



# Bangla Hope

CHANGING LIVES... ONE CHILD AT A TIME

No. 98

Winter 2018

## The Wait is Just About Over By Robyn Griffin

When I first heard of Bangla Hope in 2014, there were two distinct needs being discussed: the need for a protective wall surrounding the campus and the need for a Multi-purpose Building to hold large gatherings. Construction on the wall began two years ago and is more than three-quarters finished. This fall the board approved the plans for the Multi-purpose Building which were graciously designed by Gary Brockman and engineered by Kenneth Gray of Lexington, Kentucky who is a member of Engineers Without Borders. Approval has been obtained to begin construction at once.

News of the decision has brought joy to the people of Bangla Hope who desperately need a facility for assemblies. Any large gathering is severely overcrowded with the children and their caregivers sitting on the floor and staff and guests occupying chairs in the rear. Once construction begins, it is estimated that it will take a year to complete.



Anticipated Area for the Multi-purpose Building

**God has richly blessed us with the finances to begin both structures through generous donors like you! Thank you for your support in making this Children's Home a success.**



Anticipated Area for the new Girl's Dormitory

While plans were being discussed for the Multi-purpose Building, the decision was made that the children should no longer leave Bangla Hope to enter a boarding school until after the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The two classes who left to attend SAMS after their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year have had huge challenges academically and emotionally. In 2017, Bangla Hope began teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade and in 2018, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Already the 9<sup>th</sup> grade books have been purchased as we plan to begin 9<sup>th</sup> grade this coming January. This decision has brought new challenges as larger facilities are necessary as well as more teachers. More teaching staff means more housing which is at a premium at the present time.

The decision was made to build a new girl's dormitory. Construction is about to begin on this building as well. Since concrete takes twenty-eight days to cure the decision has been made to build the two buildings simultaneously. The dorm will be built with a four-floor foundation, but current construction will be limited to only the first floor at this time.

## New Arrivals By Robyn Griffin

**This summer has been a rich blessing to two of Bangla Hope's staff families.**

Purno Dominique Toppo was born August 7, 2018, to Porimol and Dulali Toppo. Porimol is the farm and garden manager doing an excellent job planting and caring for the rice and vegetables. He has a knack for working with students, teaching them how to care for the crops and do things with excellence.



The Toppo Family

Dulali has been the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher guiding our children in the paths of righteousness. We are so blessed to have them working on our campus!

**"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them."  
Ps. 127: 3-5**

Four days later, on August 11, 2018, Arin Syon Mowalie was born to Litton and Suborna Mowalie. Litton has been Bangla Hope's CFO since 2010, being a huge blessing in keeping the campus financially on track. He has a burning desire to do things God's way. Suborna is a favorite of students and has been instrumental in assisting 5<sup>th</sup> graders to prepare for their government examinations. Recently, however, she has been utilized in multiple grades to help them learn their necessary lessons.

They had quite a scare when her water broke more than a month

early and Suborna was quickly hospitalized for fear of losing the baby. After five days in the hospital the doctors opted to bring little Arin into the world via C-section on Suborna's birthday.

After two weeks in the hospital mama and baby were released and are doing very well! Arin joins his big sister Charity who is currently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The newly extended family is a wonderful asset to Bangla Hope!



The Mowalie Family

## God Will Fight Your Battles By Debi Axford

**"You are allowed only 10 extra bags per passenger. No more and no exceptions!"**

That was what our Executive Director Robyn Griffin was informed when he called the headquarters for the Emirates airline to obtain permission to take extra baggage with him on his flight to Bangladesh on October 8th. Robyn politely explained about the work we do, and that our extra bags held essential supplies that we cannot obtain in Bangladesh. He also shared with them that many of the bags contained Christmas gifts for the children at our Receiving Center, and that they would be terribly disappointed if their gifts did not arrive in time for Christmas. They remained adamant that the edict would stand: 10 extra bags per passenger with **no** exceptions. The previous year Robyn had traveled with other passengers

and we had no difficulty getting all our bags on the airplane. However, this year we had a record number of bags, 36 to be exact, and Robyn was traveling solo. This was going to require heavenly intervention by our Divine Director. Our US Bangla Hope team gathered for a season of prayer asking God for a miracle. The type of miracle performed numerous times over the years by Him on behalf of His ministry.

Following our season of prayer, we decided to step out in faith. I reserved a U-Haul trailer large enough to hold all 36 of the bags. Monday afternoon we arrived at SeaTac Airport. The three of us, Robyn, Myrna and I wrangled all 36 bags onto luggage carts and proceeded to the check-in counter for Emirates. Along the way we had numerous offers of help from airport staff with our 50-pound bags once they learned of the contents and destination of the cargo.

We arrived at the counter with a prayer on our lips. The supervisor arrived, surveyed the mountain of bags before him and inquired of us with a look of incredulity

"How many bags are you checking and how many passengers are traveling?". Robyn politely explained that it was just him traveling with 36 bags. There was a pause before the verdict was issued. Without batting an eye, the supervisor indicated that all 36 bags were to be loaded onto the airplane, and nothing more was said.

Once again God demonstrated that He will fight our battles for us. **"The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still" Exodus 14:14**



## Life's Unexpected Turns By Robyn Griffin

Life is very much like rafting a river. You kick back and enjoy the peaceful moments as you float the tranquil waters that run deep...not knowing that you are just moments away from class 5 rapids. It happens in an instant, and then, all that you can see is white water.

October 10, 2018, was just another day for Tarini Soren, cashier for Bangla Hope. Suchitra, his wife, has been the Administrator of Bangla Hope since 2005. However, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, Tarini began to complain the he wasn't feeling well. He began to experience dizziness and felt pain in his left arm. Suchitra checked his blood pressure and became extremely concerned that there was something seriously wrong. On October 16, they visited a physician who informed them that Tarini had had a heart attack sometime recently and that he needed further evaluation as soon as possible.

On October 18, the report came that he had serious blockage and needed to see a specialist soon. Sabbath evening after sunset the Sorens boarded a bus bound for Dhaka where Tarini had scheduled an appointment with a Christian doctor at Square Hospital for the 21<sup>st</sup>. After an examination, Tarini was immediately admitted to the hospital

where an angiogram revealed serious blockages in three main vessels. The only option was open-heart surgery.

The doctor wanted to operate immediately, but Tarini decided that he needed time to consider how best to proceed. After several days of prayer and discussion with his family, he finally consented to the bypass surgery which took place on October 30. Surgery began at 8:30 am but Suchitra did not receive a report regarding the outcome of the surgery until 4 pm that day. The news was good, however. Tarini's quadruple bypass had been successful, and he was doing as well as could be expected.



**Suchitra & Tarini Soren**

Tarini was immediately moved to ICU with the expectation of remaining there five days. However, it would be nine grueling days before Tarini was

moved into a regular hospital room. Sleeping was practically out of the question and food was unappealing.

The days seemed to stand still for Tarini and he almost wished that he had never had the surgery. On November 8, he was finally transferred from ICU and on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>, released from the hospital. It was assumed that he would have to remain in Dhaka until somewhere around Christmas but at his follow-up appointment on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the doctor insisted that home would be a better place to mend.

The Sorens wasted no time obtaining a van to bring them back home on November 19. Children and staff ran from all over the campus to greet the Sorens as they drove in the gate. We immediately gathered in a circle of prayer thanking God for all of the prayers that He had answered on Mr. Soren's behalf.

We thank you for your prayers and concern for the Sorens. It has been a rough patch for them!

**If you wish to help in meeting the financial expenses for his surgery, it would be much appreciated. The total cost was \$5,000. Thank you for your love and support for our Bangla Hope family!**

## A Picture To Remember By Robyn Griffin

It all began in the summer of 2016 while Myrna and I were visiting the Youth Sabbath School at the Collegedale Church on the campus of Southern Adventist University. After presenting the mission program during Sabbath School, I was approached by Giselle Hasel, an associate professor from the Art Department, wondering if we would be interested in her art students painting portraits of our children for Christmas. Naturally, I eagerly accepted the offer and our first group received their very own portraits the following holidays. Because of a limited number of art students in Mrs. Hasel's class, it was decided to concentrate our efforts on those in our 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

This year the new tradition has continued with SAU art students taking up the challenge to provide our children at Bangla Hope with a priceless portrait. The art students not only provided a beautiful portrait but attempted to capture the child's personality and dreams as well.

**We may never know till eternity the impact of a single deed of kindness.** Thank you professors and students of SAU for impacting our children! Below are three of the paintings alongside the child's original picture—see how well the art students captured the children's likenesses!



**Jessica Talukder**



**Megan Sikder**



**Suzanna Baroi**

## Still Learning to Follow By Robyn Griffin

In an attempt to follow the counsels of the Lord, the staff members at Bangla Hope have recently taken active measures to adapt our educational program to come into line with God's guidance. The staff members feel that a strong work program is imperative to Christian education. At 2:25 pm, the work bell rings and students hurry to their assigned areas of responsibility. Some head to the farm, others to the garden, some are serving in the kitchen, others are working side-by-side with the cleaning ladies, laundry ladies, and grounds keepers. We have always had "family chores", but this is a new venture where students will be rotated on a quarterly basis to assure that they receive a well-rounded education.

Please pray for us as we venture into "new ground" that our program will indeed follow the counsels of the Lord. For how can we expect the blessings of the Lord if we refuse to do what He has asked us to do...or be the people whom He has asked us to be?

## The Constant Need For Power By Robyn Griffin

We each have a need for power in our personal lives... especially power that comes from the Holy Spirit. We talk about our need for power from God, but the fact is that we do not spend the time in prayer that would supply us with this power. If we would spend more time on our knees in supplication to God, we would see our spiritual "generators" recharged. On our RC campus, we also have a need for electrical power to keep things running as they should.

In Bangladesh, there is a power shortage almost daily. Turn on the lights and nothing happens. Attempt to connect to the internet...nothing. In the midst of a phone call to the US, the power goes off interrupting communication. The students often cannot make use of study hall because they do not have adequate light to see their textbooks. An organization the size of Bangla Hope needs a generator powerful enough to keep things running smoothly.

For ten years, we have relied on a used generator when the unreliable power company does not provide the needed power. However, this generator is wearing out. Also, it is now insufficient to meet our needs. Electrical engineers tell us that we need a 250 kva generator to sufficiently meet our current and future needs. The best option for us is produced in the UK using a Perkins engine. The current price is just over \$56,000 which includes the full setup fee, VAT and tax as well as shipping and installation. When we began raising funds for a generator, the cost was \$25,000. Costs have increased as have the needs of our growing campus. We currently have a bit over \$8,000 in this fund. If the Holy Spirit directs you to aid in this venture, please mark your donation "Generator Fund". Thank you.

May there never be a power shortage in your lives.



## Bangla Hope Contact Information

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9am—3pm (PST)

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[www.facebook.com/banglahope.org](http://www.facebook.com/banglahope.org)



Student Correspondence Only

Bangla Hope  
 Student Name & Number  
 Village: Hazrapur  
 Post Office: Mazina (Uchai)  
 Upozila: Panchbibi, District: Jopurhat  
 Bangladesh

### In Contact with Others By Robyn Griffin

I will never forget my year as a student missionary. All of the SM's would anxiously await the familiar voice of our lab tech as he daily returned from the post office shouting the names of those lucky enough to get mail. How the world has changed since 1974! Snail-mail is practically obsolete, and it seems that the internet is here to stay. Bangladesh is a nation that has been making rapid advances in these areas with wireless connection for cell phones and the internet in nearly every region.

Until this summer, Bangla Hope staff members were paying about \$15 every 28 days, depending on the amount of GB's needed to do their work, in order to be connected to the internet. Reception varied depending on their location on the campus. Those visiting our campus would have to borrow somebody's router in order to contact family members in other countries or check their email or conduct business online.

Now things have changed. God has blessed us with our own tower to provide the campus with much needed internet service. The 80-foot tower stands atop the RC Center making it over 100 feet from the ground. Download and upload speeds at present stand at 20 mbps. Currently the offices, staff housing, Medical Building, and our store are all connected. Classrooms will be connected when we can assure that the students will be able to connect to the internet without risk. Bangla Hope now pays a modest sum per month for unlimited access.

**We praise the Lord for His bountiful kindness towards us!**

### SPECIAL PEOPLE HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you

**Arlene Jewell:** 15 lbs. of hand-made knitted hats and scarves

**Jan & Randy Thornton:** Many new toys for Christmas gifts from the Melissa and Doug Co.

**Richard & Margaret Laubach/Mac's Garden Center:** 39 packets of flower seeds for our Receiving Center campus.

**Flower Farm:** 54 packets of flower seeds for our Receiving Center campus.

**Jan Sifford:** 5 quilts

### IN LOVONG MEMORY OF

Thank you

**Elijah Ben Abraham**

By Jack & Avanel Stark

**Wayne Peterson**

By Don and Evelyn Byard

### IN HONOR OF

Thank You

**Gayle Haberkam (Missionary to Thailand)**

**Roger & Amy Krum (Missionaries to Guam)**

By Al Wiggins

**Kerri Finkbiner (In honor of her birthday)**

By Arline Finkbiner

#### UPDATE ON PROJECT FUNDS (As of 11/28/2018)

Property Purchase:	Fully Funded!!!! THANK YOU
Multi-purpose Building/Church:	Reached original 2014 \$ goal (Currently Researching <u>updated</u> total building cost)
Girls Dorm:	\$217,553.89 received of \$350,000 goal
Robotics Fund	Fully funded!!!! THANK YOU
New Generator:	\$8,134.50 received of \$56,000 goal

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: Village School Students

Name: Roni Mondol Gender: Male Grade: 4th School: Dharabashil Village School	
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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 for all village school students is \$20/month or \$220/year.

Name: Rimpa Roy Gender: Female Grade: 2nd School: Dharabashil Village School	
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If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please give us a call or visit our website for more information.

"The work of righteousness will be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."  
**Isaiah 32: 17 NKJV**