

Bangla Hope

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

No. 55

April - June, 2008

NOT GARBAGE!

By Beverly Waid

Walking the narrow paths through the rice paddy fields calms my anxious concerns. The quietness gives me a different perspective. The vivid green color rejuvenates me. I guess the trip to the countryside recharges me, infuses me with the necessary strength to go back to the city.

As we return, I brace myself for the assault on my senses—horns blaring, brakes screeching, peddlers mournfully announcing their wares. Open sewers remind me to be careful where I walk and when I breathe. My eyes are bombarded with nearly uninterrupted rows of buildings, crowds of people, buses, rickshaws, motorcycles and trucks. Garbage is anywhere and everywhere—strewn along the streets and piled in huge mounds. Garbage to some is often treasure to someone else. The mounds are dug through, searching for something of value.

Did some young mother think her baby was garbage or was her baby torn from her by force? Did she hope someone would find her and care for her? Whatever the mother's feelings, someone apparently threw the tiny baby from the bridge. Fortunately she landed in the soft mud and miraculously she was not injured. I hope the police were startled when they discovered the tiny baby girl, but disposing of children is common in Bangladesh.



Police contacted Dr. Mondol who in turn, contacted us. Dr. Mondol knew no one would ever adopt this tiny baby and she needs a home. Dr. Mondol previously contacted us about Kokoli, our first baby in the receiving center/orphanage, who had a cleft lip. Now Kokoli is a vivacious, healthy, and happy five-year-old.

We don't know the new baby's age for sure, but she surely isn't over a few months old. Her

body is tiny, she is very ill, and she needs surgery to correct her bilateral cleft lip as soon as she is stronger.

Just \$500 will give this baby an opportunity to live and thrive. If one of our supporters would like to pay for her surgery, you may choose her name.

The baby's family apparently felt death was preferable to life for their tiny baby, but we know none of God's children are garbage.

JACOB

The low-lying southern part of Bangladesh is the area that is generally hardest hit by storms. Last year was no exception. Flooding, then Cyclone Sidr left thousands without adequate food, shelter, and water. (Many wells and ponds filled with salt water during the cyclone.)

Your generosity enabled us to deliver funds to villages for relief efforts.



One village, Ramshil, where we have a village school, was nearly destroyed by Cyclone Sidr. We went there to hand out money to the village families. While we were there, Jason wanted me to see a 1½ year old baby boy whose mother had died.

While I continued giving out money to help villagers, I heard a big commotion behind me. I walked over to see what was happening. Jason was talking with an older woman holding a tiny baby. By her side stood a young man in his early twenties. Jason told me he made a mistake. This was the child he told me about previously, but he was just 1½ weeks old!

I took the baby in my arms. He was thin and dehydrated. I asked what they were feeding the baby. Their reply, "rice water". I wanted to take the baby immediately, but the legal work still needed to be



completed. We gave them money for milk and a bottle and told them we would return the next week.

I prayed all week for that baby. The next week our friends, the Beierles, joined us for the trip south. When we arrived at the village, the grandma and father came right away. When I saw the baby, my heart sank. His skin was even more shriveled than before. His feet and hands were swollen. I wondered if he would survive until we arrived in Dhaka. The family likely kept the money for other needs and continued feeding the baby rice water.

We put clean clothes and a diaper on the baby and took turns holding him as we traveled. Heidi Beierle especially enjoyed holding him. She chose his name—Jacob.

It wasn't many days before we began seeing changes in Jacob's physical condition. He continued to improve. His dehydrated body filled out and he became responsive. His smiles warmed all of our hearts. Thank you for helping us save one more baby from certain death!

FROM DAVE'S DESK

Building projects on schedule for completion—is that possible? Yes! Walls are going up. The orphanage 1st floor roof is poured and the roof for the 4th floor of the 12-plex is scheduled for pouring the week of March 10. May 31, 2008 is the projected date for completion and moving day will follow immediately. If we don't move soon, the seventy children may just burst through the walls of our present facility in Dhaka. We are eager for these children to have new places to explore and room to run outside.



Staff Housing

We do not yet have the additional \$100,000 needed to complete the 2nd floor of the orphanage. We will use what we have and then see how God supplies the need.



Pouring the roof of the orphanage

Besides the two main structures, there are additional projects in all stages of development. The nearly half mile of roadway has been raised 2½ feet. The trucks driving on it help pack it, but a large roller will also be brought in to complete the packing. The next step will be a layer of bricks, another layer of

dirt, and then brick chips for the gravel.

Gardens are being planted. The children love raw carrots. They enjoy eating boiled potatoes like we would eat an ice cream cone. Gardens will also provide opportunities to learn work skills which are an important part of education. We will have about 200 fruit trees when all are planted. It is too dry to plant all of them now, but that will change beginning in June and July. Mango, papaya, jack fruit, lychee, bananas, coconut and lime will provide additional variety and nutrition for the children. Some of the fifty trees currently planted will begin producing later this year and some next year. We'll have to wait about five years for the fruit of some.

Funds have been donated for a tractor and a deep well which are both vital to the project.

Power poles and lines are being brought in to the property, which should be complete by the end of March.

Security fencing is a necessity. Under the current rule of the army, conditions have been unusually safe, but we know that will not last. When a different ruling party is in place, chaos and violence can erupt overnight. Along the road we are building an 8-foot high brick wall with barbs on the top. The remainder of the enclosed property will have an 8-foot high chain link fence with barbed wire on the top. Additional security will be provided by bougainvillea plants which have 1½-inch thorns. The 3,000-foot security fencing will cost approximately \$30,000.

Housing for guards and maintenance personnel at the edge of the property will cost about \$2,500 for each house. Initially we will need six or seven houses.

Medical care in the villages is nonexistent or limited and of questionable quality. We've dreamed for years of being able to help in this area. We know a Bengali nurse, educated in Pakistan, who is well-qualified to manage a clinic. I trust her care more than I trust many physicians in Bangladesh. She has proven herself to be extremely valuable to her current employer, one of the better hospitals in Bangladesh. Her grueling work schedule in cardiac surgery six days a week, 10-hours each day, with 4-hours travel leaves her exhausted. She would like to work with her people, teach them health principles and hydrotherapy. Many babies die in Bangladesh because nurses do not know how to care for them. She would like to start a birthing clinic. Her expertise can go a long way to help train other health care workers and to help people in the community.

Costs to open the first phase of a small, modest medical clinic will be about \$10,000. If you would like to donate \$10,000 to fund the open-

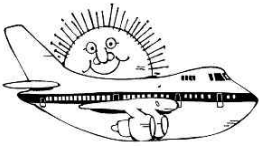
ing of the medical clinic, it will be named in your honor. Smaller monthly donations are also needed to help pay the monthly salary of our nurse.

Village school repairs needed as a result of Cyclone Sidr are complete. The village school program is a cost-effective way to help hundreds of students and then touch the lives of their families. Where else could you provide education, books, uniform, school supplies, and one meal each school day for \$13 monthly?

Just as here in North America, costs in Bangladesh have risen significantly. We're asking God where He wants us to push forward and where we need to cut back. As I see events taking place around the world, I wonder how much longer will we have to help people. How can I make a difference for others now while I have the opportunity?

HOME AGAIN!

Dave and Beverly Waid returned safely from Bangladesh March 6. After thirty hours in airports and on planes, it takes a bit to become functional again. Beverly returned with a virus one of the babies generously shared with her, but she is doing much better. They appreciate your prayers for their health and the work in Bangladesh.



PROGRAMS

During the month of July Dave, Beverly and Bristi will be traveling in California and would love to bring your church or civic organization an update on Bangladesh and the children. Call our office to schedule a date.

NEWSLETTERS

We appreciate all those who share with their friends about the children in Bangladesh. An easy way to do that is to send the following link to your e-mail address list: www.banglahope.org/newsletter. Children in Bangladesh depend on us. Thank you for making a difference in their lives.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Lots of new things to check out on our website:
 ~Progress continues on the new orphanage and staff housing. Since you can't be there to see in person, pictures are on the website. It's exciting to see the continuing progress.
 ~New quilts for "Thank you" gifts for large donations are also shown.
 ~Cross stitch items for sale are shown on our website under "Handicrafts". Beverly just brought back some new designs for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Teacher's Appreciation and Graduation.

TAX RECEIPTS

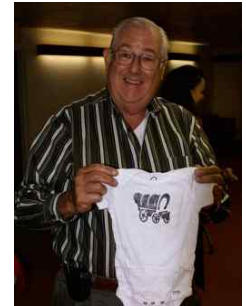
Tax receipts for 2007 were mailed January 23, 2008. Generally we receive three to six calls from people who didn't receive theirs. This year there has been considerably more than that. If you did not receive your receipt, please contact us and we will send another.

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank You



~Central Seventh-day Adventist Church of Albuquerque had a great time stamping designs on "Onesies" for our little ones in the receiving center.



~Naomi M for rallying friends to collect pop cans and recycle paper and cardboard to help the children in Bangladesh

~Ray M for providing funds for a motorcycle for Jason to use as he gathers student information from the boarding and village schools for our sponsors.



~George & Arlene Y. for sharing information about their village school children with their granddaughter and inspired her to sponsor also.

~Stateline Church Junior/Earliten Division chose to save dimes to help provide food for children in Bangladesh. Their donation provided a warm, nutritious meal each school day for one year for four village school students in Bangladesh.



IN MEMORY OF
 Son, Paul Turner
 by Harvey & Joanne Turner

Dave Bechtel
 by Ruby Bechtel

Ethel Helmig
 by Dale & Mildred Goffin

