



BANGLADESH **MISSION** **PROJECT**

Some of the House Groups and ACTs are supporting the Christian Service Society (CSS) in Bangladesh, in particular its Commercial Sex Worker Rehabilitation Programme. The project has the support of the Bangladeshi government. The life these women lead in the brothel is unimaginable and inhumane. CSS believes that everyone on this earth is equal and deserves the same right to live happily with others.

The women are taken out of the brothel and given a residential training on different life skills for a year. Then they are provided with job support, and given land and a house.

The first pilot project began in 2008 and has been a success. 23 women were rehabilitated and are showing good performances in their working fields. However they are kept under close supervision, as they are still vulnerable. A second phase followed in 2010, with 15 women on the programme.

Many of these women have children who are catered for in the Batiaghata Home of Blessings, one of 4 orphanages run by the CSS. Here the children are provided with education with residential facilities and brought up with parental love and care. During 2010 there were 17 boys and 13 girls in this Home. Our monies also go towards supporting this project.

If you are interested in reading more about this the CSS and its various projects, I have copies of their latest annual report.

Margaret Connor

MISSION FUNDRAISING

Over a period of a few years a Mission fundraising project has seen some success – the sale of small gifts, POPC recipe books and gift cards at a reasonable price. Gifts are displayed on shelves, and cards and more gifts on a small table near to the ACTs counter.

In 2011 we introduced a couple of novel ideas, which have been a great success. Firstly there were beautiful gift cards with a witty tea poem on them, and enclosing a wrapped tea or coffee bag. The other was a small organza Friendship Bag, (filled with a variety of small everyday objects) - a nice little pick-me-up for a friend who may need some moral or emotional support.



Over a 10-week period till Christmas 2011, these cards, gifts and recipe books (there are still some available) raised the sum of **£230.46**. These funds have now been shared between our Bangladesh and Zimbabwe mission projects.

At this time, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all who donated these new, but unwanted, toiletries and small gifts, to help make this venture a success. Also many thanks to everyone, who was kind enough to purchase goods.

We will continue to raise funds this way throughout 2012 and would appreciate any new, but unwanted, goods.

***New ideas are in progress!!
Watch this space!***

Margaret Connor

GOD'S BOXES

1. I have in my hands two boxes,
Which God gave me to hold
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black box,
And all your joys in the gold."
2. I heeded His words, and in the two boxes,
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,
But though the gold became heavier each
day,
The black was as light as before.
3. With curiosity, I opened the black,
I wanted to find out why,
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole,
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.



4. I showed the hole to God, and mused,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be!"
He smiled a gentle smile and said,
"My child, they're all here with me."
5. I asked God, why He gave me the boxes,
Why the gold and the black with the hole?
"My child, the gold is for you to count
your blessings,
The black is for you to let go."

Received by email