

How I found my way to follow Jesus



Bringing Good News to the
Poorest of the Poor

Bangladesh Mission Field



Bangladesh is bordered by India on the east, west, and north. There is a small strip of frontier with Myanmar on the southeastern edge.

AREA: 55,598 square miles, in 64 districts and 68,000 villages. **POPULATION:** 142 million. 85% live in villages, 15% live in cities. **RELIGION:** Muslim 90%, Hindu 9%, Buddhist, Christian & Others 1%.

Hard field for the gospel - Restricted Christian mission works: In 1988 the government of Bangladesh declared Islam to be the State religion. There-after put a limitation on the number of foreign missionaries allowed and restricted Christian evangelistic work.



John Nihar Biswas teaching

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On March 22, 1971, the front page of every newspaper in Bangladesh published a statement from its nationalist leader to the Bengali people stating, "This struggle of ours is for the complete freedom for the people of Bangladesh, we must be ready for any sacrifice in order to achieve our goal..." Pakistan opposed the independence of Bangladesh. At midnight, March 25, 1971, the Pakistani army began killing

and terrorizing Bengalis. After seeing hundreds of people killed and many mass graves, I escaped from my college in Dhaka (Capital of Bangladesh) and joined ***Muktibahini*** which was the Bangladesh Liberation Force.

I was elected as secretary in one of the local units. My duty was to organize the young volunteers, alert villagers about the imminent military attack and to advise them to escape in order to save their lives. One day unexpectedly, a military group came and randomly shot at innocent villagers. They brutally killed them, burned their houses and belongings. Our unit took responsibility for protecting the villagers' property left behind by the looters, we also found shelter for the victims.

One awful night I joined two hundred other young men on a two-week, 220-mile walk barefoot track along the rough and muddy roads into India to train as fighters for our Homeland. This treacherous journey was filled with calamity and death. Several people died from lack of food, sickness and severe exhaustion. It was a painful journey.

My first real inkling that God was calling me occurred during one of those perilous

nights while trying to rest on the steps of a church. A Christian missionary invited me in, gave me a glass of water and showed compassion for my troubled condition. He understood my apprehension about defending my country, and gently spoke about the great Defender, Jesus, who shed His blood for my sins.



One of our village fellowships

The missionary's story sounded like a fairy tale but the Lord planted a seed in my heart. After the war I went to Spicer College in India to study the Bible. There I placed my faith fully in Christ and trained as a soldier for Jesus.

The war caused the Bengali people to suffer nine months of looting, rape and slaughter by the Pakistani army. Ten million

people fled to refugee camps in India and three million were slaughtered – young and old, men, women and children. However, by God's grace the Pakistani army was eventually defeated. They surrendered on December 16, 1971 to the valiant freedom fighters of the Land of Bengali - Bangladesh.

Feeling fortunate to have survived the war, I believed God had spared me for a particular purpose and had shown me a fresh vision for the future. After completing



John N. Biswas spreads the Word

my studies at Dhaka University in Bangladesh, I decided to pursue higher knowledge at Far Eastern Theological

Seminary in the Philippines and at Andrews University in Michigan, USA. At first, I wanted to be a rich lawyer, live in a big house and do great things. However, I got my masters degree in religion. God had other plans. I eventually returned to my home village and organized the native



One of the native missionaries distributes gospel literature to the students.

gospel mission in 1986, now known as the Bengali Evangelical Association (BEA), a non-profit Christian ministry. This ministry is dedicated to save lives and souls in Bangladesh.

Community at Work



Young people working hard to build a village church.



Soil is carried by tricycle to raise ground level to build a flood shelter.

Equipping indigenous - Considering, the present political and cultural situation in Bangladesh, we have come to see that the best way to share the gospel is through native missionaries; By equipping the indigenous people in Biblical and health care the knowledge they can then evangelise to their own community.



The nurse's-aide students writing their final examination.

Health care is one of the best ways to serve and share the gospel in Bangladesh. Christian nurse's-aides are able to share the love of God directly with the people as they care for their physical needs.

Missionary needs: The greatest need for the short term missionary in Bangladesh is for doctors, nurses, teachers and preachers.



Dr. Irene Kimble, a short term medical missionary examining a patient.

Dr. Irene Kimble of California, USA, a physician specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been in Bangladesh serving and providing medical needs to the poor women who live in the remote villages. We appreciate her love and commitment for the poorest among the poor in the rural villages of Bangladesh.

Assisting poor families:We have a practical plan to motivate, assist and elevate the desperate families to come out of financial bondage by providing goats. This strategic plan is an expression of Christian love and is earning outstanding results in Bangladesh.



The blind, deaf, mute individuals and their families who were blessed by receiving goats.

Goats often produce twins and thrive in any conditions - eating grass and vegetable waste. Goats can give as much as four quarts of milk a day. Goats' milk is high in protein needed by small children and malnourished people.

BEA missionaries work door to door in 230 villages, serving over 700,000 villagers. They share health, education, Christian literature and community



John Nihar Biswas (left) with the village people, the grass-root contacts.

development information. Bengali Evangelical Association has built elementary schools for children, health facilities for the poor, churches for the community, and trained and supported native missionaries. *“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the people.”* Psalms 96:3

Why would anyone choose to follow Jesus? Jesus has compassion for all people, especially the lowly and the oppressed whom others look down on. Prostitutes found refuge and forgiveness in him, not condemnation. He healed lepers, cast out demons, cared for children, esteemed women and foreigners. Jesus was compassionate and it cost Him His life. God has come to us in Christ, offering us friendship, love, joy, hope, courage, doing good rather than evil, forgiveness rather than violence, renewal, and much more.

When Jesus died on the cross, he conquered death so each of us could be forgiven. We deserve to be punished for the wrong we have done in God's eyes. But God sent his son to receive our punishment in his body on the cross. 1 Peter 2:24

The resurrection of Jesus is the main message for Christians to share with others. Jesus gave His life for a reason: to pay the price to rescue us. Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love for us. People should know that God loves them truly, and ***“...that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” - John 3:16.***

Christianity teaches that eternal life is possible through faith in Christ. In Christ there is nothing to lose but rather everything to gain. For some people, this makes tremendous sense, and they desire to follow Christ as their Savior. Jesus assures His followers that sacrificing for His sake will be repaid many times over in this life - **Mark 10:29,30**. People around



The students of the Bible Training School.

the world have accepted His call and become His disciples. His word changed my life and it can change yours and other lives too.

I chose to invest my Christian education as a servant and an ambassador for Christ. Today I am not a lawyer but a fellow defender of the poor and follower of Jesus.

He commands His followers to love one another. Jesus also told His disciples to preach the gospel. Along with other native missionaries, we are now preaching God's love in the remote villages of Bangladesh, distributing gospel tracts and Bibles, extending emergency relief, running elementary schools, providing medical support to the rural destitute, baptizing new



Baptizing new believers

believers and establishing churches.

We desire to reach the entire rural population of the 68,000 villages of Bangladesh, sharing the salvation story of the great Savior. Jesus is calling us to follow Him. **“Come, follow me...” Matthew 4:19.** I follow Him! Will you?

**“Train up a child in the way he
should go” Proverbs 22:6**



***Elementary school students - They come
from poor Christian, Muslim and Hindu
families to receive Christian Education.***

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