

Bangla Hope



Bangladesh Christian School Sponsorship America Newsletter

No. 46

January - March, 2006

"Five? There's five right now?"

The call came from the southern part of Bangladesh. There were five little ones needing a home. Preparations were made at the receiving center, we gathered necessary supplies, and when personnel were ready, we began the journey.

The road heading south from KMMS was filled with a variety of motor vehicles, rickshaw vans, foot traffic, goats, dogs, pigs, and cows. Our driver, Jason, was challenged to avoid colliding with the moving and unmoving objects. The road to the village, Ramsul, eventually turned into, what looked like to me, a wide path. I wondered how soon we would be walking. Jason continued to maneuver the truck through villages and around dangerous areas. In one area, two villagers built their homes so close to the path, we had to pull in the mirrors on the side of the truck to get through.

Finally we arrived at Ramsul, parked, got out of the truck, and started gingerly picking our way across the dilapidated bridge. The strips-of-cement construction seemed safe enough to me. What made me fearful were the areas where the cement was missing. I

calculated my steps carefully, and we made it across the bridge and up the incline to the home of one of our workers. Aumol is the tailor for BCSS. He keeps busy sewing uniforms for students in the KMMS boarding school and orphanage. This provides support for his wife and two young, handsome sons.

This area is very poor. Opportunities are extremely limited. Food for the next meal is always a challenge. Probably each person I met could have shared a tragic, heart-wrenching story of his or her own. I turned my thoughts and attention to the five little ones we came to help. They each had a painful story. Baby A's mother had elephantiasis. One leg was so enlarged, she could not do anything. Baby B's mother was getting thinner and thinner. She was too weak to care for her child. Baby C's mother died and the father could not work and care for the baby. Baby D's family was so poor they couldn't feed the new baby. One of the children was too old for the receiving cen-

ter. The next day final arrangements would be made and documents signed. I took lots of pictures with my digital camera. The delighted villagers thought it was great fun to see pictures of themselves.

The Bengali people are typically very hospitable. Aumol's family provided a meal. While we ate, my mind kept contemplating the dreaded return trip across the bridge in the dark. I didn't have a flashlight with me and some of the holes were big enough to fall through. I had no desire to swim in the water below. After eating, Aumol lit a lantern and graciously led the way to the car. One more instance of my God supplying my need.

We spent the night at Gopalganj Boarding School and Mission. Early the next morning Jason left us at KMMS while he went on to the police station. There he met the guardians and the children. The guardians signed release papers in front of the police. Before they got all the documents filled out and signed, another mother arrived at the police station. She said her husband died and she had no way to care for Baby E. Would we take her? Jason had her fill out the paperwork and sign the appropriate

documents before the police.

It was afternoon before Jason returned with the babies and their guardians. The next part is always bittersweet. The tearful goodbyes are traumatic for parent, child, and us. Though we know we are providing hope and opportunity for these little ones, it's hard to witness the initial trauma. I admire the mothers and fathers who are willing to do what's best for their child even though it must be excruciatingly painful for them.

Our first activity with the little ones is always a bath and clean clothes. A first for the babies was wearing diapers. They were a bit vocal about their dislike of the experience.

Our reassuring hugs coupled with the moving vehicle soon lulled the children to sleep as we drove to the receiving center.

Thank you to each who help provide a safe haven for God's precious children. ~Beverly Waid



RECEIVING CENTER NEWSFLASH

The evening of December 5th, five-day-old twin girls were brought to the center. Their mother died when they were born and the father was frantic to know what to do. The next day another baby was brought to the receiving center bringing the total to twenty-six. That's got to be an exciting place!

Destination Bangladesh from the previous newsletter had several rewrites before the story was complete. The original schedule was for Lina Gayen (the young Bengali lady who stayed with Waids for the summer) to leave for Bangladesh September 14. Dave, Beverly and Bristi Waid were scheduled to leave September 27. The first rewrite occurred on September 8. While Dave was standing on a ladder trimming shrubs in his back yard, he lost his footing and fell. Fortunately for him and unfortunately for Lina, he fell on Lina as she reflexively reached out to "catch" him. Dave was fine. X-rays of Lina's arm revealed a fractured elbow. Surgery lasted longer than expected and



revealed more extensive damage than was first thought, but the surgery was successful. Her pain was excruciating and more time was necessary before she returned to Bangladesh and her fiancé.

Beverly and Bristi kept their September 27th departure date. Dave stayed to drive Lina to medical appointments. The orthopedist's release finally came and Dave and Lina flew out of Spokane on October 11. Lina's disappointment at the delay was obvious, but her trust that God has a plan was also obvious.

She was able to arrive in Bangladesh in time to complete plans for her November 20th marriage to Suman Sarkar.

Beverly and Bristi arrived in Bangladesh, caught their breath briefly, and joined a whirlwind of activity. Children and caretakers began getting sick. The severity of aching and vomiting called for immediate intervention. The first physician diagnosed the illness as dengue fever, which is caused by mosquitoes.

Sixteen babies and toddlers can generate lots of activity, need for food, and laundry. The four healthy adults went into survival mode, working round the clock caring for the most urgent needs of the sick children and adults.

A different doctor, who they worked with before, came to the receiving center and gave a diagnosis of colds and viruses. One adult had a mild case of typhoid. Different medication was given, and before many hours children were on the road to recovery. It took the adults a little longer to join them, but at last a receiving-center-sort-of-routine was reestablished.

RECEIPTS! RECEIPTS! RECEIPTS!

Receipts for your 2005 charitable contributions will be mailed to you in January 2006.



FROM DAVE'S DESK IN BANGLADESH

Thank you to each one who sponsors children here in Bangladesh. Watching these young people grow and mature is so rewarding—I wish each of you could experience it. Students receive an education, learn about Jesus, graduate, and many are working for their people. Lives are changed forever.

Typically, we are confronted with many challenges while in Bangladesh—weather, unstable government, changing regulations, and travel conditions to the schools. This year is no exception; but another problem is taking precedence now.

Our policy has always been to visit schools, check on funded projects, and audit financial books. That is our responsibility to you, the donor. This practice is not always appreciated by some recipients of funds, and it appears we may no longer be allowed access to financial information or schools in the future. By the beginning of the new year, we should know, at least partially, how God will resolve this challenging situation. We know He has the answer. We covet your prayers as we seek the best way to continue helping children in Bangladesh.

We wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and new year blessed by God.

DENTAL CLINIC UPDATE

Dr. Lorna Biswas writes from Bangladesh that work on the clinic is going on daily from morning till night. She thought it would be easy to get everything set up and ready to see patients within a month, but it's not as easy as she thought it would be. Waiting is a major part of the game—for renovations, cleaning, orders of equipment and supplies. Waiting is extended further when good-quality items are ordered. The two dental chairs are in place and being used for simple procedures like oral prophylaxis and primary tooth extractions. The clinic is unofficially open, but it will be open to the public no later than January 11, Dr. Lorna's birthday. She asks for your prayer support so things can be completed this month.



Property: It seems that each newsletter reports on different property we hope to purchase. The last property owner we hoped to buy from raised the price substantially, so the search resumed. Negotiations are in progress now for twenty-two acres in the western part of the country. There are some trees on the property. Rice and vegetables grow well in this area. Continue to pray that God will guide in the search and purchase of property for the school and orphanage.

WEBSITE UPDATE

You can go online to our Bangla Hope website (www.banglahope.org) and view new photos of the Receiving Center and Lina Gayen's wedding.

HELP BCSS SAVE MONEY

If you have Internet capability, you can now receive the Bangla Hope Newsletter as an e-newsletter in PDF format either by going to our web site and downloading it manually or automatically by private Internet mail. All of the pages will be in color, instead of just page 1.

Every three months we mail over 2,000 newsletters. We estimate that the yearly cost per newsletter is at least \$2.00. If only 500 of these were e-newsletters, we could save at least \$1,000 every year. At just eleven to fifteen cents per meal, \$1,000 could provide a lot of meals for hungry children.

Sending e-newsletters through the public e-mail system is often a problem because e-mail boxes are full, spam filters block the newsletter, it gets lost in cyberspace, or the person has changed his e-mail address. According to knowledgeable e-zine publishers, up to 30% of e-mail e-zines do not get through due to spam filters! To solve these problems, we have chosen to send the Bangla Hope e-newsletters using a private Internet mail system called NewNetMail. This private system totally eliminates spam, viruses, phishing schemes and identity theft by e-mail because it uses the highest 128 bit SSL secure connection. No one can send a message without first being a member of NewNetMail, and then only with the receivers informed consent. Each message stays within the private system and is delivered almost immediately as it does not have to travel around the internet from computer to computer. Using this system, an e-newsletter subscriber can easily subscribe and unsubscribe with the click of a button.

To subscribe to the Bangla Hope e-newsletter, the NewNetMail ID is "banglahopenewsletter". If you are not already a member of NewNetMail, go to www.banglahopenewsletter.newnetmail.com, (1) click SIGN UP (alternately you can click to read the 7-part special report to sign up) (2) choose COUNTRY and then CONTINUE (3) choose NO and then SUBMIT (4) scroll to the bottom of the page, and choose the FREE NewNetMail light subscription or a higher level if you want more features (5) COMPLETE the sign up form (6) as soon as you have your NewNetMail user ID, log into your new account, go to the address book and click ADD CONTACT. Type in "banglahopenewsletter" and a short note saying "subscribe me please". You are now added to the newsletter list once we approve you. If you want to unsubscribe at any time, go to the address book and

click remove user.

You may opt to download your NewNetMail direct to your computer where it will notify you when you have a new message. (1) Go to www.XXXX.newnetmail.com (replace XXXX with your ID). (2) Log into your back office, scroll to the bottom and choose to download the NewNetMail courier. (3) Follow the instructions to install it on your computer as you would any other software. This works similar to Outlook Express.

NEW WAY TO CONTACT US

We have added the option to contact us using the new NewNetMail private spam and virus free Internet mail system detailed in the article above. Our NewNetMail contact ID is "banglahope".



SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you to all of you dear people listed below who sent baby clothing and accessories!

Debbie B.
Susan C.
Joanie F.
Naomi M.
Beverly R.
Dona W.

Ginger B.
Pam C.
Linda H.
Annabelle O.
Ruth S.
Irene T.



Some of the children you helped clothe. The girl on the left is from a very poor family. Her father is a gate keeper. She was thrilled with a new dress. Above are four of the girls at the Receiving Center.

Remember BCSS in your will!

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT NEEDED</u>	<u>AMOUNT RECEIVED</u>
New (to us) Van in Bangladesh	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,000
English Reading Books	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,631
Bangla Hope Receiving Center/Orphanage	\$270,000	\$115,140