

# Bangla Hope



Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

No. 41

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Amid all the unwrapping of gifts and excited chatter from orphans at our special Christmas gathering, Mitalee put her presents down and started to cry! One by one the orphans stopped their happy banter and looked at Mitalee.

She looked at Dave and me and said, "I never realized a Christmas could be like this! I've never been a part of something so special before."

Mitalee's father left the family before she was three years old. He went to India, married another woman, and never returned. To survive, Mitalee's mother became a maid in a home which had no place for a little three-year-old girl. Out of necessity, her mother took

her to an orphanage and left her there. Mitalee stayed at that orphanage for three years until her grandmother came and took her to be a servant girl in her aunt's home.

Mitalee was with them for five years when her aunt chose to sell her to another family for 500 takas which is less than ten dollars. She became their slave for three years. They were not kind to her and one day the lady hit her so hard it knocked out one of her teeth. About this time her older sister, Moni, heard Mitalee was at this house. Moni had not known where her sister was before this time. Previously Moni worked for this same woman and knew how unkind she was. Moni tried her best to get Mitalee away from the family. Finally, after many pleas, they said she could take Mi-

talee for 500 takas. Moni wanted Mitalee to stay with their mother but she was still working as a maid so she found another job for Mitalee. She stayed there for two years until Moni came and took her to our BASC Boarding School and College. That is where we got to know Mitalee.

She is a sad young lady and has a hard time because of all the abuse in her background. We need a sponsor for this special young lady. If you would like to sponsor her and take an interest in her by writing to her and letting her know you care, please call our office.

## THANK YOU ASI PRIMARY CLASS!

Beverly was privileged to give the Sabbath sermon to the primary class at the annual ASI meeting held in Cincinnati, Ohio this year. The children were so responsive and enthusiastic! Leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Beierle, sent home information about Bangladesh before ASI started, saying they would like to take a special offering for the children in Bangladesh! Because of their efforts and the generous hearts of the children and their families, they collected \$625!



Thank you ASI Primary Class

## WOULD YOU SPONSOR ME??



Jacklina is a student at BASC. She is 10 years old, enjoys math, and wants to be a teacher. Her father works as a day laborer and earns only \$17/month, not enough for her educational expenses. Tuition for Jacklina is \$25 monthly.

Subash is from a Hindu family in a remote village in south Bangladesh. His father is a day laborer earning \$17/month. With 4 brothers at home, his family cannot contribute to his educational expenses. Tuition for Subash is \$25 monthly.



Dipu is presently a college student at BASC. She works very hard at her studies and desperately wants to stay in school. Her father is very ill and cannot work at all. She needs a sponsor if she is to stay in school. Tuition for Dipu is \$35.00 monthly.

Ken & Sherry Blundell joined us in finding sponsors for children in Bangladesh. Ken has done a variety of things in his life and always with a great deal of enthusiasm. Presently Ken & Sherry operate a drywall business, pastor a small church, and Ken does vocal concerts. Their passion for sharing about their friend, Jesus, is contagious. Thank you, Ken and Sherry, for joining us in sharing the plight of the Bengali children.



## A DIFFERENT BIRTHDATE?

Some of you may have noticed that your sponsored student's birth date sometimes changes. For us that seems impossible, but imagine a country where there are no birth certificates and in the villages, no calendars. Even if these things were available, a high percentage of the people are illiterate. When the children come to school, most have no idea when they were born. During registration school personnel quiz the parents or guardians about the season the child was born--was it hot, cold, or rainy? About how many years ago was it? From the information they glean, a birth date is assigned. The student is encouraged to always use the same birth date which often happens, but not always.

At the end of tenth grade, students are required to take government exams. When they pass, the students are given a card with their birth date printed on it. From that point, birth dates should **remain the same.**

## FLOODWATERS THREATENING LIVES!

Satan is alive and working hard in Bangladesh! This country is suffering from one of the worst floods in their history. You may have read articles in your newspaper or heard information on the news. Severe conditions in Bangladesh often go unreported, but due to the seriousness of the situation, there has been some coverage. The rainy season begins in July and generally ends in September. This year the monsoon rains caused South Asia's three largest rivers—the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Jamuna—to flood their banks. Forty-five of the sixty-four districts in the country are submerged. It is reported that as many as 30 million people are homeless or stranded. At least 600 have lost their lives.

Overflowing sewers mixing with floodwaters are putting the health of millions at risk. Diseases like diarrhea, watery dysentery, acute respiratory infection, jaundice, typhoid, and scabies are being reported. The children and elderly are especially vulnerable. Some fears that the average Bengali child faces during flooding are lack of food and clean water, snake bites, drowning, skin diseases, water-born diseases, and abuse.

Thankfully, our schools were built on high enough ground that, at this time, the buildings remain undamaged. Surrounding areas are flooded, destroying the crops. Our college lost its entire rice and vegetable crop. Presently, most of the students in our schools have just rice for their meals. We know that we will need to allocate additional funds to subsidize the higher prices for rice, dahl, onions, garlic, and vegetables when they become available. Our present plan is to give the boarding schools an additional one-time amount of \$20 for each of our sponsored students to help with this expense. If you are able to help with food for your sponsored student, mark your donation "Flood Relief."

Many of our student's families are also suffering because of the flooding. We want to do what we can to help them. BCSS personnel are distributing 44 pounds of rice and 22 pounds of dahl (lentils) to the families of each of our individually-sponsored village students. If you want to contribute to this project, mark your donation "Hunger Fund."

Those sponsoring an entire village school can donate to their specific school to help insure students receive adequate, balanced meals.

Donation amounts will determine the amount of relief we are able to help with. We know the needs are great in this flood-ravished country. We will alleviate as much hunger as possible with the funds you send.

The political climate in Bangladesh is also unstable. The two major political parties are struggling for supremacy. In early August twelve bomb blasts created havoc for the people in Dhaka, the capitol. Thousands of demonstrators have been arrested. Pray for the safety of students and staff.

\* \* NEEDED ITEMS! \* \*

1. Plastic recorders and simple recorder music.
2. Cross-stitch patterns for Pollywog.



IN LOVING MEMORY  
Lucile Tryon  
by cousin LoVina Bliss

Church Programs:

Dave & Beverly are currently scheduled for September 11 at Washougal, Washington SDA Church and September 18 at Omak, Washington SDA Church. If you are close to one of these churches, they would love to see you.

Departure Date:

Dave & Beverly are scheduled to leave October 11th. Pray for their safety and wisdom for them to deal with every request and situation as Jesus would.

~ ~ PROJECT UPDATES ~ ~

New Receiving Center:



We are looking forward to the opening of the new receiving center when we return to Bangladesh this fall. We need some monthly donations for the rent of this facility which will be in or near the capital city of Dhaka. Those of you who can make a monthly payment of \$25 or more, will receive pictures and updates as they become available.

NGO Status:

We have been told that the process to complete requirements for our NGO (Non-Government Organization) is 80% complete. Continue to pray that it will be completed and approved soon.

Stickers:

We now have just over 11 pounds of stickers for Beverly to deliver to the teachers for their students. Thank you for helping with this fun project.

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN



Thank you

-Doug for sending the honorarium from your telephone interview to help BCSS.

-Agnes for sending the funds from selling cans to help the new Receiving Center. Praise God you are okay after the peril you encountered.

-Beierle family for planning to go to Bangladesh in November to give a VBS to all the children in Kindergarten through 4th grade at our KMMS Orphanage and Boarding School. We are very grateful for this family and their willingness to help the children.

-to those who are helping sell Pollywog items. We can still use more people! Just give us a call!

Dear BCSS,

As Nanny and I were trying to figure out what our 25.50 should go to, I caught sight of the children that need sponsoring. I said, "Oh Nanny, wouldn't it be SO nice if we could sponsor someone? Look, it only takes \$25, and that exactly what we have. Please? Please?" and I pointed to the picture of Sumi, the little girl in the Jan.-Mar. newsletter. "I want to sponsor Her?" I decided. But tenderly Nanny explained that if we do not have a constant monthly income of a certain sum of money, we could not do that, because we must be consistent. Oh, I want to sponsor someone so badly? I'll try really hard, though. Probably when I get older will be better, since can never know how much money I'll ever have now. I love the Bangladeshi children so much? God bless you?

Love,  
Condra Joao  
Age 12

<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	\$ 8,120
Gopalganj—boy's squats and showers	\$ 4,000	\$ 273
Hill Tracts Orphanage Dormitory	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,920
New (to us) Van in Bangladesh	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,775
Books for schools	\$ 50,000	\$ 165
Bangla Hope Receiving Center/Orphanage	\$270,000	\$ 26,948