

Bangla Hope



Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

No. 37

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Lina was a shy, fearful little girl. When she was as small as six years old, her family hired her out to work as a servant girl in different homes. She remembers the hard work and the long hours they made her work. Little maids are not treated well in Bangladesh. They are never allowed to eat with the family and many times they sleep on the floor in the kitchen area. She felt alone much of the time and she never felt secure in her family's love.

When she was around ten her father left the family and Lina came to our boarding school at KMMS. She was able to go to school, but she was still used as a servant in the faculty homes for they found that she was a very good worker. When she was in eighth grade her mother left Bangladesh and went to Malaysia to work. She was told she could make good money there. Lina felt completely alone for her older sister and brother never came to see her or kept in touch with her which made her feel more fearful and afraid. She was determined to get through school and make something of herself. As she went to school she learned of the love of Jesus and it touched her heart and helped ease the pain of abandonment



she was feeling. Jesus became her closest friend.

When Lina finished the tenth grade she came to BASC College and that is where Dave and I met her for the first time. She was helping at one of the college professor's homes and we would come and stay with him when we visited the college. She was so eager to please us and make things comfortable for us. When we came to Bangladesh when the college was opening and closing so much we asked Lina if she would like to come and help me at our home while I was doing so many workshops for the elementary teachers. She was so excited and happy to think we wanted her. She kept things so neat and tidy and fixed lovely meals for us. We would try to make her take a rest once in a while, but she showed her gratitude in acts of service. She finally felt that someone loved her and cared about her. Lina is studying to be a teacher and we know the Lord has good plans for her life.

Many college students need a sponsor so they can get the education they need. If you decide to take a college student you may gain a son or daughter for this life and eternity.

WOULD YOU SPONSOR ME??



Tiam Panday
\$15 a month
Mother is very ill & father earns only \$24/month



Somic Bairagee
\$15 a month
Father is day laborer—earns only \$20/month



Jony Hazra
\$15 a month
Father is a shopkeeper. Earns only \$20/month



Annette Bairagee
\$15 per month
Parents earn about \$26/month.



Bobita Bairagee
\$15 per month
Father is a fisherman and earns \$16/month

DAY STUDENTS

The precious faces above are of children who are day students. Their families live close enough to one of our boarding schools so the students are able to live at home and attend school during the day. They come from very poor families who cannot afford to pay for their education. Unlike the village school students, these children would be able to communicate with their sponsors. Please call the office and let us arrange for you to sponsor one of these beautiful kids.

VAN NEEDED

Our 1993 pickup truck is our major source of transportation when we are in Bangladesh. It has served us well as we forded streams, bogged down in mud holes, and bounced along rough roadways to reach the students in the out-lying villages. The increasingly frequent repairs remind us that vehicles don't last forever, especially when driven in some of the places we go. We believe it wise to replace the pickup with a used, 9-passenger van. We should be able to do this for under \$15,000.

POCKET MONEY

Dave will begin to pass out the pocket money to the children relatively soon after arriving in Bangladesh. He plans to have most, if not all, of it delivered by Christmas.

SPONSORSHIP DILEMMA

Monthly, bi-monthly, and semi-annually, scores of you send your sponsorship checks or have the tuition charged to your credit cards. Your faithfulness is inspiring and your donations help hundreds of students receive a Christian education. Thank you seems inadequate to express our gratitude.

Some of you have been sponsoring since the early days of the sponsoring program with Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America. Over the years, some of our faithful sponsors have been unable to continue—whether due to the fact that circumstances change, financial obligations increase, or life just throws us many unexpected challenges. Then sometimes the initial desire of sponsoring does not continue or even materialize as anticipated.

Our current challenge is that many of our students' sponsors have discontinued paying the tuition or are not paying enough to cover the tuition. Our commitment to our students is that once we begin sponsoring them, we do not quit unless, of course, they leave school. When tuition funds are inadequate to cover, we are forced to dip into the "Use as Needed" funds. Although we are thankful to have it available, we would like to have more of it available for other projects and emergencies that arise.

We have decided that for the students whose sponsors are not paying enough to meet the expenses of tuition, another sponsor will be found to help. Those students whose tuition is current will continue to have one sponsor. As new sponsors are found, we believe the problem of inadequate tuition funds coming in will be solved.

GIFT IDEA

Some supporters of BCSS have chosen, in lieu of giving gifts at holiday times and birthdays, to give a donation to help children in Bangladesh. We have Thank You cards and envelopes available for you to share with family and friends to let them know of your gift in their honor. Call our office and let us know how many you would like.

CONCERTS FOR THE CHILDREN

We are very happy to welcome the Cadet Sisters and also Mindi to our Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship family. They will be doing concerts and promoting sponsorships for our children in Bangladesh. Please pray for these singers and for the success of this project.



~ ~ PROJECT UPDATES ~ ~

KMMS WATER PROJECT

The 50,000 gallon tank was completed in July and they are now in the process of letting it fill with rain water. They will drain the tank and refill it until they know the water is pure and safe for drinking. July, August and September, the months of the heaviest monsoons in Bangladesh, will expedite this process. The classroom that we plan to build over this underground tank will be used for a computer lab and a sewing room.

GOPALGONJ

Girl's Dormitory—The dorm construction is complete, but not yet painted. They need to wait until the rainy season is over and the buildings have dried completely before they can paint them. The girls are already living in it—a great improvement from the previous dilapidated, condemned building. The new bedding will be passed out as it becomes available.

Boy's Dormitory—The dorm is a building with a CI (corrugated iron) sheet roof. They now have a new squat (toilet) & shower facilities. They have new beds they are using, but, like the girls dorm, only inadequate bedding is available.

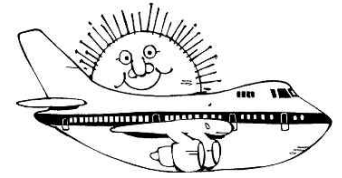


Beds—The reassembled and repainted bunk beds are in place for both dorms—a great improvement from the previous wall-to-wall mattresses on the floor.

Bedding for a student includes: mattress, one pillow with pillowcase, one blanket, and one set of sheets. For many students, even a bed with a mattress is a luxury—mats on the floor were their usual beds in their homes. (We find that in the dormitories, bunk beds use the floor space more efficiently.) New bedding for the girls has been ordered. The boys' bedding, including the cotton-stuffed mattresses, will be ordered as funds become available. The cost of bedding for each student is \$20. If you would like to donate to this project, mark your donation check "bedding fund".

WAIDS DEPARTURE

Dave and Beverly are scheduled to depart for Bangladesh on Sunday, September 28th. This year there will be others going along to help in various capacities. Our treasurer, Gary Fisher, will once again be going to the office in Dhaka to reconcile the books. Ross Kendall will also be going to help in the office with some sponsorship questions that need to be addressed. Please join the office staff here in praying for their safety.



STICKERS

Beverly dearly loves to take stickers to the children. She so enjoys passing them out to the teachers to use during the year. Our sticker total is about 5 pounds to date. Not quite as much as years past, but enough to bring a smile to many students' faces.



SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you

- ~ Primary Class of the Deltona SDA Church for their generous contribution
- ~ Ewalde and Heddy for the donation earned from their yard sale.
- ~ For the warm welcomes and support at camp-meetings and church programs.
- ~ Annabelle for the 90 cute little dresses sewn for the young girls of Bangladesh.



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT NEEDED</u>	<u>AMOUNT RECEIVED</u>
KMMS—water storage	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,745
KMMS—school room and computer lab	\$ 9,000	—
KMMS—computer lab equipment	\$15,000	—
Gopalgongj—girl's dorm and beds	\$38,000	\$ 7,400
Gopalgongj—boy's squats and showers	\$ 4,000	50
Hill Tracts Orphanage Dormitory	\$20,000	\$ 1,185
New (to us) Van in Bangladesh	\$15,000	—