



Bangla Hope

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

No. 91

Spring 2017

A One of a Kind Celebration

By Robyn Griffin

Friday evening, December 30, 2016, was no doubt a day in Bangladesh that was filled with parties, feasting, dancing, and exuberant celebrations for many families. However, on the campus of Bangla Hope these parties were strangely missing, but in their place a different sort of celebration was taking place. Students from the 8th grade had spent extra time cleaning and preparing their room for a one of a kind celebration to which faculty, staff, and older students were invited to participate.

For more than a month the 8th grade class had been sitting on pins and needles wondering what would be their exam results. The last week of November had been every student's nightmare...the dreaded national examination. Their destinies hung in the balance as each student was tested to see if they qualified for the 9th grade. If a student failed in one subject, then, the entire 8th grade year must be repeated. Nerves were on edge, half-dozen pencils were sharpened, and identity papers accompanied each student as they traveled the necessary miles to the examination center daily for over a week.

After the final exam was completed, the exhausted 8th graders from Bangla Hope begged to be allowed to come home and begin their Christmas vacation a few days early. Of course, we brought them home as

quickly as possible. Let Christmas begin! But the nagging thoughts continued to crouch in the recesses of each mind as each 8th grader seriously contemplated whether they had indeed passed and were able to move on to new classes and advanced challenges.

Rumors had it that on December 28 the results

would be made public. That day came and went and the anticipation intensified. Then, late in the afternoon of the 29th the anticipation reached its climax as results began to trickle in leaving hearts beating quicker and palms unusually damp. Nationwide shouts of joy intermingled with tears of anguish as individual results

dawned on the consciousness of each student. Each individual had been given their examination number and as the numbers rolled across the computer screens each Bangla Hope student held their breath. The high-est score that could be obtained was 5.00.

Suddenly, the first Bangla Hope student's number appeared and all fifteen students followed in succession...

Rebecca	4.35	Melanie	4.75
Bristy	4.75	Jennie	4.55
Sherry	4.45	Moni	4.50
Kimberly	4.15	Joshua	4.20
Kami	4.25	Danny	4.40
Marissa	3.70	Joseph	3.93
Diana	4.15	Caleb	4.10
Konny	4.15		

Tears of joy did take place along with hugs and prayers of thanksgiving. However, within a matter of minutes the class gathered in an emergency meeting to plan their one of a kind celebration. The class immediately requested to have the Friday evening sun-down worship to publicly share with the campus what great things God had done for them and to plan for their one of a kind celebration. They knocked at my door and asked if they could quietly gather in the girl's apartment on the fourth floor after worship to sing songs of praise, share personal testimonies, give financial love offerings, and to praise the King of Kings and Lord of Lords for what He had done for them. He is the One that deserved the praise! He is the One who had given them the victory!

Look around the world...where can you find fourteen and fifteen year olds who would rather choose a prayer/praise meeting over a party to honor one's own achievements?

Lead on new 9th graders of Bangla Hope! Your influence is being felt! I'm expecting great things from you!! Continue to change the world!!



An Update on Kakoli

By Robyn Griffin

We have been blessed by your generous hearts with donations totaling over \$3000 for her doctor's bills & possible surgeries. Now, here's the rest of the story...

The Bangla Hope van arrived late in the evening of February 21, 2017, at our apartment in Dhaka. Our mission was two fold: to take six girls to Dr. Lorna's Dental Clinic for various dental problems, and to see a plastic surgeon about Kakoli's cleft lip repair.

Kakoli was one of the girls scheduled to see Dr. Lorna on the morning of the 22nd. I was aware that part of Kakoli's problem was due to her teeth, but I had not realized the extent of the problem. I had not asked her specifically to open her mouth and show me her teeth...it's not something that I generally do...at least not until now. We sent Kakoli down to Dr. Lorna expecting her to care for a misshapen front tooth, but I was fully surprised when she returned sporting a new set of braces. It was at that moment that I noticed the huge under bite that has plagued her for her entire life. This also has been a culprit in throwing her jaw out of place adding to her facial problems. She said that she has always had difficulty biting carrots or apples and was delighted to find out that after a year or two her bite would be correct.

The next afternoon we arrived at Dr. Abdul Mabin, the plastic surgeon whom we hoped would be the right man for the job. He is a specialist at United Hospital in Dhaka. After explaining the situation and examining Kakoli, Dr. Mabin suggested that the surgery would likely be more permanent if it was **postponed until she was eighteen or nineteen years old**, but was willing to precede if we decided that we wanted it done now. However, he said that one of the problems that she was having was with polyps in her nasal cavities and possibly other issues, and that she should see an ENT to have these issues corrected prior to his operating.

Moments later we were sitting in the office of Dr. Rakib Hossain, a specialist in the department of ENT & Head and Neck Surgery within the same hospital. As we spoke, Dr. Hossain became seriously interested in the work of Bangla Hope, giving me his phone number and email address and offering his services to bless the children and villagers in our community.

While we continued to talk he had his nurses prep Kakoli for a nasal exam with a specialized camera. The visual exam was just as shocking. Her septum (cartilage and bone that separate her nasal cavities) instead of being straight is shaped something like an "S" with polyps lining both sides of her nasal passages. There was little room for air to pass!! Kakoli was probably born with these problems, so to her this was "normal". Dr. Hossain wanted to operate the following day. Out of the corner of my eye I saw Kakoli's eyes widen and knew that this was something that she was going to have to process.

"We will be returning to Dhaka on March 19 for her braces to be tightened...do you mind if I have a few minutes to speak with Kakoli before we make our decision?"

"No problem," the doctor responded, "I was just trying to find a way to keep your trips to Dhaka at a minimum."

When we were alone Kakoli pled, "Can I please have the surgery in March?"

This only confirmed my suspicion that she would need time to process and be prepared.

Dr. Hossain told us the surgery including her two-day stay in the hospital would run Tk 60,000 or the equivalent of \$750. I'm certain that the price reflects the kindness of Dr. Hossain.

Braces for her teeth will run about 25,000 takas or \$312, which reflects the kindness of Dr. Lorna.

Her plastic surgery, if done in the near future, would cost 125,000 Takas or \$1562. However, we will likely hold off on the plastic surgery until she is between eighteen and nineteen to allow her nose and teeth time to settle and fully heal in order to assure the best results.

I wish to express my deep appreciation for those who are making this "Christmas gift" possible. I cannot fully convey the joy that I experience accompanying Kakoli to the various doctors. Even though she is a little afraid, she feels loved through the many prayers and donations from people she doesn't even know.



From Dave's Desk (via Hazel's desk)

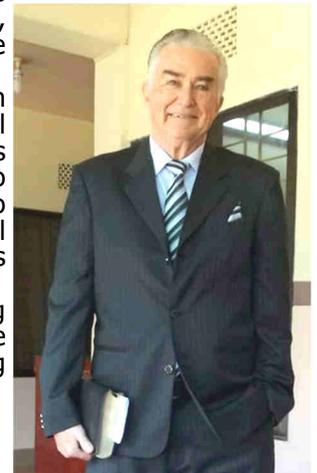
In 1993 I discovered where Bangladesh was. We'd sponsored children there for about six years, but I didn't pay much attention to the location—I just knew we were helping feed, clothe, and educate eight children. The adventure began when we decided we wanted to get some gifts for the children!

We made phone calls and finally reached Louie Thayer who traveled from southern California to Bangladesh periodically. In November 1993, I joined Louie for my first of many trips to Bangladesh. It was memorable. Getting through customs on arrival was an experience I'll never forget—I was just glad I didn't end up in jail!

For two weeks I toured the country, visited schools, and melted in the heat. I think my heart melted too when I met the children and heard some of their stories. As I was getting ready to leave the country, Simson asked if I would help. *I guess I could talk to some friends, maybe a few local churches.* Our local church agreed to run donations through their books so donors could receive tax receipts. As more donors came on board, we knew we had to make some changes.

Mike Ryan, a gentleman who attended our local church, set up our financials on computer and continued to donate his time. He was so much help but after several months he told me he was planning to quit.

Hmmmm, what was I going to do? By then in 1997, we had enough donations coming in that I certainly didn't want



to revert to the paper and pencil method.

At the church I attended I had a friend by the name of Gary. I knew he was knowledgeable in computers. "Gary, come with me to see Mike." He agreed. He had no idea how that visit would change his life.

Mike had assured me it would only take a few minutes for him to show me what to do on the computer. Indeed, it did only take a few minutes. When he finished his tutorial, I responded, "I have no idea what you're talking about."

There was a silent pause.

"I know what he's talking about," Gary responded. "I'll help you." (Sigh, *my plan had worked!*)

That three-word sentence, "I'll help you," was about to change Gary Fisher's life for about the next twenty years.

Gary hates flying, well I probably should say Gary HATES flying. Surprisingly about a year later, he agreed to go with me to Bangladesh. It was on that trip over that he became pretty well convinced he had lost his mind when he agreed to such a trek. Soon after arriving, we started traveling to village and boarding schools. Gary spent time looking through financial records at each boarding school. One day as he sat in a small room outside the principal's office, he noticed a young man going in to see the principal. Gary halted his work only when loud crying suddenly erupted from the principal's office. *Probably kids in deep trouble*, he thought. Then the principal appeared and invited Gary into his office where three sober-faced young men sat with dejected looks on their faces.

"What can I do?" asked the principal. "I get this same story over and over. These students want to continue their education but they still owe money on their bills."

The total bill for the three students was \$450. Gary agreed to pay the balances. One of those students was Litton with whom a special bond formed. Gary continued to help support Litton through his secondary, college, and master's program. Gary had no idea he was helping educate the future CFO for Bangla Hope.

During the years Gary saw many needs in Bangladesh, worked to alleviate them, and found a special joy in blessing others.

Over the next twenty years, Gary flew to Bangladesh nine times. He volunteered hundreds of hours, and contributed financially to students and projects. Last year Gary decided it was time to retire from his volunteer position with Bangla Hope. He's probably found plenty of local projects to keep him busy.

Twenty years later, I'm pretty sure Gary still HATES flying, but he did it a lot of times to bless the children and students.

The Bangla Hope team wishes to thank you. But we've been friends a long time, Gary, and I want to personally thank you for your service and care for the people in Bangladesh. Blessings to you in your current adventures.

Financial Update

Through **January 31, 2017**, we have received funds for the following projects in the amounts shown:

Multipurpose building (Church)	\$92,771 of \$130,000
Education complex	\$160,900
Security wall	\$55,494.38 of \$80,500
Cyclone damage repair	\$ 3,180 of \$ 4,035

Security Wall Progress

The existing part of the wall is getting some finishing touches as we await more funding. The wall is first built with brick and then covered with concrete to aid in strengthening.

INTERIOR VIEW



EXTERIOR VIEW

Special People Helping Children

In Honor of

Amy Sherrard's 99th birthday
By Bob & Anne Murphy

Carol Young
By Chery Gallant

Norman Price
Wanda Wendt
By Al Wiggins

In Loving Memory of

Jean Phelps
Leonard Squier
George Chappell
Gary Holland
Chris Chappell
By Ruth Squier

Leonard Squier
Gary Holland
Brenda Chappell
By Bev Holland

Jackie Heidinger
By Sue McCarthy

Bill & Dorothy Schook
By Jack & Avanel Stark

Paul Zabolotney
By Arla Zabolotney
& Grizzly

Ron Brady
Kathy Fisher
John & Nellie Brewer
Muriel Van Wyke
By Al Wiggins

Bob & Elma Isaacs
By Berwyn & Barbara Rogers

James Johnson
By Bryan and Konny Brandon

THE GROWTH

- 1987—Dave & Beverly Waid began sponsoring 8 children in Bangladesh
- 1993—Dave visited Bangladesh and was asked to help get sponsors for children
- 1994—Dave began sharing information with friends and local churches, sponsoring 200 children
- 1995—Dave and Beverly, self-supporting volunteers, both visited Bangladesh
- 1997—Dave and Beverly began living in Bangladesh four to six months each year
- 2005—New receiving center for abandoned babies/toddlers opened
- 2006—Eleven new village schools opened
- 2007—Land purchased for new orphanage
- 2008—Staff housing and first floor of new orphanage completed
- 2012—Second floors of Orphanage & Medical Clinic completed
- 2013—Third floor of Medical Clinic begun
- 2016—Educational needs of over 1000 students being met



BANGLA HOPE CONTACT INFORMATION
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 9am—3pm (PT)

USA (checks)

Phone: (509) 586-4259
 PO Box 6853
 Kennewick, WA 99336
 Website: www.banglahope.org
 Email address: children@banglahope.org

Student Correspondence Only

Bangla Hope
 Student Name & Number
 Village: Hazrapur
 Post Office: Mazina (Uchai)
 Upozila: Panchbibi, District: Joypurhat

I would like to sponsor:

- () Receiving Center Orphan __Boy __Girl \$35 monthly co-sponsor or \$420 yearly
- () \$100 monthly full sponsor or \$1200 yearly
- () Boarding School Student __Boy __Girl. \$25 monthly co-sponsorship or \$300 yearly
- () \$40 monthly full sponsorship or \$480 yearly
- () Village School Student (No personal information) \$13 monthly or \$140 yearly
- () Total Village School Sponsorship (with updates and photos of school and children)
- () 20 students \$2,800 yearly () 30 students \$4,200 yearly

I would like to donate and help:

Security Fencing	\$ _____	Church Building	\$ _____
Orphanage	\$ _____	Feeding Fund	\$ _____
Blankets	\$ _____	Use as Needed	\$ _____
Office Expense	\$ _____	Other _____	\$ _____
Medical Fund	\$ _____	Orphans	\$ _____
My sponsored child's tuition	\$ _____	Pocket Money	\$ _____

I would like to donate using my credit card:

Name on Card _____ E-mail _____
 Billing Address _____ Phone _____
 Type of Card _____ Number _____ Exp. _____ Sec. Code _____
 Total amount \$ _____ (Circle one) Monthly Quarterly Yearly One-Time Only
 Signature (Required for Recurring Charges) _____

>> Tax Receipts will be mailed in January for donations made in the prior year <<

"We make a living by what we get, But we make a life by what we give."
 ~Winston Churchill