

PARTNER PLAN

An ecumenical appointment with

The **Methodist Church** 

Pat Jamison - Bangladesh November 2014



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Hi Everyone

I have been thinking recently about what I do in Bangladesh and life in general, the many roles we all play and about trying to keep a balance between work, helping others and time with family and friends. The photograph to the right is with Drs Les and Cynthia Morgan both medical physicians from USA. One of their many roles is that of Health Advisors for CBSDP. I have had the privilege to work with them since coming to Bangladesh and even more so in the past year as we have been planning the Community Health programme for all the project areas. They have both taught me a great deal and are not just colleagues I am really blessed to have them both as friends.



Recently we carried out a presentation on the up and coming plans for the Community Health section in CBSDP at the partner's consultation in the Hope Centre Savar and thankfully it went well and was appreciated by all concerned.

Recently the Hindu community celebrated the Goddess Durga and as I have been busy involved in many things I was joking about needing lots of arms like this goddess. While waiting on people leaving the Hope Centre my Director was teasing me about this and arranged to make me to look like the goddess. We had fun as everyone got into position.

I always longed to be a mum as I just love children however this never happened. I am however very fortunate to be an Auntie to nine nieces and nephews at home in NI and

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many, many more now at home and in Bangladesh. There are several who are very special to me and I so enjoy how their parents allow me to be part of their lives and was pleased when invited to one of their birthday parties this month to celebrate a little girls 5th birthday.



I have also had the opportunity to form a children's choir at Grace International School where my friend's children attend. I go every week during term time and we have such fun. This is now my third term and several children have been with me for all three. They will be singing at the school Christmas function and at the 'Picnic in the Park' at the British High Commissioner's residence both in early December and I just can't wait to hear them and be part of their celebrations.

Recently I was asked by a friend if I would help them with the children's work at their annual conference. It is held in the north of Bangladesh where most of the people involved in their organisation are based. It was brilliant being part of the conference and having a great albeit busy time with 13 children age 5-12. We took the theme as 'The Armour of God.' They had a memory verse, I taught them a song (thank you Ross Harte for teaching us Be strong and put on the armour of God at CHW 09 or 10) and each session we spoke about the various parts of the armour and related it to a person in the Bible. Each child had someone trace their body outline on a large piece of paper and then each session they drew on the various pieces of armour. We had such fun with indoor and outdoor games which included a water balloon fight, acting out skits to tell the stories of several of the characters from the Bible and of course there were sweets and/or lollipops at every session.



November has gone, it's almost the end of 2014 and I have celebrated yet another birthday in Bangladesh. My driver celebrated his 30th birthday also this month and although most people don't make much of birthdays I decided to make it a special occasion for James by enabling him to have some time with his sister and family in Uttara near Dhaka. James is from Koligram quite a distance from Dhaka and he is the only son with three sisters who are all married. I have been trying to encourage him to get a wife, however he has stated he won't do that until I leave Bangladesh. Although both his parents are still alive he looks to me as his mother while in Dhaka and I am very happy to be that surrogate while I am here. I help in any way I can to make his life comfortable and bearable. I know he helps his parents in whatever way he can also, financially by giving some of his salary and by helping around their home when he visits when I am on holiday or at special festival times.

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So whether I am a Community Health Adviser, Auntie, surrogate mum, Shefali and James boss or take a children's choir I do hope I balance my life well and seek Gods guidance in all I do and at all times in my life.

Thanks for

- ***The various roles I play in CBSDP and in other areas of my life here***
- ***Being able to help James my driver and Shefali by giving them a job and security for now so they can help other members of their family***
- ***Kindness of people from home helping in many ways***
- ***For such lovely caring friends and work colleagues here who make my life so enjoyable and worthwhile***

Please pray for

- ***My continued work with CBSDP in various ways***
- ***The children's choir will continue to be enjoyable for all who attend***
- ***Special times to be close with God***
- ***Fatema who has been ill with kidney and heart problems following a c-section when her baby died and as I get ready to send this she is being discharged home with follow up care at Dhaka Medical College Hospital***
- ***Another Christmas in Dhaka away from family and close friends***
- ***The cold weather which is difficult for many in Bangladesh especially those sleeping rough in the cities***
- ***Several relatives of people within the Church of Bangladesh who have had various illnesses and several in hospital throughout Bangladesh and India***

May you enjoy this wonderful Advent season and have a very Happy Christmas

Until next month *Pat* 