

Bangla Hope



Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

No. 34

January - March, 2003

This quarter, instead of a story of a specific student, we will share an overview of the schools and orphanages BCSSA works with in Bangladesh. Thank you for making an eternal difference in the lives of these young people.

In all the schools you will notice a difference between total enrollment and the number of students sponsored by BCSSA. Some student's families are able to pay their tuition, some are sponsored by other organizations, and some are accepted who are unable to pay. If the schools are to survive to educate next year's students, however, there is a limit to how many nonpaying students can attend.

The four districts of the country are listed separately below. For those of you who sponsor a specific student, the capital letters in parentheses (LBP, LBH, etc.) are also a part of your student's number. These identify the school they attend.

West Mission District — Northwest area

SAMMS—Bajitpur (LBP) and Bangla Hope Children Center (LBH)
 Students sponsored by BCSSA:
 LBP: 142
 LBH: 69
 Total enrollment: 801

South Mission District — Southwest area

KMMS—Kellogg Mookerjee Memorial Seminary (LKM) and Orphanage (LOR)
 Students sponsored by BCSSA:
 191 Boarding students
 117 Orphans
 Total enrollment: 781

Gopalganj (LGG)
 Students sponsored by BCSSA: 82
 Total enrollment: 91

North Mission District — Northeast area

Monosapara Boarding School (LMAS)
 Students sponsored by BCSSA: 2
 Total enrollment: 419

East Mission District — Southeast area

Hilltracts Boarding School (LHB) and Hilltracts Children Center (LHOR)
 Students sponsored by BCSSA:
 LHB: 58
 LHOR: 50
 Total enrollment at Hilltracts: 392

Adventist University and Seminary of Bangladesh (LGB, LCOR):
 Students sponsored by BCSSA -
 LGB: 31
 LGB-C (College): 57
 LCOR (college orphans): 5

Total enrollment at AUSB: 649



222 Village Schools spread throughout the four districts

Students sponsored by BCSSA: 1797
 Total enrollment: 6224

Schools with benches and tables: 62
 Fully-sponsored schools: 43

Airport Miracle

Dave, Beverly, Bristi, and two drivers headed through the Seattle airport. On two baggage carts, as-large-as-allowed carry-on cases teetered atop six huge canvas bags that hung over either side. They hoped they'd soon meet up with Gary, the BCSS-America treasurer, for the flight to Bangladesh.

One glance when they found him, with his similarly overloaded cart, and Dave asked, "What's wrong?"

Gary motioned toward his cart.

The canvas bags looked strange.

"Our bags are too big to check. We'll have to pay shipping."

"But we've used these same bags every trip the last several years."

"New regulations." Gary sighed. "I went to my car, took out some of the clothes for the children, and tied the bags smaller. They were still too big. I took out more and tied them even smaller. This'll be my third try at checking them."

Dave looked at the six bags they'd just arrived with. They were each as large as Gary's had been originally. "What would it cost to ship them?"

"Nearly a thousand dollars."

Silence hung over the group.

"What do we do?" one finally ventured.

"Let's pray about it," another said.

The six formed a circle amid the airport bustle and bowed their heads. "God, the things in these bags are for Your children in Bangladesh. You know the needs. You know the love that people all over the country stitched into precious little dresses . . . or shopped with. You know the need for school supplies. You know the care that's gone into planning and packing. There's nothing more we can do. If You want the children to have these supplies, would You arrange it?"

The six took their place at the end of the long

queue. The bags bumped against the lane dividers on either side as they progressed.

Finally, the guide directed them to an agent. As they stepped forward, the agent announced, "I won't do them."

The guide looked surprised.

"I'm too new," the agent snapped.

"I'll help you," the guide encouraged.

"I won't do them!" the agent retorted. She turned and left.

The guide looked from one agent to another. She motioned several other passengers on and they struggled around the cluster of people and carts.

After several minutes, another woman in airline uniform came. "Are you being helped?"

"Not really," Dave said.

As the woman looked down the line of ticket agents, a man who'd not been there before walked up to the counter at the far left. The woman pointed. "Go to him. He's a supervisor." The BCSS entourage made their way to that agent. He looked at one person's ticket. "Set your bags here," he said. He attached labels to the two bags and lifted them onto the conveyor. "Next?" Ticket . . . labels . . . conveyor. "Next?" Ticket . . . labels . . . conveyor. "Next?"

Though a long line of passengers remained, as soon as the bags for the children of Bangladesh were checked, that agent disappeared.

* * *

At no extra cost, the bag's contents (and the people) are safely in Bangladesh, helping as God intended.

Our Utah P.O Box is now CLOSED.



Make certain your envelopes are addressed to:
BCSS
P.O. Box 6853
Kennewick, WA 99336-0601

FLOODING

The water from this year's unprecedented floods has receded amazingly fast. Most of the villagers have moved off the roads (higher ground) and returned to their homes.

PROJECT UPDATES

Water: Besides the serious, immediate problem of arsenic in the water, we found other problems that need solutions also—salt and excessive amounts of iron. We are building 25,000 gallon tanks to collect and store rain water for drinking.

Motorcycles are desperately needed for our field workers to reach our schools. Since they own no vehicles themselves, they are dependent on public transportation which is slow and unreliable. We are looking at small cycles—100 to 125 cc. Since motorcycles are not manufactured in Bangladesh, cost is increased by shipping charges. We need four cycles at a cost of \$2500 each.



Gopalgonj Dorm Beds: Some used beds have been found and construction has begun on the remainder to provide a bed for each of the 84 girls. As of the end of October, \$5,610 has been received. As funds continue to come in, we will begin the one hundred beds needed for the boys' dorm.

Leggings: Thank you for a wonderful response. As of the end of October, funding has come in to help keep 380 little girls warm. Beverly will proceed with purchasing.

Stickers: Beverly is distributing the stickers you've sent to teachers in Bangladesh. A sticker for a child might seem to us as such a little thing. But the smiles stretched across the children's faces reveal otherwise.



Pocket Money: Dave is delivering the pocket money you sent for your students. Remember, tuition must be current before pocket money can be disbursed.

Christmas Presents: The tuition money you send includes enough each year for a practical Christmas gift—blanket, book bag, etc. Each student understands the gift is from their sponsor. Thank you for supplying funding for the only Christmas gift many of these students will receive.

SPONSORSHIP NEEDS

Village Schools: These schools scattered throughout the country, have students in grades 1 to 3 or 4. When a village school is fully-sponsored—including needed teaching materials and a warm meal each day—students learn better, absenteeism decreases, and enrollment increases, sometimes as much as 25%.



Boarding Schools: Six boarding schools have students in grades 4 or 5 through 10. Earlier this year in a newsletter we talked about co-sponsoring boarding school students with sponsors from Australia. Their dollar has decreased in value until some are unable to totally care for the needs of the students they sponsor. We have 12 students left to co-sponsor. The cost is \$15.00 monthly and you will be able to communicate with these students.

College Students: In Bangladesh, grade 11 is the beginning of college-level classes. In order to proceed to this step, students must pass a government exam at the conclusion of their 10th grade year. Some of the college students are close to completion of their education, but need some additional help to what they are already doing.



SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you

- ~ Many sponsors and friends for stickers. They are a treat for the children.
- ~ Janet, Fay, Rose and her church for the boxes of clothes.
 - ~ Lova for sewing for the children.
- ~ Nancy for sharing premium money she was awarded from exhibits at the Grant County Fair. Her gift will help keep girls warm.
- ~ Peggy for her thank offering for the rescue of a four-year-old from an abusive situation.
- ~ Dodge Center Kindergarten class and Milo Adventist Academy Chamber Singers & Instrumental Ensemble for saving money to help little girls keep warm.

