

PARTNER PLAN

An ecumenical appointment with

The **Methodist Church** 

Pat Jamison - Bangladesh November 2013

c/o St Thomas' Cathedral
54 Johnston Road
Dhaka 1100
Bangladesh

Hello Everyone

What's in a name?

I was given the name Patricia when I was born however as my older brother Paul was only two and could not pronounce it I became known as Pat and find it strange when someone calls me anything but Pat.

In Bangladesh most people are not called by name but by a title. I get called Sister by most people, Auntie by children, Mashi (Christian) meaning mothers sister by the Sisters in Barisal and Jobarpar and sometimes Didi (Christian) or Apa (Muslim) meaning older sister. Paternal grandparents have a different title to maternal, fathers older sister has a different title than fathers younger sister and so on. It gets confusing although I am getting used to it and by the different titles I have been given by various people.



Getting to know about other faiths, what they celebrate and terms used is something I have had to get used to also over the past few years even though I don't fully understand them all.

Recently two major festivals have been celebrated very close together. Durga Puja one of the largest Hindu celebrations was recent. It is when the Hindu community fast, celebrate and then feast to observe the goddess

Durga's victory of good over evil. The celebrations last about ten days, its very noisy however like most Hindu festivals usually very enjoyable for everyone.

Eid-UI-Adha Qurbani Eid (meaning sacrifice) is the second Eid celebration in the Islamic faith when the sacrifice of a cow or goat is made to Allah (name used by Muslims for God). We had several cows and goats in our building for a few nights before the sacrifice as shown in my photo. The smell before is dreadful, the noise during and the smell and blood after is not so nice.



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I have been observing some impressive names on shops recently. I thought this one in Dhamondi a shopping area not too far from my home was brilliant.

The meaning of names is very important to people here and most times when I ask a child's name the parent or guardian will give me the meaning as well. It is not something I notice people doing at home.

Robin an American friend I was introduced to through other friends runs an enterprise in Dhaka. The name of the organisation is called Basha. In Bangla basha means house and asha means hope. Basha is therefore the house of hope for many women here in Bangladesh.

It is a business where women are now earning a wage making kantha blankets and jewelry. The women have been previously working and or living on the streets, many had abusive husbands and all forced into prostitution. There is also a creche in the same building where the children are cared for by other staff members and get food and snacks.



Every few weeks I will go to check on the children and Mothers, weigh the babies/children and treat or refer them to a doctor or other discipline if necessary.

The date 24th April 2013 may not mean anything to many people however it was a day the people of Savar will never forget. The Rana Plaza factory collapsed killing over 1100 people, injuring many more and still people are missing assumed dead.



A small factory by the name of Oparajeyo which when translated means undefeated has been started in the area. They make bags using cotton or jute for local and international markets. Next month I will be giving an update on what has and is being done to help rehabilitate those affected by the disaster last April and the Church of Bangladesh's role in this. I will then give more information on this small and unique factory in Bangladesh's garment industry.

This past few weeks I have been involved in editing reports and writing project proposals and have been reading about many people who are doing great work to help women in this land. These women are often abused, not permitted to make decisions, deprived of education, self-esteem and made to feel they are just useless. I have been so grateful for the love I have been shown by family and friends in my life, a good education and the ability to have an occupation, make decisions and live an independent life.

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So as I think of meanings of names, laugh at strange shop names and stand in awe of enterprises such as Basha and Oparajeyo I am reminded of the name above all names the one who protects and guides me, is there beside me at all times, my best friend and my Lord Jesus Christ.

As I work through reports, write or assist with writing proposals, visit projects and help in any way I would ask if you would please pray, pray that everything I do will be done with a loving heart, a spirit of willingness, without complaining and I may be a light in someones darkness.

Recently several friends and I took a young man to the local government hospital. He had been lying on the street with an infected amputated limb which was crawling with bugs and smelling of psudomonas. I have also made contact with a family in my apartment building who has a disabled son who cries out day and night.

Please pray for both young men that I may be able to help in some small way.

“God does not require that we be successful only that we be faithful.”

— Mother Teresa

Until next time

Pat 🍊