

# Hello from the Robinsons! – July 2020

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Heart for Asia. Hope for Billions.

**‘Give thanks to the Lord of Lords...to him who alone does great wonders...who by his understanding made the heavens...who spread out the earth upon the waters...who made the great lights...the sun to govern the day...the moon & stars to govern the night. His love endures forever.’ Psalm 136:3-9**

Dear friends,

The smashing of glass woke us up. It was about 4am and Grace went down to the kitchen to check it out. Loud squeaks and a shout of ‘Maggie’ were all I heard until she returned to tell me what happened. Maggie (our cat) had been wrestling with a large mouse. Their tussle had knocked a glass to the floor where amidst shards of glass their fight continued until the mouse ran to safety behind the cooker... ‘That’s not normal’ I thought, ‘because cats are meant to catch mice!’.

Over the weeks a lot of other things have also not been normal. School, work, church, shopping, visiting family and friends...the list goes on. However as we try to figure out this new normal our challenge has been to remain hopeful, thankful and positive. Sally has enjoyed playing rounders outside each day in her ‘bubble’ at school. One of Isobel’s daily highlights is visiting our local park for exercise. Grace & I have enjoyed inviting people into our garden (at appropriate social distances) for coffee/tea meetings and conversation. Technology is great but it has been so good to meet with people in 3D, and engage more with God’s amazing creation by having to do things in different ways.

## Mobilisation & Media (M&M) Team Update:

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, I attended a virtual OMF Zoom event hosted in Singapore that addressed ‘Global Missions, Business as Mission & Marketplace ministry’. Over 70 people attended from around the world as two presentations addressed how in a post-Covid world – the marketplace (or workplace) is essential to engage with as the world slides into serious economic hardship (It was presented that globally 2 out of every 5 jobs furloughed during the pandemic will probably end in redundancy). Mission agencies and churches were challenged to think through vocation, business and work practice and how to mobilise people into these marketplace ministries – in order to share Jesus Christ in all his fullness into every aspect of life. The marketplace is now no longer an ‘optional extra’ for mission agencies to be present in. It is essential if we are to be relevant drivers of hope in a post-Covid world.

**July Programme:** 6,7,8 (HAW),27,28,29 Borough Green, 9<sup>th</sup> London & SE prayer meeting (virtual)

**Cambodia Prayer Point:** The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport will delay school openings and Baccalaureate examinations until the end of the year to prevent a second wave of Covid-19. In the meantime, as the government moves to offer digital learning services, about 50 per cent of Cambodia’s three million students still cannot fully access digital lessons. Please pray for the children of Cambodia and their education.

## Give thanks:

- for a super M&M event – it was a good time of fellowship, the technology worked, and the sessions were inspiring for mobilisation.
- for positive opportunities for Paul to preach at Roe Green (Worsley) & St. Cuthbert’s (Cheadle).
- for some good intercultural conversations for Grace with members of Platt church. Do pray for wisdom on how best to go forward with these.

## Pray for:

- Hanna (A colleague’s teenage daughter) who is still undergoing treatment for a malignant bone tumour. For full healing.
- OMF UK began to phase back to the office on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Do pray for a safe & positive return to the office for all the staff.
- for developing Marketplace ministry (see box above) within OMF UK in the future.



**Thank you for your prayers**

**God Bless, lots of love from Paul, Grace, Isobel & Sally**