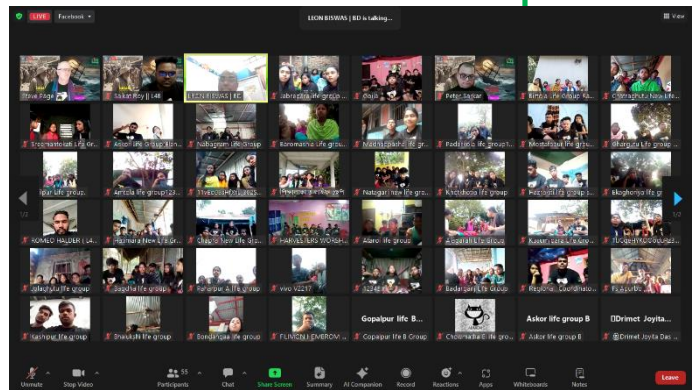


Life For Bangladesh Annual Report 2023

3 Schools



Zoom Life Groups



Regional Life Conferences



Leadership Training





Life For Bangladesh

Annual Report 2023

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Rev Chris Simmons (Chairman-L4B, UK)

I am happy to enclose our Trustees Report for 2023. 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 the love and life of Christ to their fellow citizens.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Peter Sarkar (Executive Director-L4B)

We are pleased to present you the highlights and challenges of Life for Bangladesh in 2023. It has been a wonderful and blessed year, despite the difficulties we encountered along the way. Our ministries have grown by His grace and we are very thankful to our UK partner organisation for their generous support.

As you may be aware, Life for Bangladesh is a UK Government registered charity (no. 1176398) and our dedicated UK trustees are working tirelessly to raise funds and send them to Bangladesh, as well as to plan, visit, serve and share the good news in Bangladesh.

We are glad to report that we launched our online Life Group in 2019 and now we have more than 100 Life Groups. Some of them are inactive due to device issues and poor internet connection. We also have 3 Children Schools and Harvesters Worship Group that are doing amazing work with a limited amount of funds.

There are still many needs, as we are a faith-based organisation we trust in God and He always meets all our needs in His perfect timing. That is why our ministries are flourishing in His kingdom.

We would like to reiterate our heartfelt gratitude for your kind love and generous support to serve the needy and underprivileged people. We will continue to serve by His faith, please keep supporting us with your prayers. Bless you all!

SECRETARY

Stephen J Page (Secretary-L4B, UK)

We are delighted to share with you the highlights for L4B in 2023, another year of exciting growth.

We have strengthened our team by hiring more regional workers who are equipped with the necessary tools to support our ministry in rural areas of Bangladesh.

We have increased the number of Life Groups, despite some challenges with technology and connectivity. Every week, we meet with them through online sessions that offer teaching, encouragement, and engaging activities.

We have seen our three schools flourish and grow, with more students benefiting from our quality Christian education.

We are looking for more funding opportunities to meet the demand for more classes, and to enable us to respond to requests from other schools.

We have organized a National Leadership Training Conference in February for 180 leaders, and Regional Life Conferences in October for all our members, to inspire, equip, and empower them.

We trust that God will provide for us and enable us to sustain our growth and to respond to the needs of the Christian children and youth of Bangladesh.

We cannot thank you enough, for your prayers and ongoing love and support.

BANGLADESH CHAIRMAN

Gilbert Binimoy Sarkar (Chairman-L4B)

We are grateful to God for His guidance and grace throughout 2023, a year full of beauty and blessings.

Life for Bangladesh has achieved remarkable results, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff, who have shared the teachings and morality of Jesus Christ with the young people and children of Bangladesh.

We look forward to 2024 with faith and optimism, hoping that God will open new doors for us to serve and impact more lives in Bangladesh.

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 32 years.

We support three schools with 250 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 its 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**, **Leadership Training**, Women's Program, **Christmas Appeal**, **School** and **Church Building**.



Life Groups (Local, Regional and National)

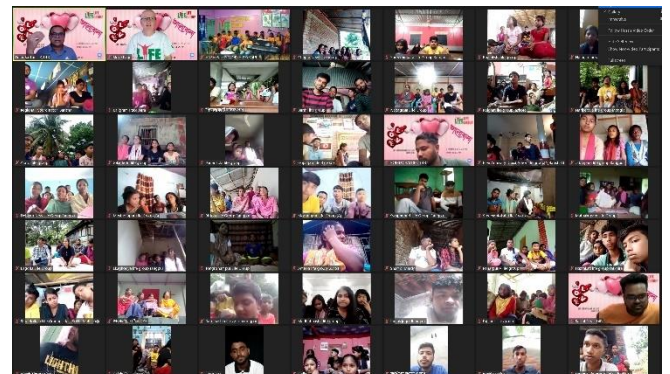


A main objective of our work in 2023 was to grow Life Groups, establishing and managing new groups all over Bangladesh in a stronger and more efficient way.

We have a total of 80 active Life Groups and around 150 Volunteer Life Group Leaders.

Life Groups are managed by Regional Coordinators & Regional Staffs (Barisal 16, Madaripur 04, Gopalganj 06, Khulna Region 19 and North Region 35). Regional Life Group Leaders groups provide a way of succession planning for our Regional Co-ordinators.

We have also around 40 Inactive Life Groups. These life groups are currently not able to participate in life groups due to various problems, such as many group members have moved to city areas for study and work, in some life groups we are not getting good leaders, and there are many groups who do not have good devices so they cannot use Zoom and unable to join weekly Life Groups. We are specifically praying for these groups to be reactivated.



We hold weekly Life Group zoom meetings with up to 600 people in attendance from 73 or more Groups.

All 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; New year new start, Tent, Temple, Dreams, Next Step, Coat, Fact or Fiction, Fear vs. Faith, Palms, Jesus is Risen, Witness of Resurrection, Moses, Burning Bush, The secret of Success, Watchmen, Pentecost, Addicted, foreigner, Sky, Marriage, Titanic, Perspective, Faith, Heroes, Hope, Shine, God's Plan, Gold, Relation with Creation, Prodigal, Love, Joy, Control, A new Commandment, Chosen, Transformed, God is the Provider, Invitation, then finally Celebrate was the theme of our online Pre-Christmas event.



The meetings include music from Harvesters Worship Group (HWG), dances from rural groups by video or live, a short talk on the theme of the day, a time of engagement called "Play Time" where we encourage the youth to share stories or take part in games and illustrations of the weekly them. We end each week with a draw for small cash prizes towards their Life Group internet connection costs.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is regularly presented with colourful slides and simple prayers of commitment.

New Life Groups have been started across the country. Our presence has been greatly increased in all areas.



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.

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.



We ended the year on Dec 15th with a special online Christmas celebration titled Celebrate where we cut cakes together. Meetings will resume at the end of January, when lighter evenings make it safe for the young people to travel home from their groups.



Regional Life Conferences



Regional Life Conferences were held in each of the four regions Theme “Chosen” with the following numbers of attendees; Gopalganj-Madaripur 250, Barishal 200, North Region 350, Khulna Region 200.

The theme Chosen was displayed on the T-Shirts they all received and proudly wore on arrival. The theme was based on the verse:



“But you are a Chosen People, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, God’s Special Possession, that you may declare the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9

All attendees were registered Life Group members. The total number of participants was 1000.



They all came! Despite heavy monsoon-like rain, on Saturday 7th October, the morning of our first Regional Life Conference of 2023.



Everyone was given a hot breakfast with a special rice with chicken called Bhuna Khichuri, and boiled eggs.



Peter opened the conference and introduced the conference Theme of Chosen, speaking on “Chosen for God’s Family”.

Steve, as the main guest speaker followed on the main text for the conference, 1 Peter 2:9 “Chosen for Divine Purpose”.



The third session was titled “Chosen to Lead”, learning Leadership Skills from the example of Moses, and reflecting that we may feel incapable and when Chosen like Moses, say; “Who am I?”.



The final closing session was led by Rev Leon Biswas and challenged us with the truth that we are all “Chosen for Mission” and to live lives which reflect Jesus to the world.



We had many worship songs led by Harvesters Worship Group, and dances from various Life Groups in traditional dress.



A competition of music and dance took place in the grounds at the close of the conference.

For many this was their first conference. Do pray for them that they will follow through

on prayers of commitment and prayers of following Christ more closely, as His Chosen sons and daughters.

The tribal and Hindu people in the north are not as well educated as in other regions and struggle to understand and remember much of the teaching. Pray that they would remember the pictures and stories at least, which tell them of a Father God who loves them dearly and offers them forgiveness of sins and eternal life through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

LIFE GROUP VISITS

Following both the February and October conferences, we visited as many Life Groups as we could, to encourage them and build them up.

We travelled in a mini-bus for most of the journeys, then when the roads were too muddy and difficult for the mini-bus to negotiate, on an electric “Van”, which is kind of a tricycle with a flat-back!



Here we are aboard the “Van”, which also slid around, but was lighter and easier to push until better traction could be found.

One can imagine William Carey riding a horse drawn version of the Van, some 200 years ago?



The transport required, underlines the rural and poor nature of the communities we are helping to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As always, the welcomes in the north are rich and warm! We were greeted with flowers, singing and dancing.



This is followed by a foot wash, in what was refreshingly cool water, considering the seasonal temperatures of 33 degree Celsius.



We recognise a need, like the early Apostles, to minister encouragement in our visits. We share a brief word, and emphasise how well they are doing, how valued they are to God, how valued by L4B and their local Christian communities as they seek to grow in faith in Christ.



Some met in church building, some in community halls, others on mats laid on the floor at the heart of the village.



Whilst some groups we met alone inside buildings, whole communities came to greet us at a number of the meetings.



We would tell a story to illustrate the good news story and tell of our God who made all things including trees and metal from which idols are made. We tell of our loving God who gave His Son to pay the price for our sins if we would simply believe in Him.



It can be seriously costly to announce a change in religion here. We encourage them to tell somebody and to join our Life Group to learn more about Jesus.

Please pray for the young people, wherever they are in their walk of faith.





National Leadership Conference

was on the theme Shepherd and explored lessons to help our leaders based on the life and writings of Simon Peter and David.

Pastor Leon Biswas provided translation, and also led the Revival meetings.



This photo was taken with us all in traditional dress. If you look carefully you will see the leaders on the balcony above the Welcome sign.

During each teaching session we would have Break-out groups where the young people would apply the teaching to their situations then report back.

We had a full program of teaching, worship, revival meetings and bible study.



Above you can see the 180 Life Group Leaders wearing their Shepherds T-Shirts in the Training room.

The teaching was shared between Steve and Jim from our Partner charity.



Whilst some were young in their Christian faith, others were keen and well taught. One girl called Disha had a William Carey Translation bible which was well read, highlighted and underlined.



Whilst some quickly learned the memory verses for our sessions and could recite multiple verses. Others from the tribal areas in the north, took longer to learn and to understand the teaching.



Mridula attended the conference and a number of Life Group and school visits. During ministry time she prayed for a number of young girls who were deeply moved.

Peter and the Team in Bangladesh are well practiced in planning and Managing visits and conferences. They did a brilliant job and ensured we were able to both give encouragement and to hear the needs and challenges faced by our team on the ground in Bangladesh.



On the final night we had an outside revival service where after a time of worship and sermon from Leon, the young people were encouraged to symbolically burn their sins on a fire having written them on a piece of paper.



Many gave testimony of being changed, challenged, and encouraged through the conference.



At the end of the conference the attendees were presented with a Shepherd's crook to remind them of their calling to be Shepherd's of God's sheep.



Schools Program

Here is a breakdown of the counts of students, classes and teachers at our three schools;

	Nabagram School	Amgram School	Kaligram School	Total
Students 2023	54	78	80	212
Classes 2023	5	5	3	13
Teachers 2023	5	5	3	12

One new teacher has been appointed at Nabagram Pre-primary Bible School this year.

Here is a breakdown by faith background of students at each school, which shows how Christians are in the minority.

	Nabagram School	Amgram School	Kaligram School	Total
Christian	4	14	10	28 (13.2%)
Hindu	6	25	70	101 (47.6%)
Muslim	44	39	0	83 (39.2%)
Total	54	78	80	212

The school Education Year is January to December and we follow the state secular curriculum, with a Christian influence.

This year we received the following fees from our students families, who are encouraged to contribute to their education.

	Nabagram School	Amgram School	Kaligram School
Annual Admission Fee BDT	100	50	20
Examination Fee BDT	0	50	30
Monthly Fee BDT	26	39	0
Total BDT Annual/Student	412	568	50
Total GBP Annual per Student	£3.16	£4.37	£0.38
Total Income GBP	£170.64	£340.86	£30.40

We visited each of our schools this year to share encouragement and to discuss their requests for expansion and increased salary. Our teachers are doing a remarkable job, giving their time for and skills for low salary.



The **2023 Annual Awards Ceremony** and pre-Christmas celebration was held in December, with prizes award to students making the best results and best improvements over the year



Kaligram School Repairs

Following on from the repairs of the benches by Andy Faulkner, with the support of Charlbury Baptist Church, this year we have been able to repair and repaint the brick school-house which was in an unusable and unsafe condition. Below are some photos showing the beautiful new looks given to the school-house.



We are praying now for the provision of funds to enable rebuilding of the wooden school-house which will cost in the region of £100k.

Harvesters Worship Group

Harvesters Worship Group continue to play a leading role in our Life Groups, Regional Life Conferences and National Life Leadership Training Conference. Here are photos of them playing at each of these events.



They travelled to the North with keyboards, pad drum, data projector and laptop to support the “Chosen” Regional Life Conferences. Also they do the same at Khulna regional conference, Barishal Regional Conference & the “Shepherd” National Life Leadership Training Conference (NLLTC 2023).

New Equipment

A gift was made to enable purchase of two new Motorcycle for the Filimon Hembrom, Newly appointed Regional Staff from north & Saikat Roy, and for Saikat Roy, Secretary-Life for Bangladesh.



Vision for 2024

We have a number of plans for 2023 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 2023.

We have plans to increase the number of Life Groups and to expand all to new regions of Bangladesh. This will require appointing new Regional Co-ordinators & Volunteers.

National Life Conference

We have not held a National Life Conference for several years now. We would like to see this happen in 2024 with representatives from the UK and USA. This requires 800-1000 leaders and participants to travel so the cost is likely to be high and in excess of £50000.

National Evangelism Training Conference February 2024.

We are planning an Evangelism Training conference in February 2024, with 200 Life Group leaders from around the country. The cost of this, with travel will be at least £30000. We are looking for global partners to help share the cost of this.

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.

Communications

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

Salary

We plan this year to raise the salary for all the staffs and it is very important in present times, to ensure we can retain our team.



Kaligram School

Above is a photo of Andy Faulkner helping with building new benches in Phase 1 of the repairs.

Phase 3 of repairs at Kaligram school, involves building a new school-house to replace the wooden building. Your prayers and support would be appreciated as we aim to show the children and the whole community, the love and support we, and our Saviour have for them.

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.





Life For Bangladesh

Annual Report 2023

TRUSTEES UK:

Chairman: Rev Christopher Simmons
Executive Director: Mr. Peter Sarkar
Treasurer: Mr. Christopher Iain Hackett
Secretary: Mr. Stephen J Page
Trustee: Rev Martin Smith JPMA
Trustee: Mrs. Mridula Sarkar

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Mobile : +44(0) 7803-254347
Web address: www.life4bangladesh.org.uk

TRUSTEES BANGLADESH:

Life4Bangladesh has a Trustee board registration from the Bangladesh Government in 2020.

The board members are:

Chairman: Mr. Gilbert Binimoy Sarkar
Secretary: Mr. Saikat Roy, Secretary
Treasurer: Mr. Badal Roy, Treasurer
Trustee: Rev. Susanto Bairagee
Trustee: Mr. Peter Sarkar
Trustee: Mr. Adhir Barai
Trustee: Rev. William Lion Biswas
Trustee: Mr. Mohon Halder
Trustee: Ashait Gain (Bappy)

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