

July 25, 2019

Dear BMW friend,

The Weather was God's idea

Our big event "A Taste of Bangladesh," was held on Saturday, July 20. We had 225 people present! It appears that including promised gifts still on the way, that \$30,000 was raised!

As you probably know, God does not usually get us to the "happily ever after" ending in a golden carriage. God is much more interesting than that! He is full of surprises. If it is possible to get used to surprises, we at BMW are used to it!

As I write this newsletter, I am admiring bright sunshine, 68 degrees and low humidity. Absolutely perfect weather! In my faithless moments I ask, "Why couldn't we have had this weather on Saturday?" At the time, we joked it was all part of our plan to give people a real taste of Bangladesh: blistering heat, sweltering humidity, and a torrential rainstorm. It was all predicted by the weatherman who shot a bulls-eye from five days out! We thought the prayers would drive it away, but the prayers kept it right on track!

The weather caused an early shut-down of some events, but that had two positive effects: we were forced inside the wonderful pavilion where we had a better chance to talk to each other and hear ministry presentations; it put a big sense of urgency on the whole auction, causing many more purchases. It also gave us that mystical bond of going through a crisis together. What a blessing our 50 volunteers were who faithfully carried out their duties! We should always give thanks to God for all the wonderful people who cheerfully weathered the storm together!

Meanwhile, back on the field...

What we consider occasional beastly weather is their lot every day. Their days average 90 degrees and high humidity, which makes people lethargic. Then there are monsoon downpours and flooding which makes it hard to get around. As Matthew says, "The weather made our ministry work slower, like the attendees of weekly Bible class become lower and traveling for the teachers become harder." He also says, "Give thanks that we were able to expand our ministry work into five new districts this year: Birgonj, Bagerhat, Kagrachari, Komolgonj (subdistrict of Maulovibazar), and Gopalganj. The urgent need is now, we need wisdom and prayer support, so that we can nurture and take good care of our new believers from our bible study groups and give them proper counseling to lead them to the Christ centered life."

Keep praying for the 18 young people who professed faith in Christ during our recent camp season. Sanjoy met last week with the Hindu families of four who had the courage to tell them of their salvation through faith in Christ. They were Mamoni (22), Bina (16), Shumona (16), and Bishwajit. I have given the ages of the girls, because the families all said that they did not object to their faith, but worried about their marriageability. They worried that as the girls are entering the season of marriage, if they were not Hindus, they would not be able to find husbands for them. Let us remember the miracle of guidance for Rebekah and Isaac's marriage in Genesis 26 and pray for them.

Sincerely,
Dave DeCook

All gifts to BMW will receive a 501(c)3 tax-deductible receipt.

PO BOX 2844
GRAND RAPIDS MI
49501

DIRECTOR:
DAVE DECOOK
(616) 773-0290
DIRECTOR@
BANGLAMINISTRIES.ORG

ASSISTANT:
ESTHER RAPA
INFO@
BANGLAMINISTRIES.ORG

FACEBOOK: BANGLA
MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE

WWW.BANGLAMINISTRIES.ORG

TWITTER: BMWBANGLA

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"Downstream" set the mood.

Chili and curry competition

Plenty of food! Bangladesh quiz for kids.



Sari ladies



the flag parade



Bengali bride style



Bengali baby sling; one size fits all.



Lungi models



Panjabi models



Auction tables



A Taste of Bangladesh
Relaxed fellowship; a community-building event.



Overheard: Are they going to do this again next year?



Next Prayer Force Sortie



Get your prayers off the ground! Join one of these air power meetings because we are fighting the "prince of the power of the air." Don't be Missing In Action!

Grand Rapids BMW Prayer Force Wing South
Saturday, September 14, 10:30 AM
Home of Paul and Carol Veenstra
2549 Scarlet Oak Drive
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Grand Rapids BMW Prayer Force Wing North
Saturday, September 14, 10:30 AM
Home of Steve and Diane Morris
2353 Deer Trail Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Holland BMW Prayer Force Wing
Thursday, August 22, 7:00 PM
Home of Bob and Kris Arent
1349 W. Springfield Circle
Zeeland, MI 49464