

# Bangla Hope



Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

No. 40

July–September, 2004

Pastor Biswas pedaled his bicycle down the path towards Rashali Village. He hadn't been there for about a month because of the demands of the other four villages in his district. He hoped to visit some of the church members and see the students in the village school.

Pastor Biswas turned down another path and entered the outskirts of the village. He got off his bike and walked towards the little village church. As he walked, he noticed a little girl wandering around all by herself. She wore a filthy dress. Her hair looked like it hadn't been combed for many days! Head down, she acted like she didn't know where she was going. He watched as she walked over and squatted in front of one of the village stores where an older man was making chapattis and eggs. He wondered if she might be hungry for she looked very thin, but then all the village children looked thin.

When the pastor entered the church school grounds, he heard the sounds of children's voices coming from the windows. It sounded like school was going well. He visited the teacher and students for awhile and then went to visit some of the church families. At one of the homes they asked him to stay for supper. As they talked, the subject of the little girl came up. The family said she had been in the village for about a week and no one seemed to know anything about her. The man who made the chapattis felt sorry for her and gave her a chapatti and egg each day.

When the pastor heard all this, he felt he should find

out more about the little girl. He thanked the family for the meal and walked back towards the store. The little girl was eagerly eating the chapatti and egg in her hand. When he came up to her, she shyly looked up at him. He started talking to her and asked her what village she came from. She did not remember her name or who her parents were. She looked around six years old and the pastor had a feeling she had been on her own for quite a while. He asked her if she would like to go to school where she could have a nice bed and lots of food and friends. She said she would like that very much. The orphanage at KMMS gave her the name "Hennah" and she was given a bed beside another girl about her age! Hennah's radiant face shows she's learning she is a precious child of God and He has great plans for her life. Hennah now has a sponsor, but we have many other precious children who need to be sponsored.

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*A few of the children Beverly took shopping because of the pocket money you sent for them! Thank you.*



POCKET MONEY

Dave will distribute pocket money beginning in October when he and Beverly return to Bangladesh. Pocket money is used by the students for many vital things, such as toiletries, some tuition, and additional school supplies. Remember to keep your student's tuition current so we can credit pocket money to them. Pocket money needs to be mailed to our office in July so it can be distributed during the upcoming trip to Bangladesh.

WOULD YOU SPONSOR ME??

Rahungla's mother died and his father is a day laborer earning about \$16 monthly. Rahungla attends the Hill Tracts Boarding School in the eastern part of the country—this is the poorest area where many villagers supplement their diets with tapioca root and insects. Tuition: \$25 monthly



Dithi's father was a carpenter but became blind. Dithi is in the third grade and a good student. Since she is able to live at home, she is a day student. Tuition: \$15 monthly



Gordon comes from the Eastern Hill Tracts area also. He has no father, and his mother, who earns about \$12 monthly as a day laborer, is unable to pay for his educational expenses. He needs help so he can attend school. Tuition: \$25 monthly

MEET HAROLD & JOANIE This wonderful couple volunteered to go to churches in their state of Indiana and tell about the work and needs of the children in Bangladesh.



Joanie also has donated her hand-made quilts that we show on Global Mission. This year she donated two beautiful ones. Hopefully you will see them on 3ABN soon. Thank you Harold and Joanie so very much!!

If you would like a quilt, sponsor a village school of 30 or 40 students and we will send you one of Joanie's special all hand-made quilts.

STICKERS

Many continue to send stickers for the kids. It is amazing how much joy can be spread with stickers. We appreciate them so very much. To date our total is about 5 pounds. If you have stickers you

would like Beverly to take this fall, they need to be in our office by August.

MAY I SEND LETTERS & PACKAGES??

The children love to get mail from you. Pictures of you, their sponsor, are a special treasure and even the older students enjoy stickers from the families who support them. We wish we could promise your letters always reach their destination. Unfortunately, according to a recent study, Bangladesh was identified as the most corrupt government in the world. If your letters are thick or appear to contain something of value, they are searched and sometimes sent on to their destination. Don't give up though—many letters do get through.

Packages are even more likely to be searched and possibly stolen. When they arrive at the mail facility in Dhaka, personnel from the BCSS office go to get them. "Getting them" can include long waits and will include paying additional fees—the larger the package, the greater the fee. Don't give up though—many packages do get through. BCSS America personnel have seen piles of packages in the BCSS office in Dhaka waiting for delivery.

Letters and packages that survive the inspection process are delivered to your student after appropriate translation of letters, removal of address to protect your privacy, and when BCSS personnel travel to the school your student attends. We also wish, as many of you have expressed, there were an easier way to communicate with your student. We apologize for the sporadic communication that some of you have received from your student. (You should receive at least one letter from your student and a progress report yearly.) We are in the process of trying to establish more consistent, meaningful communication between sponsor and student.

Bengali Clothing We have a few sal wer kameez outfits left. Call our office for colors and sizes. These last ones will be \$25.

BANGLA HOPE  
RECEIVING CENTER AND ORPHANAGE

You should have received early in June a one-page newsletter telling about our plans for a new receiving center and orphanage. We are excited about new opportunities to help some of God's children. Sometimes the needs seem insurmountable to open a center such as this, but we've seen God working and have no doubt He will continue. We hope you will want to choose one of these areas to get involved with. See the special edition newsletter you received in early June for a more complete listing of specific projects. You may check the area to specify which project you would enjoy supporting. If you want to sponsor a baby, we will send you a case history and a picture as soon as they become available. You may check the appropriate place on the back of this newsletter or the special edition.

POLLYWOG CRAFT ITEMS

Many of you have seen the beautiful cross-stitch cards, bookmarks, magnets, pictures, and quilts made by ladies in Bangladesh. These destitute ladies depend on this income for survival. Many people love to purchase these items when they are available, but we need people to help make them available to others. Do you have a shop or office where you would like to display and sell them? Does your school or group need to raise some funds for a project. Call our office for additional information.



~ ~ PROJECT UPDATES ~ ~

Bedding Fund: Funding for this project continues to come in. Thank you. It's hard to think about these students sleeping with inadequate blankets to keep warm. The girls have mattress and blankets and they have also been ordered for the boys even though we didn't have quite the total funds needed. \$20 covers bedding for one student which includes mattress, one pillow with pillowcase, one blanket, and one set of sheets.

Book Fund: When Dave and Beverly first went to Bangladesh, many of the schools they visited had no educational supplies. Even first graders were supposed to learn the material only by listening to their teacher lecture. Many students failed grades repeatedly—in Bangladesh teachers were considered good teachers only if they failed students. Beverly, a teacher herself, spent hours teaching the Bengali teachers. She gave them educational materials, that you've provided funding for, to help both teacher and student succeed.



Basic reading books in English that are phonetically sound were desperately needed. Five years ago, Beverly prepared for printing a series of books for Kindergarten through fifth grade. Thousands of these books are in the 240 village schools scattered throughout Bangladesh. The

student's English reading skills are improving and many are nearing the end of the books. Beverly would like to complete the series. The books for the sixth and seventh graders need to be compiled and printed.

New Van: This much-needed addition has proved to be a real blessing already. There is enough room to take the people and supplies needed as they travel to the schools.

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you

- ~ Jr/Earliteen Class of the Milpitas SDA Church for funds raised by doing car washes
- ~ Arlene for the offering of thanksgiving to our God for her healing
- ~Jerry & Nancy for funds raised from a family garage sale
- ~Dorothy for such a caring heart for the children of Bangladesh and her generous donation for the new Receiving Center
- ~for the encouraging notes to Dave, Beverly, and office personnel—they are a bright spot in our day
- ~JoAnn for hosting a Pollywog Party at her home to help these destitute ladies earn a living
- ~Joy for making baby quilts for the new Bangla Hope Receiving Center
- ~Joanie for the two beautiful hand-made quilts to be sold to help the children
- ~Montana campmeeting earliteen class for the offering you shared for the children in Banladesh

IN LOVING MEMORY

Clarence Matteson  
by daughter-in-law, Naomi Matteson

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT NEEDED</u>	<u>AMOUNT RECEIVED</u>
KMMS—school room and computer lab	\$ 9,000	—
KMMS—computer lab equipment	\$ 15,000	—
Gopalganj—girl's dorm and beds	\$ 38,000	\$ 8,020
Gopalganj—boy's squats and showers	\$ 4,000	\$ 273
Hill Tracts Orphanage Dormitory	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,545
New (to us) Van in Bangladesh	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,775
Books for schools	\$ 50,000	\$
Bangla Hope Receiving Center/Orphanage	\$270,000	\$ 12,858