

Don't Stop Caring for Me!

My name's Lizbeth and I live at **Bangla Hope Orphanage**. I came here when I was sooooo small. I am very afraid of everything and when someone new comes to visit I run and hide behind my caregiver, Auntie Sabanna. She is very good to me and I love her. It is so nice here. I get nice clothes and three good meals every day. I learn about Jesus here and I know many songs about how He loves me and cares



for me. I feel safe here. Grammy and Poppy Waid live on the same floor as I do. I have learned to love them too. I heard Poppy say that some of the sponsors are having a hard time financially and he hopes they won't stop sponsoring us! It makes me scared to think it might be me! I don't want to leave here! Where would I go? I hope those sponsors understand how important it is to keep sponsoring me and my friends. That's the only way we are able to have nice, clean clothes and breakfast, lunch and dinner. He also said there's not enough money to make the wall around our orphanage or the second floor which will give us our classrooms and nice big church room. I hope someone will send more money so we can have a wall to protect us. We are going to love to run and play outside. I've never been able to do that for we still live here in the city. It's very dirty outside and there's no place to play. If we don't have a wall it won't be safe for all the children to play outside. I want to know what being out in the fresh air is like. I want to play in the dirt and see bumble bees on the flowers. I want to see mango and papaya trees and God's beautiful blue sky. I want to hear the birds sing and see their nests up in the trees. I love going to church and I'm learning so many new things there. I hope we can have a nice place to go to church. I love wearing my clean church dress and carrying my purse. They say you sent them for me and my friends. Thank you for making my life so nice. I hope you will send extra this time so we can build our wall and second floor. I got to go play now, so bye.

..... from Elizabeth

FROM DAVE'S DESK



About every time I get gas for my car I'm shocked. When I left for Bangladesh last October, the price was about \$2.75 per gallon. Food prices are soaring also.

All across North America we are feeling the crunch. It's rough, but according to a recent news report, "U.S. households still spend a smaller chunk of their expenses for foods than in any other country—7.2 percent in 2006 . . ." In Poland it was 22 percent. Egyptians and Vietnamese were using about 40 percent of their income for food. I wonder how my budget would fare with those percentages? But then I was listening to a radio talk show last month and learned my budget figures would be totally rearranged if I lived in a third-world country. The host commented that many of those people are now using 80 percent of their income for food. Wow!!

Of course my mind turns to Bangladesh. Having lived there four to six months yearly for the past 13 years, I've seen how the poor suffer from hunger and exposure, and the poor are the huge majority of the population. I've seen the price of rice and dahl, two main staples of their diets, rise. Prices of vegetables have skyrocketed. Price escalation of all foods continue at an unprecedented rate. Many of you have heard the stories on news reports.

The severe flooding last year and then Cyclone Sidr contributed to these increased food costs. Regardless of the cause, the results are the same—starving people. In some areas, their survival depends on tapioca root and the insects they catch that day.

Schools are struggling with ways to feed their students. Expenses continue to rise reflecting the increased food costs for students and faculty. What else can the school's administration do?

Our U.S. tuition reserves that help fill in the gaps when a sponsor doesn't pay have dwindled. Two contributing factors are some sponsors have discontinued their payments and costs at the schools continue to rise. Though we are committed to keeping students in school once we begin

sponsoring them, we have to look realistically at income and expenses. At the present time, we have about seventy-five students whose sponsors are not paying their tuition. We need new sponsors for these students if they are to remain in school.

We will prayerfully study each case individually because we don't want to send any student away, but we know we cannot continue paying for students if their sponsors are not paying month after month after month. We will be especially careful as we evaluate the situation with the young ladies. Their parents are already dealing with increased costs. If they have trouble feeding their family, a daughter coming home likely would be forced into marriage.

Our village school program is one of the most economical ways to impact students and their families. Since the students live with their families, we do not need to provide housing. Here again, the one, nutritious meal each school day for the students is the major component in the increased costs. Because of your contributions we own eleven village schools. We also provide tuition and teachers for another village school. Sadly, one of our village schools remains empty because of inadequate funds to pay for a teacher, books, and food for the children.

Tuition paid by sponsors barely covers basic expenses, but sometimes there are additional needs—medical care, expenses related to government exams, etc. We should raise our tuition rates, but we know many of you sacrifice to sponsor your student(s) at the present rate. Rather than raising tuition to meet continually rising costs, we believe double sponsoring may be the best route to go.

How can you help? 1. Where possible, regularly meet your tuition commitment. I'm not speaking to the majority of you who already do. If you are unable to, let us know so we can try to find another sponsor to help. 2. If you can, sponsor other student. 3. Send a little extra to help build tuition reserves, medical, and hunger funds. 4. Share information with family, church family, and friends. We have materials to help you. 5. Most importantly, pray.

I would like to help with an extra donation for:

- Finishing the orphanage \$ _____
- Security wall \$ _____
- Increased food costs \$ _____
- Most urgent needs \$ _____
- Sponsor _____ new students
- _____ Village ~ \$13 monthly
- _____ Boarding ~ \$25 monthly
- _____ College ~ \$35 monthly
- _____ Receiving Center babies/toddlers ~ Full sponsorship \$100 monthly
- Co-sponsorship \$35 monthly

If you would like to donate via your credit card, contact our office for assistance. 509-586-4259

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____