

Louise and Peter Lynch

Partnership in Action

September 2022



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Partners in Action

“She is my *jibon shati*.” When you say that about your wife, everyone smiles approvingly. They know you are describing your *life partner* with affection. The partnership between BMS and BBCS is a little different to the two of us – but as this is the 225th year of this particular pairing we've decided to showcase some of the work from the last couple of months, so you see it in action.

Your generous giving allows BMS to work in partnership with the Bangladesh Baptist Church. It also supports us in supporting the partnership and gives grants directly to the work. Some grants support national workers (SPW's) and some grants are project grants given to help things get done (such as pre-schools, relief work and training). This is how it looks in practice.

Supported Partner Workers in Action

In July the monsoon rain came early in the NE of Bangladesh. 4 million people were temporarily displaced or had their lives seriously disrupted by flood water, landslides and food shortages. The news was full of distressing pictures and the local church appealed for help. We met with the leaders, agreed on the response, wrote the proposal (that is an English task) and BMS generously provided money to support a relief programme to the communities, working through the local churches. Our mission workers (an SPW couple) knew the people and places where support was needed and prepared the family lists. Relief was purchased, village distribution points were identified, the dates were set – and the Mission Co-ordinator (another SPW), us, and a small team travelled to the area.

People gathered and told us stories of how they had slept for 4 weeks on a local factory floor because it was the only dry place in the area. They described how difficult life was with the cost of everything going up due to the lack of supply. We talked, sang, prayed and gave. The welcome, gratitude and thanksgiving to God were a blessing to see.

Then we returned to Dhaka, knowing that the local leaders would continue their great work of demonstrating the love of God in these communities.



For us, there is as much pleasure watching this kind of work going on as it is doing some of the things we are more “hands on” with. The beauty is in the partnership that makes it possible. There is a lot going on, and we thank God for our good health and the energy we need, so we are thankful for your faithfulness in praying for us and for the mission of the church.



Pre-School Project in Action

We left the car on the edge of the unmade road and clutching our umbrellas, we slithered our way through the mud towards the centre of the village. As we walked, Esther (a SPW) briefed Louise on the preschool we were about to visit. As we approached the small tin roofed bamboo building, standing alongside a similarly built church - we heard the sounds of children reciting their Bangla alphabet.

Then as we entered the building and our eyes adjusted to the light, we saw bright coloured posters hanging on the wall, and felt a huge sense of thankfulness that the school was full of children. It has been over two years since, it has been possible for Esther to visit these pre-schools in Gopalganj. Seeing them in action, the teachers working confidently, the children clearly excited to show off their work, and the happy guardians gathered outside – was a lovely moment when you could see a huge burden lifting from her shoulders.



Esther joined SHED Board in June 2019, as the Preschool programme assistant. In April 2020, with the worsening COVID situation all thirty Pre-schools closed and then Esther found herself acting as the de-facto leader of the project. She was required to provide guidance and support to the teachers and the newly appointed supervisors. It was another delight of the visits to see Noyon, the supervisor for four of the schools we visited, offer just the right kind of support in each situation. She helped one teacher bring a group of fidgety, over hot children to order. In another, she got the children outside, waddling and quacking like ducks. Seeing Esther modelling for the teachers how to bring play, stories, and learning all together was a joy.

After each of our eight visits, we were able to thank God for the dedication of the staff and for the strength of each of the preschools. Each faces a unique set of challenges, but each was acting as a beacon of Christian love within the community.



Prayer Points

Give thanks that our boys are well settled in their respective jobs having gone through what seems like countless years of study, transition and change. They are now at opposite ends of the country but doing well.

Bangladesh has many economic and political challenges and is beginning to gear up for national elections, due towards the end of next year. Please pray for the peace of the nation.

We thank God for the Mission Department work and for seeing many people coming to Christian faith and many opportunities opening up. Pray for the workers and resources to see a great harvest in these coming days.

Thanks - as always for your support.

With our love
Pete and Lou

If you would like to support Louise and Peter Lynch by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.

