

BANGLADESH & NEPAL MISSION NEWS

A Report on Works Overseen by Highland Park Church of Christ

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FIRST VISIT TO RANGAMATI DISTRICT

On Saturday, August 7, Brenda and I, accompanied by Ibon Halder and preachers from Kagrachari District, traveled to Rangamati District in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to visit the Simana Chara congregation where Annupam Chakma (2005 KBC graduate) preaches. Annupam has labored here since the spring of 2006, but I had not previously been able to visit his work. Until recently there was no bridge across the river and no road from Kagrachari directly to his area of Rangamati. Now those facilities exist and we used them for our first visit.

The church there struggles against persecution from Bangla Muslims. Most Christians in the Hill Tracts are members of ethnic minority groups, converted from Buddhism or Animism. Some members of the majority population seek to exploit these minorities, grabbing their land illegally, and otherwise oppressing them. Religious persecution is part of this process. The church building and Annupam's home in Simana Chara have each been burned out twice since he began work there, the most recent burning only a few months ago.

We were greeted on our arrival by the sight of a shiny new tin church building and a nearby house with walls made of woven bamboo mats. About 20 members joined us for a brief visit and devotional. We were tremendously impressed by their faithfulness and determination in spite of the difficulties they face. They requested only our prayers and continued visits.



Simana Chara Church Building



Annupam Chakma stands in the door of his newly built house of woven bamboo matting. He lives in this one room house with his brother, sister-in-law, and their two children.

Burned remains of the old building at Simana Chara. They have planted a garden in the ashes.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD



Michael E. Brooks

The summer of 2010 in the U.S.A. was the most travel filled we have yet experienced. During the months of May, June and July we visited churches and individuals in the states of Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. Some of these already support our work but several were new contacts with whom we shared our mission for the first time. We pray that these efforts will produce new partnerships and allow the evangelism of South Asia to grow and develop towards its great potential.

We thank God for recent growth which demonstrates that potential and need. New works were begun in Bangladesh this summer by recent graduates of Khulna Bible College. Timothy Mondol is now preaching at Shikapur Church of Christ in Barisal District. Borun Baroi is with the Goala congregation in Naogaon. Simon Mallick is in Satkhira District, preaching for 2 congregations including a new church in Jatpur. Ranjit Biswas is evangelizing in his home area of Offapur in Jessore District. Arun Joy Chakma and Ujjal Tripura are both preaching in their home district of Kagrachari in the Hill Tracts. Though most of these men are working with churches previously established by others, they are also evangelizing in new areas and have already helped to plant at least three new congregations.



*Simon Mallick
with the new
Jatpur
congregation*



Arun Joy Chakma



Walking in for visit in Kagrachari District

MEMORIALS TO THE MISSION FUND
HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF



SAMMY MANN
MILDRED O'DELL

KBC BEGINS NEW ONE YEAR PROGRAM

A number of the preachers in Bangladesh have been working for several years without any formal Bible training. When the Gospel was first preached here by Churches of Christ, and new congregations were established, they needed leadership and guidance immediately. Dedicated men were assisted to provide this leadership. We have encouraged everyone who is able to attend KBC and receive a full program of Bible knowledge. Though many have been able to do this, there are still several who have not been able to absent themselves from family and work for the three years necessary for a full KBC curriculum.

It is to meet this need that we have inaugurated a one year training program especially designed to provide a basic curriculum for such men. Young men who desire a lifetime of service as evangelists are encouraged to enroll for the full three year program. Older men, already preaching, and with some knowledge and experience, are offered this special opportunity for an intensified, selective course which will not require them to be away from their family and work for an extensive period. Two men are currently enrolled. They are Paulos Soren, who preaches at Bagram in Naogaon District, and Horish Drong, who preaches at Kalaniakanda in Mymensingh. Joseph Murmu, from Polla in Dinajpur, will begin this program in October.



*Horish (L) and Paulos (R)
New 1 year program students*

FALL CLASSES BEGIN

We welcomed a new 1st year class of 5 to campus for the beginning of the Fall Semester. These join 3 returning second year students, 2 part-time students, and 2 others who are participating in the new one year program described on left. We are expecting 3 others to begin in early October for the second session of this semester. If they come as expected we will have the largest total student enrollment since the graduation of 17 in April, 2005.



2010 First Year Students

James Paroi is the newest of the part-time students. He is a resident of the nearby city of Khulna where he teaches Christianity at a government regulated (though privately owned) school. James is a member of the Kalishpur Church of Christ and a graduate of Probhati School. Religion class is mandated in all schools by the Department of Education in Bangladesh. Whenever possible schools provide opportunity for students to study their own religion, in accordance with Bangladesh's constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion. James was given the opportunity to teach the Christian Religion at his Alma Mater for the benefit of those students professing Christianity. He is attending classes at KBC in order to better qualify himself for this role.



James Paroi

THANK YOU FOR HELP WITH NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Frankford Road Church (Colbert Co., AL) gave a generous donation to help provide church buildings in Bangladesh. Their elders agreed that we should use this gift to build new facilities in certain locations, but also to help with land purchase and building repair for other churches. Congregations which will benefit from their generosity include Nondonpur in Naogaon District (new building), Kalishpur in Khulna (repairs), Polla in Dinajpur (repairs), Nalkura in Mymemsingh (repairs) and Lokipur in Naogaon (repairs). If some funds remain, or if more is given by others, additional congregations in need include Offapur (Jessore), Rajapur (Barisal), Jalabari (Barisal), and Kalaniakanda (Mymemsingh).



Nondonpur church meeting on veranda



Nalkura church building shows its need for repair

'AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES... EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH.' ACTS 1:8 NAS

HIGHLAND PARK MISSIONS

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