



Bangla Hope

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

Special Edition

January 2008

No Room in the Village

By Beverly Waid

Simson and Monita spread their mats on the dirt floor of their small hut. The wind was increasing, but their uneasy feeling didn't stop them from caring for their two little girls. Simson slept on the narrower mat, while Monita slept on the wider one with their eleven-month old and their eleven-day old baby girls. Monita nursed them often so it was easier this way. They were all still close together because their house was so small.

The howling wind and the nursing woke Monita often. What about their crops? Would their house survive? Would they survive? Then she'd drift off into a troubled sleep for a little longer only to be awakened again and again.

The loud thud catapulted Monita out of bed. The wind still shrieked, but now it's blast seemed to be hitting her directly. As her eyes adjusted to the midnight darkness, she saw a tree stretched across her husband's mat. She braced herself as she tried to lift it from his body. Again and again she tried, but it wouldn't budge. Her desperate screams for help intermingled with the

roar of the wind. The only response was the continued roar. Was anyone even alive to hear her cries for help?

After what seemed like an eternity, help came to lift the tree from the lifeless body of Simson. Could he maybe have survived if he hadn't been pinned for three hours? What would she do now without a husband and with two small girls to care for? She felt so alone. As Monita mourned and contemplated her options, her husband's family came. There were no condolences, only some curtly muttered instructions. "You must take your babies and leave. Go back to your people. Go now."

A few hours had changed so much. Monita took her babies with only the clothes they were

wearing and walked to a nearby school. The man at the school knew about a place that gives hope—Bangla Hope. He helped make arrangements and do necessary legal documents so the girls could come to our receiving center/orphanage.

They arrived early December 22—a young woman whose life was in chaos and two babies whose lives had been tragically changed in a few short hours. One of our board members was in Bangladesh at the time. He gave Monita enough money to build a little hut by her stepbrother's home. The stepbrother is the only family she has. We gave her some clothes for herself. She knelt in front of me with tears running down her cheeks. "Take good care of my babies. Please take good care of them!"

We will, Monita, we will.

Cyclone Sidr with its 140 mph winds left its footprints all over Bangladesh November 15, 2007. We are hearing from more people with equally tragic stories. More children need a home where their basic needs are met.

Our building contractor for the orphanage gave a bid to add the second floor to the structure if we want to continue construction following completion of the first floor. Another \$100,000 will provide almost another 10,000 square

feet. This additional space on the second floor will provide classrooms and offices. If

they are on the second floor, there will be more space on the first floor for orphaned children who have nowhere to go.

We want to leave footprints in Bangladesh too, not of destruction, like Cyclone Sidr, but of compassion for the children who have suffered so much. Let's do it together.



First floor of staff housing on the "rise"

Thank you for helping to make all this possible!!



Our orphanage walls are taking shape



Villagers helping to straighten the school



VILLAGE SCHOOL REPAIR

Repair of cyclone-damaged village schools should be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. We are thankful there have been no reports of death or serious injury to our village school students. Praise God! Pictures on our website show more of the repairs in progress.

BANGLA HOPE HANDICRAFTS

Bangla Hope Handicrafts now employs eighty Bengali ladies, some of whom have no other way to support themselves and their families. You can view samples of their beautiful cross stitch work on our website. Choose your favorites and call our office with your order.

We need more locations here in North America where we can display and sell the cross stitch cards and bookmarks. We provide the display basket and everything you'll need to help these ladies support themselves. If you know of a place, call us at 509-586-4259.



Dave & Beverly Waid excited to see a dream coming true for the children of Bangladesh!

Check our website, www.banglahope.org, for additional pictures.



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