

### CHRISTIAN AID REPORT

Richard Pickering gave a report regarding this year's Christian Aid (C/A) regarding Bangladesh to be held this year between 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May.

He shared that he had worked overseas for many years and that he supported C/A because of the indignation in local churches and the problems of their own people. There were approximately 180 – 200 million people in the country and there were three main rivers which run through Bangladesh. There were monsoon seasons and due to this there was a huge imperial engineering project but this had failed – they couldn't control the waters. The excess rain water brings down masses of silt which create other islands but wash away old islands so the ever increasing problems continue.

Houses tend to be under water a lot of the time. A family featured in this year's publicity has their home surrounded by water. Jute is cultivated to make household items. C/A is working with a Peoples' Development Centre to empower people to claim the right for schooling, housing, etc. A lot of families and islands are populated and empowered by women. Women build up a platform to try to keep things dry for even a short time. The C/A publicity shows life-changing events.

Richard reported that salt water from the sea gets into the ground along the coast so nothing grows in that area. The Bangladesh tiger is under threat from changes in their climate.

He reported that the Congregational Church was to do a Sponsored Walk and host 'A Big Brekkie' during this year's event rather than engaging in street collections. Publicity is to follow regarding this.

A poem from the C/A publicity was shared:

**I have a mouth but I never eat  
I have a bed but I do not sleep  
I always run but never walk  
I am the Mighty River.**

The weather is getting wilder in Bangladesh and so is the river  
It's waters are rising above it's banks, We are raising people above its waters  
We won't rest until all people are raised up. JOIN US!

This year the C/A collections and fund raising clashes with Pentecost and this is a time to look at transforming lives within Bangladesh so please help with either the Sponsored Walk, Big Breakfast or door to door street collections.

## **Christian Aid in Bangladesh**

Christian Aid has been active in Bangladesh since 1972. We are recognised for our work on climate change, disaster risk management (DRM), gender equality and human rights issues. Our programme promotes access to just and equitable resources and supports the creation of resilient and thriving livelihoods for marginalised people and communities.

Working alongside our partners, we are committed to making government institutions more accountable to communities. We have significant experience of working with government and civil society organisations in Bangladesh. Our programme is closely aligned with the vision and goals of donor organisations.

We work with 15 partners in 27 of the most vulnerable districts of Bangladesh across the southern coastal region, north-west and central flood and haor (wetland) areas. We have long-standing relationships with local organisations based on mutual learning and experience.

With our partners, we have developed and used tools and approaches including participatory vulnerability and capacity assessment (PVCA), climate smart disaster risk management, and social equity audits. Christian Aid Bangladesh is exploring new areas of work such as renewable energy, climate justice, private sector engagement and enterprise-based development.