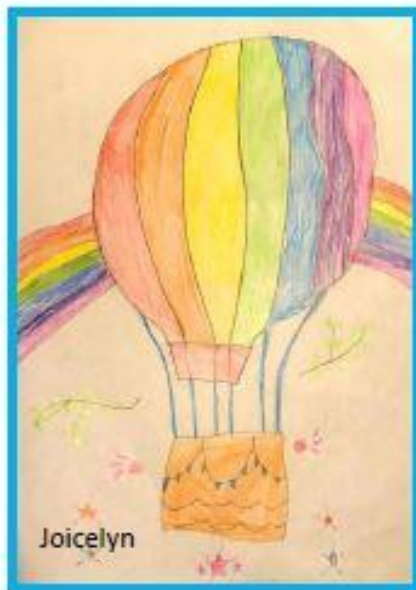


# M R B C

CHURCH MAGAZINE—JUNE 2020



Joicelyn

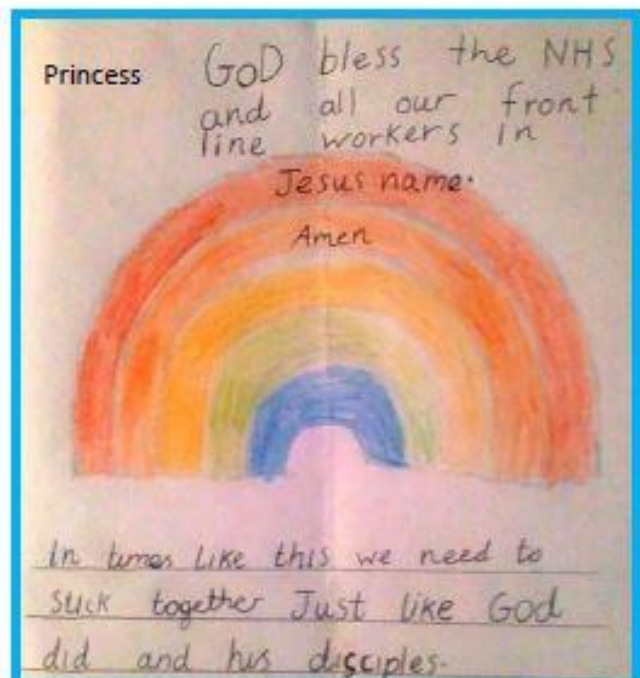


Mansi

Our Junior Church children have been busy at home



Jonisa



Princess

## Mansfield Road Baptist Church

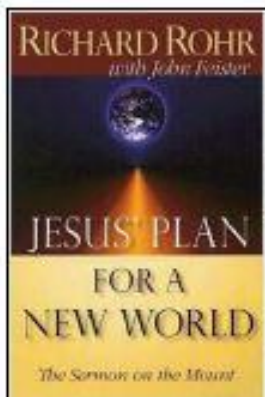


## Message for June

I remember my Dad bringing home a colour TV in 1970 to watch the Mexico World Cup! I remember waiting for hours outside telephone boxes in Leeds in 1981, so I could ring Mary. So other worldly to young people today. I remember my first personal computer in 1989 replacing the typewriter. We all have different reference points of change through the years from the 1920's. These last three months have brought significant change for each and everyone of us as the Coronavirus pandemic has shaped things.

In Ephesians 5v1&2 we read, ***“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”.***

We are to be transformed and live as Jesus in the world. Richard Rohr writes in his book, *Jesus' Plan for a New World*, ***“Transformation, though, is not the same as change. Change is when something new begins.***

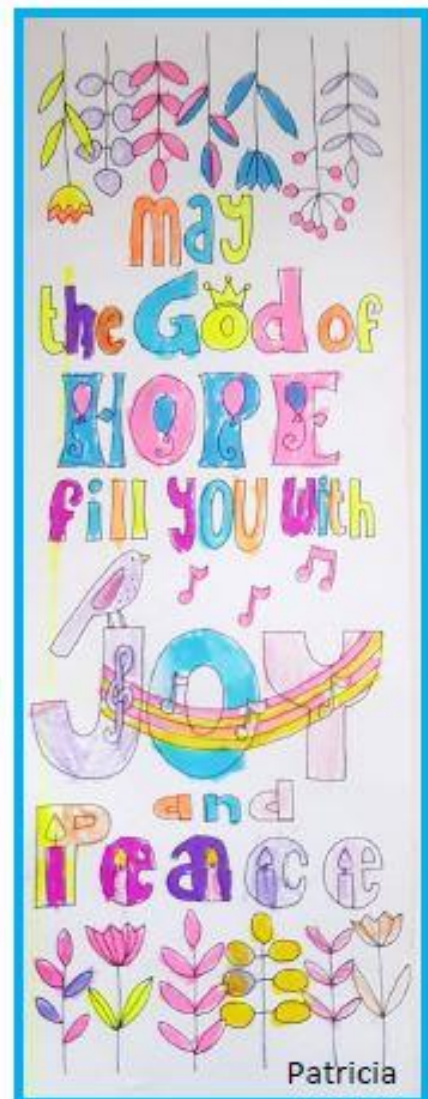


***Transformation is just the opposite. It more often than not happens when something old falls away. It happens after a crisis, when something we've learned to depend upon is taken away. Not all crises, of course, lead to transformation. When something is taken away that you've grown used to, you will either turn bitter or be transformed.”***

Our known experience of church has been taken away and we are being told that before us is a “new normal”. Please join me in praying that we will be transformed as we face the future and not get stuck with resentment and bitterness.

With love and prayers,

**Andy**





## **Jennifer writes:** as a Christian community it is our faith in God that defines us.

In an email conversation with Mary Wilson, she reflected on the benefits of prayer: "Maybe our faith helps us emotionally which in turn helps us physically...it's a holistic approach. Our faith is a powerful resource that can and does benefit our health. A 2005 study by National Geographic magazine on longevity found that diet and exercise were important. However, a key finding was that spiritual belief was fundamental to longevity.

Being part of a church community gives us a supportive social network, worship encourages positive expectations to love ourselves and others. It facilitates self-reflection and stress releasing meditation through prayer and Bible reading. Prayer is a special kind of meditation, spiritual meditation, that has therapeutic health effects. Prayer benefits the person praying as well as those who are prayed for. Prayer is focused, it is a mind, body soul activity that calms and reinforces our sense of self and well-being through the love of God and Jesus as we put our trust and future in the hands of a higher power.

Let us pray – always

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## **Jackie spoke about her work in the online service on 10th May**

Jackie's role with the Red Cross involves visiting people in the community who need urgent support. A speedy response can often prevent a fall or mean that a hospital admission can be avoided. Jackie has access to a hub, which can provide aids for the home; she can also contact the district nursing team.

Jackie feels that it is a privilege to be able to support people at their most vulnerable time, and it is rewarding to see the impact that this help has on the whole family. Desperate situations can often be changed into a more hopeful one, and the families are very grateful for the support.

Jackie would appreciate prayer for all staff working in hospitals and the community to support the vulnerable, and also all those who work so hard to keep vital services running.

A Bible verse that means a lot to Jackie is Proverbs 10: 22, which says that we are not offered money or fame, but the blessing of knowing God and the riches of the Gospel of Jesus. She also referred to Paul's words in Philippians 3:8, when Paul says that nothing compares with the knowledge of Jesus, his Lord.



## Some photos and a reflection from Tony Peace

At this time of uncertainty and various restrictions, and particularly for those who are isolated or have mental problems such as dementia, there is a great deal of anxiety as to what might happen next, and also being unable to understand all the restrictions. Listen to the words of Jesus which are illustrated with a blue tit rather than raven, and wild flowers rather than lilies.



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens (or blue tits): they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Consider how the lilies grow (or wild flowers in the fields and woods). They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even

Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

Matthew 6: 25-29



The underlying message is one of do not be afraid and do not worry as our Father in heaven knows what we need.





## BMS World Mission Workers Annet and Damien Miller

Back in February we were so pleased to welcome to MRBC Annet and Damien along with their 2 young children Patience and Conrad. Damien gave us an insight into the Justice ministry in Uganda and Mozambique where he and Annet had both worked as lawyers. If you missed this most interesting address you can hear it again on the media section of the church website. The family's time in Africa has now come to an end as Damien takes up a new position in Didcot with the Baptist Union.



Joan Shepherd has received the last Prayer Letter from the Miller family and shares some extracts here:

**“God is faithful”** - I flew to London from Uganda on 3rd January when we still had no response to Annet’s UK spouse visa application. After excruciating days of waiting her visa arrived and the family joined me on 20th January. For the next 2 months we were able to visit and share fellowship with many of the churches that have partnered with us over the years. As we travelled around the UK we became increasingly conscious of the spread of Covid-19 . We intensified our efforts to find a permanent home and we were able to move in on 22nd March just a day before the current “lockdown” measures. “God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

We joined BMS World Mission in Mozambique as individuals and left as a married couple with two wonderful children. Now we have followed God’s calling to the UK. I very much see my new role as legal officer with the Baptist Union as a continuation of the justice ministry God has called me to. For me, this is a return to my home country and culture, but for Annet it is another step on the path of overseas mission and another chapter in her calling to do justice among the nations. We are certain that, in His perfect time, God will provide a role in the UK that is consistent with His purpose for Annet. Entering this new land, we want to echo the words of Joshua: “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Please pray for the continued work of the Mozambique Assn of Christian Lawyers and the Ugandan Christian Lawyers Fraternity where several BMS mission workers continue to work alongside Christian lawyers. We know that we wouldn’t be in the UK together as a family today if it were not for your faithful prayer, so we would like to end our final prayer letter by simply saying a sincere **thankyou** for walking and praying with us.



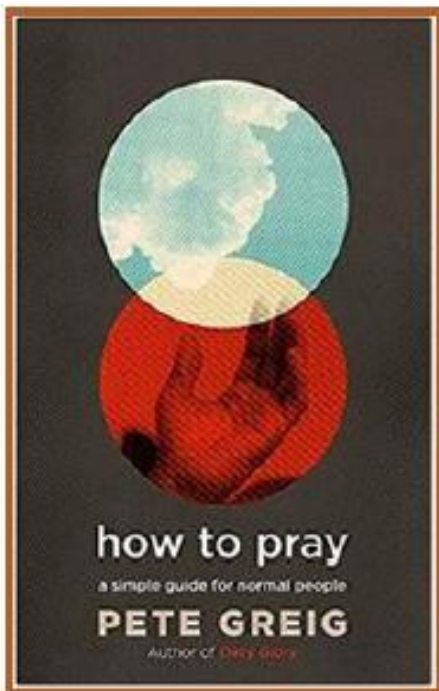
## Book Review

### How to Pray

Pete Greig has a real passion for prayer and a desire to see the church pray honestly and boldly. His book "How to Pray", with the subtitle 'A simple guide for normal people', captures his passion and does exactly what it sets out to do. The book uses the Lord's Prayer as a way of exploring ways that we can relate to God in prayer. It begins with an excellent summary, where the author introduces a simple structure to help with prayer ; he suggests that we **Pause** , **Rejoice**, **Ask** and **Yield** in our prayer time.



The author's own experiences as a minister provide stories, anecdotes, quotes and explanations of scripture to illustrate his points that will make the book accessible to a wide range of readers. He uses scripture to show how Jesus moved deeper into prayer when in anguish, and was honest with God during His troubles. Many of his own personal stories are profoundly moving, and he does not ignore his own feelings and the difficulties he has faced in his own prayer life, for example, with unanswered prayer.



The book goes hand in hand with a prayer course, which the Eagle's Wings group have worked through. There are prayer resources, including a phone app, which I now use every day.

The measure of any book is the impact that it has on the reader. I felt that reading the book changed my prayer life and brought me closer to God making me take time during the day to pause, to listen and to yield to the moving of God's Spirit. I thoroughly recommend the book.

*Prayer Resources available at [24-7Prayer.com](http://24-7Prayer.com) including the phone app*

Dave Mangan



## Bringing Hope and Healing—The Mercy Ships Motto

Pauline writes: One of the Charities which we as a church supported in our Christmas Charity Collections last year, was Mercy Ships. I have supported Mercy Ships for many years and had the privilege in 2006 to see for myself some of the wonderful work that they do. My interest in them began in the 1990's when visiting my brother and his family in Cape Town, South Africa. The Anastasis, which was their first ship, was in Cape Town Harbour and as they were holding an Open Day, my brother suggested we should go down and take a look. The dedication of the staff and volunteers and their desire to bring Hope and Healing to those in poorer countries who have no access to basic medical care was very obvious.

So, in 2006, I went as a volunteer to one of their land based projects known as 'New Steps', in Sierra Leone. Ten years of bitter war had left Sierra Leone as one of the poorest nations on earth. Polio was prevalent during the war years due to lack of vaccines, resulting in many children with disabilities. The aim at 'New Steps' was to provide Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, the provision of artificial limbs, and Health Promotion. There were ten of us varying in ages from eighteen to seventy six. We had so



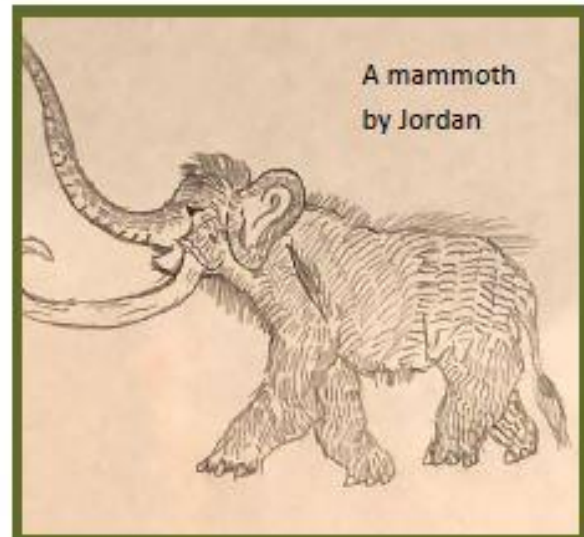
many different experiences during our stay, including helping with the construction of a new building at the New Steps Rehabilitation Clinic, taking eleven disabled children to a Chimpanzee Sanctuary, a visit to the Aberdeen Fistula Clinic which involved helping the staff with some tasks. We also visited a self-funding hospital run by a Peruvian doctor who gave patients a verse of scripture each time they were given a prescription. I could go on and on but what I will always remember was the welcome we received as a team and how the staff at 'New Steps' were a living example of the way Jesus has asked us to live.



I still feel very challenged as I remember my time in Sierra Leone as God gave me the opportunity to see with my own eyes what a need there is there and in many other countries in the world. May we never take for granted our Health Service and the many other facilities which we are blessed by being able to access. This is particularly poignant at this time of the pandemic. Please pray for those countries in the world who are not as blessed as we are.



## Some more pictures sent from our Junior Church children



*Who was the first tennis player  
in the Bible?*

*Who was the fastest runner in  
the Bible?*

*Adam - he was first in the human race*

*Joseph - he served in Pharaoh's court*

A big "thank you" to all contributors this month, especially the children. To continue monthly we need YOUR news, YOUR pictures, YOUR poem, YOUR testimony (from now or from the past), YOUR input (articles of interest to others). Please send by email to [susan@msbye.co.uk](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), or phone Rosemary or Susan and dictate, or by post, to arrive by **18th June** for the July edition.

Edited by: Susan Bye, Rosemary Mangan

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