

Bangla Hope

Devoted To Changing The Lives Of Orphans, Destitute Children & Women

No. 52

July - September 2007

Kerissa & Natasha's Story

Excitement ran high. Jogodash and Unnoti were expecting their first baby. Surely a baby in the family would add to their happiness. Jogodash and Unnoti hadn't been married long, but both worked hard. They had a little house and eagerly anticipated the birth of their first child. When Isaac was born, the parents were thrilled to have a boy, and his hearty cries assured them he was healthy. As Isaac grew, Unnoti noticed he didn't seem to really look at her. Time confirmed--Isaac was blind. The parents were devastated. Survival in Bangladesh seems to take all one's time and energy. How would they care for a blind child? Challenges grew and soon another baby was on the way. Kerissa was healthy, but Jogodash, dependent with the responsibility, left his family and disappeared.



Villagers helped Unnoti as much as they could, but they also had their own families they struggled to feed. Some villagers decided it was time for Jogodash to take responsibility. They went looking, found Jogodash, and brought him back. Unfortunately, Jogodash had already married another woman, but he did manage to stay with Unnoti long enough to

get her pregnant again. When Jogodash disappeared the second time, it was soon rumored he was killed in a road accident.

Unnoti's dreams of happiness were reduced to a reality of being a single mom with a blind son, one little girl, and another child on the way to provide for. She did what most do in this impoverished nation when faced with similar circumstances—she took her children and went to her parent's home. Her plan was to work while her mother cared for the children. Unnoti did find a job, but her childcare plan was short lived. Both her father and mother were ill. Unnoti's desperation turned to relief when she heard about a place where children can go and be cared for—Bangla Hope.



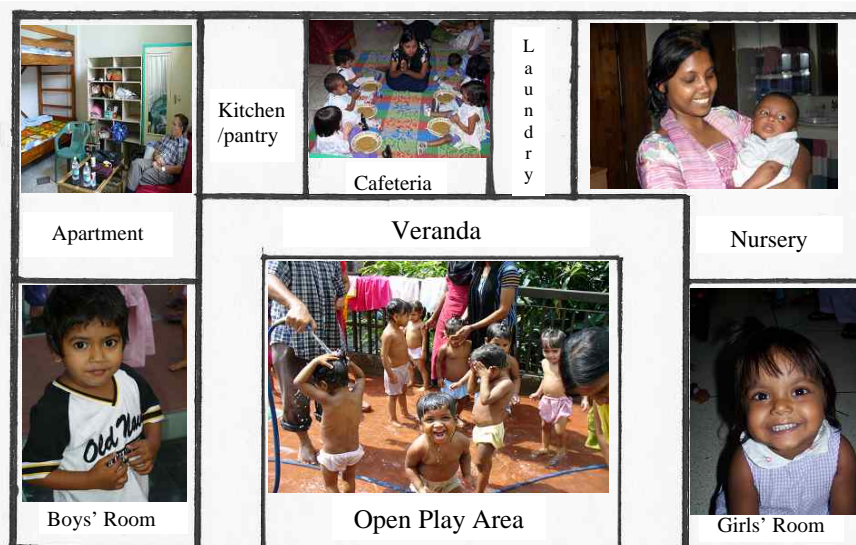
She brought the two youngest—two little girls who needed a home. The pain was evident. Few parents want to give up their children, but circumstances sometimes dictate it. Large doses of love will help make the transition easier for Kerissa and Natasha. Both girls need the opportunity to live, grow, and learn about Jesus. Your sponsorship will help make that a reality for Kerissa and Natasha.

BANGLA HOPE ORPHANAGE Floor plan

CHOOSE A ROOM

From July to December 2007, those donating \$1000 (a little at a time or all at once) for the new orphanage may designate the room they would like their donation to be used for.

You may mark your donation on page 4.



Each room will have a plaque with the names of those donors.

1. Boys' room
2. Apartment
3. Kitchen/pantry
4. Cafeteria
5. Laundry
6. Nursery
7. Girls' room
8. Veranda
9. Open play area

From Dave's Desk



Progress continues on the orphanage property. Unless you've worked in a third-world country, you can't begin to imagine the people you have to meet with, the hoops you have to jump through, and the repeated waiting, waiting, waiting in the process of purchasing land. Because three types of landowners own the property—private, estates, and tribal—different regulations apply. Dealing with thirty-seven different landowners is not an easy task. Thankfully, those working on the details of these transactions are careful and honest. As is so often the case, the legal work takes longer than we wish, but we do have some of the cleared titles in hand. Praise God! Work continues on the remaining ones.

Our plan was to begin fencing, building, and planting as soon as the legal work was complete and before the monsoons started. We could begin now, but the monsoons arrived early this year. Though the rains will delay our building start date, we should be able to begin in October, provided the weather cooperates. Cecyl Rentfro, who has spent many years building in Bangladesh, is planning to volunteer again to help get the building project off to a good start.

We will pour the foundations of the orphanage and six-plex simultaneously. The orphanage building will eventually have three floors with over 18,000 square feet. The first floor will be the orphanage, second floor will be offices, and third floor will be housing. The six-plex will have three floors with a total of 7500 square feet. This building will provide housing for nine families.

Some specific needs we have and approximate costs are:

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Deep well | \$ 5,000 |
| Water Tanks | \$10,000 |
| Generator | \$12,000 |
| Van | \$10,000 |

Though construction is delayed because of the rain, we are thankful for it. The people need it for their crops. It has been so hot there with temperatures reaching 104 degrees and, of course, with extremely high humidity. We know the monsoon rains are a necessary part of life in Bangladesh, but they can bring a set of challenges all their own. The dry, parched earth can absorb only so much of the downpour. At our receiving center in Dhaka, some roads had twenty-four to thirty inches of water on them. On Monday, June 11, 8.5 inches fell in just three hours in Chittagong, a major port city. Many residents said the rainfall and flooding were among the worst in memory. The following day mudslides started their destructive work. Close to 130 were killed and ten thousand evacuated to shelters. Across the country, lightning killed ten people. Thousands of tragedies remain untold except to family and friends in close proximity. One man's story

was told in a news report: "We had shifted to the hills in Chittagong from far away places after rivers had swallowed our homes and land," said Mashiur Rahman, a father of five. "But we are on the run again."



Some years as much as 2/3 of the already crowded country is under water. Residents move to roads that are higher than surrounding farmland or slums. Clean water is a commodity in short supply as a result of contamination from open sewers and swirling floodwaters. Disease, food shortages, homeless, and orphans increase.

We are so blessed. . . and I'm more and more convinced the reason is so we can be a blessing to others.

CDs Available

Bristi, Dave & Beverly's daughter, still has a few CDs available she has recorded and would like to share with you to benefit children in Bangladesh. For a donation of any amount, we will send you a copy of this CD—just mention you would like to receive it.



College CD—The music department at our college in Bangladesh produced a CD of spiritual music in English and Bengali. Just mention that you would like to receive one. Proceeds from the CD will benefit the music department of the college. Many of you sponsor students at this school (LCOR and LGB).



Government Exam Success

Several of the girls who work at the receiving center caring for the children were also studying to pass their SSC government exams so they can continue their education. The exams are not easy. Many students have to repeat the exam or, at least some sections of it, multiple times. We are thrilled to report that every young lady at our receiving center who took the exams earlier this year passed them.

Computers

Laptop computers in GOOD condition are needed in Bangladesh for students and office personnel. We also need one here in our office in the states for doing programs at churches. If you are updating yours and would like to receive tax credit for your old one, contact our office.

IMPORTANT!!

Please do not send checks or money orders to the children in Bangladesh. They do not have bank accounts, so they are unable to cash them. (Even if they could cash them, the bank charge would be from \$5 to \$10 for the service.) Please make your check payable to BCSS, making note of your student's ID number, and send them to the Kennewick office. Dave distributes pocket and gift money yearly when he visits each school.



BANGLA HOPE HANDICRAFTS

We all need cards or bookmarks for special occasions now and then. Destitute ladies in Bangladesh make beautiful cross-stitch cards for all occasions. When you purchase these items, you are helping support a lady who may have no other way to support herself. Call our office and order what you need. We'll send them right away. Cards are \$3.00 and bookmarks are \$2.50.



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 the fall of 2008.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Our 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.



CLOTHING NEEDED

We wish we could take everything that everyone wants to send. Unfortunately, airline restrictions limit us. We do have some specific needs we thought some of you might like to help us with. Items and sizes needed are:

sundresses, sizes 5 and 6
 boys' tank tops and shorts, sizes 5 and 6
 boys and girls underwear, sizes 4 to 6
 socks and sandals for 4, 5, and 6 year olds

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you



- ~ Barbara, for the lovely night gowns, boys' shirts, and diapers that were lovingly sewn.
- ~ Carol & Gene for sharing some of the proceeds from the sale of old coins.
- ~ Teresa, Rebekah, and Ruth for the beautiful girls' night gowns for the children in the receiving center.
- ~ Susan for buying fabric for ladies to sew.
- ~ Jann, who gave her father what he most wanted for Father's day—a generous donation for the orphanage.

"Dear Friends,

Enclosed are a few items that we hope will be useful. I teach 5th grade and when I closed up my classroom this year I decided to send you the extra supplies we purchased. The community I teach in has a 97% poverty rate, but the students who were helping me insisted that they send some of their things too. They said that you all really need pencils & scissors because that is what all kids use most. So, along with a few other things, and although not all new, this box is sent in love. We hope this little bit can help your children. Thank you for all you do.

Malinda"

In Loving Memory of:

Edwin R. Hutchison

by: Mr. & Mrs. George Livermore

Adelaide Sampsel

by: Glenna Hockley

Jan Wijma

by: Hazel Burns



MATCHING FUNDS—Would you like to double your money? A strong supporter of the new orphanage project has pledged to match your donation for the new orphanage dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. Your donation of \$5 would generally buy 100 bricks, now it will provide 200. Your gift of \$50 would normally buy 1,000 bricks, now 2,000 can be added to the wall. A contribution of \$500 would generally pay for 106 bags of cement, now 212. It's a wonderful way to stretch your dollar!