



# Bangla Hope

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

No. 89

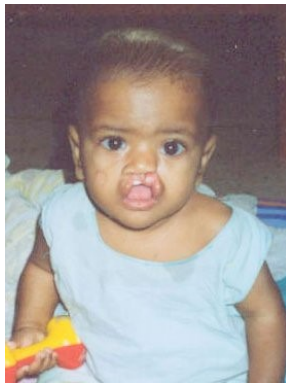
Autumn 2016

## A Christmas Present for Bangla Hope's Very First Orphan

By Robyn Griffin

The June 2004 edition of our Bangla Hope Newsletter begins with, "Nobody wants her?" That was Beverly's response to a Bengali physician who was attempting to place the child in a worthy home in Bangladesh. The small infant, Kakoli, had been born to a young maid serving in an affluent home in Dhaka. The chauffer for the family had taken a liking to the new little maid, took advantage of her, and she became pregnant.

At the news, the chauffer fled leaving the maid to fend for herself. The kind physician had taken an interest in the little maid promising to help her find a family that would adopt her child. However, when the infant was born with a cleft lip nobody wanted her. Finally, the physician asked Beverly and Dave if they were interested in taking the baby. Beverly jumped at the opportunity. The ministry paid for the surgery and became responsible for Kakoli's care. One year later Bangla Hope Orphanage received their NGO status, and Kakoli became the very first Bangla Hope orphan.



Fast-forward twelve years! Kakoli recently turned thirteen years old and is now a lively seventh-grader at a nearby boarding school. Her favorite class is math. She loves drawing and coloring. She hopes to go to college to study nursing or teaching. Life couldn't be much better except for one thing.

The physician who repaired Kakoli's cleft lip when she was months old was not fully able to repair her facial features to give her a fully beautiful smile. Through the years Kakoli has learned to live with the fact that beauty is more

than skin deep. But if the potential is there to fully repair the problem, why not make a difference, particularly as she enters the delicate and often cruel adolescent years.

Kakoli doesn't know I'm sharing this story with you. I'd love it if together we could make her beautiful smile even MORE beautiful. When I return to Bangladesh in October, I want to talk with Kakoli—would she like to have the

surgeries? She'll need to understand there's going to be a lot of pain. Will she think it's worth it? If she does, we'll proceed with appointments, scans, etc. Then we'll know the estimate for the necessary procedures.

Kakoli is already a jewel for Jesus, but there were days just last year when I pulled her aside to ask her what was wrong. Big tears would stream down her face and she would sit in silence. I'm sure that her heart is sometimes breaking, but she hesitates to truly voice how she feels.

She has a three week vacation at Christmas when she could begin this journey, if she would like, and we know we have the support of donors. Before any funds are contributed, we want to make sure she wants the procedures. Call our office @ 509-586-4259 or send a message through our website, [banglahope.org](http://banglahope.org), to let us know if you would like to help Kakoli.

## Blessings at Every Turn

By Robyn Griffin

In the midst of a world falling apart, we often ask questions as did Gideon when confronted by the angel in the wine press, "But sir...if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

If we just look we can begin to recognize HUGE blessings that daily surround us! Since the last newsletter, blessings continue to be poured on Bangla Hope at every turn. Following are a few of the projects generated by those blessings:

**Security Wall**—Since January there have been a number of changes on our campus. First, our sewage pond has been relocated to a recently purchased rice field.

The new deep well is located on another piece of newly acquired property. Having the well and pump located within the walled campus was vital so we chose to begin building in that area. Presently the west side of the campus, approximately 900 feet, is protected by the wall. The solid brick wall will reduce the noise and dust from the dirt road right outside the campus. We will continue with security fencing as additional funds become available.

As the wall goes up, we're questioning whether we want to lose the beautiful view to the south and east. We're exploring other available options to secure the campus and still enjoy the beautiful view.

Thank you so much for your loving support!



**Multi-purpose Building**—For approximately three years there has been much discussion about the need for a church building. We are currently worshipping in our cafeteria which is too crowded for everyone to eat or worship together.

The original idea was to build a church, but the huge need to get our administrative offices out of the Receiving Center (dormitory) initiated the idea to combine the two projects into one and term it the Multi-purpose Building.

Estimated costs of building such a complex figured at \$130,000. By late January we had approximately \$30,000 towards construction.

About the same time, the Executive Committee in Bangladesh voted to begin construction with the money that we had on hand, believing that God would continue to supply the funds as the needs arose. Great idea...but we had no building plans.

By late February, the still small voice became urgent that we must have building plans on paper. My response was always the same, "But I'm not an architect!!"

Reluctantly, I finally picked up some printer paper from Suchitra's office and borrowed a ruler and began to dream.

Early March, Litton asked, "Do you have any plans on paper for the Multi-purpose Building? I received an email asking for some."

I told him that I had ideas as a springboard for discussion, but nothing final! Litton scanned my crude drawing, and notes and emailed it stateside.

One week later, on a Wednesday afternoon the Executive Committee in Bangladesh examined the same crude drawing and voted unanimously to build it exactly how it was sketched. That evening the same Executive Committee walked the grounds measuring the property, praying for direction, and choosing the right location to build it.

The next morning I was on a Skype phone call with the American board discussing various issues when it was announced that we had been promised a donation of \$100,000 for our Multi-purpose Building! I hastened to the administrators' offices after hanging up, and we gathered in prayers of thanksgiving and awe of a God who knows all of our needs!

Friday morning, I hurriedly re-drew the building to adjust to the new location and submitted it to our builder. Excitement ran high on Sabbath morning, just prior to Sabbath School, as our entire campus met together at the building site and we dedicated the place to God as we participated in a groundbreaking ceremony. Sunday morning ground preparations for the building began.

When God moves...hold on tight!

However, our **immediate** concern is to have a building constructed that will house and educate our children who are currently attending a nearby boarding school. We are currently focusing our attention on the next part of this article.

**Educational Complex**—After arriving in Bangladesh last year it became evident that our children had grown up faster than our buildings! From the beginning, it has been the plan to educate our children through 10<sup>th</sup> grade on campus. But the years have passed and our first seventh graders came along and we had no place for them to study or a teacher to instruct them. It was decided to send them to a nearby boarding school. This created intense emotional trauma for our children—those who left for school and those who were left behind. Moving to a campus with 700 students was extremely difficult for our young group of 11-12 year olds.

Upon witnessing this scene of upheaval for our children

at such a young age, I vowed to carry through with the original plan to keep our children home until they were old enough to face life more prepared.

The present situation is two-fold: 1) the need for more classrooms for grades 7-10 as well as vocational arts classrooms; 2) more dormitory rooms to house our students. The Receiving Center currently has 7 classrooms and 6 offices occupying space that was intended for dormitory rooms. If we build an educational complex our situation will be solved.

Estimated cost of construction is \$325,000, about \$75,000 more than initially stated. People have asked, "Where are you going to get that kind of money?" My answer has been, "I don't know, but God does! He's up there paving the streets in gold...I guess He has enough!" But Satan is always around to speak doubt and to question whether we are truly heading in the right direction.

Then, about a month ago I received a phone call from Hazel, informing me that someone had donated \$10,000 for the complex. My heart thrilled! Truly, we were heading in the right direction!

Two weeks later two of our ladies walked into the living room with the news that we had just received a check for \$150,000 to help build the school building. We stopped everything that we were doing and thanked God for His wonderful love toward us!! I am convinced that this project is of the Lord...He just needs people to do His will. God...keep us in Your will!!!

If the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart to help with the project, mark your gift "Educational Complex."

*The U.S. Bangla Hope board met in September for our annual meeting. There was much discussion on the most urgent building needs, best locations for buildings on campus, and configuration and design of buildings. Research, planning, discussions, and prayer continue because we're eager to bring our family home.*

## Musical Instruments Needed

By Robyn Griffin

"So....when you arrive in Bangladesh are you planning on starting a choir?"

This was a common question that I received prior to leaving the States. Many people, particularly in the Northwest, know me as the man standing in front of a school choir. Although music wasn't my field of study in college, it became an avenue through which God allowed me to praise His name. And what a wonderful joy it has been to watch music touch the lives of young people as they traveled from church to church, proclaiming God as King! They, in turn, stirred the hearts of the congregation with songs and testimonies.

So the question was valid...would I indeed start a choir? The answer was, of course, an emphatic yes! The only problem...we don't have a piano, or piano player, or guitars, violins, accordions, nothing...but...we do have recorders.

Music classes began with recorders. The children are extremely eager to learn. Four small guitars and one regular sized guitar have been purchased and violins priced.

If you have a burden to help our music department, 3/4 sized classical guitars can be purchased in Bangladesh for \$90 and decent violins for \$125. So far, the only pianos I have seen are electronic and they usually run about \$200. Mark your donation "Music Fund."



## Unto the Least of These

By Robyn Griffin

Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart to seek to bring relief to those suffering in the world, but you had no idea where to start? It's common to see a person standing on the side of the road holding a sign reading "Will work for food!" Some are making more money per day than you are, tax free, so it takes the joy out of giving...we become callous and suspicious of all cries for help.

Two years ago, I was in the same boat! After reading *Christ's Object Lessons*, my heart became stirred with the thought "what can I do to aid the poor and suffering... and...who are the *real* poor and suffering. After nearly a month of prayer, God directed me to begin sponsoring a child at Bangla Hope. I had never even heard of Bangla Hope until a small group showed up at our church telling of their adventures of working with the children. On the way out of church, we walked passed the sponsorship table with case histories of available children. One little girl had her birthday on our wedding anniversary.

"Oh! We can't leave this little girl! Her birthday is on our anniversary!" I exclaimed. After signing up, we were at home and I was reading her story to my wife as she was preparing Sabbath lunch. We were saddened to find the little girl's mother had died giving birth to her twin sister!

"We can't send gifts and packages to one twin without sending things to the other!" I shouted to my wife in the kitchen. "It's almost like these girls were made for us, since our own daughter has twins."

A phone call on Monday, and we became the partial sponsors of Faith and Charity our new twin five-year-olds.

Two years later, and God has brought us from sponsoring the twins, to being the Executive Director for Bangla Hope America. The challenge now is convincing Faith and Charity that there are 149 other children that we are also responsible for and who need just as much attention. It's not everyday that someone approaches you and asks you to be "daddy" to 151 children! The joys are too numerous to express!! I'm really not the "daddy"...because Dave will ALWAYS be "Daddy", but I get to be "uncle"! It is a joy to walk down the corridor and have the children come running looking for a hug and needing to be told how special they are.

Wherever I turn, real needs abound. Children who are too young to have tumors, families who have no blankets, or people who are starving, the needs are endless.

If you are seriously looking for a way to invest in eternity you can consider the following needs:

### Villages

Blankets for the villagers  
Medical needs for villagers  
Food for villagers  
Clothing for villagers



### Bangla Hope Village Schools

These two schools are being highlighted this month because they have recently been flooded by heavy rains. We wish we could say this is an unusual occurrence. Unfortunately, it's often a yearly event. We need to raise the area with mud to help solve the problem.

### **Talpokuria Bangla Hope Village School**

School bell  
English dictionary  
English/Bangla dictionaries  
Repairing school benches  
Teacher's housing toilet facility  
Playground equipment—\$150  
Clean fill dirt (very difficult to find in that area because of sandy soil)  
School floor raised & concreted. - \$3,000

### **Suagram Bangla Hope Village School**

Wall clock (multiple)—\$50  
Chairs (2)  
Benches (10) — \$600  
School library  
Calculator—\$30  
Playground equipment —\$150

These are only a few of the needs that our eleven village schools have. If your heart is stirred and you want to make a difference in the world, you can be assured that 100% of your donation for the village schools will go to meet the needs of the students in those schools. The joy of being a part of God's hands is unfathomable! **Churches who have no church school to support in the States might consider combining with other churches in your district and adopting one of our schools!! Yearly reports, with photos, will be sent to keep you abreast of the progress your school is achieving. It will be far cheaper...but just as rewarding!!!**

## Special People Helping Children

### Thank You

**Arlene Jewell** for hat/scarf sets for students who go to boarding school each year

### In Honor Of

**Cindy Wiggins, daughter**

By Al Wiggins

### In Loving Memory of

**Gary Holland**  
**Brenda Chappell**  
**Chris Chappell**  
**George Chappell**  
By Bev Holland

**Art Lesser**  
**Vi Jones**  
**Anna Mae Buboltz**  
By Naomi Matteson

**Florence Miller**  
**JoAnn Miller**  
**Dale Ringering**  
**Leon Cornforth**  
By David K. Miller

**Cecyl Rentfro**  
By Bob Gilbert

**Jackie Heidinger**  
By Bryan & Konny Brandon

**Paul Zabolotney**  
By Arla Zabolotney

**Albert & Bertha Eisenman**  
By Crystal Kronner

**Fred & Betty Barlow**  
**Francie Wiggins**  
**Wallace & Rosa Wiggins**  
**John & Nellie Brewer**  
**Dad & Mildred Wisbey**  
By Al Wiggins

### Financial Update

Through August 31, we have received funds for the following projects in the amounts shown:

Multipurpose building (Church)	\$41,206 of \$130,000
Education complex	\$10,000
Security wall	\$36,633 of \$80,500
Cyclone damage repair	\$ 2,683 of \$ 4,035

