



<p><i>Bangladesh Introduction</i> November 2003</p> <p>Part 03, Ch. 24 CRF Media Chronicles</p>	<p>Final: 01/31/13 Time: 21:02</p> <p>© 2013 Carl and Arline Ryan</p>
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Carl: Some say Bangladesh is a primitive country with poor and impoverished people. Others say the government is corrupt and the country severely overpopulated.

These problems may all be true but, for me, after spending three weeks in diverse locations and economic levels, I concluded that it is a country living on the edge but with a friendly people who are hardworking, resourceful and, most of the time, producing enough to sustain themselves.

Bangladesh is also a country born out of conflict with the bloody 1971 war that established this small piece of land in South Asia as an independent country. It is a country made of a domineering 85% Muslim majority, 14% are Hindus and the remaining 1% are Buddhists, Animists and Christians.

There are several ethnic groups and languages within this country. In particular, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, located in the extreme Eastern part, are an isolated group who continue to be treated as a lost and forgotten people.

Bangladesh is surrounded on three sides by India.

Map Insert: Jessore, Khulna, Chittagong, Dhaka

While there, I visited the capital Dhaka and the cities of Chittagong, Jessore and Khulna as well as several smaller towns and villages.

Arline: Carl saw welcome signs all around but it was another trip where I was left in Missouri caring for the cattle and chores on the farm. Actually, Carl went by himself because of the difficult travel and environmental considerations. I was satisfied that he would be OK with the experienced missionaries serving in the country.

Overlays:

- Roy McIntyre: Chittagong
- James Young: Khulna
- Mike McDaniel: Jessore

Carl: Working with three different mission teams, I was always accompanied by one or more indigenous Christian believers
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who could speak good English. These guys were very helpful in facilitating the best photo opportunities as well as always looking out for me and my equipment.

Words are inadequate for describing this country of Bangladesh and its people. Follow along and experience some of the sights and sounds that I observed including attending several worship activities of Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and, of course, Christian.

Still pictures of people and indigenous music and sounds:

Overlays:

- Chittagong: 150 miles S.E. Of Dhaka
- Not as crowded as Dhaka
- The markets are busy.
- Ramadan: waiting for night to break the fast.
- It is all gone in 10 minutes
- Bamboo: A low cost building material.
- It is brought down river by the boatload.
- Rocks are few in Bangladesh. Bricks are made from river silt.
- Silt is mixed with water and formed into brick size parcels.
- Each brick is formed by hand and let dry.
- They are fired for a month in huge furnaces.
- Some of the bricks are broken up to make gravel.
- The brick gravel is heated with tar.
- The asphalt is carted to the road ...
- and spread out on the road.
- Workers prepare for the next load of asphalt.
- On our way to Bandarban in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- Welcome to the Hill Tracts.
- Stop at the checkpoint.
- A village near Bandarban.
- Most of the Tribals are Christian.
- A Baptist Church
- A Buddhist Temple in Bandarban.
- Bandarban
- Finding a taxi to Mt. Sinai
- It is a 90 Minute trip.
- The best view is from the top.
- Our taxi has a motor.
- A vegetable
- A long hike up to the village
- Mt. Sinai Church
- Roy shares God's Word
- Pray with these believers
- A meal of rice
- Back to Chittagong.
- Khulna: 75 miles S.W. Of Dhaka
- What is the wood for?
- Firewood for cooking.
- The river traffic is heavy.
- Processing rice is a big operation.
- Here is where it is parboiled.
- More silt for making bricks
- Missionary Mike McDaniel watched.
- Break time
- This is the way back.
- Schools are well attended.
- Rural school
- Tooth brushes for sale

- Jessore: 40 miles N.W. Of Khulna
- A typical toilet
- A toilet factory
- Harvesting vegetables
- A load of hemp
- James Young arranged a special show for me.
- The entire village was invited.
- Everyone was thrilled ...
- to see it back in the box.
- Cow manure for cooking fire
- They need one of these.
- Muslim call to prayer.
- Hindu priests
- Hindu funeral procession
- Church in Chittagong

In Dhaka, like much of the country, crowded living conditions are emphatically experienced while traveling around. All types of vehicles seemed to be competing with pedestrians on the narrow streets. The waterways are the same. Along the Buriganga River that runs through the city, ferries and row boat taxis have barely enough room to navigate. Dangerously overcrowded ferries easily capsize and hundreds of lives are lost each year. Cargo of all sorts – bananas, coconuts, rice – is brought down river for distribution in the city. Meanwhile, along the banks, people bathe, do their laundry, and nearby are huge piles of garbage awaiting the next flood to wash the stench into the ocean.

It is easy to believe that this is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Bangladesh has a population density of 2200 people per square mile. There are 130 million men, women and children in this country, which is about the size of Arkansas.

Fortunately, through hard work, a favorable climate and productive land they grow enough to sustain themselves. In many places, the farmers plant three crops a year with rice; ... by far the major food source.

The garment industry is a significant enterprise for both domestic consumption and foreign export. Productivity is high but it is hot, crowded and unsafe. The electrical power distribution is a nightmare. There is a history of many deaths due to fires sweeping through the buildings.

It is much different North of Dhaka where Christian missionaries operate a training facility to improve agricultural productivity.

I spent most of my time with Roy McIntyre and his family in the city of Chittagong.

Overlay: Pastor and his wife

While there, we completed an introduction script about the tribal people living in the hill tracts. Roy narrated this chapter and spoke on camera for a welcome video.

Overlay: A hand loom

Arline: After returning home from his busy and interesting trip, we began the process of writing scripts, narrating and editing.

Overlays:

- This one is for Arline
- I felt like this guy...
- everyone was watching me.

Viewing the videos and pictures and hearing Carl's stories of life and living conditions in Bangladesh, I was so thankful to have remained at Ryan Farm. Feeding the cows and walking with our faithful dog on our spacious and tranquil 200 acres was a true blessing. Those who go and live among these people must have prayer; one of the purposes of our DVD's.

It took us about three months of full-time work to complete the 18 chapters for the DVD "Bangladesh: Living on the Edge". Over 1,000 copies were distributed.

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Sights and Sounds of Bangladesh

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Sights and Sounds of Bangladesh

Ch. 25 (3:23) Filmed November 2003

Bangladesh ... with 130 million people... is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. On the average, there are nearly 2200 people per square mile. The city streets are always crowded. ... The river ways are a constant motion of people and produce. ... The markets are full of buyers and sellers. ... Hard working farmers produce two or three crops each year. ... Schools are overflowing with children eager to learn. And, ... the population of the country continues to increase at the rate of about two million each year.

(MAP OF COUNTRY WITH THE 4 CITIES HIGHLIGHTED)

Bangladesh is a small country surrounded on three sides by India. The southern border opens up into the Bay of Bengal. Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Jessore are the four major cities in the south. These four cities represent only about 12% of the total population. The bulk of the people live in rural areas where nearly 80% are farmers. Some live and work on large farms but the average size is less than one acre. Hard work, good soil, plenty of water, and a tropical climate make it possible for this country to feed its millions.

Bangladesh is a country of riches and of poverty; ... a country where 85% are Muslim Islam is the official state religion;... a country riddled with corruption; ... a country with friendly people who must struggle to survive; and, ... a country that has nearly exhausted its room to grow.

Come and visit us to see how we live and make do with very little.

Ending scene (49 seconds) of people with the Muslim call to prayer in a small village.

Overlay (Near end of scene): "This is Bangladesh."



Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh

Ch. 26 (4:55) Filmed November 2003

Roy McIntyre has been ministering to the people of Bangladesh for 20-years. He is now the Strategy Coordinator for the Tribal People of Bangladesh. Roy, his wife and their two children live in the city of Chittagong working among the 30 tribes of Bangladesh.

During this on-camera interview, Roy talks about the tribal people – where they live, their lifestyle and their religious beliefs. He tells us that many of the tribals have accepted Jesus; however, reaching some of the remote jungle villages makes it difficult to visit with them to share Jesus. Yet, 200

churches have been planted among the tribals.

Roy has a passion for reaching the tribals with the Good News of Jesus. He tells how people in the United States can help. A huge ministry that the missionaries depend upon is prayer. They also welcome people to come to Bangladesh and minister along side them through many activities.

On Camera Roy



Dhaka

Ch. 27 (4:52) Filmed November 2003

Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, has 10 million people; ... thousands of buses of all shapes, sizes, and ages; ... tens of thousands of green three wheeled vehicles known as baby taxis; ... six hundred thousand rickshaws; ... and, ... a few cows.

The road from the airport is zoned for only automobiles and buses. Other places, ... such as old town Dhaka, ... allow only rickshaws but, ... many times, ... it is faster by foot. Air pollution is a continuing problem despite the requirement to use natural gas powered four-stroke engines in the baby taxis.

In Dhaka, ... as well as in other cities of Bangladesh, ... a driver drives a horn. Yes, one's vehicle lights and/or brakes can go out and the journey can continue BUT, ... when the horn goes out, he really is considered dangerous.

The Buri Ganga River runs through the middle of town and it, ... like the rest of the city, ... is congested ... with boat taxis, ferryboats, cargo boats and people bathing and doing their laundry. Most of the smaller boats are hand powered. Trash accumulates all year along the banks waiting for the annual summer monsoons to wash it down the river.

Shopping in Dhaka is easy. The vendors have their wares all around. For the tourist, there are souvenirs; ... for the home, there are fruits and vegetables; ... and, ... for the serious Muslim, ... there are toothbrushes from Pakistan. These special wooden sticks are mentioned in their holy book, the Qu'ran. A spiritually minded Muslim can often be seen in the middle of the street brushing his teeth. The Hindus, ... on the other hand, ... can use any old stick to clean their teeth.

Homeopathic doctors have their shops set up along the streets and one can buy just about any kind of medicine --- no doctor's prescription is required.

Bangladesh is known throughout the world for its garment industry. The wages are low but the one million workers are glad to have a job.

Electrical and phone utilities provide interesting diversion for one who wonders about strict electrical codes.

Dhaka, ... like the rest of Bangladesh, ... is very religious with over 85% of the people claiming the Muslim faith with mosques in prominent locations throughout the city. About 14% are Hindus and they are an oppressed minority. Less than one third of one percent is Christian. The oldest Christian church in the city, ... the Anglican Church, ... is located in old town Dhaka. British missionaries established this church.

The Ahsan Manzil, ... located near the river, ... provides a glimpse of the past glory of the city. A member of the Bengal elite built it during the time of the British Raj. Unfortunately, cameras are not permitted in the excellent museum.

A few five-star hotels are available for rich Americans and European tourists but you won't see Dhaka by staying in this hotel. To see the city, one must venture out on a rickshaw or visit one of the many markets such as the central market located near the river.

When you come to visit us, enjoy your time, but realize that 8 ½ million of the people are Muslim. Women, ... whether Muslim, Hindu or Christian, ... must dress very conservatively here. Most wear a loose fitting pants-like garment called the shaliwa khameese. You may want to purchase one in Dhaka so that you will feel more comfortable among our 10 million people.



Khulna

Ch. 28 (5:30) Filmed November 2003

It is just getting daylight in the city of Khulna (**KOOL na**). ... With a population of over one million, it is the third largest city in Bangladesh. (**BON gla desh**) About an hour earlier, this man started the day by loading his cart from a boat at the river some two miles from here. The Muslim Imam (**EE mom**) is returning to his home after the first of the required five daily prayers. Most rickshaws are already loaded with produce and people. Others are still waiting for their first passengers of the day.

Before the sun burns off the early morning fog, the first batch of parboiled rice has been placed on the drying floor to cool. In a few days, it will be hulled and ready for sale.

The wholesale fish market is in full swing with sellers taking advantage of the cool morning air to keep the fish fresh and bring the best price. Fast food restaurants abound for the early morning crowd. Shops with a variety of fruit and vegetables are all well stocked and ready for the first customers of the day.

Even though Khulna is the district capital, few large buildings grace the skyline. This is not a city known as an industrial center or as a tourist attraction. Instead, it owes its importance to the Rupsa (**ROOP sha**) River that skirts along its eastern edge. Here goods and people are transported up and down the river as well as from one side to the other. Launches and ferries loaded with people, produce, and vehicles provide the primary means for crossing the river since no bridges are available.

The river is wide but too shallow for ocean going vessels. The larger ships are offloaded to smaller boats at a port 25 miles to the south. The small boats, ... many of them powered by people, ... are used to transport the goods to the cities and towns located up the river. The top-heavy and usually overloaded launches are efficient for transporting people. Unfortunately, ... they often capsize with the resulting loss of many lives during the frequent storms of the monsoon season.

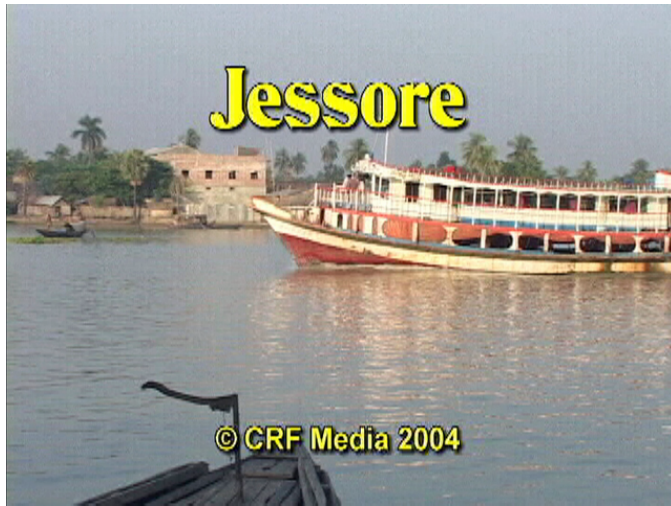
For many, these boats are an essential part of life and the economy of the area. Families depend on the income derived from the boats, many of which, are old and in serious need of repair.

The shoebox style housing complexes were constructed during the British rule and are primarily used to house government workers. The city police building includes a dormitory for some of the officers. Constant repair on the buildings is required because of their age and the very heavy rainfall during the summer monsoons. But, these are the homes for a large portion of those living in the city. Others live in small bamboo and thatch buildings. Their water is pumped from a nearby community well.

Corruption and crime in this city, ... like that of most of Bangladesh, ... is a serious problem. Armed guards are required for all significant places of business. A police court set up at a major downtown intersection provides a quick and efficient method of handling the large number of minor offenses.

Typical in Khulna are the businesses involved in working with the wood brought up the river by the small boats. The rough pieces of wood are split up for firewood and sold by weight. The better pieces are sawed, shaped, and carved to make a variety of furniture. The machinery used in the furniture making industry appears primitive. The workers, however, are proud of their equipment and the products they make.

Khulna is an easy place to visit; ... a place where you can quickly become immersed in the culture of the country. It is a city that is overflowing with friendly people who would like for you to come. Won't you go and share your life with them?



Jessore

Ch. 29 (5:05) Filmed November 2003

Some of the boats here in Khulna will be heading up the Bhirab River to Jessore, ... about 50 miles to the northwest. ... Jessore can also be reached by train or by bus. The hour and a half bus ride will usually take one to the central bus station located on the southeastern edge of the city. Several choices of types of busses and destinations are available here. Competition is stiff for both passengers and for bus seats. This occasionally results in a fight that is over about as quickly as it began.

Jessore, ... with a population of slightly less than one million, ... is the sixth largest city in Bangladesh. The close proximity to the Indian-Bangladesh border makes it an

important distribution and trade center with the neighboring country. Here one can purchase a variety of agricultural equipment, some of which were made in India while others are imported from China.

The proximity to the Indian border allows for an influx of damaged and worn out vehicles. This, ... along with the low wages and an over abundance of eager workers, ... has made the auto and truck repair business popular.

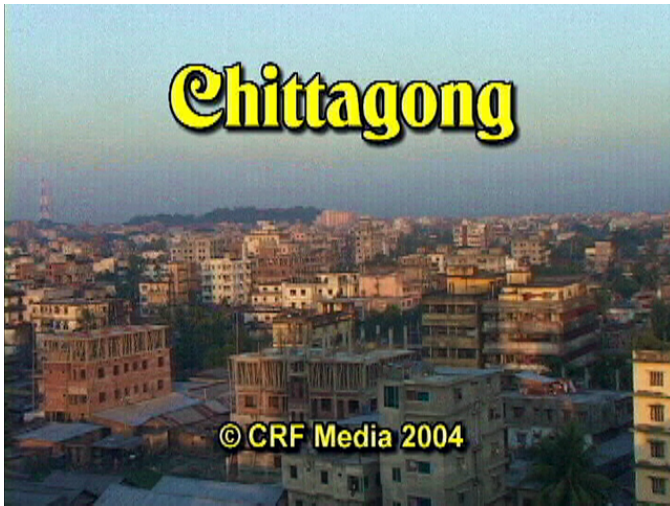
Other industries in and near Jessore employ a large labor force. One of these industries is the Vermicelli factory. The spaghetti like food is hung out to dry on roofs of buildings and in parking lots. Drying it in this manner is illegal because of the contamination caused by polluted city air. Another important source of income is raising chickens for both meat and eggs. This is done in large operations such as these multi-storied concrete buildings and in smaller wood frame structures. One of the largest industries in the area is making bricks. Factories located near the city's edge take advantage of the high clay content river silt located nearby.

Jobs are difficult to find and many day laborers line up at a major downtown intersection in the hope that someone will hire them to do almost any kind of manual labor. While most seem eager to work, ... with basket and tools ready, ... there are others who sit around and visit.

The memorial marker near the center of the city commemorates the 1971 liberation war for Bangladesh independence from Pakistan. It was this city that Pakistan was using as its most important stronghold for retaining control of Bangladesh. Fortunately, Pakistan conceded defeat and abandoned the city without a major battle.

The city's court building, ... which dates from the British Raj, ... is still in use today and is the most impressive building in town. A few nice looking apartment buildings are located in some neighborhoods. Buildings, however, are not the attraction in Jessore. It is the people, their method of transportation, their food, their work, and their lifestyle that makes Jessore a must see place when visiting Bangladesh.

Please come for a visit and, ... while here, ... enjoy a refreshing glass of fresh squeezed sugar cane juice.



Chittagong

Ch. 30 (6:52) Filmed November 2003

Chittagong (*CHITT a gong*), ... with a population of 4 million, ... is the second largest city of Bangladesh (*BAHN gla desh*). Located in the southeastern part of the country along the Bay of Bengal (*BEN gal*) and the Karnaphuli (*Kar na POOL ee*) River, the city has the country's busiest port.

As one would expect, traffic to and from the port area is dense and sometimes confusing. The city as a whole is noticeably less chaotic than Dhaka (*DAH ca*). The streets are wider and a strong local government provides sufficient law enforcement to facilitate a smooth traffic flow.

Driving, standing, or walking in the area near the city's center is a lesson in diversity. There are all types of vehicles from big busses and trucks to handcarts and bicycles. The three wheeled motorized vehicles known as baby taxis are prominent here; however, ... unlike Dhaka, ... two types are evident; ... the green low pollution natural gas powered vehicle and the yet to be eliminated old style two cycle gas engine powered units.

Watching and staring at the camera are people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, clothing, and demeanor. About 85% of the people here are Muslim. The more orthodox of this group, ... both men and women, ... are easy to identify by their distinctive clothing.

Shopping along the street is an interesting experience. A large variety of foodstuffs are available. Perhaps the most repulsive part of shopping on the street is the meat market. It is OK for Muslims to eat beef but not pork. The head and hooves of the animal are displayed, ... along with the cutup carcass, ... to identify the type of meat. Beef is expensive costing about a dollar per pound; ... an expense that few can afford on a regular basis.

A few upscale shopping centers are in the city. In these quiet and well-stocked retail outlets one can shop for the finer things of life. The relaxed atmosphere gives time for this young Muslim boy to memorize Arabic verses from the Qu'ran (*coo RAHN*).

The government buildings are located in a well-maintained area with manicured lawns, trees and shrubs. This facility is just across the street from the soccer stadium. Here on the soccer stadium walls are murals that depict the bloody War for Independence in 1971.

In this city, ... as well as throughout the country, ... the 100 million plus Muslims celebrate Ramadan (*RAH ma dahn*) during the late Fall of each year. This 28-day period of fasting begins with the onset of a new moon and extends to the next new moon. The fasting is required only during the day when the faithful must abstain from all food and water. It is during the evening and night that a time of frenzied social activity and eating occurs.

All during the day, restaurants and other food vendors prepare for the evening. Food is piled high along sidewalk stands and in the restaurant display boxes. As the end of the day nears, Muslim men, ... no women, ... are at these places waiting for the end of the day as defined by when one can no longer distinguish between two human hairs. Suddenly, ... as the moment arrives, ... the buzzer in the restaurant sounds. The eating begins! First comes a big gulp of water and then the food. It is all gone in about 10 minutes.

During the period of Ramadan, the faithful Muslims have a snack about midnight and another large meal just before daylight. It is said that most gain weight during this 28-day period of fasting.

Chittagong is a large, diverse, and progressive city; however, it is also the gateway to the district known as the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Few of the people in this almost forgotten area venture into the city.

A visit to Chittagong, as well as to the Hill Tracts, is a visit to a culture that cannot be experienced in Western societies. We are expecting you. Won't you come?



Chittagong to Bandarban

Ch. 31 (5:56) Filmed November 2003

Bandarban is a small city located on the Sangu River about 75 miles east of Chittagong. It too is a port city with several boats hauling people and produce to and from its sandy beach. Many of these boats travel up the river to the homes and villages of the tribal people groups who live in the surrounding hills.

It takes about 3 hours to make the road trip from Chittagong to Bandarban. ... Along the way there is much to be observed about the people, their lifestyle, their work, and their culture in this part of Bangladesh.

Just outside of Chittagong we cross one of several small rivers flowing down from the hills. This river is used to ship bamboo. The bamboo is an essential part in a variety of ways in building construction. Many of the bamboo poles are cut into long strips to be woven into mats for floors and walls. The poles are used as support for the walls, floor, and roofs of many homes. Children and adults are friendly, curious, and often times just want to stare at Western visitors.

A short distance up the road we cross the Karnaphuli River. This bridge serves not only as a river crossing but it restricts the vehicle width to slightly less than 8 feet. The steel and concrete width control barriers are very effective. Here, ... like the rest of Bangladesh, ... human labor, rather than machines, does most of the work. Bangladesh has very few rocks. These rocks and gravel have been shipped into the country for road and other construction work.

Rice is part of the culture of Bangladesh and is grown almost everywhere. This area was once the home of many of the tribal people but the Bengalis living in the lowlands needed more land for farming. Through intimidation, government decrees, and outright stealing, the tribals were forced to leave their land and move to the less productive hills. Farming, however, is still done by hand using ox drawn ploughs.

The high clay content of the silt washed down from the hills makes excellent brick. Here, trucks are loaded that will take the material to a large brick kiln near Chittagong.

The Bengali who took over this area have firmly established their Islamic religion. Mosques, Qu'ranic schools, and their religious rituals such as dressing up this cow to be sacrificed are common throughout the area.

Refrigerators and other home appliances, fruits, vegetables, meats, and a few packaged goods can be purchased in the small towns located along the way. These places are usually crowded, dusty, and dirty.

The well-maintained road winds its way into the hills and traffic or convoys of the Bangladesh army on maneuvers occasionally break the tranquil setting.

This sign, about half of the way to Bandarban welcomes us to the Hill Tracts. Here, a few of the tribals remain. However, the housing is for the Muslim children attending Qu'ranic schools.

The repression of the tribals by the Bengalis resulted in serious conflicts in the past. It was necessary to close these areas to foreign visitors. The area is now open to outside visitors. Permission for the visit, however, must be obtained ahead of time. At arrival, the armed guards carefully check documents. These guards are friendly and speak a little English.

Nearing Bandarban, the hills are more like small mountains and are a welcome change from the flat lowlands. Nevertheless, in Bandarban, things look the same as in many other cities ... crowded rickshaw traffic, people hard at work doing heavy manual labor, places to purchase construction materials, furniture factories, restaurants, and a few cows.

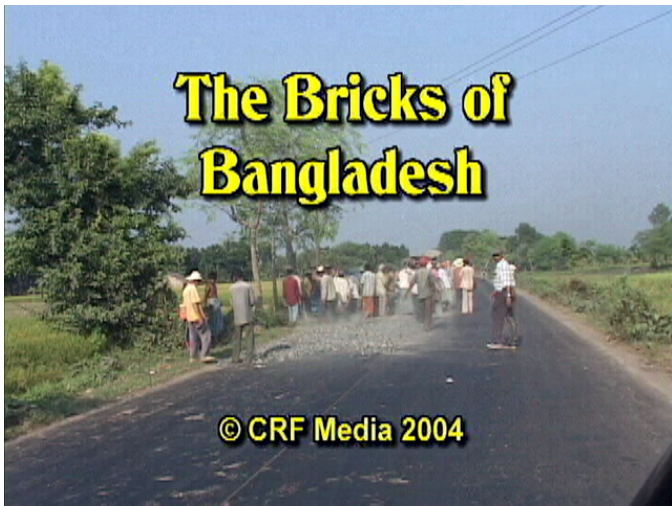
This is one of the few areas in Bangladesh where Buddhist followers can be found. This large Buddhist temple and the nearby cemetery indicate that the followers of Buddha have been here for a long time. Their traditional dress and religious practices are much the same as that of the past.

A Hindu temple is also located in the city. The temple is small and, Kali, the goddess of destruction, is the prominent feature. Food offerings and burning candles indicate that many Hindus live here.

The continual road construction, dusty streets, and small homes and shops offer few accommodations for Western visitors; however, on a hill overlooking the Sangu River is a very comfortable hotel and restaurant. The grounds are somewhat rustic but well kept. One has an option for traditional bamboo and thatch rooms or, ... for a few dollars more, ... there are rooms available in all concrete buildings. There is no air conditioning, no television, and no phone in the room. Meals in the restaurant provide a good variety of traditional foods. Spoons and forks are provided for those choosing not to eat with their hands.

In Bandarban, the people work hard, the adults and the kids are friendly and eager to have their picture taken, and some can speak a little English. But here, ... like the boys trying to fly a kite, ... the winds of uncertainty are all around. Will this future generation follow their forefathers and just survive or will they soar to new heights seldom known by a people that have endured much hardship and oppression?

Will you come for a visit and share part of your life with those living in and around Bandarban?



The Bricks of Bangladesh

Ch. 32 (3:50) Filmed November 2003

Road and building construction projects need rocks. ... Rocks are hard to find in Bangladesh. So, ... they are shipped in from other countries or, they are made from riverbed silt.

The high clay content silt is first loaded onto trucks where it is then off loaded at the brick factory.

Water is added to the silt to make a good, workable mixture. The next step is to put the mud in an auger-like machine that stirs up the mixture. The mud is squeezed out the bottom. The woman shown here uses her feet to make small parcels of mud. Each one the right size for a single brick. The small diesel engine has long since replaced the oxen power

for the auger. All other work is done by hand. Other workers prepare the ground for the actual molding of the bricks.

Men or women do the actual brick molding. They are paid by the number of molded bricks that they make. The laborer skillfully places the mud in the mold box, cuts the excess off with their hand or with a string, ... and sets the molded clay on the ground with the thousands of other future bricks. They are allowed to sun-dry for several days before placing them in the kiln for firing. The sun-dried bricks are stacked between the smoke stack intake plenum and the outside wall. Layers of coal are also placed around the brick. It will probably take a month to fill the area with 600,000 bricks. The coal and the bricks are covered. The coal is then ignited and the fire burns for approximately a month. Another month is then required for cooling. Each brick making cycle requires about three months. During the heavy rains of the summer monsoons, one three-month period must be skipped.

This man has been making bricks in this fashion for many years. This is actually his fourth wife; he has outlived the other three.

After the fired bricks are ready, they are hauled to construction projects and used as is or, ... the bricks are broken up by hand so that they become the aggregate for asphalt or concrete. For the most part, it is women and children who break the bricks into gravel.

For asphalt, the newly made gravel is then carried over to large wood-fired pans where it is mixed with hot tar. The hot asphalt is then quickly loaded into a cart and pushed to the freshly cleaned road bed where it is smoothed out and packed down to form a small section of roadway.

In Bangladesh, work is hard, ... the hours are long, ... and the pay is low. Yet, ... it is through enterprises like this that the country is able to support its 130 million people.

Come and visit Bangladesh! You can see for yourself what hard workers we have in our country. They are the bricks that the country is built on. They are the bricks of Bangladesh.



Men Wear Skirts Women Wear Pants

Ch. 33 (2:38) Filmed November 2003

The clothes worn by many of the Bangladesh people seem strange to the Western visitor. The skirt-like clothing called a *lungie* (**LOON ghe**) is worn by many of the men while many women wear a pants-like garment called a *Shaliwa Khameese*. (**SHA li wa KA meese**) This type of attire is common in many countries in South Asia, the Mideast and in West Africa.

Western looking garments are gradually replacing the lungie; however, the lungie has many practical benefits not found in the traditional Western clothing. The most obvious

is that it is much easier to make and, typically, one size of the loose fitting garment fits all. It can be used for wearing to work, to school, for lounging, sleeping, swimming, and climbing.

Some of the uses of the garment show its versatility. ... When used as a mosquito net, one loosens the twist at the waist, squats down, and pulls a small part up and over his head. As bed sheets, it also serves well as one loosens it, lies down, and curls up in it. One can change out of a wet *lungie* at bath time into a dry one right in public and never be exposed. An interesting note is that men wash their own clothes at daily bath time.

Shunil's (**Shew neel's**) family are Hindus and live in a small village near Jessore. Shunil's, wife cooks on a small wood stove located on the porch of their two-room home made of bamboo and thatch. Next to the stove is a chicken coop used to confine their chickens at night. Shunil is a barber and goes to the homes of professional business people in Jessore to cut their hair as well as give a head, neck, back, and arms massage. He is paid the equivalent of one to two dollars for each haircut and massage. Shunil would be happy to see you. Won't you come to Bangladesh and visit with him and his family?



The Hand Loom

Ch. 34 (2:48) Filmed November 2003

Weaving on a handloom is an important source of income for some of the rural villages in Bangladesh. In this small village near Jessore, they have three handlooms.

Making the garments or towels starts with first dying cotton fibers in any one of several colors. The skeins of fiber are then hung out to dry. After drying, the thread is wound on small bobbins that are used in the loom. The weaver selects the appropriate bobbin to determine the color of the stripes. Here, the lady is weaving a bath towel.

The equipment is primitive and slow; ... yet, ... the women are very productive. Weaving demands practice, patience, and skill ... as well as outstanding eye, hand and foot

coordination. These special skills are typically handed down from mother to daughter. The process of spinning, dying, and weaving for lungies, saris, and towels are all done in the same village.

This long piece of material will be cut apart to make two towels. It takes 2-1/2 hours to weave a towel and it will sell for about 66 cents. Eight hours are required to weave a lungie, which will sell for a little over \$2.00.

The weaving industry supports most of those living here. Come and visit us in our village near Jessore and take home a towel.



Rice: The Food for All

Ch. 35 (5:16) Filmed November 2003

In Bangladesh, the primary food for family and for guests is rice. Rice ... cooked with meat, a vegetable, or alone ... is eaten at every meal if the family can afford it. Rice as a peace offering is set before Hindu gods and goddesses.

Village life, ... as does the life of Bangladesh, ... revolves around rice. Rice is Bangladesh's main crop. It is cultivated in large fields and in small plots of land. The average size of the field is less than one acre. By using irrigation, they are able to grow three crops a year. If it is a good year, ... nearly enough rice is harvested to feed the 130 million people of the country.

Growing rice uses a lot of manual labor and starts with preparing the soil. Plowing is done by hand, oxen or ... sometimes ... with small diesel tractors. Some of these tractors are made locally while others are imported from China. The planting, weeding, spraying for insects, and harvesting are considered men's work and always done by hand. Migrant workers are usually hired to help with the harvest. The harvest crew uses small scythes to cut the stalks that are then tied into bundles.

The harvested rice, ... stem and all, ... is carried by hand, ox cart, or by rickshaw to a storage area in the village.

After drying for a few days, the heads are threshed off. Cattle walking over the rice were once used for threshing but now ... these small foot peddled machines are used to strip the grain from its stalk. After threshing, the chaff is removed by winnowing. This meticulous task is the responsibility of the women and children. The dried rice stalks and chaff are used for goat and cattle feed.

The next step is heating the unhulled rice kernels in a boiler fueled by rice hulls. This parboiling process drives in the vitamins, lengthens the time in which it can be stored and hardens the grains. This process also gives the rice a distinctive flavor that the Bangladeshis really like. After parboiling, the rice is spread out for cooling and drying. By constant stirring, the rice is usually dry in one day. It is then heaped up in piles waiting to be sacked up or taken to the huller. Conical caps are put over the piles of rice to keep out the crows.

Often times, the villagers store the rice in large round bins that are sealed against rats and mice. It is then sold at a later time in hopes of getting a better price.

The rice is taken to a miller where the hulls are removed from the rice kernels by using a diesel or electric powered huller. Here, an ancient diesel engine powers the huller while workers feed the rice into the machine. They work all day in this small metal building filled with dust. The rice miller, the migrant workers, and the parboiling operators are often paid in a percentage of the rice.

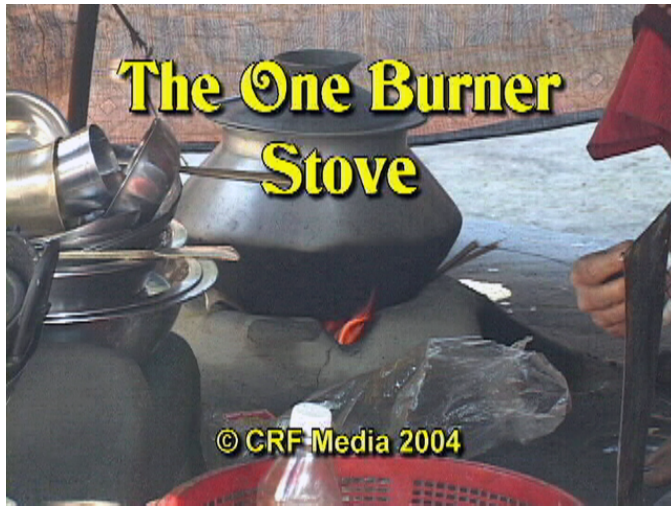
In some places, fish are raised in the rice fields and are harvested after the rice is cut. In addition to searching for small aquatic life, boys and widows search along the edges of the rice field for underground caches of rice stored by rats. Often, they find enough rice in these caches to feed their families for several days.

Pigs are allowed to glean any remaining rice after the rice is harvested and before the next crop is planted. The pigs also root for wild tubers, insects, and worms.

The pigs are butchered and eaten only by the Hindus and by the Christians since pork is forbidden by the Muslim beliefs.

Several different varieties of rice are grown in Bangladesh including the types adapted to the well-watered lowlands and the types adapted to slopes along riverbanks. Bangladesh is beginning to try new varieties of rice that offer higher yield and are more disease and insect resistant. These new varieties have the potential of making Bangladesh totally self sufficient in rice.

Please come and visit, ... share a meal of rice with us, ... and find out why Bangladesh parboiled rice is better.



The One Burner Stove

Ch. 36 (6:10) Filmed November 2003

The routine of preparing meals in Bangladesh is a demanding and time-consuming task. Lack of refrigeration, small kitchens, and the high cost of packaged goods are challenges that must be overcome on a daily basis.

The first step in preparing a meal is to obtain fuel for the stove. The majority of the fuel for cooking is wood. However, a lower cost alternative is cow manure that is conveniently molded on long wooden sticks. Very few cook with gas or kerosene.

Among the ever-present flies and people wandering about, customers purchase the meat that is needed for the day. The man selling beef displays the cow head and hooves to verify the meat's origin. Obviously, without refrigeration or ice, it is important that the cow be killed, cut up, and sold the same day. A pound of meat costs about \$1 – the daily wage of a common man.

Fish costs less and is used in meals more often than beef. The catch of the day is purchased early in the morning and options include carp, catfish, shrimp, and other varieties. If the family can afford it, they will eat fish three times a day.

Vegetables may also be purchased in the markets. Those grown in nearby fields include cabbage, eggplant, kohlrabi, carrots, cauliflower, potatoes, pumpkin, onions, garlic, tomatoes, white radishes, and various kinds of greens. The price and availability depends on the area and the season. Duck and chicken eggs, as well as a few packaged goods, can be obtained at some of the vendors. Fresh from the family cow, milk is obtained twice a day. Some choose to pasteurize the milk by boiling.

A typical kitchen setup includes a wood or possibly kerosene stove, a curved knife, a bucket, two serving spoons, two to four plates, two to four glasses, two bowls, a cooking pan, and two pieces of stone for grinding spices. A setup would cost about \$20 – nearly a month's wages.

The most common stove is molded by hand out of clay. This stove is usually placed on the porch or in a small building. The tribals in the Chittagong Hill Tracts put the stove in their houses. Considering the bamboo and thatch construction of the house, this indeed creates a serious fire hazard.

The knife is used to chop greens, peel potatoes and cut up the vegetables. Onions, garlic, pepper and other spices are all freshly ground daily to enhance the taste of the hot, spicy curry.

Women work hard at preparing meals and make use of throwaway items like the Clorox jug and oatmeal container for their canisters. The cook does her kitchen work in a squatting position.

Rice is their mainstay. It must be cleaned by winnowing before it is put in this pot for cooking. A meal without rice is considered incomplete. Close seconds to the rice dish are potatoes or lentils.

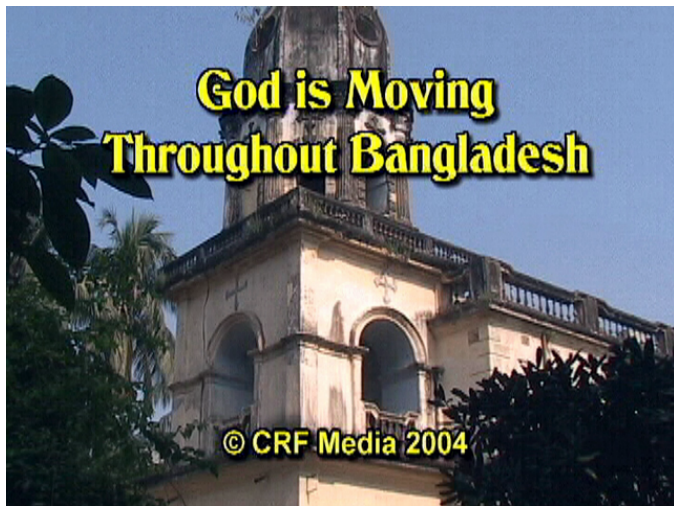
The entire meal is cooked on the one burner stove. Each item is cooked in sequence with rice the last to be put on the stove. While the rice simmers on the fire, the cook goes for a bath in the local river or pond. Upon returning, she first serves the meal to the males of the family, ... after which, ... the females can eat.

Bakeries and fast food restaurants are available for those who can afford them. Yogurt, rice pudding, doughnut-like jalopies, and bite sized sugar-milk-rice flour balls are popular. Restaurants along the streets are common. However, during Ramadan, the month of fasting, a cloth is draped around the eating-place concealing the customers from those passing by. To a devout Muslim, it is offensive to see people eating during the sacred time of fasting.

Sugar cane juice is a favorite in season drink. It is freshly squeezed and filtered right on the spot.

The Bangladeshis faithfully brush their teeth, not just after the meal, but just about anytime.

Come and visit us and enjoy some of our good food.



God is Moving Throughout Bangladesh

Ch. 37 (8:17) Filmed November 2003

British evangelists established the first Anglican Church of Dhaka in the late 1800's. Other churches were also established during this same time period. In Jessore, the British Baptist Church was established by the British Baptist Society and goes back to the time of William Carey. Also, in Jessore, the Church of Christ has a large trade school. The Assembly of God Church continues to be active as well in Jessore. Faridpur (*FOREED poor*) Church, ... the old, well-established city church, ... has recently been renovated and provides a variety of outreach activities.

As a result of work by British evangelists during the turn of the century, the Bawm (*Bomb*) Tribe, one of the thirty tribes in the Hill Tract's is now almost 100% Christian. Despite this early evangelistic work, less than one third of 1% of the people of Bangladesh are born again believers in Jesus Christ.

Bangladesh is 85% Muslim and 14% Hindu. The strong political influence of the majority religion, ... as well as the designation of Islam as the State religion, ... make it illegal for direct evangelistic work among the people. The Muslim government will not grant visas to missionaries. Instead, many Christian organizations focus on humanitarian aid.

Despite its very low numbers and the oppression by the Muslim majority, evangelical Christianity is growing. In the past ten years, over 500 new churches have been established. These churches are small but the committed believers rejoice as members of the family of God.

Come with us as we visit different places and join in the rejoicing of these followers of Christ.
... At the village of Hati Banga (*hah tee BAHN ga*) near Bandarban. (*BAHN dar bahn*)...

Worship segment

... In Sinai Para, located up the Sangu River from Bandarban. ...

Worship segment

... At the Chittagong Baptist Church, as they meet in the home of the pastor. ...

Worship segment

... The Berbari (*Bare bar ee*) Church has a well-constructed building with a concrete floor for the congregation to sit on.

Worship segment

... The Jhenidah (*Jen EYE dah*) Church also has a well-constructed building and a membership that enjoys singing and praising God.

Worship segment

... In the Hindu village of Kalichoronpur (*Kal ee chor on poor*), this small congregation worships on the porch of the home of their pastor.

Worship segment

These and many other small congregations now dot the countryside.

Some of the Bangladeshi pastors and leaders of these churches want to share their vision and how you can become involved in this work:

Interviews follow ...

Closing verse scrolling across screen



Do You Like Bangladesh

Ch. 38 (11:58) Filmed November 2003

Do you like Bangladesh? ... Over and over citizens of Bangladesh ask this question to visitors of this land of rivers. The answer is a difficult one ... What can you say? How will you feel after being in the country for more than a day? Explore briefly the country of Bangladesh and its people. After learning more, what will you say?

Water ... water ... water covering the land. If you live in Bangladesh, you live on a river, lake, or pond. Water dominates the life and culture of Bangladesh. 6-1/2 % of the land mass is river ways but during the peak of the monsoon season up to 70% of the land is covered with water.

Bangladesh is about the size of Arkansas but the total water

flow through the country is twice that of the Mississippi River. The river system flowing through Bangladesh is the third largest in the world.

The river is the center of life in this country of 130 million people. The waterways are used to transport people and produce in hand powered as well as diesel-powered crafts. The river provides a place for the people to bathe and while bathing many do their laundry. The river is frequently used as a trash can... waiting for the next flood to wash it down stream. The annual flooding of rivers replenishes much-needed nutrients in the soil.

Bangladesh is a fertile delta and almost totally void of rocks. Rocks for building roads or house foundations must be laboriously chiseled from hand-made bricks. River silt makes excellent bricks and huge kilns located on or near the river are common. Ponds for growing fish, eels, and shrimp are an important source of income. A visit to the wholesale fish market gives a quick view of the variety of aquatic fare grown in these ponds and caught in the rivers.

The fertile soil and year-round growing season provides for a bountiful harvest of fruits, vegetables, small grains, and sugarcane as well as jute for fibers. Farming methods are primitive, and require a significant amount of labor. Occasionally a small diesel powered tractor is used for tilling the soil.

The only hilly part of the country is in the Northeast and the Southeast corners. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, people live in small bamboo homes constructed on the steep slopes or the ridges of the many hills. While some of these people, ... known as the Tribals, ... live along a river, most live in hard to reach places that can be accessed only by foot. Most of the Tribals speak a language different than the Bengali majority. They are an oppressed minority and feel as if they are a lost and forgotten people.

The history and culture of Bangladesh extends to medieval times. However, the People's Republic of Bangladesh is a young country, established in 1971. ... A country born amidst chaos; ... shattered by war, famine, and floods ... a country with a ruined economy and a totally disrupted communication system.

The National Martyr's Monument is an hour's bus ride from Dhaka. The memorial honors the tens of thousands who died in the bloody fight for freedom and to the Bangladeshi visitor it has a surreal setting. Mass graves of these martyrs are beneath the well-manicured lawns. A huge monument towers toward the sky as it reflects on this fight for freedom.

Today, ... Bangladesh remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The average income is little more than a dollar a day for hard, ... backbreaking work. Jobs are difficult to find. With a jobless rate of 40% many are forced to peddle or push a rickshaw for scant wages. There are an estimated 600,000 rickshaws in the capitol city of Dhaka. Others find work on farms, making furniture or driving one of the many battle-scarred buses or mini taxis. The growing garment industry employs millions for the laborious task of cutting and sewing for minimal wages. Some of the small tribal villages specialize in weaving cloth on wooden, hand and foot powered looms. At the bottom of the economic scale are those who break up bricks to make gravel for road construction or the women who squeeze cow manure onto long wooden sticks. The manure is set in the sun to dry so it can then be used as a convenient fuel for cooking stoves.

The kitchens are tiny and usually located separate from that of the home because of the ever-present danger from the cooking fire. While the homes are very small, the families are large. Disease and sickness are major problems due to the poor sanitation, ...contaminated drinking water, ... and crowded living conditions.

Progress is stymied in improving the economy of the country when so much of the work is done by hand such as cleaning the street and laying of the asphalt in the city of Bondarban. Yet, slowly, progress is being made in Bangladesh. Transportation is improving. Resurface work on the main highways is a continuing process, most of which is done by hand. Education is a high priority and children are eager to learn despite the crowded conditions and the depilated facilities.

A religious country, Bangladesh is 85% Muslim. This religious majority controls much of the political, economic, and social aspects of the country. Mosques can be seen along the road, in small towns, and in large cities, providing places of worship for over 110 million Muslims.

Nearly 14% ... or about 15 million ... in Bangladesh are Hindu. Temples are in most areas of the country ... from Bandarban in the Southeast to Jessore in the West. The largest concentration of Hindus is in the West central part of the country near Jessore and Khulna.

Followers of Buddhism are few and primarily located in the hill tracks. These faithful few continue to hold to their traditional clothing and religious icons.

British evangelists and the Anglican Church introduced Christianity in the 1700's. Yet, ... Christian followers are few with less than one percent following Christian teachings. The First Anglican Church located in Old Town Dhaka was founded in 1791. The original building remains as does the graves of many of the Anglican Christians of the past. The 90 seat auditorium is still used for Sunday worship....but, mostly it is used as a museum.

(Change narrator here)

Because of the dominate Islamic influence, most women, ... whether Muslim or not, ... wear clothes that completely cover their body from neck to ankles. Form-fitting clothing is perceived as sexually suggestive. Many Muslim women also wear a head covering leaving only their eyes visible to the passerby.

Despite the high level of religious influence, the country is riddled with corruption. Bangladesh was rated as the most corrupt country in the world for 2001, 2002, and 2003. Examples of corruption are everywhere. This load of cattle was illegally shipped from India. It is illegal to dry vermicellia, a spaghetti like food, in the polluted air of the city. The use of wood to fire bricks in the kiln is prohibited; instead coal is to be used to reduce the deforestation of the country. Also the law requires a large smoke stack for the kilns in order to minimize the air pollution from the coal smoke. Bribes to officials allow practices like these to continue ... but ... changes are taking place. Here along the river in Dhaka, the government is tearing down parts of buildings that were illegally constructed too close to the waterfront.

Change is occurring in the government,.... more importantly, ... in order for Bangladesh to avoid the status of a poor, ... corrupt ... country, changes must occur in hearts and minds of the people. From the history of Bangladesh, it is evident that these changes will not come from the Islamic or the Hindu religious institutions. These religious groups, ... like the rivers that flow through Bangladesh, ... continue to control the country. But, ... there are little islands of Christianity that can make a change in the hearts and minds of the people and, hopefully a change in the country.

Included in this DVD are several chapters of video that provide more information on the people and the culture of Bangladesh as well as how they are being reached for Christ.

Exciting things are happening ...

Churches are being planted

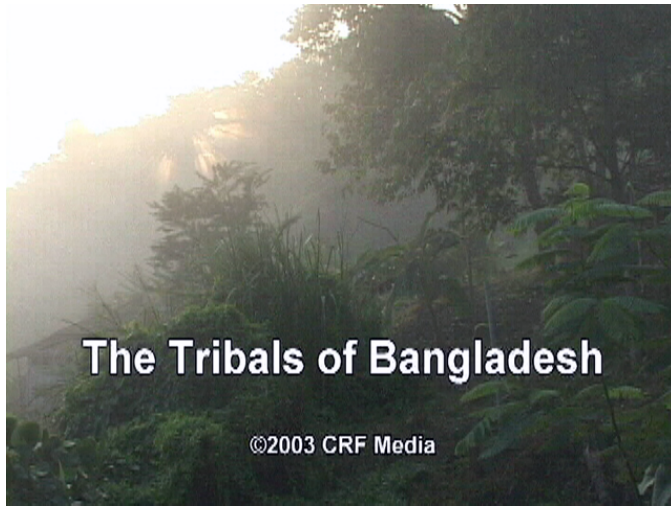
Leaders are being trained

More people are coming to Christ

Humanitarian help is being provided

Do you like Bangladesh? As you look into the eyes of the Bangladeshi asking the question, what will you say? They expect an answer. What would Jesus say? You have the opportunity to become involved in what God is doing in Bangladesh. Will you know how to answer this question when you step out on mission with God in this far away land?

When you come you must remember that you will not be alone as this shoe cobbler appears, instead wherever you go people will gather around. While here consider the pride of these people who have such large burdens to bear. Realize that the question that they really want to ask is, ***“Do you like ME?”***



Lost and Forgotten The Tribals of Bangladesh

Ch. 39 (6:21) Filmed November 2003

They can be found deep in the jungles, ... along steep mountain slopes, ... and at the river's edge. ... They are all but lost and forgotten to those living in the busy crowded cities of Bangladesh...

More than 30 different tribal groups live in the hills sandwiched between Southeast Bangladesh and Northeast India. The Chittagong Hill Tracts is the home of these tribal people. The largest tribe, the Chakmas, number half million people. The other tribes number from 200,000 to just a few thousand. Language, ... dress, ... location, ... and physical

characteristics ... distinguish the individual tribes, but they all live simple lives. Few from the outside world know of their existence.

Their homes, like their lifestyles, are built around that which is available from the jungle. Their houses are made of mud, bamboo, and thatch. The buildings are elevated several feet above ground with a floor of bamboo strips. Beneath the home pigs and chickens find shelter from the hot sun or rain. Their meals of rice, vegetables, and meat are cooked on small mud stoves located in a corner of the home. Water is obtained from a spring, a creek or from the river. Few are fortunate enough to have water piped to their village.

Everyday life centers around their village, ... their extended family, ... and the spirit world. They strive to live in peace and harmony with nature as well as other people. The tribals' submissive, non-confrontational personality has often left them victimized by the dominant Bengali people who live in the lowlands and in the cities.

Many Bengalis saw the tribals' hilly homeland as an opportunity for growth and pushed the native residents aside. In the process, the unwanted settlers took over many of the government positions as well as business operations. Islam, its ritual devotions and mosques soon dominated Chittagong and other cities in the area. In the eyes of the world, as well as in the hearts and minds of the tribals, they are lost and forgotten...

The overwhelming dominance of Islam has made little impact on the religious beliefs of the tribals. Some claim Hinduism and others claim Buddhism, but all are deeply fearful of the spirit world. They worship trees, ... animals, ... and other objects. Frequently a pig or chicken sacrifice is offered to appease the evil spirits. Many have never heard of Jesus Christ and the love, forgiveness and freedom He brings.

In the 1800's, the British Baptists and others began work in India and in the hill tracks. Many tribals were receptive and today a few entire tribes have become Christian. In 1947, Britain divided the Indian subcontinent into different countries. Eventually Bangladesh gained its independence through a bloody war in 1971. During the political, ethnic, and religious turmoil, concern for the welfare of the tribals was overlooked and forgotten.

In the mid 1980's, a small group of tribal believers sought to reach their own people for Christ. Responding to this need, Southern Baptist representatives began training these believers in evangelism and church planting. Some believers became full time itinerant preachers starting churches throughout the hills. As a result, more than 200 churches have been planted...

Meeting the physical needs of these desperately poor and uneducated people is an opportunity to show Christ's love in action. Humanitarian help has been provided by: giving fresh drinking water through sinking deep wells, ... constructing sanitary latrines, ... and teaching general hygiene; ... giving young people a means for a livelihood through training in computers, driving, and sewing ... and helping farmers generate income through agriculture training. ... As Christ's love is observed, tribals are drawn to Him and want to know more about the God who loves and cares.

God is working among the tribals. We believe some tribes are ready for major church planting movements right now. But...

- It depends on **leadership training** ...
- It depends on **planting reproducing churches** ...
- It depends on the **prayers of Gods people** ...

Ask God to call out one man from each tribe with a vision for planting reproducing churches among his people. Pray for those who provide leadership training. ...

Satan has reigned in the hills for centuries and does not easily give up. Pray for spiritual and physical protection over believers as they share their faith. ...

Do not allow the Tribals of Bangladesh to be Lost and Forgotten.



Beyond Daily Survival

Ch. 40 (10:06) Filmed November 2003

Bangladesh, ... a country about the size of the State of Arkansas, ... is bursting with a population of 130 million. It consistently ranks among the poorest countries in the world. The people crowd along streets, on sidewalks, in boats and ferries. Often times, the people just stand around because meaningful employment cannot be found.

Most jobs are low skill tasks on farms, making brick, road construction, and other miscellaneous activities. With an illiteracy rate of nearly 50%, it is very difficult for this country to raise its economic status. Income from the few higher paying skilled jobs is insufficient to care for its most important resource ... a hardworking and friendly people,

... a people who seek only to survive each day.

Contributing to the dilemma of the country is unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, and limited health care. Few resources are available to solve these problems.

Water-borne diseases constitute a majority of the health problems in rural villages as well as in city slums. Help in improving the health and welfare of entire villages is accomplished by having safe and clean drinking water.

Drilling fresh water wells in the sandy rock-free soil of Bangladesh is easy and accomplished with simple equipment. Aid workers have trained this well drilling team to use readily available materials for construction of the tube wells. The aid workers also purchase 100 to 200 feet of PVC pipe and the pump. The total cost is less than \$200 for a tube well that is used by the entire village or by segments of a very large village.

The drilling process is basically a water ram used to displace the soil at the bottom end of the pipe. One worker uses his hand as a flapper valve while others work the pump handle. The PVC pipe is forced into the ground at a rate of about one foot per minute. The entire process is accomplished in about two days.

The most difficult task is putting in the filter consisting of a perforated PVC pipe. When the drilling is complete, the entire 100 to 200 feet of PVC pipe is pulled out of the well, the filter section attached to the bottom end and the entire assembly reinserted into the hole. This must all be accomplished quickly before the surrounding soil collapses. Several hundred of these wells are drilled each year.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts area, spring water is often available. Concrete storage basins are constructed and the water is piped down to the village below.

Sanitation for the villagers goes hand in hand with clean water to improve health conditions. In most villages of Bangladesh, raw sewage in open drains is often next to where people live, work, and play. A simple sanitary latrine can change the life of a family and of a village ... bringing them strides forward in terms of health and human dignity.

Sanitary latrines are simply referred to by Western aid workers as "squatty potties". The unit consists of a series of five concrete rings buried in the ground. These rings are capped off with a lid that includes a water trap to keep the fumes from the decaying waste from escaping. Here, our young friend demonstrates how it works.

Aid workers purchase the set of rings and the lid for about \$20. The components are then taken to the village where the villagers install the assembly in a convenient location. Sometimes they construct a small concrete wall around the latrine. Other times, plastic or bamboo sides provide privacy. Often times it is necessary for several families to use the same latrine.

Adequate medical care is seldom available in the villages. Occasionally, an aid worker is asked to help with a serious illness. In this case, the young woman was severely dehydrated from a typhoid infection. Realizing the emergency of the situation, she was quickly transported to the nearest medical clinic where the illness was diagnosed and effectively treated.

Sewing is a male dominated job and few businesses will hire women. In order for a woman to earn a living at this profession, she must set up her own business. Training in the use of a sewing machine and instruction in how to make quality garments, blankets, etc. is provided. Those completing the three-month course are given a sewing machine and supplies enabling them to start a business in their own home.

Career development programs provide training for many young people in different areas such as computers, driving, village doctor or nurse, ... as well as how to set up and manage a small enterprise. Micro-loans of \$100 to \$500 to start up a small business are also available.

Fish farming is an important income resource for many. Lakes and ponds are common throughout the country. The build up of decaying organic material, however, impairs their productivity. Frequently, aid workers provide the funds for renovating some of the fishponds. The pond is pumped dry and the accumulated mud is then dipped out. Using a bucket brigade technique and hard work, the pond is ready to be refilled in two to three days. Usually, the pond is restocked with tilapia, a fish variety that is very productive here. These workers each earn about \$2 a day for this hard and messy job. The small community living next to the pond will now have a reliable source of fish for many years to come.

Agriculture is the major way of life for most of the Bangladeshi people, but few have time or the knowledge to improve their time honored farming methods.

The Development Service Center, ... located in Savar near Dhaka, ... was established in 1965. However, this 19-acre training facility was closed in 2004. During the 35-year tenure of the DSC, many farmers learned how to grow better rice, ... how to manage and care for cattle and other farm animals, and how to make better use of products available to them. The introduction of a much more productive breed of ducks has made a major difference. The hatchery here on the grounds provided ducklings to rural areas as replacement of their less productive breeds.

The classroom activity at this facility included lectures and discussion during the training session. These lectures were reinforced with hands on experiences in raising chickens and fish and intensive cropping techniques to take advantage of the year round growing season. Many of the things that were done at the DSC are now done by visiting the villages and surrounding farms.

In a country where most people struggle to provide basic needs for themselves and their children, school attendance is a luxury and is not required by the government. However, literacy among Christians in this country is above 80% because of the priority on education by various mission agencies. Christians place a strong emphasis on individuals learning to read in order to study the Bible. Other religions rely mainly on teaching and interpretations from religious leaders.

Most schools are located in larger villages and cities rather than rural areas. Thus, poor families with no nearby school do not have many options for their children. In order to provide an education, some send their children to cities where schools are located. If a village family doesn't have relatives near a school, options for the child to attend the city school are limited.

The Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship manages several "hostels" where poor village children can live in a secure environment close to city schools. The use of hostels has dramatically changed the lives of many young Christians.

Other organizations have similar programs of training. Some provide advanced technical training in several different skill areas including welding, carpentry, and auto mechanics. The programs are very disciplined and are typically for two years duration.

The Bangladeshi people are willing and eager to do their part. But, ... additional resources are required that will allow the people to *go beyond survival*, ... to do more than just survive from day to day.



Mount Sinai is in Bangladesh

Ch. 41 (9:16) Filmed November 2003

Deep in the hills of southeastern Bangladesh is a place called Sinai Para – Mt. Sinai Village.

Sinai Para is only about 100 airline miles from Chittagong, the second largest city in the country. Chittagong, ... with a population of 4 million, ... and Sinai Para ... with less than 200 people, ... are separated by distances not measured in miles but by a wide and a deep expanse of culture. The hills, jungles, rivers and the primitive lifestyle of the people make Sinai Para and other villages in the area truly distant places.

The people living in the sparsely populated area known as the Chittagong Hill Tracts are collectively referred to as The

Tribals. There are over 30 individual tribes that can be distinguished by their customs, ... language, ... economic status, ... clothing, ... homes, ... and their religious beliefs.

Bandarban (*Bon-dur-bon*) is at the end of the road for traveling to Sinai Para. The path to the boat dock, ... strewn with trash, a goat awakening from its slumber, and a man chopping wood, ... sets the stage for the hour and a half boat ride up the Sangu (*Shan-goo*) River to the village.

On the river, boats can be hired like a taxicab and, ... like taxi drivers, ... the boatmen often have colorful personalities!

The skyline of Bandarban melts away and a comfortable place is found on the roof of the boat. Here the cool breeze provides some relief from the hot and steamy cabin.

Most of those living along the river's edge near Bandarban are Marma (*mar-maa*). Marmas number over 200,000 and are one of the larger tribes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The Marmas are strongly committed Buddhists. They practice Buddhism as well as worshipping their ancestors and various spirits.

Occasionally, fisherman from the Murong (*moo-rong*) Tribe can be seen casting their nets or trying to spear a fish in the shallow water. The Murong are animist who worship objects such as trees, stones, or rivers and are dominated by the fear of evil spirits.

As the boat chugs up the river, several small settlements come into view. Many people from the Chakma (*chak-maa*) Tribe live in these small homes. Chakmas (*chaak-maas*) are a tribe of about 500,000 people and the largest and most influential of the Tribals. This tribe has developed skill in farming the steep slopes along the river's edge. Using hand implements and hard work, they raise rice and a variety of fruits and vegetables. They worship Gozen (*Go-zen*) as the one supreme god and believe that he created man by breathing the breath of life in him. A variety of blood sacrifices are included in their worship activities to appease the evil spirits.

It is hard to tell which tribe built the shrines seen along the river's edge. Some are easily seen while others are small and often go unnoticed, but they are believed to help ward off evil spirits.

Much of tribal life and culture can be observed along the river's edge. They gather water here, bathe here, socialize and play here. The river is a source of food and transportation as well as livelihood for many.

This flat sandbar supports an almost universal passion among the Tribals ... playing soccer. They travel for long distances to fields such as this since flat ground is difficult to find in the hills near their homes.

Many of those along this area of the river are part of the 200,000 members of the Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) Tribe living in Bangladesh. It is here that the boat is anchored on a sand bar and the ascent to Sinai Para begins. It will take about 20 minutes to reach the village.

The Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) are an oppressed minority in Bangladesh and few convert to the country's dominant religion of Islam. Many mix animism with their Hindu beliefs. They place their trust in charms, spells, and fetishes in an attempt to

appease various evil spirits. They will even give blood sacrifices to ward off evil spirits that may be in a rice field, in a village or even in a sick person. Fear dominates their belief systems.

Here, ... life is simple for those living in the 20 to 30 bamboo and thatched roof homes. Wood is carried for cooking. Rice grown along the slopes is dried and then stored for use later in the year. Clothing is woven from yarn and children play with the few toys they have. For the most part, the men work the fields during the day.

Yes, life is simple, but not easy. Trying to survive in the hills of Bangladesh is a daily challenge – often a hand-to-mouth existence in a harsh climate. The dominant Bengali people pushed the humble, non-confrontational tribal people off the fertile plains land. Yet, they have taken all of these difficulties in stride as part of their fate over which they have no control.

But, ... Sinai Para is different than most Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) villages. ... Over half of the 50 families are Christians. The church, ... located in the center of the village, ... was established many years ago.

Despite the difficult lives these people lead, they have joy in their hearts as they serve and worship their new Lord, ... Jesus Christ. You see ... He has freed them from the spiritual darkness to which their tribesmen have been bound for centuries. ... The songs and preaching are in their tribal language. This makes it difficult for the occasional non-Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) visitor to the church.

As more and more of the Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) have an opportunity to hear the Good News, they are responding with open hearts. Many small groups of believers are forming. Several leaders among the Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) have received Christ and are, in turn, sharing the Good News. Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) Christians have started many believer groups. Since starting work among the Tripera (*TEE-pur-ah*) in 1983, more than 70 new churches have been formed. A church planting movement is in the making.

(Call to action by Lalzaum Bawm (*Lal-jom Bomb*) Put his name and title as an overlay. Some of the worship group scenes will be used during his comments.)

Mt. Sinai – only one of hundreds of remote villages in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. In the Old Testament, Mt. Sinai was a place where the Israelites met God. The people of Sinai Para have also met God. Pray that all the surrounding villages in the hills of Bangladesh will also come to know and worship the one, ... true God.



Empty Devotion

Ch. 42 (10:21) Filmed November 2003

For 83 years, ... night and day, ... the beat has never stopped. It is expected to continue uninterrupted for another 917 years. The devotion appears to be unending to those in this Hindu temple as they seek to deny themselves in order to please their gods. Since the beginning of this worship in 1920, they have worn out over 500 drums, sprinkled holy water from the Ganges River every 10 minutes, consumed tens of thousands of candles, and faithfully and carefully attend to the likeness of their god. Many musicians have grown old and died not knowing what awaits them in the next life.

All of the five rules of the puja prescribed by the ancient scriptures come together as they worship here. The most important of these, ... the mantra, ... is repeated many times during the day. The mantra is the sound that signifies the beginning of the universe.

This group ... of over 600,000 followers ... calls Jagobondhu their god, meaning friend of the world. The small house where he meditated in complete solitude for 16-1/2 years is enshrined in the temple. This is just one of the millions of gods that the Hindus worship.

The leader of this group is Bondhu, ... a well-educated man in his late 30's. He remains unmarried – instead giving his full love to his god. A large staff supports him and the worship activities here at the temple grounds near Faridpur, ... a medium sized city in the west central part of Bangladesh. Construction of a new worship center and paving of the driveway inside the

temple compound indicates an expansion of their influence in the area.

It is here in the Southwest part of the country that most of the Hindus of Bangladesh live. Hindus, however, are found throughout the country. In a temple located at a public school in Dumuria, ... down an alley way and up to the second story of an apartment building in Banderban, ... within the family compound of the faithful in Kaligoni, ... along a busy street in Kuhlana, ... and in a small building along the roadside near Terakhada. Occasionally, they can be observed returning from the cremation of a recently deceased family member. The Hindus, 12 million in all, feel oppressed and set aside since they represent only about 14% of the population of the country. The 85% Muslim majority dominates the political, economic, social and religious activities of Bangladesh.

The beliefs of the Hindu's began in the hearts and minds of the people in India long before Mohammad established Islam. The most important sacred teachings, the Vedas, were written nearly a thousand years before Jesus was born. The teachings of the Vedas existed centuries before they were written and are considered older than the sacred writings of any other major religion. ... Still ... people like this caretaker who has been here for 40 years ... or those who are worshipping at this sacred tree ... understand little of the religion that captures their devotion. There is no teaching of the doctrines and principals of Hinduism in the places of worship. Instead, ... they are taught that if they are good, ... someday there is the possibility of being reincarnated as a higher-class person and ultimately reaching the peace and tranquility of the highest level of heaven.

Hindus consider the temples as buildings dedicated to one or more of the 330 million gods. Most Hindu temples have many shrines, each of which is devoted to a divinity. Each temple also has a principle shrine dedicated to a single important god or goddess. Each and every day the images are washed, dressed, and provided with food.

In Boyra Temple located in the city of Khulna preparations are underway for the puja. This Brahman, ... the priest of the Temple, ... oversees the preparations. Food consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables is prepared for the deities. The sacred utensils are washed and set up. The five elements of the Hindu worship are all included in these activities. ... The pot containing water that represents the human body. ... The flower, fruit, or leaf that represents nature. ... The picture or statue of the deity. ... The mandala, or sacred pattern that encompasses the universe, is stamped on the foreheads of the worshippers. Most important is the mantra ... or the sound that is the beginning of the universe. ... The mantra activates the worship and any ceremony is useless without the sound.

As a people, the Hindus consider themselves as ones who seek to live in harmony with others as well as nature, but many of their deities and sacred writings portray their gods with a violent and vindictive nature. Kali (KAH-lee), one of the principle gods, is the goddess of destruction. This inconsistency extends into the spirit world. Even with the apparent devotion to their gods, they continue to be fearful of evil spirits. The brown mark on the child's forehead is said to keep evil spirits from entering his body. The amulets worn around this four-day-old boy serve a similar purpose. They continue to wear the amulets for many years. The string around the waist has bells attached and is used to ensure fertility as the child grows to adulthood. The most frightening of their rituals is working with poisonous snakes. Snake charmers capture cobras in the wild and use them in these rituals. Many of the Hindu shrines include an image of a cobra.

The Hindu religion divides their people into four castes, the Brahman who are the priests and scholars, ... the Koitrio or rulers and warriors, ... the Boishno or the merchants and professionals ... and the Nomoshurdo or farmers and fishermen. Because of the oppression by the Muslims, most of the upper three castes have left Bangladesh, leaving the lowest caste. This caste is divided into still a lower caste known as the Rishis. It is those in this lowest of the bottom caste that have been the most receptive to the Gospel.

The Hindus need your prayers. Select one of the following individuals and pray for that person.

[\(Scenes of individuals with hymn Holy, Holy, Holy sung in Bengali\)](#)

The Hindus are a large group with millions just like these who are lost and with no hope. Please come and help us as we share the Gospel.

{Closing scene Church}

[Ending – scroll of Holy, Holy, Holy since the congregation is singing this hymn.](#)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Merciful and Mighty!

God in Three persons, blessed Trinity!