

PARTNER PLAN

An ecumenical appointment with

The **Methodist** Church 

Pat Jamison - Bangladesh March 2014

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Hello Everyone

Many years ago I used to work in a wonderful GP surgery however when I noticed IGTN written in my diary I cringed. IGTN means in-grown toe nail and if it was written in my diary it meant a GP was going to perform surgery. I am so glad I didn't have to assist them every time as being Sister in charge I could delegate staff to do it. I don't like feet and think my feet are ugly. I don't like showing them however living in a country where it's usually much too hot to wear anything other than open shoes or sandals I have no choice. It is also custom and respectful to remove shoes when you enter a home and nobody really notices my ugly feet any way.



I often look at children running around, begging in the streets and some working with no shoes and realise having ugly feet is the least of my worries.

I have shared before about labourers on building sites and the photograph to the left is a man working as a labourer pulling down a two storey building to build a high-rise. You will notice he is not wearing any protective clothing and is working in plastic sandals.

On 11th February just after lunchtime a fire started in a slum area not far from my office. It is a place I have visited many times as a friend of mine has a children's club each week and has been working with the people for a long time.

When I heard about the situation I immediately asked in what way could I help and set about doing what I was asked. My friends linked with others and before long we had many items to be distributed. It had to be sorted and organised of course to ensure



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families got a share of everything. The picture shows the fire spreading through the slum area. People tried to grab what they could however it was impossible to clear their homes before the fire completely gutted the area. Most people lost everything they had.

At the Irish Methodist Church conference last June our President spoke about getting our feet wet. I must say I squirmed when I heard about feet however realised what she was illustrating. What do wet feet look like President Heather Morris asked? Well at the time of the fire and weeks following I have seen many people getting their feet wet. Local police officers bringing snacks to feed the 900+ people left homeless, a local school when asked by my friend if they could help didn't just say yes they opened their building not once but four times to be used as a collection and distribution centre, local people arriving with items, people from another slum and have very little bringing clothes, volunteers giving of their time and people asking how do they donate or what can they give. These are all examples of getting our feet wet doing things maybe never done before or stepping out of our comfort zone.



My work with CBSDP is in development and I often see needs far beyond I could ever help with yet I get the strength and courage from a greater power than my own. I get cross with the greedy rather than the needy and I have seen in the past few weeks how the needy have helped others in even greater need.

I visited the Mirpur area several times to check on the people who may have received injuries during or after the horrific fire. One of the ladies opened her home and allowed us to use it as a temporary clinic. I was really surprised there were not more injuries and even these injuries were fairly slight. There were some who had stood on nails or tin, others with small burns, an elderly lady who was injured when a brick fell onto her foot,

others with gashes to their hands, arms and feet and several who had eye infections when they obviously got in the way of the water spray from the fire hoses which of course is not clean. We sent several to the local pharmacy to get tetanus vaccines, my friend had sent a few people to hospital and the rest came along to see how we could help. I am so glad to be able to help albeit in a small way these most unfortunate people (even though I did have to examine, check, clean, remove items and give advice on lots of feet)!!!



We are currently organising, sorting and preparing to distribute clothes which are being organised in my home. I'm a real tidy neat freak so to have clothes sitting everywhere is unusual for me. I have however a home with room and I am just so glad to help the people who have lost everything.

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Please pray for the distribution of clothes and other items being given to the people in Mirpur and the few Christian ladies living in a Muslim community that they are able to be a witness of Christian love. For my work at central office where I have been kept very busy editing and writing reports. For a great deal of work still to be done to prepare for the next six years of the Community Health and Hygiene (CHH) in CBSDP and my part in editing other sections of the proposal too. That I will continue to shine the light of Jesus and keep getting my feet wet. Pray also for safe travels as I attend a gathering in Malaysia with CMS early March and where I plan to have a few days holiday.

Thank you to all my partner churches who have made contact in recent months who want to know more about my work and offering prayer support many of who I don't even know.

'He said "Love...as I have loved you." We cannot love too much.'

Until next time

Pat