



Bangla Hope

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

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FROM TRAGEDY TO PEACE

Beverly Waid

Their simple home was small though there were seven members in the family. They worked hard just to survive. Despite the tight living quarters and the hard work, the parents loved their children and determined to make the best life possible for their five girls. They wanted for their family what most parents want.

In Bangladesh where adequate food and clean water is only a dream for most, susceptibility to disease is a constant threat. Shantona, one of the five sisters, was very young when her father died. The mother tried to keep her family together—she had lost her husband, how could she bear to lose more? Eventually hunger forces us to face reality and make the best decision based on the options available.

Shantona, though only eight years old, left home and went to work as a servant girl. The work was tedious and hard. The routine was the same every day of the week and every day of the year—cleaning, cooking, washing dishes, and washing clothes.

Three years ago Shantona changed employers. She had no way of knowing the impact that decision would have on her life. Shantona was raped at work by her employer. When he realized she was pregnant, he hastened to solve his problem. He told Shantona to tell no one of her pregnancy. If she did, he would kill her. He handed her a little money and told her to get out.

Where would she go? What would she do to survive?

Shantona traveled by bus to Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, that fifteen million people call home. She wondered what she could do as she wandered the streets. With no apparent possibilities, she rode the bus south to Gopalganj. There were still lots of people, but nothing like Dhaka. While in Gopalganj, Shantona heard about the South Mission. She found it and went inside the fenced church compound. She walked around, taking in all the sights and sounds. At last she felt safe. She didn't want to leave. When she shared her story with some of the church leaders, they knew they wanted to help her. The treasurer said she could live at their house and help his wife. Little Jolee Shanti was born at the mission. Shantona named her baby

Shanti which means peace in Bangla. Tragedy turned to peace.

Shantona continues to work at her job and little Jolee Shanti lives in our orphanage, one more child rescued. Together we can give her hope and a future.

FROM DAVE'S DESK



Miracles—I've seen many through the last few months. In the last newsletter I wrote about the verbal threats and the beating of one of our workers by three or four young village men. We're grateful Litton, the worker who was beaten, made a full recovery and is back on the job. The continued threats were tiring and unnerving for our workers at the orphanage. Local political leaders visited the orphanage, saw the well-cared-for children, and told us they will do everything they can to help us. They also had a few words for the troublemakers from the village—quit causing trouble or go to jail. It appears the young men realized the political leaders meant what they said. They have caused no more problems, and that has been without our even having to file legal paperwork against them. With threats and violence halted, we continue working without fear, and I'm assured again that God wants us to keep helping these children.

Yearly, we are faced with audits and scrutiny by the NGO (non-governmental organization) Bureau. Since rules change frequently and without warning, we never know for sure what the outcome will be. This year, because of tighter restrictions and new regulations, our funds in Bangladesh were frozen for about four months. The situation was beginning to get critical, but thankfully, funds for operation were released for use.

The first floor of the medical clinic is operational. Two different medical groups are preparing to go to Bangladesh early in 2010, and they will bring medical equipment and supplies. The medical clinic has a three-story foundation so we are able to build up. Approximately \$10,000 will complete the second floor which will provide housing for our nurse, her family, and for her assistant.

Another huge blessing for Bangla Hope is a home which was donated here in the states. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help with the expenses of building the second floor of the orphanage. My plan is



to begin building soon after we arrive in Bangladesh and trust that another \$20,000 will come in so we can complete the second floor.

We're also thankful we can employ around thirty ladies with handicraft. Many of these ladies have no other way to support themselves. The cross stitch, embroidery, and other craft projects they do are exquisite.

Last year was the best year financially Bangla Hope has ever experienced. Praise God and thank you to each of you for being a channel of blessing. The faithful support of those who want to help children half way around the world is inspiring. Though 2008 was up in donations, 2009 donations seem to be reflecting the economic downturn. Operating funds to support the nearly one hundred children in the orphanage, 550 students in the village schools, and 270 in boarding schools has dropped. I'm sure some of our sponsors are having trouble meeting their own living expenses which makes it difficult to support their student, but perhaps some have just forgotten to send the monthly tuition. If you have a question about your student's tuition being up to date, give us a call. The "As Needed" donations are also a vital part of Bangla Hope. Those funds are used for whatever is most urgent, and there always seem to be urgent needs that arise.

Beverly, Bristi, and I have visited several churches this summer to share the stories of the people of Bangladesh. We were blessed as we met with you. Thank you for the support you gave. Blessings to each of you as you reach out and serve.

WAID'S DEPARTURE



Dave and Beverly departed for Bangladesh on October 5th. They are eager for the 96 exuberant hugs and kisses that are waiting for them when they arrive.

They are taking sticker packets for each village school teacher to use in their classroom. We might not consider that as anything very special, but for the teacher and students in Bangladesh, it is a rare treat. Thank you for helping make that happen.

Please join the office staff in praying for their safety and strength as they continue helping God's children in Bangladesh!

GIFT IDEAS

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?

Some supporters of Bangla Hope have chosen, in lieu of giving gifts at holiday times and birthdays, to give a donation to help the children in Bangladesh. We have Thank You cards and envelopes available for you to share with loved ones to let them know of your gift in their honor. Contact our office and let us know how many cards you would like.

Some specific projects that you might consider are:
Village School Needs:

Bulletin boards - \$30/each

Boarding School Student Needs:

Scientific calculators - \$30/each

Orphanage Needs:

Cribs - \$90/each

Bunk beds - \$150/each

Shoes - \$8/pair

Coats for children - \$10/each

LIVING IN BANGLADESH

Dr. Rebekah Cote

~Electricity is very temperamental. Bangla Hope has some computers at the orphanage in the business office and I tried to send some e-mails, but often would lose them as the electricity would blink off. There is a generator at the orphanage, but the high cost of diesel (\$3.00/gal.) prevents them from using it unless absolutely necessary.

~The right hand is the one that people eat with and shake hands with. This is the "clean" hand. The left hand is the "dirty" hand and is used to clean, etc.

~Lots of people go to the bathroom anywhere. If you decided to use the squat, it can be located by the house, over the creek, or most anywhere. It is called a squat for good reasons. You squat over a hole and then use some water to "swish clean" (with the left hand of course) and then pour some water down the hole in the squat.

~The monsoon season is in the summer. There is often lots of flooding, especially in the south. One native told me that most of the people in his village move up and live on the roads and paths in the rainy season. All the water seems dirty—they use it for bathing, washing dishes, drinking, washing cows, etc.

~Bangladesh is mostly Muslim. Each mosque has a priest and they pray loudly (often with a megaphone) several times a day. It is more like a chant/wail and is VERY LOUD. The priests obviously do not take voice lessons! The prayers usually start about 5:15 am. I started calling them the "mourning prayers."

~You take off your shoes frequently. You only wear them to get from one building to another. You take them off before entering houses, churches, or school buildings.

~During the growing season, the intense green of the landscape is the predominant crop of Bangladesh—rice. We saw an occasional "mud tractor" but usually there were two or three men or boys (occasionally a water buffalo) pulling a wood yoke with a weight on it to level the rice fields. The people do almost all planting, irrigating, weeding, harvesting, and threshing by hand. After harvest, the rice is laid out on a cement slab or even on the road to dry. Sometimes the rice is three to six inches deep.

~Fishing is another common site. The small fish are sometimes put out on mats by the riverbank to dry.

~There are many brick factories, especially near Dhaka. Mud is put in a mold, dried, and put in huge ovens to cure. Good bricks are used for roads and "expensive houses." Damaged bricks are used to make concrete. There are NO rocks in Bangladesh.

~The Bengali people do not say the short sound of "a" so it sounds like "Bongladesh" and "Bongla" Hope. They speak Bengali which is close to the Hindi Indian language.

~Bangladesh exports garments, fish, shrimp, tea and leather. They IMPORT rice. They cannot grow enough to feed everyone.

~There are people everywhere! Most people have very little but are very hospitable and generous. About 150 million live in Bangladesh—it's like cramming half the population of the U.S. into the state of Iowa!

ANOTHER MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

Dr. Cote is returning to Bangladesh, for the third time, in January 2010. She and her colleagues will again treat hundreds of villagers who have little or no access to medical care.

SPONSOR A BAG TO BANGLADESH

Thank you to all who are helping pay for shipping bags to Bangladesh! The airlines excess baggage fees for one bag have increased to almost \$200. Costs for shipping bags to those traveling to Bangladesh this year is approximately \$50. Mark your donation "Bags to Bangladesh."

POCKET MONEY DONATIONS

Thank you all so much for including pocket money with your tuition donation. The children, especially those in the Gopalganj school, who seem to be the poorest of the poor, use it for much needed items.

We also appreciate the pocket money for the Bangla Hope orphans—it provides nice Christmas gifts as well as other special items for them.

PAYMENT OPTION ON OUR WEBSITE

In case you didn't know—you can donate on our website using your credit/debit cards directly. You may also continue donating through PayPal if you like.

REMINDERS



Do you feel a little stressed trying to remember everything that needs to get done on a yearly basis? We, at Bangla Hope, can help! Just call our office and we will add your name and contribution date to our Annual/Semi-Annual Reminder List.

BANGLA HOPE HANDI CRAFTS



We all need cards or book-marks 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 and book-marks are both just \$3.00 each.



SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank You



~Carolyn W. for all the embroidery thread for the Handicraft ladies to use. It should last quite awhile.

~Agnes W., "the junk lady," for her devotion to our kids. Agnes & her friends collect aluminum cans and when the price goes up, she takes them to the salvage company. Recently she stuffed her little Dodge Neon with 184 lbs. (3 trips) worth of cans.

~Many wonderful people contributed New Clothing

Naomi M.	Grace F.
Ruth S. & friends	Monica M.
June S. & friends	Jean C.
Sue R.	Balynda S.
Joan F.	Susan B.
Shirley B.	Nadyne W.
Janette B.	Ruby W.
Rita F.	Grace M.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Gloria Bandy

By: Glenn C. Blackwood	Mary Ella Johnson
Nellie Davis	Nytta Norton
Claudia Flaiz	Ron & Carol Putman
Lea & Gudmundur Olafsson	
LeRoy & Helen Heavirland	
Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists	

My Mother & Father

By: Glenna Hockley

Mr. Libertini

By: Bev Holland
Naomi Matteson

Paul Lindstrom

By: Chuck & Susan Anderson	John Dreyer
Ken & Patty Crews	Patti Lutz
Robert & Marilyn Johnson	Dr. Clifford Tym
Peter & Eleanor Reyeses	Geraldine Woods
Perk & Lala Tanning	Pat & Clويد Watts
Dave & Beverly Waid	
Michael & Sharon Haverkamp	
LeRoy & Helen Heavirland	

Ken Rothgeb

By: Jim & Jean Rothgeb

Mary Jane Swanson

By: Naomi Matteson

Audrey Wigen

By: LeRoy & Helen Heavirland



IN HONOR OF

Jared Wright's generous living!
By Jeanne Hildebrand