



# Bangla Hope

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

No. 54

November 15, 2007 Cyclone Sidr hit the southern coast of Bangladesh about 11 p.m. with 140 mph winds. Millions of people wonder, "What's next?" In the south, houses are gone, family



One village home

members are missing, and crops are destroyed again. Wells were damaged and ponds are filled with salt water. Due to shortages of drinking water, a massive health hazard looms over the devastated areas—diarrhea has begun claiming lives!!

Communication and transportation are severely curtailed so we don't yet have information on our village school students.

Further north the capital city of Dhaka also felt the devastating effects of Sidr. Power and water were cut off. At the Receiving Center/orphanage, the babies and staff are safe, but were challenged as they tried to make the water from the holding tank on the roof last until city services were restored.

Our property northwest of Dhaka was undamaged. This again confirms in our minds that God led in the choosing of this property, and we are eager to complete construction and move to this safer location.

Additional storm pictures from Bangladesh, are on our website: [www.banglahope.org](http://www.banglahope.org)

Cyclone Report from Jason Halder, Sponsorship Director in Bangladesh: "I was in the south during the cyclone. It was very sad situation in that night. Thursday morning Mr. & Mrs. Waid, Mr. Rentfro and Suchitra we went to bring three babies. It was raining on that day. I was driving whole week and we have visited our entire village feeding schools except Dehergoti because of rain. When we came to Takerhat another driver took the others to Dhaka and I went to KMMS in my house. I was there in my house whole day and I could not go anywhere because of rain. At night I had my dinner and went to sleep at 10 p.m. At this time it was raining and wind was rolling everywhere but I thought nothing will happen. At 10:30 p.m. one of my brother came and told me 'Jason since you are there alone in your house let me stay in your home tonight.' After 11 p.m. I was feeling that my house was shaking and my house was flying in the wind. I felt that something is going to happen. I

January - March 2008

wake up from my bed and called my brother and I was looking with the torch whether my house still in the ground or not. I opened my door and I was watching what is happening and I could not stand at the door because of heavy rain and wind. There was no electricity and I was standing beside the door and thinking when my house will destroy by wind and I will run from my



Polotona Village School

house. I was standing from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. God saved my house. At 1 a.m. I got a call from Polotona school teacher that they ran away from the house because school house is broken down. I told him that you don't

worry about the school house you go and find some shelter and save your life. He took his family and went to another house. After some time that house also took away by the wind then they went to another house. In this village only one house is saved and rest other destroyed by the cyclone. Then I called Talpukuria he told me same thing and Shuagram also same situation. Next day I visit Talpukuria and Polotona. I was trying to go to other village but because road was blocked by all big trees it was difficult for me to go to other village. This cyclone destroyed everything in South. More than 10,000 people died. What I saw from my eyes is and was unbelievable."



Talpukuria Village School

Your donation marked "As Needed" will help with immediate relief efforts and with the ongoing costs of caring for children.

## OPPORTUNITY

by Beverly Waid

Bobita knew it would happen someday—she would marry and have a family of her own to care for and love. Bobita's excitement grew when Stephen asked her to marry him. As they planned the details of the wedding festivities, Bobita imagined the happiness they would share.



The four days of their Hindu wedding were filled with many religious rites and ceremonies that represented the importance of the bond between them. As is typical in the Bangladesh villages, the new family moved in with the groom's family. There the new bride became a servant to her mother-in-law. Bobita's days were monotonous--preparing food, scrubbing dishes, cleaning the hut, and washing clothes. The end of a day never came soon enough, but she knew, as she lay on her mat at night, that the routine would start all over the next morning.

When a baby girl was born to Stephen and Bobita, she hoped her life would improve. Her hopes were short lived. Stephen's mother continued to require much from Bobita even though she had a baby to care for. Though Bobita was unsure what the outcome might be, she decided she would not do everything she was told to do. Her mother-in-law was not impressed with the new arrangement and decided on a plan of her own. She would cook some food for Bobita and add poison to it. She carried out her plan, but before Bobita ate the food, Stephen came home, saw the food, and ate it. The poison didn't kill him, but left him mentally handicapped. He began wandering everywhere and sleeping anywhere. He seldom came home.

Bobita's loneliness and depression increased. She was a likely target for another man, and soon Bobita realized she was pregnant again. This time Bobita had twin girls, but she did not want them. She wanted them to come to the Bangla Hope Receiving Center. Her mother-in-law still felt she had a voice in what decisions were made and insisted on keeping one of the girls. We still don't know the final outcome of this story. We do know, with the help of a sponsor, we will be able to make a difference in the life of at least one of the twins—little Angela.

The "Choose a Room" opportunity will conclude December 31, 2007. Those donating \$1000 for the new orphanage may designate the room they would like their donation to be used for. Each room will have a plaque with the names of those donors. The rooms you may choose from are:

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Boys' room     | 5. Laundry     |
| 2. Apartment      | 6. Nursery     |
| 3. Kitchen/pantry | 7. Girls' room |
| 4. Cafeteria      | 8. Veranda     |

#### FROM DAVE'S DESK



We arrived in Bangladesh eager to move forward with building the orphanage in the country, disbursing pocket money and flood relief funds, and visiting the schools. The 110 degree temperatures with high humidity were a bit hard to handle initially, but it cooled to the 70s and 80s with humidity even down in the 50% range sometimes. We can tolerate these cooler temperatures quite well.

Our first visit to the property was in part to choose the exact location for the orphanage and for staff housing. Though the property did not flood, we will build on the highest points.

Students from the nearby village school, dressed in their new uniforms, welcomed us with a song and flowers. At the orphanage property, the whole village came to welcome us and share a program they prepared. The villagers are delighted we are building an orphanage in their area. By the time the formalities were completed, the rains began. We saw many district commissioners in the area and completed the necessary paperwork with them. We hoped by staying until the next day we would be able to choose the sites for the buildings, but it was not to be. The rains continued and we knew another four to five hour trip would be necessary to come again when the rains had stopped.

Though 10.5 acres is officially owned by Bangla Hope, work continues on securing addi-



*Grass & trees will be a welcome change from the asphalt and smog of the city!*

tional plots. Final documents for some of the additional plots are nearly complete. Some will require more time and paperwork. This process will continue until we finalize on at least twenty acres. We want to be as self-sufficient as possible. An additional \$40,000 will complete the purchase of the twenty acres in process.

Electricity in Bangladesh is about as sporadic as the light of a firefly. A large generator for a total of \$12,000 will help us continue crucial operations at all times during the day. A reliable van is needed for transportation. All but \$9,000 has been donated for it.

As I write this article, the property is swarming with activity. Almost one-half mile of road is being raised three feet and graveled. The hours of hand work provides villagers with a way to earn money to feed their families. We have a signed contract with a local contractor for construction of the staff housing. Originally we planned to make it a six-plex. After considering our needs and comparing construction costs, we chose to add more floors and have a twelve-plex. The total cost is \$100,000. When I compare that price to costs in the United States, I praise God we will be able to provide modest, adequate housing for our workers at such a reasonable cost. The signed contract states the

construction will be finished by May 31, 2008 or the contractor will pay a daily penalty of Tk5000 (\$73) for each day after that date. This contractor built some village schools for us previously and did a beautiful job so we are thrilled his bid was the lowest.

Bidding is still in progress for the first floor (almost 10,000 sq ft) of the orphanage but from all indications, it should also be around \$100,000. Construction will begin immediately after the contract is signed.

Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> we had the grand opening program for the project. This is an important formality in Bangladesh. Six hundred villagers and officials attended the program.



Dave & Beverly with the new orphanage sign—YOU are making this building project possible!

Cecyl Rentfro, board member, has worked previously with building projects in Bangladesh. He is in Bangladesh now for about two months volunteering his time to oversee the projects. Following that, Roger Cook, another board member and builder will step into the role of "free labor" as he oversees construction for another month.

We anticipate the day when we move the children and staff out of the city to their new home in the country. There will be places to run, play in the dirt, and plant seeds and watch them grow. Instead of blaring horns, the children can listen to the birds sing. Instead of mournful calls of the sellers on the streets, the children can listen for the crickets. The lights of the city will be exchanged for the stars.

I wish you could each be there on moving day. You'd be able to hear the children singing as they make the trip. You could watch their eyes grow large with wonder and excitement as they see the new orphanage, the grass, and the trees. You could observe their enthusiasm as they run from room to room exploring their new home, and you would know you are the reason these children have a safe home in the country.

**MATCHING FUNDS**—We still have some matching funds available so you can double your money for the orphanage. 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! December 31, 2007 will conclude this opportunity.

**FLOOD RELIEF REPORT:** From August 1st to October 31st over \$15,000 was donated for flood relief. Distribution is in progress. Many of the



Handicraft Ladies

handicraft workers were unable to work during the severest part of the flooding. We have given them some money to help with their basic needs.

Villages in the south were the hardest hit with the earlier flooding and now with the cyclone. Some funds were distributed at Ramshil Village the same week the cyclone hit.



Villagers from Ramshil

Thank you for making a difference for thousands of people in Bangladesh.

## SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank You



~ Ulla H. for your gift for food, beds, and education for the children from the sale of several of your paintings.

~to those who pray for Dave and Beverly's safety and our work in Bangladesh. When they were returning to Dhaka from the orphanage property, the van they were riding in was hit by a large truck.

It did considerable damage to the van, but they were able to drive it on. They were traveling slow enough that no one was hurt.

~Jerry & Nancy G. for sharing funds from the sale of property for a tractor in Bangladesh.

## IN MEMORY OF

Arabelle Johlman  
By Robert & Lenoa Jones

Robert Osborn  
By Robert & Lenoa Jones

George Heusser  
By Albert & Gloria Oakes

