



Life in turmoil...

Recent natural disasters, particularly floods, seem to have dominated our headlines for several weeks. Around the world – in Australia, South Africa, Brazil, and Sri Lanka – we have seen what damage can be done to homes, possessions and health; even the taking and destroying of people's lives.

The world's media have been following these stories of floods and landslides, reporting the facts but unable to hide the harsh realities and personal devastation that lie behind the shocking statistics of death and destruction.

Of course, some countries have felt the affects of the floods more keenly than others in terms of lives lost and damage caused. In part this has been due to the scale of the disaster each country has experienced but it has also been due to the soundness and quality of existing infrastructure, buildings and services. The poorer countries have inevitably suffered the most, struggling to cope with the demand placed on emergency and healthcare services.

In the Middle East, quality healthcare is a precious commodity; and one that is often not affordable for many people. BibleLands partners provide healthcare for some of the region's poorest people. From hospitals offering front-line medicine in the midst of conflict, to primary care services reaching isolated villages and refugee camps, our partners offer hope to those who would otherwise be unable to afford treatment – they save and improve lives every single day.

The Salaam Centre in Egypt is just one example of practical Christian love in action – they provide essential services for the Zabaleen community in Cairo. Zabaleen means 'rubbish pickers', and this community live and work on Cairo's rubbish dumps, foraging for food and items that they can use, or finding items with some resale value.

The Salaam Centre runs a hospital and a child healthcare initiative – the Under Fives Health Care Programme began in 2001 for young children who are particularly susceptible to many diseases due to working on the rubbish dump. The centre aims to improve the health of these children and teach basic health care to families. Children receive twice yearly check-ups and those with special needs are given the appropriate treatment or referred onto hospital.

Each child receives immunisation and the centre gives vitamins to 800 children whose parents pay 10p per child per month. The centre has a fund to help pay for emergency medical care that children may need if their families are unable to afford treatment costs.

Bible*Lands* has many partners who work in Israel and Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon, and no one is turned away, regardless of their ability to pay, their ethnicity or their beliefs. To find out more about the Salaam Centre or our other partners visit www.biblelands.org.uk.