

Bangla Hope



Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

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"GIVE-AWAY BABIES"

by Beverly Waid



Tisha

The phone rang in our receiving center office. When we answered an anxious teacher from one of the villages in the south begged us to come get a baby. The mother was mentally ill and had buried her little eight-month-old baby girl. Villagers rescued

the baby, but they were concerned about her future safety. They needed a safe place for the baby. Could we come get her?

Early the next morning I joined Shati, one of our helpers, Jason, our Student Sponsorship Director, and Nikhil our Accountant, for the five-hour drive to the village. When we arrived the men thought it would be better for me to stay at the village school while they went to get the baby. They didn't want anyone thinking we were kidnapping babies. Shati and I waited and wondered for over an hour. Finally a little lady with a baby came around the corner of the school. She handed the baby to Shati, turned abruptly, and walked to the corner of the school veranda where she stood silently, gazing at the villagers who were beginning to gather. We looked at the baby, then at the mother, wondering if this was the one we came for. It didn't make sense, though. This baby was a boy. Had the information given to us been accurate?

As we continued to wait for Jason and Nikhil, another older lady with a handsome little boy, probably about four years old, emerged around the same corner of the school. Matthew The lady knelt in front of me and grabbed my ankles. She began jabbering in Bangla. Shati told me she wanted me to take this little boy because his mother died in childbirth and the father was working. She was too sick to care for this little one. I said we would try to get him in our orphanage at KMMS which was not too far from where we were.



Before we had time to wonder what was happening with Jason and Nikhil, a man came around the corner with another boy, probably around four also. He told Shati that he was the husband of the lady standing in the corner who brought the baby. His wife was mentally ill and could not take care of the baby or this little boy. He had to work in the fields to support the other children and wanted us to take both little boys.

As I contemplated what to do, the mother started laughing and dancing. The villagers thought it was entertaining, but I felt deep sympathy for her and her husband. Pretty soon she started shouting at the villagers, and they continued laughing. In the midst of all the commotion, Jason and Nikhil returned empty-handed. The baby we came for was missing. The mother had apparently run away with her and no one could find her.

Jason and Nikhil were empty-handed, but we certainly weren't. We told them how we had acquired the children while we were just waiting. They said we could take the two older boys with their guardians to KMMS They would need to understand our terms of agreement for caring for children and sign appropriate documents. Marissa



The orphanage at KMMS is not equipped to care for babies, so we would take Matthew to the new receiving center.

When we arrived at KMMS, a lady and little girl about two were waiting for me. The BCSS man at the school told me the lady was the Aunty of this little girl. The child's mother died during childbirth and her father left for India and never returned. The Aunty could not take care of her anymore. Would we take her? We agreed and named her Marissa.



Shunity

Both of the little ones were dirty. I knew a bath was necessary before we went anywhere. Shati and I took them to our guest room, heated water, and began the adventure. Matthew

tolerated his bath well. Marissa's screams reverberated in our small room. Perhaps she had never experienced a bath before. Her little wrists had many bangles on them and there was a filthy string around her tummy. We finally succeeded in cutting them off. I threw all the clothes, bangles, and dirty string in the garbage and before long we had two clean little ones.

Just as we were ready to leave the room and return to Dhaka, another family came with a little girl around 1½ years old. The mother and grandmother came in and sat on the couch. Through translation I learned that the father had divorced the mother. She needed to go to work. It was late and I knew we needed to leave. We agreed to take the baby and gave the mother the documents to sign.

The trip to Dhaka was not quiet. The babies were crying and/or screaming. Strangers stared, probably wondering why a white lady had these babies. We arrived at the receiving center at 1 a.m., safe and thankful.

The next morning I realized that the last little girl, Shunity, was handicapped. She could not hold her head up or move her arms and legs. Apparently the mother just wanted to get rid of her little daughter. We took Shunity to the government hospital to see if anything could be done to help her. The physicians felt that massage and exercise would be beneficial. Dulali, our worker assigned to care for Shunity, gives her a massage twice daily. We have seen significant progress. Now Shunity can hold her head up, sit up on her own, and uses her arms and legs to scoot along on her back. She also sits in a walker and is able to walk around with it. We love little Shunity and we're thankful she is with us. It's likely that she never would have received the help she needed if she had remained in the village.

A week later Dave went to KMMS to give out pocket money. We had heard that the mother who buried her baby had returned home. When Dave was ready to leave the school, this little one the villagers rescued, was there for Dave to bring to the receiving center. The van had a driver and 7 passengers. They had only one problem on their return trip—fighting to see who would be next to hold this precious little girl we named Tisha.

Each one of the thirteen babies at the receiving center has his or her own tragic story. We are grateful that many of you partner with us each month to rescue some of God's little children.

If you or someone you know would like to sponsor or co-sponsor a baby, contact us by phone, e-mail, or mail. You may also write a message to us on our web site. Although each of the children shown has a sponsor, we will soon have others. They seem to get sponsored quickly so don't wait!

6/13/05 We received pictures of Shunity in today's mail. She's growing and getting stronger—we are thrilled with her progress.

PROPERTY? PROPERTY?

When we return to Bangladesh this fall, we will be looking for property in the country for our orphanage and boarding school. One might think land would be inexpensive because the economy is so poor, but this is not true. Because of the overpopulation, land available for sale is difficult to find and prices can be extravagant. We will feel blessed if we can find property for \$10,000 per acre. We want enough land to grow rice and vegetables. We will need to fence the property for security. Land purchase is our next major project, and we are eager to see how God will supply the property and funding.



Dave & Beverly Waid
with Donald & Lorna

We first met Lorna when she was about sixteen years old. Her kind smile and sweet disposition drew friends like a magnet. As a student in grade school she set her goals and began the long journey toward them—become a dentist and work for her people. Educational opportunities in Bangladesh are limited so she and her family decided she should apply to attend Manila Central University in the Philippines. Her self-discipline helped her remain focused on her goal of dentistry. When she graduated in 2003, she returned home for the first time in six years. She worked in a dental clinic in Dhaka until her marriage to Donald Das in December, 2004. Although newly married, Lorna came to Loma Linda University in March to continue her education. Donald, a business graduate, remained in Bangladesh working for SIL Bangladesh, a division of Wycliffe.

Lorna's professors at Loma Linda tell her she is a good dentist. She could get a job in the United States, but Lorna is still focused on her goal—to help her people.

In October we hope to have a dental clinic on the ground floor of the new Bangla Hope Receiving Center equipped and ready to serve "Lorna's people." Equipment, furniture, and office personnel are needed. Because of the uncertainty and long waiting period of getting equipment through customs, we feel it is best to purchase large equipment in Bangladesh. Repairs will also be expedited if we can purchase parts locally. We will be able to carry some small equipment in our luggage when we go in September.

The Muslim population is eager to have female health care professionals. We are certain Dr. Lorna Das' expertise and compassion will bless everyone she meets.

If you would like to help the dental clinic open its doors for service, mark your donation "clinic."

POCKET MONEY: Now is the time to send pocket money for your sponsored student. All pocket money and Christmas gift money needs to be mailed to our office by the end of July, so arrangements can be made for Dave & Beverly to distribute it when they arrive in Bangladesh this fall. Pocket money received after mid August WILL NOT be delivered to your student until Fall of 2006.

The students use this money for personal needs and also to help their families. They do not waste their money on nonessentials.

CORRESPONDENCE: Our new Student Sponsorship Director in Bangladesh is working hard to get communication from students to sponsors. If you have not heard from your student(s) in the past 12 months, please contact the office.

SCHEDULE FOR BCSS REPRESENTATIVES
 June 25—Bozeman, Montana SDA Church—Dave and Beverly Waid
 July 19-23—Gladstone Oregon Camp Meeting—Hazel and Len Burns
 August 3-6—ASI in Sacramento, California—Dave and Beverly, Gary Fisher

CHANGES: At our recent board meeting we grappled with some necessary financial adjustments. We wish 100% of all donations could go directly to the children. We do our best to keep costs at a minimum. Our U. S. office is in Waid's home—no donated funds are used for office space, insurance, or utilities. The majority of our work is done by volunteers.

However, there are costs involved in getting donated funds to the place where they can meet the needs of the children of Bangladesh. Legally, funds used for salaries and other office expenses can be reported as being used for the children. We believe in a higher standard. We respect our donors and want to be transparent with you.

In the past, all U.S. expenses were funded from donations designated for that purpose or from "use as needed" donations. With the broadening of our ministry—receiving center, dental clinic, and property for school and orphanage—come additional expenses paid from "use as needed" funds. The board voted to use 15% of tuition funds to help with U.S. office expenses involved in the administration of those funds.

We continue to send 100% of donations for specific projects such as the receiving center, dental clinic, medical, and feeding funds to Bangladesh.

NEEDED ITEMS
 2 Sets of My Bible Friends
 for the Receiving Center

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN



Thank you

- ~ to Annabelle for the 150 beautiful dresses she made for our orphan girls.
- ~ to Myrt, Arla, Nedra & Diane for the baby clothing for the Receiving Center
- ~ to Naomi, her friends, and family for the 60 dresses they are sewing.
- ~ to Pauline for all the little dresses she is sewing for the girls.

~ ~ PROJECT UPDATES ~ ~

Website: Check out our updated site—www.banglacss.org or www.banglahope.com. You will find new pictures and information. Are you interested in sponsoring a student? You can do that on the website too! Just look through the photos of students who need sponsors, select one, and follow the easy directions given there. Now you may also donate through our secure website.

Pollywog: Thank you to all who have been ordering cross-stitch items to keep the ladies working in Bangladesh. There are about eighty ladies stitching the beautiful cards, bookmarks, and wall hangings. To view some of the items available, go to www.tagnet.org/pollywog. If you would like to sell or buy items, contact our office for more information.

Baby Clothes: If you have baby clothes that are used but still LIKE NEW, we could use them for our receiving center. We are especially in need of sun suits and sundresses for the girls. Please, only send LIKE NEW ones for we are taking them over in our baggage and want only EXCELLENT quality.



PROJECT	AMOUNT NEEDED	AMOUNT RECEIVED
New (to us) Van in Bangladesh	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,775
Books for schools	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,466
Bangla Hope Receiving Center/Orphanage	\$270,000	\$ 56,262