



Charity No. 1107924

Aim for Change Reaching Out

Providing education and self sufficiency
in developing countries

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PAKISTAN NEWSLETTER 2010



Life in the Brickyards Faisalabad



Shopper City Refugee Colony Islamabad

PAKISTAN NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2010

Travelling through the impressive terrain of the Salt Range Mountains as I journeyed to the Brick Yards of Faisalabad and continuing into the district of Kalarhar Chakwal; we passed the magnificent Kalarhar Lake, where loping white camels without a care in the world surveyed the desert-like terrain; the beauty of this countryside felt a far cry from my arrival at the hotel in Islamabad.



Pakistan is an immensely beautiful country and before my return to the United Kingdom, I visited the unique Margalla Hills, which are situated at the foot of the Himalayas; 40 of the world's 50 highest mountains are in Pakistan. Thankfully the local wild life, leopards, wild boars, cobras, vipers and others, didn't cross my path! From what seemed like an exceptionally high point of approximately 5,000 feet, the views across this northern region appeared to be dwarfed by mountains of 20,000 feet or more, and gave way to such elation when focusing on cosseted small toy-like homesteads with carts being pulled by oxen encased within mountain ranges as far as the eye could see. A scene which appeared totally detached from the troubled country surrounding us.



On my arrival in Pakistan, the hotel which previously had felt so welcoming, was now surrounded by high bales of barbed wire and many armed guards; unfamiliar snipers looked down from the roof top.

Due to the ongoing situation in certain areas of Pakistan, I was unable to visit families still suffering the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake. There are many families in great need, those who continue to live in makeshift dwellings. Nor could I travel to Lahore; unfortunately this historic city is at present a target for terrorists; a similar situation prevented me from going to Kashmir. I am looking into commencing a sewing project which will be overseen by two sisters who I previously met in the mountainous area of Rawalakot [Kashmir] where the charity provided a fresh water borehole in support of a clinic. In whatever country

we drill for water, reports are so encouraging; in both Uganda and Pakistan we are being told of changed lives, especially health improvements; not forgetting the social aspect of coming together, making new friends and drinking of the fresh water!



Prize Giving Day



Reading letters from Deighton Gates School - Wetherby



For the first time in my life I experienced a temperature of 55 degrees in the Brick Yards of Faisalabad! Here we now have four schools; this project is known as 'Schools of the Kilns for Poor Children, supported by Aim for Change.' It was quite an experience to be a part of 'prize-giving day' and to share in the children's achievements. All the children had passed exams and moved up a class. During this visit we began a fourth school for children of blind widows; arriving in this area on my first evening brought home the immense suffering that people around our world are facing. Many told me, all they want to do is die. We also help individual families who have urgent needs; a young girl suffering a mental disability received a wheel chair, she was also born with small legs. The joy on her face was evident as she sat in the chair and was wheeled out to the brick yards and watched her family making their daily quota of 1,000 bricks.

A fresh water borehole is badly needed in this area as the people have to walk many miles to purchase water. The charity is planning to supply this facility in the near future.



The Christian Refugee Colony on the outskirts of Islamabad, is known as 'Shopper's City' because dwellings are made of plastic and pieces of cloth. During this visit the charity donated roofing for six more homes; supporting this colony will be ongoing for many years, but as families continue to brick build their dwellings from the proceeds of meagre earnings, the charity will continue to help these families who live, in the direst poverty I have ever seen. We cannot begin to imagine a worse scenario than homes being burnt down during the night [many lose their lives,] as is the case in some areas and then those who are left find themselves squatting on a small piece of ground, keeping warm and dry under plastic and cloth. The charity has helped a great deal with sewerage, fresh water and low level toilets for many of the dwellings. A future plan is to drill for fresh water which will benefit all families, including a small percentage of Muslims who now also live in this squat. We are building a complete small dwelling for one Muslim widow; she has no one; her only child, a retarded son was kidnapped and at present she is squatting wherever she can.

After being interviewed on television about the work of Aim for Change, a very generous donation was received for a project involving orphans in Pakistan. I am really excited to be able to report that the ground work for an orphanage has begun. Once registration is in place and a home [rent] has been found, all equipment bought, then orphans will be taken in for care. The children will attend full time education and a live-in care worker will oversee their every day needs. A lovely family are in charge of this project and the home is to be called "Hope of Life Trust Pakistan." The charity will support all costs for this work for six months; for long term care, I hope we will support through collective sponsorships as we do for the orphans at Amazing Grace in Uganda.

Children of the brickyards



As I write this newsletter, I cannot help but be thankful for all the work that is taking place around Pakistan, of course this is due to you and all your support; I thank God for keeping me safe, for His wisdom and guidance where ever I travelled and in all decisions taken.

From all those whom you are helping across the world, 'thank you for caring.'

Kindest regards and blessings

Ruth James

Ruth James
Aim for Change

Isaiah 55 v 11



Blind lady now 103 years



Meeting blind widows and their children





PLEASE HELP US!

Although this is an unprecedented appeal by the charity, I am asking for your help. We have all heard about and seen the pictures of devastation caused by the flooding and landslides in Pakistan. In many of the camps, mostly in the Northwest Provinces of the country where homes have been lost, numerous loved ones have died; the people are now suffering waterborne diseases such as dysentery, diphtheria, malaria and so on. Staying in the camps is hoped to be temporary and at present the army is trying to fulfil the need for food; but thousands are still without tents to dwell in or food to eat. This information is given to me by our contact, John Chand and his family who are visiting various camps daily.

I am returning to Pakistan in February to oversee work at the new 'Hope of Life' orphanage and at this time, due to the devastation caused by the flooding, I feel it would be a good opportunity for the charity to begin reconstructing one of the rural villages and possibly begin cultivation to aid self sufficiency. By this time the waters will have receded and land dried. **It is for this project that we send our appeal**; it may only be a beginning for one village amongst hundreds, but it will bring hope, encouragement and a future and who knows, we may even extend to further villages – so it has to be worth it! All of your donation will be used in full for the purpose we are asking.



There is an immediate need for bedding, items for personal hygiene, fresh water, medicines and clothing. The charity has already sent an initial donation to John Chand who has purchased many of these items on our behalf, to help one of the smaller camps, Risalpur in the Nowshera District, 135km from the capital Islamabad. (Pictures below) A further donation has now been sent to purchase tents for the refugees of Risalpur, these are necessary due to their recent relocation by the army.

If you feel that you are able to help with a donation towards our appeal for reconstruction please contact us, our details are on the front cover or bank details as follows:

HSBC Market Bosworth Branch, Sort code: 40 32 03 Account: Aim For Change Account No: 91416553

Thank you for helping us – Ruth

