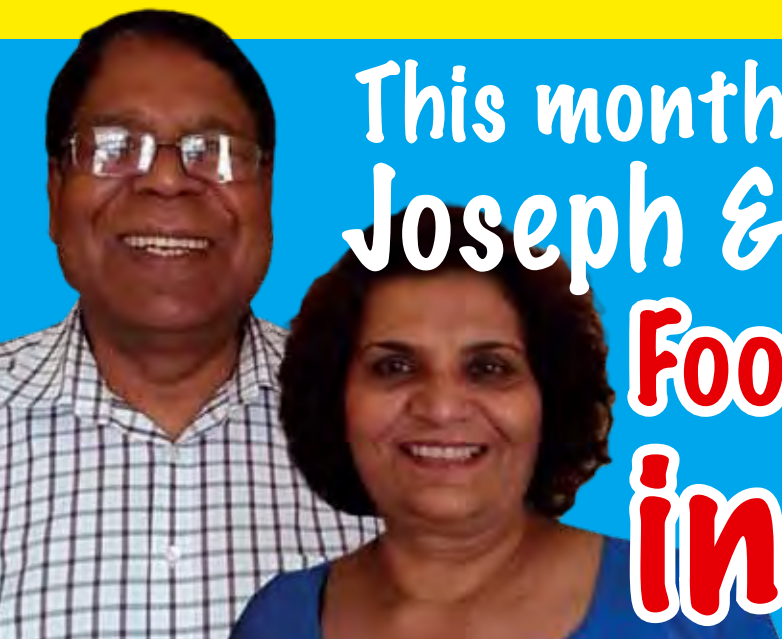


*"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."*

*Matthew 5:10*



# This month Siloam focusses on Joseph & Rose Barkat's Footsteps ministry in Pakistan

*Joseph & Rose Barkat have lived in Bedford for the last 35 years. Supporting himself as a taxi driver, Joseph is also an ordained Pastor in an Asian assembly in Bedford where many Pakistanis living in the UK have come to Christ.*



One of the practical ministries Rose & Joseph have been successful in setting up are sewing centres where Christian girls who are severely persecuted because of their faith, can be trained to earn a living in their own homes with a simple sewing machine.

One girl Asia Bibi used to work as a domestic in a Muslim home. Sadly, the owner's son raped her by force then she was sacked from her work. After one year of training, Asia is now working from home, using a sewing machine supplied by Rose and Joseph. Many other sad stories can be related concerning how these girls have been treated by their neighbours. At this community project near Lahore, ten girls have already completed their sewing courses last year and they are now working from home earning sufficient money to help feed their families.

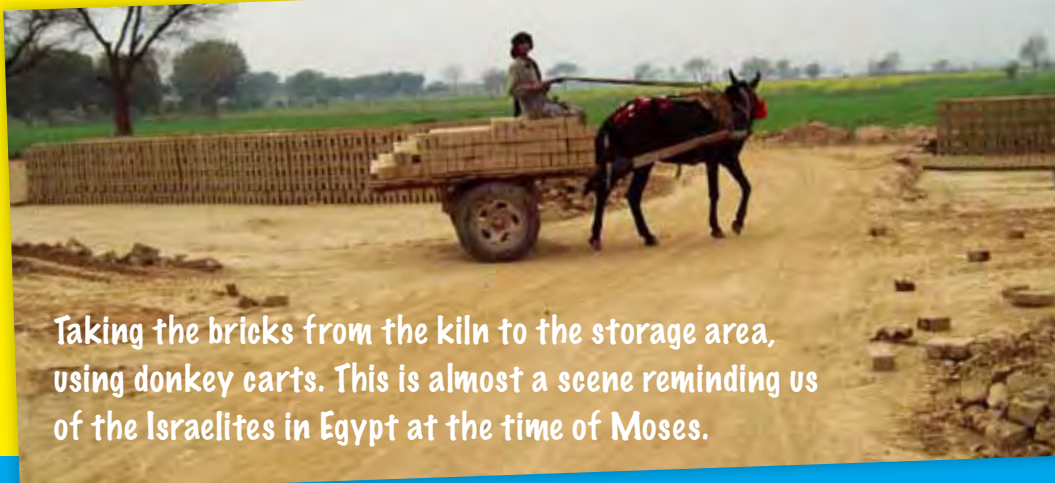


This toddler could easily fall into the water as she washes her hands in this filthy water. She is not really out of sight of her mother but certainly her health is at risk from this polluted water which sometimes they also have to drink.



Project 032

This 6 year old little boy is turning over freshly made bricks so they can dry in the heat of the sun. Many children work long and hot hours alongside their impoverished parents.



Taking the bricks from the kiln to the storage area, using donkey carts. This is almost a scene reminding us of the Israelites in Egypt at the time of Moses.



## Siloam Christian Ministries

FREEPOST, Box 4198, Leamington Spa, CV31 9BP Tel: 01926-335037

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.siloam.org.uk](http://www.siloam.org.uk)  
and scroll down to view our many projects**

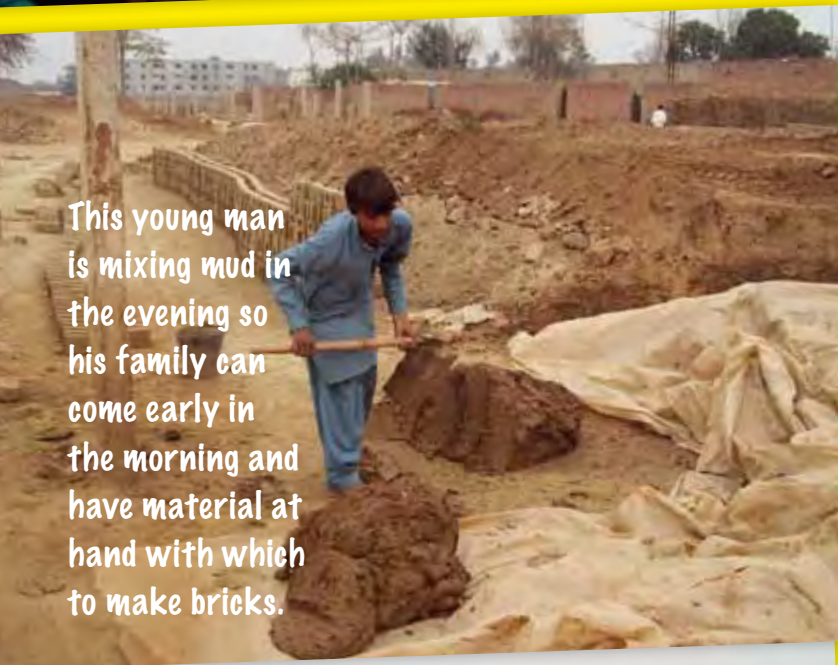
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An evangelistic meeting in Samundri district – a 4 hours' drive from Lahore. Amazingly, the meeting didn't get underway till 11pm as Joseph and his team drove through dust storms and heavy rain to find this new location. To their surprise, people were still waiting to hear the Word of God and many accepted their Saviour at this late night meeting.



A special ladies' meeting conducted by Pastor Amjad Sooba. Several girls and women accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour.



This young man is mixing mud in the evening so his family can come early in the morning and have material at hand with which to make bricks.



Above, Joseph with Pastor Amjad Sooba. They help minister to workers in 13 different kilns. The average wage for making a thousand bricks is roughly £3.00!!

Below, Joseph (centre) with a group of church members near the border with India. Joseph and Rose raised funds to help this pastor so he could build a house in which he could hold church meetings. By partnering Joseph and Rose, we can equip them with the funds they need to assist people in practical Christian ways to show the love of God while at the same time making these dear folks' hearts receptive to the gospel.



Digging clay by hand in the cool of the day because when the sun is up, it's too hot to do heavy work.



**If your heart has been touched** and you want to be a channel to help Christians in Pakistan, then please donate to project **032 – Footsteps ministry** – thank you.

Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministires



## Easter Special

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

*Dear caring friend*

I can't remember just how long ago I attended a meeting where Joseph and Rose Barkat explained their ministry to a wrapped congregation but I remember the atmosphere was electric! Taking the gospel to people in Pakistan takes a good measure of courage and for most westerners, it would not be possible because of the visa restrictions. But, in equipping and empowering former immigrants to the UK who are practising enthusiastic Christians, makes sharing the good news more viable. Also, embracing the philosophy of Siloam to use education, medical aid, social and other relief as an expression of God's love, makes the ministry far more acceptable and effective because people are helped in practical and tangible ways as well as being exposed to the life-changing gospel message of Jesus Christ.

About six years ago, Joseph & Rose who had lived in Bedford for over 35 years where Joseph had been heading up an Asian Christian assembly, felt the call of God to help their own people back home. Joseph was also a taxi driver which enabled him to support himself while being active in the Christian ministry.

Joseph explained that in Pakistan there are numerous sad stories of children working in brick kilns along with their parents who are effectively bonded labourers. Although I have come across this practice in India, because of visa restrictions now, it would be very difficult for me to venture into Pakistan to see for myself and to be in a position to offer any practical help. Thankfully, by empowering Joseph and his wife Rose, we can equip them to be the 'hands and feet' of Christ in this corner of the world where Christians are heavily persecuted even murdered by political and religious extremists.

Last year Siloam was only able to pass on a gift of £2,000.00 to Joseph and Rose because we had not exposed their ministry to our supporters since 2012. Rose and Joseph are planning to use the money which we entrusted to them to set up two more sewing schools that will each help a dozen or so young women who would otherwise have to work as housemaids in Muslim homes where they are often physically abused and sexually exploited. After all, if they are Christian girls, no one is going to make a fuss if they tell their stories to the police!!!

This year we would like to increase the frequency and value of our ministry gifts to Rose and Joseph Barkat so they can assist people as they come across them in their ministry. We can help a family by providing medical

*more over page* ➡

**Sandwiched between Afghanistan and India, Pakistan is a Muslim nation where there is strong resistance to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Very few UK Christians can operate within its borders. Thankfully, there are a number of Christians of Pakistani origin who are willing to encourage and empower the indigenous Christian community.**



**While mother makes bricks, these children are waiting for her to finish work. It's usually very hot after 11 am and there is little shade. Could you imagine bringing up your children in such harsh surroundings?**





**These precious children stay with their parents in the brick kilns as there is no one to look after them at home. The children don't go to nursery or school because parents can't afford the fees.**

help for a cataract operation or we can assist children in school by making provision for their uniforms, schoolbooks and even fees.

We can empower pastors as they struggle against tremendous adversity as they seek to win others with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ from among their Muslim neighbours.

Food parcels for children working in the brick kilns can be made available so your gifts of £5, £10, £25 or even more, can go a really long way in Pakistan.

If you would like to help and encourage Rose and Joseph at this time then please use our special response form which carries your name and address and slip it into our 'Freepost' envelope together with your prayerful gift.

Siloam feels privileged to help Rose and Joseph and partner with them in their ministry to which they feel called of God. Please stand with us this month and make it possible to reach more desperate souls for Christ in Pakistan. And, if you would like to invite Joseph and Rose to come and share their vision and ministry in your church or fellowship – just drop me a line or pick up the 'phone,

Yours sincerely on behalf of those languishing in the brick kilns of northern Pakistan



Richard Norton

Director-Siloam UK

P.S. If you would like to know much more about the Footsteps ministry of Rose and Joseph Barkat just let me know and I will send you a copy of a recent article published in the Sword magazine which features their ministry.

P.P.S Just as an alternative, I am also enclosing a leaflet concerning the Rehoboth Children's Home in the Philippines in case you would rather support that ministry this month - thank you.



**Joseph Barkat is an ordained minister with AOG who has been called to work as a missionary in the country of his birth together with his wife Rose.**



**Stopping briefly to pray for this man's wife who was at home suffering with a stomach ulcer. She was in a lot of pain but the following day, he phoned to say his wife was pain free for which all the family were happy to give thanks to God.**



**Sadly, these children have nothing to do so they spend their time in the brick kiln with their parents. Many need to go to school so Joseph and Rose are planning to set up more schools in the brick kilns so these children can begin their education. Please pray that we can assist Joseph & Rose with this dream to provide education for the poorest of the poor in Pakistan.**

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