Domboshawa Theological College** – Pray for Dr Roy Musasiwa, principal of the college, and also for Tapiwa, the student we have been supporting. We have had no recent news but things are likely to have been very challenging because of the present circumstances.

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**NB.** David Sheldon regularly adds news items and requests for prayer to the Missions page of the BRBC website. Accessing the page from time to time will help you to keep your prayers current.

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*If you have a news item for inclusion in the next edition of Mission Lines, please send it to [mary.breeze44@gmail.com](mailto:mary.breeze44@gmail.com).*