

# Bangla Hope

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

No. 84

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## Not Enough Hands

By Robyn Griffin

"You already have your tickets?!? You had better get travel insurance, just in case you can't travel, due to the political situation!

Just days before, I had found round trip airline tickets on Etihad Airlines from San Francisco to Dhaka for the unbelievable price of \$850. It was the second week of January and my wife and I were scheduled to spend about three weeks in March with Dave and Beverly and their wonderful family of 142 children and 70 plus staff at Bangla Hope. We had only known about the project for a



Robyn Griffin with Reisa and Kathi

little over a year, but God had blessed us with the joy of getting involved with this exciting project. I stand amazed when I look at the timeline published on the back of each newsletter and realize what God had accomplished in just under ten years! I also realized in reading that timeline that Dave was seventy-six when they first opened the orphanage. I'm

often reminded of Caleb who, at eighty-five, asked Joshua to give him the hill country where the giants lived that had kept Israel from entering the Promised Land forty years earlier. Now, we had tickets in hand to visit this God-ordained campus and the political situation of the country was making it questionable as to whether we would even be able to go.

As the departure time drew closer, many opinions were expressed as to whether it was feasible or safe for us to attempt the trip. Some expressed doubts in our sensibilities and wondered why we were even considering such a journey. Then, we received the news of Dave's accident and realized that without them there, part of our reasons for going didn't exist...what was God's will. Above all, that is the one thing that we had desired...God's will.

About a week prior to our departure, we received an email from Litton encouraging us to come. We knew that we were in God's hands, and whatever He wanted for us was fine.

The original thought was for us to fly by private plane from Dhaka to Saidpur and then travel by ambulance to Bangla Hope. However, due to the amount of bags we were asked to carry, upon arrival it was decided to transport us by ambulance directly from Dhaka to Bangla Hope. The eight-hour trip proved uneventful and we were soon welcomed with a beautiful song and flowers by the Bangla Hope family.

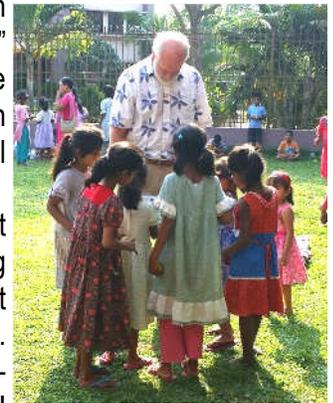


Myrna Griffin and Ginger

The children became fast friends and we were soon pushing swings, running the merry-go-round, telling stories, preaching sermons, braiding hair, going for walks, wiping tears, kissing owies, and giving many good night hugs. We were totally immersed in the love and lives of children who all wanted to hold hands, be hugged and have a listening, caring heart. The sad reality was...we didn't have **enough hands** to meet all of the needs. We were daily begged to "sit with me at supper...you promised!" Towards the end of our stay, we finally spent a little time with each family group at each meal to accommodate each request.

We got a small taste of what Jesus must feel, forever being captive in a human body, but wanting to spend time with us. We become the hands of Jesus...He needs more hands!

Won't you consider using yours for Him? If you are looking for a mission to keep your hands busy, we could use YOURS! Now...go change the world!



## From Dave's Desk

Dear Friends, It is time again to let you know some of the things we are facing in Bangladesh. The political turmoil has subsided and we are able to move forward on some of our projects. We recently acquired a 12 decimal property adjacent to the Bangla Hope campus that will allow us to lay a new sewer pipe and relocate our pond to better handle run-off during the rainy season. In addition, we are now able to go forward on a deep well as soon as we can get the services of a drilling rig. I thank everyone who has made it possible to start the well project. We will do as much as funds allow during this period of relative peace.

The following item just came in. A cyclone with winds of 450 kph (270 mph) struck the campus at about mid-



night on May 23. God's hand protected the children and staff during the terrible storm with only some minor injuries, but the campus suffered. The Bangla Hope campus

looks different now. Most of the trees and plants are gone, doors and windows are broken, landscaping was destroyed and electrical service was disrupted. Power poles are down all the way to Panchbibi, and it may be some time before power is restored. Fortunately we were able to get some diesel to power the generators, so we have power for two or three hours each day. Sadly we lost many mango trees and will certainly miss the fruit this year.

On another subject: I think most of you have heard that I lost the sight of my left eye while playing badminton on Valentines Day.



The adjustment to working with just one eye sure slows me down, but I am slowing down anyway. God has been so good to me and I am thanking Him always. I still have one good eye. Many people past 86 do not have any sight. Please keep Beverly and me in your prayers we really do need them. God bless all of our sponsors, donors, and friends for your prayers and support. ~Dave

## Welcome Ruth Squier, Chairperson

I'm sure you've probably heard some version of the quote, "Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects."

This story starts with a program Dave & Beverly did for a small country church in Umapine, Oregon a number of years ago. Several stu-



Ruth holding Amari

dents were sponsored. One of those sponsors, Naomi Matteson, also began sewing clothes for orphans in Bangladesh. Nieces tried to interest Naomi in sewing Barbie doll clothes for younger sisters. She suggested, "Get Aunt Ruth to make them." I don't know if Naomi had a long-term plan with this, but soon Ruth was producing Barbie doll clothes at remarkable speed. When Naomi suggested she make them for the orphanage also, she took on the challenge. The three sisters, Ruth, Naomi, and Beverly, worked together purchasing dolls and Ruth sewed a lot. Besides going to Bangladesh, 250 Barbies, with ten outfits each, traveled to a school in Belize.

Ruth refused to make dresses for the orphans, but with time, she recanted. She and her sewing partners made hundreds of dresses. The next adventure was trying to get them to Bangladesh. She contacted Dr. Rose, our president, about taking them. He suggested that she join the group going and deliver them herself. After some thought, she decided, *Why not?* All those smiles and hugs from the kids in the orphanage in February 2012 hooked her, and she's been making a trip to Bangladesh each year ever since.

Ruth joined the Bangla Hope Board in May 2011 and agreed to chair the board in the fall of 2014. Her energy, skills, and dedication will move Bangla Hope forward to be able to help more children.

Ruth's nursing experience includes staff nurse, charge nurse, scheduler, Director of Nurses, and later, Vice-President of Patient Care. Her wealth of experience leading people (and sheep when she grew up on a farm) will prove valuable as she works with our board here in America and the staff in Bangladesh.

We're thankful for your help and guidance, Ruth.

## Name Change

For years we've wondered the best name to call the home for our children. We tried "Receiving Center," but we do far more than just receive the children there. It was also complicated by the fact that some donors didn't know what it was. We've used the term "Orphanage." The majority of our children have one living parent, but circumstances make it impossible for them to care for their baby/child. That name doesn't give a clear picture either. To complicate it even more, Bangladesh is one of the countries where orphans are looked down on—it's a very negative term and the unfortunate children are often despised and neglected. That's certainly not the image Bangla Hope wants to give in the community.

We've decided that "Children's Home" gives a clearer, more accurate, and positive description. We're far more than an institution—we're a home where children are cared for, hugged, and loved. They are given opportunities to learn, a loving environment where they can flourish. We are now known as the

### **Bangla Hope Children's Home.**

## This Just In

Submitted by Litton Mowalie

An email from our Bangla Hope Business Manager, Litton Mowalie, was received just a few hours ago. It provided some additional details about the losses due to the cyclone. The following estimates are somewhat conservative since they do not include time lost, additional costs incurred due to loss of electric power and transportation problems. But here are the estimated losses.

42 mango trees	Tk 80,000 (\$1029)
6 rain trees	Tk 60,000 (\$772)
2 lichi trees	Tk 4,000 (\$52)
Damage to concrete	Tk 80,000 (\$1029)
6 doors	Tk 90,000 (\$1158)

The damage total is estimated to be Tk 314,000. At the current exchange rate, this is about \$4,035 US dollars. Litton expressed his gratitude to God for protection of property and especially the protection of the children and staff at the Bangla Hope Children's Home. Please pray for us as we try to recover from the storm damages.

To help us repair the damages caused by the cyclone, please mark your donations "Cyclone Relief".

**Church Update...**Donations continue to come in for the church building. As of the end of May, there is \$27,500 toward the goal of \$115, 000.

## Special People Helping Children Thank You

~Ken B. for promoting Bangla Hope at the concerts he gives.

~Sharon B. for generous gift of sewing machine, cabinets, and supplies for ladies sewing for children.

~Arlene S. for fabric for draperies at boarding school where our older children are attending

## In Honor Of

Bernice Hartzell for 9 years of outstanding service doing church newsletter

By Al Wiggins

Joyce Johnson's birthday

By Lisa Chapman

Steve Kinzer's retirement

By Ruth Squier

## In Loving Memory of

Eileen Newman

By Al Wiggins

John & Nellie Brewer

By Al Wiggins

Gary Holland

By Bev Holland

Chris Chappell

By Bev Holland

James Johnson

By Konny Brandon

Don & Evelyn Byard

Lyle & Joyce Johnson

Heddy Selent

Theda Roper

Janne Nielson

Lisa Chapman

Nancy Riedesel

Darlene Stelzried

Oscar & Oralee Teske

Frank Cox

By Daryl Anderst

Alta Sype

By Al Wiggins

Dorothy Schook

By Jack & Avanel Stark

My cousin, Leo Goltz

By Ethel Watts

Cathy DeFehr

By Ruth Squier

Darryl Comstock

By Ruth Squier

Garnett Walker

By Ruth Squier

Elsie Schwartz

By Al Wiggins

Margie Nowlin

By Al Wiggins

Doris Howie

By Al Wiggins

George Chappell, Loving Brother

By Bev Holland, Naomi Matteson, Ruth Squier

Leonard Squier, Loving Husband

By Ruth Squier