

# Claire-Lise and David Judkins

## "Great is thy faithfulness"

April 2019



[www.bmsworldmission.org/cdjudkins](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/cdjudkins)

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). In the midst of the encouragements, we give all glory to God, and in the midst of the challenges, we get to throw ourselves on God's mercies! But one thing never fails: God's faithfulness.

Since our last newsletter, our church life has been shaken up again, primarily through significant business and personal challenges for one of our dear friends has resulted in a breakdown of our relationship, and questioning faith. This has resulted in pain and heartache for all those involved in our Church Around the Table community, including the children. We are once again hugely conscious of the spiritual warfare that is being waged. At the same time, we see God's faithfulness in that V's family are now also opening-up to God, and tasting the joys of real community in Christ. The story of the last few months has been seeing people withdrawing from church life, but each time, God blesses us with new contacts and new folk who are asking deeply spiritual questions.

We are also grateful for some fruitful contacts with local charities, including the Human Rights association and the Peace Movement. As doors to be involved in some form of social action have been closed, and the need doesn't seem to be there, we believe that God be opening up an avenue to serve the city through peace-making initiatives and bringing His presence in other ways.

So, God's faithfulness continues to be displayed throughout, reassuring us of His presence, of His power, and above all, His sovereignty. That He is building His church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail.



The relational challenges have been good opportunities for us as a family to talk about what it means to be mission workers, the challenges, what is success, failure, fruitfulness, and for each of the boys to express how they are feeling. We are always blessed by their own perspectives and encouragements. We thank God especially for Joshua's deepening friendships at school and contacts with several of his teachers. His Science teacher took a small group out for a nocturnal expedition to a local wildlife area, much to the boys' delight. We are also grateful for Claire-Lise to have the opportunity to serve on the PTA - her contribution is being greatly appreciated.

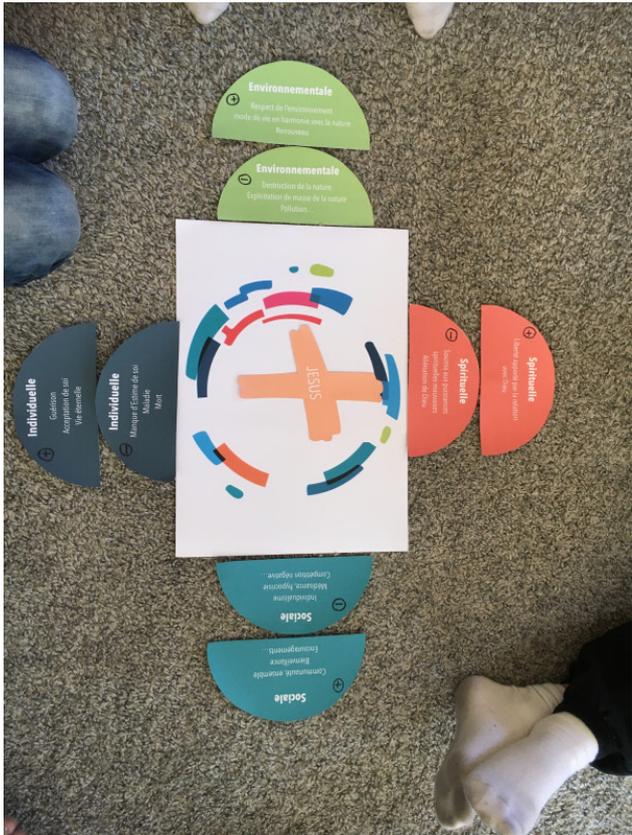


The impact of how God can touch people through the concept of 'Around the Table' was recently illustrated to us: one of Joshua's teachers is expecting their third child and it's been a difficult pregnancy. Around the same time, some church friends donated loads of baby clothes to go to a good cause so we offered them to this family. He came round to collect them, blown away by the generosity, shared some cake with us, and we had an hour or so conversation about faith, friendship, living counter-culturally, and GENUINE community. It was a special time, as if God was saying: hold on to what you have - there are many who are desperate for this. We do not know where this will lead, but a significant seed was definitely sown.



For some time now, we've been exploring the concept of the Gospel in 4D: how the world is broken in 4 areas - socially, individually, environmentally and spiritually. And how Jesus, and the Kingdom of God, through the cross bring wholeness and peace (Shalom) to each of these

areas. This is a message that seems to resonate with many, so we value prayer as we seek to communicate it, to live it out incarnationally, and to see healing coming to many.



So we continue to thank God for the signs of His faithfulness and love. We value your prayers for us as a family, as we continue to listen to God's guidance, and for the boys as they wrestle with seeing so much change in their church life.

Please pray for God's Spirit to be poured out in a new way over the coming weeks, for V's husband L. to be touched by God's love, for A. & A. on their journey of faith, and for new bridges for God's love to be poured out into the community through our contacts with the community, through creativity, music, and gatherings (often around tables!).

Finally, we could not finish this newsletter without expressing our humble gratitude and IMMENSE appreciation of all the prayers, tokens of support, words of encouragement that we (and others in the church) have recently received. We are soooo conscious of being part of this wider family, and it is through this uniqueness of God's people that His faithfulness is poured out. Thank-you!

If you would like to support Claire-Lise and David Judkins by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 247 Partners leaflet.



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

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