

Bangla Hope

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

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Dancing Girl's Dilemma

By Beverly Waid

Pumima was adorably cute and small for a young lady even by Bengali standards. She could dance beautifully. Rojen fell in love with her from the start and in time asked Purnima to marry him. Pumima agreed to marry her suitor under one condition. She wanted to keep her dancing job. It paid well and secretly she liked the attention the men gave her. Rojen didn't like the idea but, if this was the only way he could marry Purnima, he'd agree.

At first everything seemed fine . . . but time brought change. Rojen realized his wife seemed to like her job more than staying home and taking care of things. In fact, sometimes it seemed she didn't even pay much attention to him. Though he didn't like it, he adjusted. But it seemed about the time he adjusted to Pumima always being gone, the scenario changed. Suddenly Purnima stayed home all the time. It seemed strange, but after a few months, Rojen understood. Pumima was pregnant with another man's baby. With deep hurt and anger, Rojen left. He sent divorce papers and left her life forever.



Pumima was alone, alone with her thoughts and regrets. Soon she would be faced with the responsibility of caring for a baby alone. I don't know how long it took Purnima to come to the realization she couldn't work and care for her baby adequately. She'd heard of an orphanage that cared for babies. Should she consider it? Could she bear to part with her precious little one? What would she do without her? Should she keep her baby and

maybe they would both die together? But then another question came—what was best for her baby?

Pumima's once care-free expression gradually changed revealing the struggle going on inside. With heart aching, Pumima completed the legal paperwork. While treasuring each moment she could eke out to spend with her baby, Purnima knew the painful day of separation would come all too soon. The only way she'd survive the ordeal was to focus on what was best for her precious child.

Easy? Never! Best? It was, she knew it was.

Falling in Love With The Orphans of Bangla Hope

By Ryan Wilkinson
(student missionary)

I have been blessed with the privilege to travel all over the world and see it from a variety of perspectives. It amazes me though how many new things I've experienced here in Bangladesh. There is no way to describe in words what I have gone through, but I will try.

I would love to praise and thank all of you who have made Bangla Hope possible. Your love and support is making a huge impact, and I am so impressed by what everybody here is doing. I have fallen in love with the kids so much already that I fear for the day I'll have to say goodbye. It's amazing how closely attached you can become to another person in a week or two. I wish that all sponsors could just skip the whole traveling part and spend a few days with their sponsored child. To me, there isn't anything better than spending your day hanging out with orphans. I get more love than I deserve.

I have been impacted in so many ways but I don't have the space to mention all of them. The one that stands out most so far is watching the mothers give their children away. WOW! I'm a guy, so of course I don't cry, but I may have gotten teary eyed when seeing those mothers' faces as we left. One mother was even throwing up because it was too much for her to handle. They will never see their kids again and they're giving their child, their own flesh and blood, to somebody they don't even know. I couldn't even imagine what they were going through. Tears streamed down each mother's face as they watched their child scream for their mother to save them. I admired those mothers—their circumstances



Ryan comforting baby Tina on the way to the orphanage

were awful, but they did what was best for their child.

Already I can tell Bangla Hope is greatly improving the lives of those children. It has been less than a week and almost all of the kids look much healthier and half the kids have stopped crying for their mothers. They have a much, much brighter future now.

I have also been working in Dhaka to promote the Dental Clinic. It has been a much better experience than I predicted. The best part has been going to different embassies and talking to those high in administration. I have also had the privilege to talk to many school principals and business owners. It's amazing what you are able to accomplish as an American over here. In America, I am just another American but here in Bangladesh I am an AMERICAN!

There are so many things here that are different than in America and I appreciate most of them except the air pollution. I have to put eye drops in my eyes otherwise I will rub them dry. There is so much more to say but my 500 words are up. I'm learning Bengali and loving life over here. May God bless you all!

What If . . .

As we recently prepared pictures of each child in the orphanage to send to their sponsors, we commented about the growth, the changes, and the sparkle in the childrens' eyes. It's obvious they're loved. Their filled-out cheeks show they're getting enough food to eat.

But what if we hadn't been there? What if there'd been no place for Johnny to go when his mentally-ill mother left him under a banyan tree at the village marketplace?



What would have happened to Amy whose mother took poison to escape her desperate situation?



What about Megan and Kami? Their father left and went to India. Workers found their mother wearing rags with no food in the house.



And Marc? His unwed mother was ostracized from her family and village when she became pregnant. She stayed with a beggar lady in Dhaka but that wasn't a good place to raise a child.



What would Sherry and Brent look like now? When we first met them, their sad eyes spoke volumes of the pain they'd already experienced in their short lives. Their father died of cancer. Their mother had



no relatives to help her so she was forced to go to work somewhere, anywhere.

Anne Maree was next in line to be killed like her two previous sisters had been because of lack of food. What if Bangla Hope Orphanage didn't exist?



What would have happened to Leanne and Lana? Their father was killed during Cyclone Sidr by a falling tree. His family then forced the two girls and their mother from what was left of their home.



What if there was no sponsor for Andrew whose mother died when he was just 2 1/2 months old?



Who would have taken care of Jasmine when her mother was paralyzed when Jasmine was born? The father tried to care for her along with all his other responsibilities. Probably the sores on her little body, her infected eyes, and her infected tummy where the black Hindu string had become embedded convinced him he needed help.



So many what ifs.

Sponsors, you are clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. Thank you!



From Dave's Desk

Praise the Lord and thank you to the donors who also want to have the Hazrapur Village School adjacent to the orphanage open its doors for the new school year beginning in January. Thirty students have been sponsored. As more sponsors commit to this school, we will be able to allow more children in the village to enroll. We are excited to be able to impact the village by helping their children.

Previously the village school building provided temporary housing for some of our support staff. We've been scrambling to build permanent housing for our maintenance man, cleaning ladies, and guards. We are also beginning construction of the maintenance building. By the time you receive this newsletter, we'll have our new tractor to work the fields.



Outside isn't the only place where things are happening. We've ordered eight new bunk beds. The way things are going, we'll soon need to order more. We're expecting up to eight new children in one day, the last week of November. My, we're having some growing pains.



It has been an absolute joy watching the children play on the playground equipment. They didn't often get to experience anything like that when they lived in Dhaka. We are so grateful the children now have places to run, play, and explore. Thank you for making it possible!!



Elections

The elections that have been supposed to happen for over two years are now scheduled for December 18, 2008.

Dave and Beverly's Arrival in Bangladesh, October 2008

We got into Dhaka around 12 midnight. Praise the Lord we went right through customs with no problems....prayer helps so much! We got to bed about 2:00am but I woke up at 4:00 when I heard someone trying to get into our motel room! Yes, we were in a hotel by the dental clinic for they had no more beds in our guest room. The motel room was clean!!!! We purchased a few items while Dave was in the dental clinic getting his teeth fixed and then we started out for our orphanage.

It was late when we arrived, but everyone was up...even the children and they had to have a special welcome for us! The children sang and gave us beautiful leis made of gold paper! The next morning we were able to look around the campus and visit the children and what a fun time we are having with them!!! It is beautiful out here and I do love it except for one thing! When the sun goes down the bugs come up to our rooms and take over. The windows and screens don't help! They fly all around and then fall all over the furniture and floor. I have tried to take baths but the bugs like to take them with me and somehow I don't enjoy my baths so much anymore. I think it will have to be showers! It is very hot....too hot and the electricity is off most of the time and they do not use the generator so they can save money..... yes, I will be very happy for cooler weather!!

Blanket Update



So far there will be 201 warmer, happier children in Bangladesh because of your generosity. The blankets will be treasured and used until they're simply worn out. We would love to distribute more as the weather continues to cool.

Gift Cards Available

Some supporters of Bangla Hope have chosen, in lieu of giving gifts at holiday times, to give a donation to help children in Bangladesh. We have Thank You cards and envelopes available for you to share with family and friends to let them know of your gift in their honor.

With one child out of every five in the world going to bed hungry, who wouldn't be thrilled to know they have helped a child?

Contact our office and let us know how many cards you'd like.

Dining Area Furniture



Looking for an idea for a family Christmas Project this year??? How about being part of a group of Bangla Hope donors who are giving to this project to get the kids up off the floor and eating at tables for mealtimes.

Letters from Students

Many sponsors have contacted us saying they're receiving letters from their students—some for the very first time. This vital element in our sponsorship program has been and continues to be a challenge,

but we are committed, with God's help, to conquer this challenge. Distance, traveling conditions, and hartals sometimes postpones travel to the schools. This delays getting students' Christmas greetings sent to you. We feel relatively certain you will understand and will be grateful to hear from your student, even if it is after Christmas.

Some of you may even hear from a student that you (and we) thought was no longer in school. Sometimes they return. If you are confused by communication you receive from Bangladesh or if you do not hear from your student by the end of January, contact our office. We have contacted many of you individually and continue to work our way through current student lists. As with any school, student lists are constantly changing, but we try to stay as current as possible.

Receipts! Receipts! Receipts!

Receipts for your 2008 charitable contributions will be mailed in January 2009. By sending receipts yearly, we are able to conserve more funds to help the children.

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

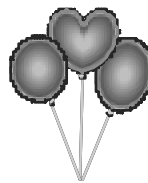
Thank You

~Agnes Williamson continues to recycle aluminum cans to help with needs in Bangladesh. She reports the price is 65 cents per pound. Others are helping her by saving their cans for her.

~Ryan Wilkinson, Ethan Kamerman, Dr. Becky Cote, Rolf & Judy James, Roger Cook, and Jim Brewer for being so willing to transport luggage locally and to Bangladesh.

~Joanie & Harold Fair for continuing to lovingly supply us with beautiful 'Thank You Quilts'

~Melody Mason, while visiting the orphanage, taught the kids Bible stories during two class periods every day, had worships for the kids in the evening, and two staff worships daily. Of course we can't forget all the hugs she gave and the photos she took.



IN HONOR OF

Father, Paul's 91st birthday
by Arla Zabolotney

Richard & Debbie Bernhardt
by Ann Butte

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Myrna Fern Cummings

by William & Bonnie Fields
by Mrs. Molly Waddell
by Bill & Joye Meyer

Gladys Grant

by Margaret Jackson
by Jack & Patsy Vazquez
by Lala Tinning

