

## Annual Report 2020

### Covid-19 Relief



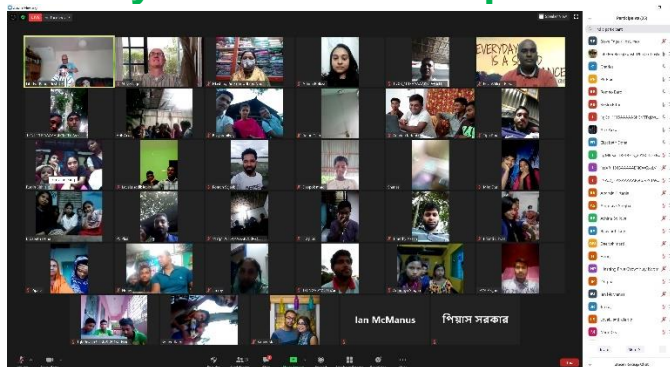
### Cyclone Amphan Food Aid



### Harvesters Worship Group



### Weekly Zoom Life Groups





# 2020 Annual Report for Life For Bangladesh

## CHAIRMANS INTRODUCTION

I am happy to enclose our Trustees Report for 2020. It has been a year when Life for Bangladesh has expanded and been able to make a meaningful difference to many hundreds of people in Bangladesh. I'd like to thank the many staff and volunteers working in Bangladesh, (too many to mention) for their hard work and commitment to the cause of bringing life and light through Christ to their fellow citizens.

**Rev Chris Simmons**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

It has been a difficult year 2020 but our God is good all the times! We tried to do all things in His name.

More than 100 Life Groups, Harvesters Worship Groups and Church based Children Schools are continue by your prayer and support.

It was quite good jobs to do serve hungry people in Bangladesh when World was COVID-19 Lockdown.

Emergency Food, Mask and hygienic stuffs was served, Specially thank you Barnabas fund.

We are very much pleased to serve needy and unprivileged. We will do continue serve by faith based, will you pray for us please!? Bless you all!

**Peter Sarkar**

## SECRETARY COMMENTS

We give God the glory for the good things he has done this year through Life For Bangladesh.

With His help we have been able to respond to the needs on the ground in Bangladesh.

In response to lockdown which left many living hand to mouth without income or food, we provided food and hygiene products.

Following Cyclone Amphan we were able to provide relief quickly through friends and contacts in the affected areas.

Life Groups were given a major boost with the introduction of weekly online Zoom meetings which enable us to bring, worship, teaching and engagement across the country.

Employing a new Regional worker in the North has enabled us to establish many new Life Groups in a needy rural part of the country and to help the young people in their walk with Christ. Please pray for Nabagram school which we are

opening in 2021 and will require additional fund-raising to make the building and play facilities safe. Your prayers and ongoing support are greatly appreciated, since together we are able to help some of the poorest people in a nation where the Christians are in a minority and are frequently marginalised.

**Stephen J Page**

## INTRODUCTION

**Our Vision:** Serving the people of Bangladesh, compelled by the love and life of Christ.

Life For Bangladesh is a registered UK charity which supports the ministry of our partner charity in Bangladesh, providing relief, training and education to some of the poorest families in Bangladesh.

As a locally based organisation, we understand and respond to the needs of the communities. We have been providing relief, Youth Training and conferences in Bangladesh for 28 years. We support a school with 115 pupils from differing creeds and religions.

Life 4 Bangladesh has two hundred plus volunteers in Bangladesh who help us carry out our activities.

### Programmes and Activities

Life4Bangladesh achieves it's Vision through a number of programmes which involve and inspire the youth of Bangladesh, at the same time providing training, development and relief.

Our planned Programs are described in detail on our website where detailed pdf brochures for each Program can be downloaded.

Our Programs include (active in Green); Blankets Appeal, [Schools Program](#), Sponsor a Child, [Life Groups](#), [Regional](#) and [National Life Conferences](#), Women's Program, [Christmas Appeal](#), School and Church Building.

As a result of unexpected events, this year we added two additional programmes; [Covid-19](#), [Cyclone Amphan](#)

Despite very difficult circumstances, with Covid-19 lockdowns and Cyclone Amphan, with enforced school closures, we have managed to maintain most of our planned activities and with God's leading and direction, to grow the ministry.

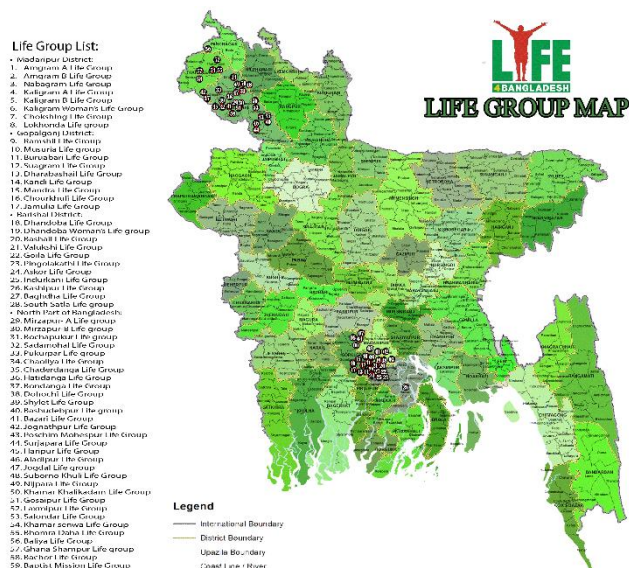


## Life Groups (Local, Regional and National)

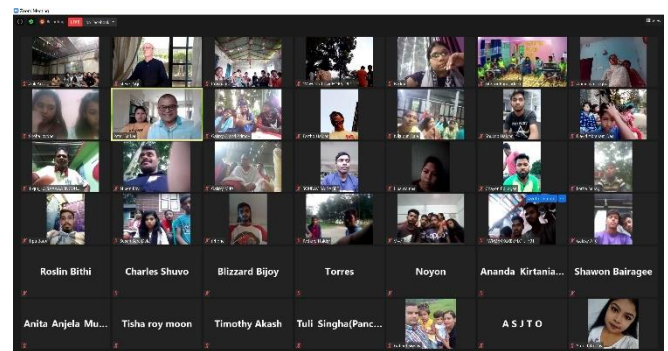
Our priority this last year has been the rebuilding of our Life Groups around the country which are the key to achieving our Vision and goals.



A significant number of new Life Groups have been planted in the north of the country. The map below shows where these are located.



Covid 19 restrictions at times made Life Group meetings and support visits to Life Groups very difficult. This led us introduce weekly online Life Groups, for those who can connect via mobile or wireless internet.



Since Jun 19<sup>th</sup> we have held 25 weekly Zoom meetings with up to 400 people in attendance from 30 or more groups. Most of the meetings were also live streamed to Facebook to increase accessibility and to enable people to easily replay later.

This has enabled us to provide worship, teaching, dance and encouragement to local and remote Life Groups, and at the same time to connect them as a National Life Group every week!

A range of themes have been explored, including; Meet Jesus, Hope, Faith, Love, Light of the World, Second Chance, Who am I, Strength in Weakness, Less is More, More, Servant, Help, Vision, Listen, Friends, Simplicity, William Carey, Prayer, Worship, Covid-19, Blessing, Light, Salt, God's Plan, God's Gift.

The meeting includes music from HWG, dance often from rural groups by video or live, a short talk on the theme of the day, discussion led by Rev Leon Biswas and a draw at the end for cash prizes towards their Life Group internet connection costs.

The online Life Group meeting time moved earlier and earlier as winter and darkness fell and we ended the term Dec 4<sup>th</sup> with a special online Christmas celebration titled God's Gift where we cut cakes together. Meetings will resume in the new year.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is regularly presented with colourful slides and simple prayers of commitment. Subjects are chosen to encourage members to deepen their faith and to put faith into action through service to the people of Bangladesh.

New Life Groups have been started across the country. Our presence has been greatly increased in all areas, particularly the North which was an answer to prayer, since this was the



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region we had been praying for at the end of last year.

Some groups in rural areas cannot get access to the internet to join online groups. We are exploring ways of supporting them better next year.

Two of the Life Groups are for adult women of mixed ages.

Most members are in the age range 13 to 35. However often we see families watching from multiple generations, young babies through to grand-parents.



Regional Pre-Christmas Life Conferences were held in each of the five main regions with the following numbers of attendees; Barisal 150, Madaripur 115, Gopalganj 143, Thakurgoan 122 and Dinajpur 159. T-Shirts were provided as a gift to each participant. A traditional meal was also provided. Worship was led by Harvesters Worship Group. All attendees were registered Life Group members. The total number of participants was 689, and cost £2572.



We have a total of 59 Life Groups and 57 Volunteer Life Group Leaders.

Life Groups are managed by Regional Life Leaders Committees (Barisal 12, Madaripur 8, Gopalganj 11, Thakurgoan 9, Dinajpur 13). Regional Life Group Leaders groups provide a way of succession planning for our Regional Coordinators.



It is quite an achievement to have achieved 25 weekly national meetings! Covid-19 has helped us to innovate and find new ways to grow the ministry.



## Covid-19

At the onset of Covid-19, we acted quickly in providing Soap and hygiene training to our staff. £100

We also provided a one-off special payment to staff at the end of March to help them and their families during the lock-down, equating to between £20 and £60 depending on salary and position (£534).

Every Life For Bangladesh volunteer helping with aid relief, including HWB, was given £10 of food aid June 10<sup>th</sup> towards the end of the lock-down (£730).

From the end of October, 1000 Facemasks (£450) began to be distributed to LifeGroup members across the country with a special Life Group meeting held to teach the importance of keeping social distance, wearing face coverings and washing hands regularly. A poster was designed and is shown regularly during our meeting to remind them of the importance.

To reinforce and put good actions into practice, attendance at Regional Pre-Christmas Life Conferences was conditional of wearing masks inside and keeping social distance.



Covid-19 Food Relief Aid was distributed across the country in ways which became a model for other relief organisations. About £12,000 of aid and hygiene items (soap and masks), was distributed to over 5000 people.

A grant was received from Barnabas Fund for £5,000 which sponsored a large proportion of our distributions.

## Cyclone Amphan



Following Cyclone Amphan striking land on 21<sup>st</sup> May, an appeal was quickly commenced which resulted in the provision of £1,320 of food aid to 1000 of the most affected people who we were able to reach.

Distributions were carried out by a combination of our staff and volunteers, and other church leaders we had contact with on the ground. Photographs of every distribution have been posted on Facebook.





## Schools Program



We have had no changes to staff at Amgram Baptist Fellowship Pre-Primary school this year.

We have 71 students from different faith backgrounds in 5 classes of approximately 14 students.

Teachers received a special payment and hygiene training at the outbreak of Covid.

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 in March the government closed all schools. Our staff have continued to support children from their homes. End of year exams will be assessed this month (December) at the school premises.



Pre-Christmas for Amgram school took place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December where gifts were distributed to the children, HWG led the worship songs, Children danced and sang, a generous meal was served to everyone. Gifts of £10 were distributed to each teacher.

A new intake of children will be received in January. Sports events are held through the year.

## Harvesters Worship Group



Harvesters Worship Group have played a leading role in our Life Groups and Regional Life Conferences.

Soikoth and Nipen travelled to the North with keyboards, pad drum, data projector and laptop to support the Regional Life Conferences.

They have painted the HWG office in bright colours and installed a camera to help with the weekly Life Groups. Young people are drawn to modern worship music.

To support them we have purchased T-Shirts for each of the 22 members (£200 29<sup>th</sup> Sept +£130 7<sup>th</sup> Sept). They have new white T-shirts and brighter coloured polo shirts.

A new UBS Interface (£200) 1<sup>st</sup> July was purchased to improve the quality of the sound. We also upgraded the speed of the broadband internet connection.

The growing band have been split into A and B Teams and take it in turn to play and sing each week.

## New Staff : Harun Biswas

To achieve our 2020 goal of expanding the ministry in the difficult to reach Northern parts, in July we hired Harun Biswas as Northern Regional Co-ordinator. A total of 31 groups have been signed up in the North. We are aware that not all groups are active, something we are planning to address in 2021.

Harun is very keen and travelling frequently across the north. Peter is in frequent contact with him, to ensure he stays focussed on our ministry. We pay Harun £100 a month, to include £25 travel expenses.

Harun has requested a motorbike to save costs and time for travel. We are considering this request but wish first to see evidence of the success of the new groups he has signed up.

## Housing Support to Soikoth



A gift of £1000 was made to Soikoth in September to help him to rebuild and make safe his family home which was falling down and leaking in the rain.

This work has now been completed and the family have voiced their appreciation for the support of Life For Bangladesh in making this happen.

## New Equipment

A gift was made to enable purchase of a new Laptop and data projector for the ministry in the North. This gift also enabled purchase of a new PC for the Amgram office.

## Financial Summary

This year, Life for Bangladesh total UK income was £21,643.11 and expenditure £21,870.74. We do not charge any administrative overheads for donations made to our charity.

Below is a statement of accounts for the last three years for Life For Bangladesh UK.

	2020 £	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Income</b>			
Regular giving	11,005.00	12,548.32	2,995.00
Gift Aid	3,803.44	1,919.58	
Paypal	3,693.90	294.65	
Other	3,140.77	1,444.46	987.00
	21,643.11	16,207.01	3,982.00
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Transfers to Bangladesh	21,124.70	14,403.19	3,200.00
Transfer costs	67.70		
Web/IT	678.34	216.00	216.00
	21,870.74	14,619.19	3,416.00
<b>Net</b>	<b>-227.63</b>	<b>1,587.82</b>	
Opening balance	2,413.32	825.50	259.50
Income	21,643.11	16,207.01	3,982.00
Expenditure	21,870.74	14,619.19	3,416.00
Carried Forward	2,185.69	2,413.32	825.50

Transfers to Life For Bangladesh in Bangladesh were categorised as follows;

School support £8,242.80

Relief aid £9,480.00

Mission £3,401.90

**Total £21,124.70**

Summary Accounts for our partner in Bangladesh are shown below.

# 2020 Annual Report for Life For Bangladesh

## Life For Bangladesh

Vill+Po: Amgram, P.S: Rajoir, District: Madaripur

A Statement of Accounts for the period 01 January to 31 December 2020

	<b>Income:</b>		
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount In Taka</b>

### 1.0 Grant Income:

#### Opening Balance:

Cash In Hand	01.01.2020	303.00
Cash At Bank	01.01.2020	-
		<b>303.00</b>

#### Donations From Life for Bangladesh

### 2.0 UK:

Life For Bangladesh	21.01.2020	2,317,243.00
		<b>2,317,243.00</b>

### 3.0 Others abroad donation:

Barnabas Fund (Wilson Saraj)	11.05.2020	497,177.00
		<b>497,177.00</b>

### 4.0 Local donation & Program's reg. fee.

School admission Fee	31.01.2020	4,800.00
Madaripur Life Conference Reg fee	24.11.2020	1,660.00
Thakurgaon Life Conference Reg fee	29.11.2020	770.00
Dinajpur Life Conference Reg fee	30.11.2020	4,020.00
Gopalganj Life Conference Reg fee	05.12.2020	4,050.00
Barishal Life Conference	12.12.2020	3,060.00
Teachers contribution (Jan to Dec-2020)		84,000.00
		<b>102,360.00</b>

<b>Total Incomes:</b>	<b>2,917,083.00</b>
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	<b>Expenses:</b>		
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5.0 Cost for School	<b>10,273.00</b>
6.0 Administration expenses:	<b>508,387.00</b>
7.0 Program's Expenses:	<b>208,136.00</b>
8.0 Office Maintanance & equipments Expense :	<b>252,045.00</b>
9.0 Emergency Aid Program and donation:	<b>1,490,169.00</b>
10.0 Salary:	<b>448,000.00</b>

<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>2,917,010.00</b>
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Cash in Hand	<b>73.00</b>
Cash at bank as the bank statement	<b>4,087.00</b>

Note: We have outstanding Loan 30,000 BDT from Mr. Adhir Baroi (Secretary- Amgram Baptist Church & Trustee Board Members of Life for Bangladesh)

Contact us if you would like to receive a copy of our complete audited accounts.





# 2020 Annual Report for Life For Bangladesh

## Vision for 2021

We have a number of plans for 2021 which we believe God is calling us to do, to build the ministry and reach more people with the love and life of Christ. Please pray for us and consider how you may be able to help us.

### Life Groups

Weekly Zoom Life Groups will resume from the end of January 2021 and will be based on meeting plans and activity sheets which will be distributed to all groups to enable those who cannot join us online to follow the same material. The material will follow the online lectionary resource "Roots on the web".

### National Life Conference

We have not held a National Life Conference for several years now. We would like to see this happen in 2021 with representatives from the UK. This requires leaders and participants to travel so the cost is likely to be high and £6000 minimum.

### Nabagram School

The Trustees have agreed to re-open the school at Nabagram. Cost for this is likely to be £100 a month minimum to start, plus cost for repairs and furniture (£3000). We will begin a new fund-raising appeal in January 2021 for the school.

### Ministry in the North

Purchase of a motorbike to support Harun's ministry in the North (£1,500) is being considered prayerfully to enable him to reach the remote Life Groups more easily.

A Laser printer and laptop and data projector would help with much needed local support of Life Groups.

### Barishal Ministry

For Barishal we wish to support Nipen, our regional worker's ministry with a motorcycle, laptop and data projector to provide local support of Life Groups.

### Regional Leader Gopalganj-Madaripur

We are praying for sufficient sponsorship to

enable recruitment of a regional leader for Gopalganj-Madaripur region where we have lost groups following the retirement of a previous volunteer leader.

### Communications

We are praying for resources to enable purchase of Mobile phones for each of the key team members to help us to communicate more effectively with them.

### Training

Regional Leadership Training for Life Group Leaders and Co-ordinators has been requested, to help them to lead groups, train others and plant new Groups.

### Fund Raising

To help the ministry to move towards being sustainable and self-financing we are investigating a small handicraft or clothes project, involving the youth or paid workers, in making craft of clothes items which we can sell online.

### Ministry Visit

Peter and Mridula wish to visit Bangladesh next year to build the ministry and encourage the staff. This would be timed for when life turns back to normal post Covid-19.

Mridula Sarkar has the support of the Trustees to develop a Mental Health awareness training Program in Bangladesh which she would launch on her visit.

### Salary

We plan this year to raise the salary for Soikoth and to increase Nipen's contract to full time.

### Pray

Prayer is the key to change and revival. Our meetings and activities are to be soaked in prayer. We wish to walk in Christ's footsteps and to see His kingdom come and will be done. Please pray with us.



# 2020 Annual Report for Life For Bangladesh

## TRUSTEES UK:

Chairman: Rev Christopher Simmons  
(Minister of Brighton Vineyard Church)  
Executive Director: Mr. Peter Sarkar  
Secretary: Mr. Stephen J Page  
Treasurer: Mr. Christopher Iain Hackett  
Trustee: Rev Martin Smith JPMA  
Trustee: Mrs. Mridula Sarkar

## TRUSTEES BANGLADESH:

Life4Bangladesh has a Trustee board registration from the Bangladesh Government in 2020. The board members are:

1. Mr. Gilbert Binimoy Sarkar, Chairman.
2. Mr. Soikoth Roy, Secretary.
3. Mr. Badal Roy, Treasurer.
4. Rev. Susanto Bairagee, Trustee.
5. Mr. Peter Sarkar, Trustee.
6. Mr. Adhir Barai , Trustee.
7. Rev. Willium Lion Biswas, Trustee.
8. Mr. Mohon Halder, Trustee.
9. Ashait Gain (Bappy), Trustee.

## CONTACT DETAILS OF LIFE FOR BANGLADESH:

Our official UK address and main contacts is;

Peter Sarkar, Executive Director  
Life For Bangladesh  
78 Timor road, Westbury Wiltshire,  
BA132GA, UK.

Email: [peter@life4bangladesh.org.uk](mailto:peter@life4bangladesh.org.uk),  
office : +44(0) 1373-229269  
Mobile : +44(0) 7803-254347  
Web address: [www.life4bangladesh.org.uk](http://www.life4bangladesh.org.uk)

Our official Bangladesh address and main contacts is;

Address: Vill+PO: Amgram, Police  
station: Rajoir, district: Madaripur,  
Bangladesh.  
Mobile: +88 (0)1718-716546  
Email: [life4bangladesh@gmail.com](mailto:life4bangladesh@gmail.com)