

Bangla Hope



Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

No. 45

October–December, 2005

STOP! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

By Beverly Waid

"No, it can't be. Who could do that?" My face grimaced and my heart ached as I contemplated circumstances apparently so desperate they could lead to murder.

The story unfolded of a Hindu family and their seven daughters. After the birth of the first four girls, the couple began wondering if they would ever have a boy. In Bengali culture it is the boys who insure parents are cared for in their old age. Typically, any hope of improved living conditions rests with the sons.

The fifth pregnancy resulted in yet another girl. The desperate family faced the reality of their inability to feed everyone. If the child had been a boy, they probably would have struggled to make sure the baby ate. Since the baby was a girl, they concluded the easiest way to solve the problem was to kill the baby.

The sixth pregnancy followed with the same result.

The seventh pregnancy followed with the same...

STOP! We can't let this cycle continue to God's little people in Bangladesh, and in this instance it did stop.

The parents of our little handicapped Sunity, who came to the receiving center in February, live in the same village. They heard of the situation and shared with the family about a safe place where the baby could go. The baby arrived at the Bangla Hope Receiving Center Sunday, August 21st.

My sister-in-law, Linda Hatley, wanted to sponsor one of our babies. She chose a name, bought clothes in a variety of sizes, and waited. When I called her and told her about Anne



Maree, Linda started to cry. "You saved her from death."

"No, I didn't save her. You did. Without sponsors like you, we couldn't do anything."

The next day our director, Simson, brought another baby to the receiving center from another village, another family, and another desperate situation. The baby is around six months old. She is the sixth daughter in the family.

The family previously owned a small piece of property, but they sold the property when they needed money for the older daughter's dowry and wedding. In Bangladesh, the bride's family supplies the dowry. If it is not adequate, the groom's family will sometimes mistreat the bride for the rest of her life. This is easy to accomplish since the new family generally lives with or in close proximity to the groom's family.

While selling the property solved the immediate problem, a long-term problem was created. Property, housing, and livelihood were gone. The father is deaf and mute, which limits job opportunities, but he works carrying anything that he can find to carry and earn a few takas. Now they rent property, and the mother works in the field.

The parents knew they could not continue to feed their baby. What should they do?

Word is spreading, especially in the south, about our new Bangla Hope Receiving Center. When the parents heard, desperation turned to relief, mixed with grief at the thought of letting their baby go. Arrangements were made so this little one could survive with adequate care and nutrition.

If you would like to sponsor this baby contact our office.



DENTAL CLINIC UPDATE

In our last newsletter we wrote about Dr. Lorna Biswas and her desire to serve her people's dental needs.

While she has been at Loma Linda School of Dentistry over the spring and summer, she has been and continues to collect essential items for the clinic. Many of these supplies are already packed and ready to go. She will be returning to Bangladesh in September.

She is still in need of surgical equipment for extractions. If you would like to help, mark your donation accordingly.

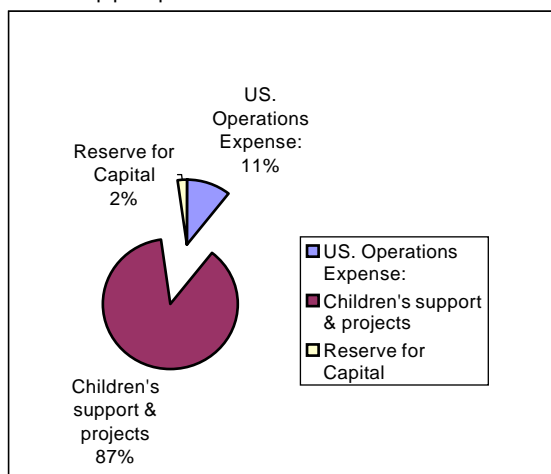
BCSS FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

When we first began sponsoring students in 1990, the sponsor list was very limited—exactly five students were sponsored. Tuition funds were received and transferred to Bangladesh monthly. There were no reserves. If a sponsor didn't pay or was late, the office in Dhaka was notified. The student was contacted and sent home. This was not a good situation for the students. We didn't want them to fear each month they might be the next one dismissed. It was especially vital that our girls were not sent home where their families might contract their marriage.

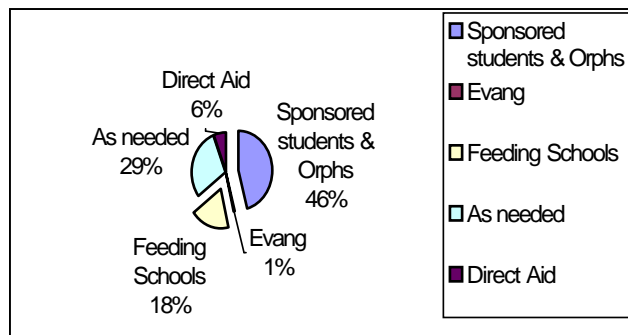
Presently the amount you pay for sponsorship allows for some reserve funds to be used for tuition of other students. When a sponsor falls behind or must quit, we are committed to keeping those students in school during the interim before another sponsor is found.

To insure your donations are tax deductible, we must be in compliance with IRS regulations. One area of particular interest for an organization such as BCSS is the use of tuition money. As many know, regulations here in the states prevent you from a tax deduction if you donate to a specific student. Tuition for BCSS students is paid from the tuition account to which all donations have been credited.

Summary view of how funds have been appropriated—1999 to 2004:



The 87% children's support and projects (see previous chart) disbursed as follows:



BCSS America's board of directors is committed to follow sponsor designation of donations. We make every effort to honor your trust.

FROM THE DESK OF DAVE WAID

Thank you to each of you who partner with us in working for the children in Bangladesh. Much has been accomplished because of your generosity, and there is still much to do. We are grateful to God we are still able to work there. There are always dangers, but we plan to go as long as it is safe enough to not put Beverly and Bristi in too much danger.



I know our sponsors and donors are the best. Your spirit of sacrifice is inspiring. I just wish more knew. There are an amazing amount of people who never heard of Bangladesh, and millions more who definitely have never heard of our work there for the children. Perhaps you could help in one or more of the following ways:

1. Request to receive our newsletter by e-mail and forward it to family and friends.
2. Request newsletters to share at church or work.
3. Share information in a mission story or children's' story.

I don't know how long Muslim countries will allow us to continue working, but I know we need to work as quickly as possible.

Our field man in Bangladesh looked at property in many locations, but recently found some in a village in the south. There was a Hindu lady with two acres who wanted to donate it to someone who would start a school or hospital. We would love to be the ones who start that school. The two acres are beside an additional thirteen acres that are for sale. The price is being negotiated, but it appears we may be able to purchase it for about \$4000 per acre. (In the last newsletter we reported we would feel blessed if we could find property for about \$10,000 per acre.) The

property is on high ground that will help protect it from repeated flooding. We can purchase a portion of the land, but we feel it would be wise to purchase the entire acreage if possible. This would allow adequate room for the orphanage, school, and gardens. Pray with us that God will guide in this possible land purchase and subsequent building of orphanage and school.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for our orphanage project.



Jesus called a child to him and said,
 "Be converted and become as a child."
 Matthew 13:2,3 (paraphrase)

Oregon Camp Meeting

By Hazel Burns

The contrast was vivid. He was short, they were tall. He moved slowly, others often rushed by. He stopped and studied the large print of a poorly-clad girl.

I shared other pictures with him and explained some to the living conditions in Bangladesh.

"I feel so sorry for them," he responded.

We talked more, he apparently soaking in the plight of the children. The thought of eleven cents being able to feed a hungry child seemed to grab his heart.

"How many children could eat for ten dollars?" he asked.

We did the math.

"What would I do if I want to help?"

"You need to talk to your Mom and Dad. If it is all right with them, you may bring the money to me and we'll get a receipt for you."

He turned and rushed away as only a ten-year-old can.

Five minutes later Kyle stood in front of me again, his hand extended.

"My mom gave me four dollars I can spend however I want. I want to help the children."

Sacramento ASI Convention

By Beverly Waid

The Primary Class (ages 7 through 9) under the direction of the Beierle family again chose to collect an offering to provide education and one warm, nutritious meal daily for Bengali students in village schools. Forty-five enthusiastic young people donated over \$750. One young man, Samuel, who worked in his family's pear orchard during the summer, chose to give a gift

from his summer work. When someone works hard to earn their money it means a lot more to them, yet Samuel chose to give a gift of \$150 for the children. Samuel, what a wonderful example you are to all of us!

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you

- ~ to LeRoy & Carolyn for the Bible Story Books
- ~ to Jackie, Gladys, Jodi, Pauline, Irene, Betty, Wendy, and the Milton-Freewater Community Services for the lovely children's clothes.
- ~ to Joy, Irrigon Community Services, and College Place Village Community Services for the lovely quilts.
- ~ to Myrt for the cloth diapers along with many other articles of clothing.
- ~ to Eual & Marjorie and R.J. & Alice who sold property and donated part of the proceeds to help the children in Bangladesh.



Pauline Woodard is one of our faithful seamstresses. When we leave for Bangladesh in September, over sixty dresses that she sewed will be included in our bags. Thank you, Pauline, for all your hard work.

BABY CLOTHES—Your response has been overwhelming! Thanks to you our babies will be dressed in love. Your many thoughtful hours of shopping and sewing are so very much appreciated!



DESTINATION BANGLADESH—Dave, Beverly & Bristi are scheduled to leave on September 27th. Some Board Members will be leaving later in the fall. Please pray for their safety!

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT NEEDED</u>	<u>AMOUNT RECEIVED</u>
New (to us) Van in Bangladesh	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,775
English Reading Books	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,491
Bangla Hope Receiving Center/Orphanage	\$270,000	\$82,836