

John and Sue Wilson

A new way of living !

1st June 2020

www.bmsworldmission.org/jswilson



Hello,

We've just celebrated Pentecost and a "new way of living" seems an appropriate way to express all that we are going through at the moment. We are so grateful to God for the hope he inspires and the power he gives, helping us to be witnesses to a Gospel that does not change in the midst of a changing world.

A new way of living for us in Paris, means wearing a mask. Particularly when we go shopping or travel on public transport, a mask is mandatory. The government has now given permission for churches to gather for worship. We are working out how we can do this safely as we have our first socially distanced service on the 7th June. Thankfully, due to the age and size of our premises, we can accommodate up to a 100 people. Talking with a colleague who has a congregation of the same size, they have realised that they can only gather 45 people, so like many other churches they have decided to stay online for the summer. For our congregation, it has been decided that everyone will wear a mask including the worship leaders and the preacher!

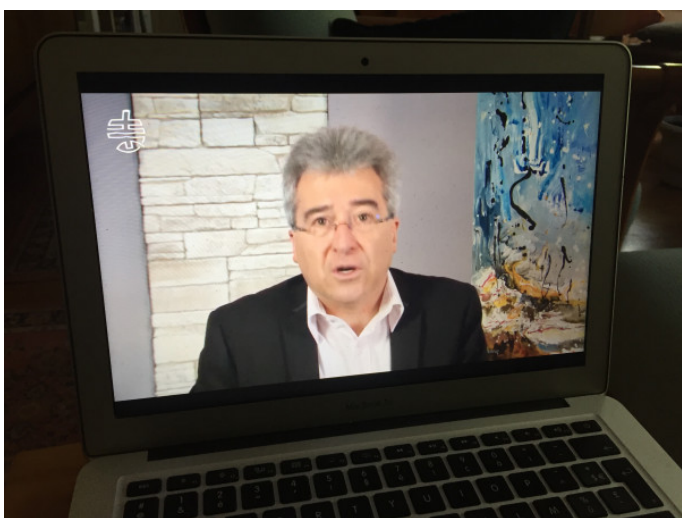
During the lockdown, a new way of living has meant transforming our apartment into a recording studio. Both of us have taken turns filming video clips and recording talks. Alongside a daily thought for the day for the church's Face Book, we pulled together a variety of events for our Sunday service. The congregation enjoyed the inclusive nature of our services, with people sending in recordings and testimonies. Our worship and praise was always lead by a member of the congregation. Our services were interspersed with short talks or activities for the children and young people. Conscious that in the privacy of one's own front room, some might skip dull and monotone presentations, we sought to make every service a unique event.

Pentecost Sunday was the opportunity to prepare people to return to church and so one of our young people created a video that you can watch and enjoy some of the worship moments :
<https://youtu.be/4ryeJIAZSTc>



A new way of living means adapting to new methods of communication. Our Baptist Federation had to cancel its Convention which happens every four years. John had been asked to arrange the service which was to be televised. Instead, a celebration took place across the country with many more people taking part from our Baptist churches than was previously planned.

Marc Deroeux, our General Secretary who introduced the service is about to step down in order to take on an ambitious programme in Massy, bringing together the church, the language school and a pastoral training centre including accommodation. Joëlle Razanajohary will take his place, please pray for them both as they face these big challenges. Pray too for our Federation as we adapt to these changes.



There is a new way of living for Nadine Zola who is replacing Dany Gelin as director of the 23 bed hostel for young women, that is adjacent to our church premises. Sue is the chairperson of this hostel, which is part of the social action of our community. Nadine was a young person from the Lyon church, whom Sue disciplined through her teenage years. After a year's mission trip to Guatemala, she trained for hotel management. Both her

experience and her dynamic faith will help shape the hostel, so that it can continue to be a place where young women from many different backgrounds may discover a new way of living.



God has been at work through these past months and we are looking forward to the future. Not only has the renovation of our premises taken shape during the lockdown, but the Romanian Baptist church that shares our premises has also taken out the old church kitchen. Knocking through a couple of walls, we now have a new fully catered kitchen that will help us put on community meals both for the church and the homeless.

Thank you for praying for us and for supporting BMS World Mission. Without you sending us, we could not be here.

Yours in Christ,

Sue & John

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.



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