

Bangla Hope



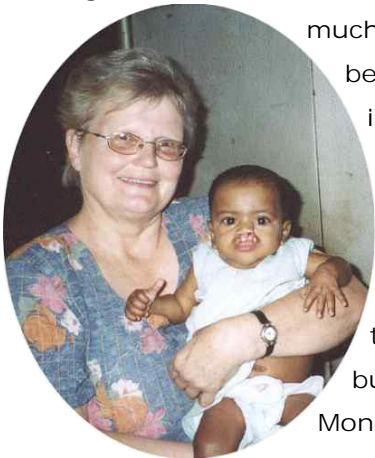
Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

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During the summer a special edition newsletter was sent telling the story of Kokoli, a sparkly-eyed baby girl with a harelip.

Kokoli's mother is a maidservant in a home in Bangladesh. The chauffeur for this family took too much of an interest in her and before long the family realized she was pregnant. When the chauffeur found out, he walked away from his job and disappeared. The family kept the mother as a servant, but took little Kokoli to Dr. Mondol's center for destitute women and abandoned her there.



Dr. Mondol is a doctor on her own mission: to help young, abandoned Bengali women. Many of these young ladies, ages 10 and up, have been raped and consequently, abandoned by their families. Some have been in prostitution or trafficking. Others are housemaids who have been raped by the man of the house or by one of the sons or helpers. If a baby is born to one of these girls while she is at home, the baby will be strangled and thrown out in the street. Dr. Mondol says this happens dozens of times.

Many sponsors called about little Kokoli. Some wished they could adopt her. Unfortunately, we are unable to adopt children to American families from Bangladesh. Some wanted to help with her

surgery. One family took the responsibility to pay for her care. Some added their names to a waiting list committing to support other orphans as they become available. Thank you.

Kokoli had surgery and was soon enjoying the results of it. After the site healed, she frequently explored her new lip with her tongue. Soon she experimented with sounds preparatory to speech. She enjoys people and when Beverly saw her in November, Kokoli came to her without hesitation.

A huge thank you to all who helped make Kokoli's surgery and care possible. We are thrilled to help a little girl who otherwise would have been considered "unwanted."

Our Challenge: finding an adequate building to house the orphans and workers. Many have spent significant amounts of time looking. One building was found, which Dave and Beverly felt would be wonderful. It doesn't appear that it is going to work out, so they are looking again. Because of limited land in Bangladesh, property is extremely expensive—generally even more expensive than in the United States. We know God has just the right space saved for little orphans in Bangladesh. Pray with us that we will patiently wait for His timing and location.



WOULD YOU SPONSOR ME??



Anny is a student at the Bangladesh Children Center. Her mother died 2 years ago from Breast Cancer, so she is considered a semi-orphan. Her father is a day laborer, only earning \$12/month, so he cannot afford Anny's educational expenses. Tuition for Anny is \$35 monthly.

Lota is a 10-year-old student at Bangladesh Children Center. She is considered an abandoned child. Her parents are divorced and no one knows their whereabouts. She is taken care of by a relative. Lota's tuition is \$35 monthly.



Sizer is 6 years old and attends Bangladesh Children Center. His father is deceased and his mother is unable to care for him. He needs full support if he is to stay in the orphanage/school. Tuition for Sizer is \$35 monthly.

Arrived Safely: Dave, Beverly, Bristi, and Shati arrived safely in Bangladesh. They are busy living life. Usual things that might take us a short time—laundry, shopping, cooking—can consume a considerable amount of time for them. In many locations where they stay, laundry is hand-washed, shopping for groceries is 30 to 45 minutes away, and all water must be boiled. Dave is distributing pocket money. Communication by e-mail has also been challenging. Dave had trouble with three computers and lost incoming information, and outgoing e-mails had to be redone. Communication is sporadic at best because they are often away from places to send and receive e-mails. As is evidenced below, some information does get through.

NOTES FROM BEVERLY

A Son's Love: Dilip came to me with a letter. He could speak some English but was shy and wanted me to read his letter. It said he has a mother, but no siblings or other relatives. Something happened to his mother's eyes and without an operation she would soon be blind. He is very anxious about her condition for she is his only family. He wants to help her. Could we help? Dave was able to go to the village where Dilip's mother is living and he found Dilip's story to be true. His mother is almost completely blind and could not walk far without help. The operation will cost \$200. If you would like to help with surgery for Dilip's mother, mark your donation "Medical Fund-mother". When Dilip finishes college he is planning to care for his mother.

Pocket Money Brings Smiles! How I wish each of you could have the joy of taking your sponsored child shopping with the pocket money you send! While at our SAMS orphanage I was able to take those who had pocket money to

the market place four or five miles away. We went by rickshaw van which is always an enjoyable ride for me. We passed scores of people working in the fields or carrying large loads on their heads or on a long pole. Many stared at me and little children pointed at me with big smiles on their faces. They are not used to seeing a white lady on a rickshaw van! Many of the shopkeepers know me now and called out a greeting. We always go to one shop where the children can pick out material and have things made. Another shop located next door sells pants and shirts for the boys. One young orphan boy received more than \$50. He had no parents to share with, but he chose to share with an older brother and sister. What a wonderful time these young people had picking out shirts, pants, sal wer kameez material, shoes, socks and belts. The smaller children were able to buy a little toy and the older ones needed personal items. After shopping, our driver took us to a place to get dinner. What a happy group we had going home. Thank you to all who send pocket money! What a blessing it is for the children—a special treat in their sometimes monotonous lives.

Results of Flooding!! After being at our house at the college for just a few days we started missing things. We even began to think it might be some of the students who dropped in to see us. One morning I came into the living room and looked toward the window. There was a large hole in the screen where a hand could easily come through. I called Dave to show him how his flashlight and calculator had disappeared! The next day lotion was missing. I noticed a big hole in the screen by our dresser where the lotion was. Next, Shati, our helper, lost her CD player. We walked into every room and saw the screens had been slashed. We closed and locked all the windows even though it was hot. Dave told some of the teachers at the college what was happening. They said they were also having a hard time. The night we arrived, robbers came on campus right by our house, but were apprehended. Night guards were hired and two were stationed near our house. We are at the far end of the campus, quite alone. The teachers told Dave that vegetable crops were destroyed in the severe flooding (we are told it's the worst in fifty years). Villagers in the area are so hungry they are coming on campus and stealing anything they can get their hands on. My heart hurts for all the people who are starving because they cannot buy food for their families.

From Dave: Even after severe flooding, the waters recede quickly when the rain stops and the temperature rises. The main visual evidence of the flooding is more water than usual in the ponds. The people in some areas are beginning to get some vegetables from their gardens. Prices of rice doubled and the dahl (lentils) is also very expensive. Boarding schools are struggling to feed the students as they should. From August to November \$3,737 was donated to help with this serious challenge of increased food expenses. That is close to enough to help four of the six boarding schools



(Results of Flooding Continued)
 until the next rice crop is available and prices come down. About \$6,400 has been donated to help families of our village school students. Dave estimates that another \$6,000 should cover these needs. If more comes in, Dave would like to provide some food for a little Hindu village where we have started a school. If you want to help with food at the boarding schools, mark your donation "Flood Relief." Funds marked "Hunger Fund" will help our village school students and their families.

Cards Available: Some supporters of BCSS have chosen, in lieu of giving gifts at holiday times and birthdays, to give a donation to help the 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. You may contact our office and let us know how many you would like.

Christmas Gifts: Some of you may receive a letter from your student thanking you for their gift. Each year the students receive a practical Christmas gift from the tuition money you send and are told it is from their sponsor. This year the students will receive wrist watches.

~ ~ PROJECT UPDATES ~ ~

NGO Status: In the previous newsletter we reported that the process to complete requirements for our NGO (Non-Government Organization) was 80% complete. We are thrilled and thankful to report that it is now 100% complete and we have the required documents. We are eager to implement some of the project planning into reality. The new receiving center for babies is at the top our priority list.

Stickers: Beverly took over 13 pounds of stickers to share with the teachers and their students. Thank you to all who were so generous with this fun, annual project.

Website: Several years ago Peter Flowers volunteered to set up a website for BCSS. He donated numerous hours of time to this project. Many supporters have contacted us through the site. Unfortunately, due to his schedule, he is no longer able to maintain the site. Thank you, Peter, for getting us on the web. We appreciate your hard work.

Check out the site—www.banqlacss.org. There are new pictures and information.

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN



Thank you

- ~Ruth & Naomi for the Barbie dolls and five new outfits you made for each.
- ~to all who send in their address changes.
- ~Betty, who donated the profits from the sale of some antiques.
- ~Bill & Pat for sharing the BCSS video at their church and sharing BCSS newsletters with the congregation.
- ~Grace for thinking of the children in Bangladesh, even in the turmoil of her husband's death and selling her home.
- ~Wendy for energizing the Primary children at the Minnesota Campmeeting into raising funds to help feed children in Bangladesh.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Lucile Tryon
 by step-sister Betty Hayward

Gordon Harris
 by wife, Nan Harris

* * NEEDED ITEMS! * *

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

SINGING GROUP: Dr. Gerardo Toledo, a dentist who spent time working in Bangladesh, has joined with a musical group to do concerts and produce a CD, "Latidos Heartbeats," to benefit children in Bangladesh and Honduras. To learn more, check out their web site, www.latidos4kids.org. Thank you, singers, for having such caring hearts for the children.

<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	\$ 100
Gopalganj—girl's dorm and beds	\$ 38,000	\$ 8,225
Gopalganj—boy's squats and showers	\$ 4,000	\$ 373
Hill Tracts Orphanage Dormitory	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,070
New (to us) Van in Bangladesh	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,775
Books for schools	\$ 50,000	\$ 565
Bangla Hope Receiving Center/Orphanage	\$270,000	\$ 31,393