

NEWS

PROJECT FUNDS UPDATE

As of August 31, 2020

GIRLS' DORM

\$375,218.89 received of \$432,426

MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

\$162,193.50 received of \$270,819

16 PASSENGER VAN

\$11,543.99 received of \$52,000

NEEDY FAMILIES

\$10,315 received to date

VILLAGE SCHOOL COMPUTERS

\$1,190 received of \$8,800

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Thank you

GEORGE CHAPPELL

By Bev Holland

BRENT HILDERBRAND

By Nancy Teale

IN HONOR OF

Thank you

JUNE SEEBECK

(for sewing masks)

By Monika McGauley

SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you

CLARKSVILLE SDA CHURCH

• 18 lbs. Christian literature

Autumn 2020 • No. 105

Except the Lord Build the House By Robyn Griffin

In the last newsletter, I shared our concern for the the villagers around us. During this pandemic, many are out of work and they have little to no resources to help provide for their most basic needs. Many of the villagers are day-laborers who earn barely enough to live on when they have work. Once lockdown was implemented as a precaution against COVID-19, many of the villagers no longer had a way to support themselves.

One of our staff families, the Halders, did not want to merely help with a one-time handout, but wanted to do something that would have a more lasting impact. We learned of a widow, Rakha Bormon who had no means of support. Her home is very rundown due to her lack of funds to make needed repairs. The roof was barely intact and leaked like a sieve. The mud walls were almost sufficient only as long as it did not rain. During the rainy season, the walls would become waterlogged and deteriorate rapidly.

Soon it was determined that the only thing we could do was to replace the entire structure with a simple brick home covered with stucco and with a tin roof all of which would cost about \$2,800.

Tearing down the house was the first order of business which took less than a day. House construction began on July 26 and should be completed early September weather permitting.

This is the gospel in action! Not only is a woman provided with a badly needed home, but unemployed men are provided with badly needed work.

Words cannot express Rakha's joy and gratitude for her new home. What a joy it is to share the blessings of our Heavenly Father with neighbors who are beginning to understand the unlimited love of God. If you wish to be part of this outreach to our neighbors,



Rakha Bormon

please mark your gift "Homes for the poor". I am certain there are many others with the same need.

Rajoni Joins the Bangla Hope Family

The Bangla Hope Children's Home family recently increased in size by one sweet baby girl, Rajoni who lost her mother at birth. It is a story that is all too familiar to the impoverished villagers, but Rajoni's father who is a day-laborer had no one to help him care for his baby girl. He eventually made the very difficult and sacrificial decision to entrust his precious daughter into the care of Bangla Hope.

If you sense the Spirit of God directing you to help write the rest of Rajoni's story, please contact us at the US office to sign up to sponsor her.

You can help change this child's life today, and hopefully for eternity.



Rajoni Hembrom

Bangla Hope Children's Home Campus



In the middle of March, I picked up a newspaper and read the large headline, "Finally.....CORONA IN BANGLADESH". The headline seemed funny to me...almost as if everyone in the country was hoping to catch up with the rest of the world. Since then, things have not been so funny. When I last checked, Bangladesh listed 16th worldwide in the total number of cases by country. Sixty nine physicians have reportedly died of the virus and the number of cases continues to increase even during the heat of summer.

Despite implementing a lockdown on our campus, the virus eventually arrived on our doorstep, and we still are not certain how it got there. First to acquire COVID-19 was our cashier Tarini Soren who had open-heart surgery one and one half years ago. Tarini is husband to our Administrator Suchitra Soren. His symptoms came on suddenly. He began to feel weak, then his blood pressure plummeted to the point where he could not stand. Not many days following, Suchitra also became very weak and was soon unable to perform her duties.

The couple eventually had to be transported to the capital city of Dhaka via ambulance where they were admitted to hospital for a one-week stay. They have since been discharged and are on the mend, but are not yet fully recovered.

Next to fall victim to COVID-19 were Sanjib Halder, a teacher on our campus, and Mrs. Tapoti Boidya who

oversees our laundry services.

A week and a half later, Papri Tudu, our Receiving Center Director, began to also feel poorly. Within less than 24 hours, she had lost all strength and could not stand unaided. Papri was also transported to hospital via ambulance. She was found to have an infection in both lungs, but had to wait in an hotel until her COVID-19 test results returned. As it turned out, she did not have COVID-19, but was very ill.

We have had a number of children and youth with fevers and they are quarantined in our clinic. But so far, the young people have experienced nothing like the affected staff members have gone through. The rainy season has set in and when that happens, fevers, coughs and runny noses always follow. The children and youth affected have bounced back quickly, but our staff members affected have had a very difficult time of it. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we encounter these challenges.

If you desire to help defray some of these medical expenses it would be so appreciated. You can simply mark your gift "Emergency Fund" which is the fund we draw on to assist in such emergency cases, and as always, thank you so much!

Another Blessed Harvest

Last June, school on our campus closed. Teachers, staff and students came together and headed to the rice fields. This crop was especially blessed! We worked for six days which resulted in a harvest of 43,827 pounds of rice. 29,101 pounds were reserved for use by our children and youth and the remainder was sold. The profit realized was a whopping \$1,500 of much-needed income for our operating budget.

We thank the Lord for His blessings to us and anticipate another rich harvest in November.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

—Village School Students

Village school students receive tuition, books, supplies and a uniform. You will receive a photo, name, grade level and perhaps a bit of personal information as available. The tuition rate is \$20/month or \$220/ year.



Nirob Samadder
Male 1st Grade
Ramshil Village School



Barnoba Barikder
Male—5th
Dharabashil Village School

We Bid a Sad Farewell to Julia and Shayla

By Debi Axford

Many of you who are reading this issue of our newsletter have a deep appreciation and affection for our ministry. We know this because of your faithful and often sacrificial support. What many of you may not know much about are the devoted and skilled people who make this ministry run smoothly, both in Bangladesh and in America. Our US team that works out of our headquarters office in Kennewick, WA is kept small to help us keep overhead costs to a bare minimum. But that means that everyone on the team must take on many different roles and must stretch themselves far beyond their comfort level to ensure the work gets done.

Four years ago, our team was blessed with the arrival of Julia Lehman. Julia loves the Lord and has a heart for missions. She stepped back from her career as a public health professional to lend her talents to the mission of Bangla Hope. For the past two and a half years, Julia has served in the

position of Sponsorship Coordinator. Julia's husband Rylan has also often lent us his expertise as an Information Technology (IT) specialist to help us out of technological difficulties. Julia is about to enter into a nursing program as a means of enhancing her services to others through public health.

Shayla Shupe also wanted to work in a capacity that would allow her to serve God and others. She came to us about one and one half years ago. Shayla has a keen sense of order and attention to detail that proved invaluable to us. Sadly, Shayla recently moved out of the Kennewick area, but she continues to serve others where she is now planted.

We wish both Julia and Shayla God's richest blessings as they move forward in lives of service to others. Thank you for all of your hard work. You will both be missed more than you know.



Julia Lehman



Shayla Shupe

Hand Me Another Brick

By Robyn Griffin

The building process for the Girls' Dormitory and the Multi-purpose Building on our campus had to be put on hold for a time due to concerns regarding COVID-19. The lockdown that was implemented on our campus placed additional pressures on the timeline for our two projects that both need to be completed by July 2021.

The week of August 16 - 21, the second half of the roof was poured while other workers erected walls in the first completed section. Once the dorm is a little further along in the construction process, then work will proceed more quickly on the Multi-purpose Building.



Girls' Dorm under construction



New Generator Building

If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please give us a call or visit our website for more information.

(509) 586-4259
www.banglahope.org

*“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.”
Lamentations 3: 22 & 23*

Future Dentist and Physician

By Robyn Griffin



Tisha Marie



Marjorie Mae

Tisha Marie Bayen and Marjorie Mae Mankhin excelled recently in the national SSC exams...Tisha scoring a perfect 5.0 GPA (a rare accomplishment) and Marjorie a 4.56 GPA. Tisha desires to become a dentist and Marjorie a physician. In order for that to happen, it is essential that they receive the best education, particularly in science and math, in the next two years prior to medical school.

They have both applied to and been accepted into Roorkie Adventist Inter College in India. Roorkie

specializes in serving students interested in science and commerce. The students at Roorkie are excited about learning and the teachers there are committed to helping their students achieve academic success.

Both young women will require additional sponsorship assistance to meet the increased expenses. The total monthly sponsorship cost will be \$210.

If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to assist these young women in furthering their education, please contact us. Thank you.

Bangla Hope Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9am—3pm

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(509) 586-4259
children@banglahope.org
www.banglahope.org
www.facebook.com/banglahope.org

Student Correspondence Only

BANGLA HOPE
Student Name & Number
Village—Hazrapur
Post Office—Mazina (Uchai)
Upozilla—Panchbibbi, District—Joypurhat
Bangladesh

NGO BUDGET APPROVED

We recently learned that our proposed three-year Non-governmental (NGO) budget has been approved in a very timely fashion. Funds may not be transferred from our US office to the campus in Bangladesh while this approval is pending. Some years it has taken months to receive approval which has created tremendous difficulties as you can imagine.

Our God is Awesome!

Our Ride is Just About Dead

By Robin Griffin

God has provided us with a faithful vehicle to serve our campus. Unfortunately, the poor old van is “on its last legs” from traversing numerous miles over extremely rough roads.

Nearly every trip we take in the van includes an unplanned detour to the mechanic’s shop. The fact that it is still running at all is a miracle.

Besides the fact that the van is worn out, it also is inadequate in size to meet the needs of our growing “family”. Due to the fact that it is simply too small to accomodate all of the

passengers and often baggage that need to travel, a second trip is often necessary. This is significant when you think that most of the essential services are located in the capital of Dhaka which is an eight to twelve-hour trip one way.

We are currently \$39,407 short of our \$52,000 goal (this includes Van cost, VAT, taxes, license, and compressed natural gas/CNG conversion kit which saves money). We need to purchase the vehicle before July 2021.

Thank you for your prayers and concern for us. Your partnership with us in God’s work in Bangladesh is such a blessing.



Our trusty but worn out old van