

John and Sue Wilson

Learning to Love

September 2020

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Hello,

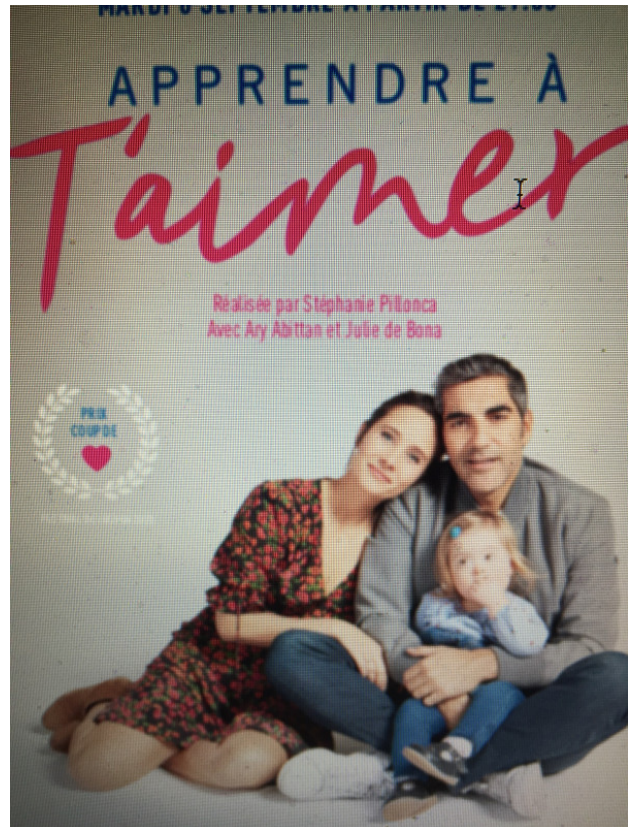
Learning to love is a privilege, a challenge as well as a process.

In this prayer letter we want to share with you how we are learning to love through the different situations and opportunities that we experience. We thank you too for your care and love in sharing this mission with us through your prayer and support for BMS World Mission.

Naomi brightens up our church through her smile, her presence and the love that surrounds her. This month she appeared in a French film about how a father comes to love his child who is born with Down's syndrome. This film was created for television and was followed by an evening of debate on the TV channel about the place we give to people in society who are suffering from disabilities.

During our time in France, a number of families in the churches we have pastored have learnt to live with disability. For many it has been a struggle to find appropriate care and help. Too often in French society, the child is placed in a medical facility instead of finding a place of education or an environment in which to develop basic skills.

Naomi's parents are keen to help the debate move forward and have been an example to many as to how disability is also an opportunity to learn, adapt and grow in love. Please pray for them and their family as they expect their third child.



Sue has recently been to court as chairperson for our social outreach association. Love isn't just about having warm feelings or being a soft touch, sometimes hard decisions have to be made. One of the residents in our women's hostel has tried to avoid paying rent over the last 18 months. The process has been long and painful, but after trying various paths of conciliation, Sue along with her Council have decided to help the resident come to terms with her responsibilities.

Sue also chaired our association's AGM this month, which had been delayed due to Covid 19. Despite the problems we face, it was a time of thanksgiving for all that has been achieved. How to help the homeless over the coming months is a real challenge with the present health crisis. Please pray that we will find an appropriate way forward.



The city picture is a view of our neighbourhood. The main road is avenue du Maine and the church nestles in the buildings that are just behind the cemetery. As we learn to love our neighbourhood, it would be true to say that there is never a dull moment! Constant traffic and sirens give rhythm, day and night. People come into our church out of need, curiosity and by chance. God loves the world and that means giving life to those who are lost. Please pray for us that our love would continue to grow for the many and various challenges that we face day by day. We are often "perplexed but never driven to despair" as Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 4:8. This love that God gives is a "treasure in clay-jars, so that it may be clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." (vs.7)

At the end of September, John was jointly responsible for a pastoral training session on personal development. Around 25 pastors gathered for two days to explore how to encourage and support one another through mutual supervision groups. The idea is that pastors in all of our 10 regions gather together in their region on a regular basis to think about best practice and personal development through peer group supervision. The course was well received and very practical. We have over a 100 baptist pastors in our Federation, so it is important for this network to grow and develop. Thank you for your prayers for the development of this process.



May God help us all to experience his extraordinary love, so that we may all carry on learning how to express the Good News through the various situations that we experience day by day.

Yours in Christ,

John & Sue

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.



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

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