

Visiting Bangladesh

November 2019



Beautiful hand woven blanket given to us by the women we funded to start weaving businesses

A few weeks ago we were privileged to visit Pastor *Samuel, his lovely wife *Paki, and one of their coworkers, *Luke in Bangladesh. A last minute flight cancellation caused a change of plans and required our friends to endure a sixteen hour arduous overnight bus trip to meet us in the capital city of Dhaka. Even though we were disappointed not to be able to visit the area where they live, we had a rich time of fellowship together. We were also able to take them much needed items that will enable them to minister more effectively in their work.

We learned first hand more about Pastor Samuel's life and work. His grandparents moved to Bangladesh as missionaries from India about seventy years ago. Paki's grandfather was also a missionary from



Pastor Luke crossing flooded area to reach villages

India and her father is currently a pastor. Both of these precious people grew up in Christian homes and have committed themselves

to serving Christ and seeking to win the unreached people in the hill tribes of Bangladesh. As a young man, Pastor Samuel stepped out in faith and went to the Philippines to attend Bible College, even though he did not have the funds needed. God provided, and in 2007 he completed his Masters of Divinity degree and was ordained. He and his two coworkers have established churches in five of the eleven indigenous tribal groups. Samuel speaks six languages and his coworkers speak other dialects.

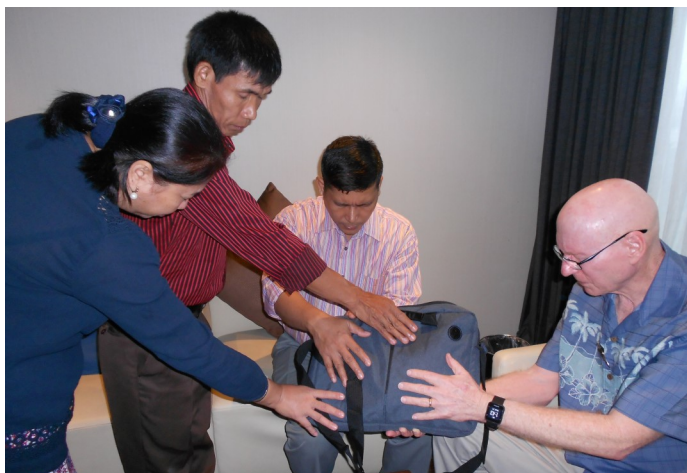


They gave us bags like they use to carry Bibles and song books to the village churches.

We were impressed with the level of commitment and compassion these dedicated men and women demonstrate. Each mission trip into the jungle villages take seven to ten days and involves difficult travel by bus, motorbike, canoe and finally walking through the jungle. They often face danger from rebel groups but still manage to visit several villages on each trip. Prior to funding by Global Outreach, they were able to make about one trip every three months. With your support, they are now making monthly trips to plant churches and follow up with training and development. Each of the three workers have to support their families as well. They work in a variety of businesses such as ginger farming, teak wood industry, and jhum (slash and burn) cultivation. They all desire to be full time in ministry, but additional funding is needed to make that a reality.

In addition to learning more about our friends, we now have a much better understanding of the way they establish and develop the village churches. Each church is set up to be self-sufficient and they showed

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Praying that the computer we brought will be an effective tool in their ministry.

us records to help us understand how this works. The only outside help needed is \$1,000 to purchase tin for the roof of the building. They secure the remaining material from the forest and jungle. Of the twenty-five village churches established, **ten are now waiting for roofs to complete their buildings.** Church members also work hard to contribute to the needs of the church. They fish, collect firewood, donate rice and used clothing to share with others in need. From the offerings they collect, 25% remains at the local church for their needs. Another 25% is given to evangelism to share with nearby villages and 50% is given to help the poor and needy. All local leaders are volunteers and dis-

cipled by Samuel and the other two workers. To fund the women's ministry, they ask each woman to take a handful of rice from her supply each time she cooks for her family and save it to bring to church to sell.

We came away with a renewed zeal to provide all the support and encouragement we possibly can to help promote the spreading of the gospel through this ministry. We realize we have the easy part, providing funds and prayer support. We cannot do what they do, but they cannot continue without the support they receive from Global Outreach. We are absolutely convinced that every dollar we give helps reach the lost for Jesus. An investment that will last for eternity!

**names have been changed*



We actually used a car for our transportation but these rickshaws are very much in use in Dhaka.

A gift for training in India was received from Donald Dyck in honor of Bob Sartori's birthday.

Christmas Celebrations for Children

We are asking for your help in providing a special treat for the children supported by Global Outreach. This might be a bite or two of beef or chicken for a child who only has rice, beans and vegetables throughout the year. In India, the orphans receive a new school uniform for their gift. In Congo we love to give the community children that attend the weekly feeding program one piece of candy and a small bar of soap. Last year, they were prepared for 1,500 at the Christmas celebration and 3,000 children showed up! Pastor Jeremiah told us that miraculously all were fed and each one got either a piece of candy or the bar of soap. This year we want to make sure they have enough so every child gets both gifts. Will you help us put smiles on precious faces?



From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for joining with us as we strive to provide for hurting orphans. Bill & Renee Reed