

Locals pray for the victims of Asian Earthquake Disaster

Two-weeks after the earthquake in south Asia, Christian relief and development agency, Tearfund are still racing to bring aid to communities in need of help. Deer Park Baptist Church in Tenby are joining Tearfund by taking action against this terrible disaster. Thanks to Tearfund's prayer request list, issued on their website: www.tearfund.org. the church has been able to pray specifically for those affected by the earthquake. The children of the Jr.Light Seekers youth club have been so moved by this disaster that they made prayer cards for the victims. Philip, aged 7 years, writes: 'Jesus, Please heal the people of Pakistan who were hurt in the earthquake'

Prayers are also being raised for Kennedy Dhanabalan who works for Tearfund partner Eficor, and is heading up Tearfund's partner-led response in India. He requests prayer for: the availability of tents, provision of clean water - much of it is black and dusty, essentials such as clothes and blankets and good clear coordination between local relief organisations, which he hopes will involve local volunteers to help in affected villages.

Wilson Saraj, Tearfund's regional advisor in Pakistan, also requests prayer for: first aid, shelter, warm clothes and clean water.

'After joining with local individuals and churches on the Make Poverty History march, that took place in Tenby earlier this year, it is good to continue our fight by supporting these poverty-stricken villagers in our prayers. By using Tearfund's prayer guides, we as locals can target specific areas of need' says Sharron Hardwick (Tearfund Media officer for Pembrokeshire) who invites any locals in the area to pray for the victims of this disaster. If individuals or groups wish to make donations, this can be done by visiting the Tearfund web site www.tearfund.org or by following the links below.

Tearfund's latest relief attempts include a team of doctors from Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) who are treating injured patients in the devastated area of Uri. The team of 10 people, including two orthopaedic surgeons, anaesthetists, a gynaecologist and nurses, has set up in part of the area's destroyed hospital.

"The medical team is treating broken legs, arms and other bones, as well as carrying out some amputations as gangrene is a problem nearly two weeks after the earthquake," says Roy Alex, a Disaster Management Advisor for EHA. He reports that serious medical cases are being taken by helicopter to Srinagar.

Mr Alex says that the people of Uri are living in tents, under plastic sheeting or in the open air. Many are fearful of further quakes. More remote communities are still being reached, he says, including one where TB infections are affecting the majority of the poverty-stricken villagers. "We will be seeking special medication to help them," he states.

Tearfund partner Discipleship Centre (DC) this week began distributing temporary shelters, hygiene kits and clothing to 200 families in the Indian district of Baramulla. Niranjan Lall, Director for Relief and Development, says: "We are distributing rice, dhal, oil and sugar, along with blankets and warm clothing too. The weather is getting colder and some snow has fallen." He says DC is seeking to provide warm shelters capable of withstanding the onset of winter.

Meanwhile, more than £15 million has been pledged to the Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) Asia Quake Appeal. Members of the British public are continuing to give generously via emergency phone lines and post to the appeal launched last week by 13 UK aid agencies, including Tearfund. As the weather in the region deteriorates the need for shelter is increasingly urgent and the DEC is calling on the public to continue with their generous support.

The most critical challenge is the logistics of delivering shelter that will stand the harsh winter conditions, states the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Donations have been flooding in via the DEC website - www.dec.org.uk <<http://www.dec.org.uk/>>, via the 24-hour donations phone line - 0870 60 60 900 - and by