

PARTNERPLAN

Pat Jamison - Bangladesh April 2011

CBSDP
Jobarpar Mission House
Jobarpar
Agailjhara
Barisal
Bangladesh

Hi Everyone

As I was preparing this update I have been reflecting on my first year in Bangladesh. I arrived on 22nd April enthusiastic, anxious and yet excited about what was ahead.

I am still enthusiastic, less anxious and remain very excited about what God will do through me here in Bangladesh.

I thank God every day for allowing me the privilege of serving Him in this beautiful country with such amazing people.



As I looked around I have seen in the past few weeks the sign of new seasons and new life. This is the rice paddy now called dan which stands about four feet tall and next month will be ready for harvesting.

These little kid goats all female (great for the family as they can sell the milk) were born just a few days ago.



In the midst of the poverty, corruption, illiteracy, poor health system, inadequate housing, risk of disasters, trafficking of many to other cities and lands there is a great deal of hope for this place.

We have just celebrated my favourite time in the Christian calendar, Easter. The wonderful celebration of Palm Sunday, the very moving time of the last supper, the sadness and cruelty of the cross and yet the hope that Easter Sunday has brought to us all. That Jesus is alive. He is hope.



What hope is there for these young boys and girls born into poverty? Well I believe there is hope. As I visited slum areas in Barisal where several families live in one room and several in the room above I was delighted to speak with a teenage girl. She spoke good English and is studying at HSC level which is the highest level at high school.

I also met a young girl at an open clinic who carried out her consultation totally in English and is hoping to study law. These girls are both from very poor families where most people struggle to survive let alone educate their daughters.

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These are stories that are being repeated again and again in rural areas. There is hope in this land.



What about these women? This is a group of women who meet together twice per month. They are from different faiths yet they live side by side and help and encourage each other.

They are not asking me for money or material possessions. They want to know how they can keep their families healthy. I was very encouraged by this. They have great faith that with some assistance their lives can be helped and even improved.

There have been a few times when I have felt a bit frustrated with staff and the systems within this country. Then someone comes to the clinic and it just makes me realise what I am doing is worthwhile.

A Mother brought her two year old son who was very obviously physically and mentally disabled. I felt here wasn't a great deal I could do for this little boy (how wrong I was). I took time with her and the boy. I cuddled him, made him smile, he almost made me cry and I gave advice. They have very little money and could never afford a paediatric referral. I have asked them to keep bringing him to see me. They were so pleased and I realised this is what it's all about helping people in just a small way.

I don't plan on changing Bangladesh, the church or even CBSDP. God has given me a job to do. He never said it would be easy He did however say He would always be with me. God could perform a miracle in his life and if I can be part of it that would be brilliant.

We have just had Easter celebrations and how different it was for me this year.



This was Palm Sunday in Jobarpar. We were all given Palm crosses near the beginning of the service. We then took them and paraded around the compound singing. It was quite amazing.

The Good Friday service lasted three hours and the church was bursting with people. Many children and young people came also which was very encouraging.

This was made by the Catechist and some of the boys from the hostel in Jobarpar. They planned to have the stone rolled away on Easter Sunday. It was quite remarkable.



This was Easter Sunday sunrise service held at 6am. Along with about 6000 other Christians we gathered at the steps of Parliament building. What an amazing morning. Several of us then returned to Sarah and David's for breakfast which was really lovely.

I have also just returned from a conference in South Africa. We spent a few days holiday in Durban with Sarah, David and children before the conference started where we all had a lovely time.

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It was a great conference/retreat. All the other delegates are CWM mission partners working in different areas of Africa. It was wonderful to meet three Bangladeshi nurses, their husbands and families who are working in Zambia.

Please remember them all as they serve our Lord in a very different land than they are used to.



This is Sulota, Laya, husband Liton, son Akash, Marina, husband Edward and daughter Prokitree. They will all be home next year for a holiday when we look forward to meeting up with them again.

There were some amazing sand sculptures on the beach in Durban. It was wonderful to see this one of Jesus carrying the cross. Such detail it was quite remarkable.



We had a great time at a place called Valley of the Thousand Hills where we saw crocodiles, snakes and a Zulu village.

The Zulu village was quite remarkable and so pleased that we got the opportunity to visit some of the history of South Africa and the Zulu tribal people. This was portraying a typical tribal marriage ceremony.



We had great study sessions every morning on Ephesians and then we discussed in groups. We also had contemplative prayer each evening.

We all fed back to the group from our individual countries and had meetings with the management discussing our work.

God is working in many lands through many people and I am very glad to have met several of these people and to be part of it.

Thankful to God for

- A wonderful Easter time in Jobarpar and Dhaka
- A great conference/retreat and being inspired by many other mission partners
- Safe travel to and from Durban
- The visit of the little boy in Jobarpar which made me realise that something little to me is indeed a great thing to many others
- Finance sorted for my transport.

Prayers for

- All the other mission partners with CWM serving God in some difficult situations and places
- The many people I came into contact with in the slum areas
- The people who come to see me in the clinics and who I visit in the villages
- Samuel, a new baby born only a few weeks ago, who has had surgery just a few days ago
- That I am able to cope in the very hot and humid weather which is now upon us.

Until next month
Love Pat xx

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