

Word of God: Living Hope for All



BANGLADESH BIBLE SOCIETY
বাংলাদেশ বাইবেল সোসাইটি

BANGLADESH BIBLE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Rev. Shourabh Pholia
General Secretary
Bangladesh Bible Society

The Terrorist attack in July 2016 at Gulshan, Dhaka was a shock for us. Again, within seven days attack at Sholakia Eid prayer was another shock for all Bangladesh. People of Bangladesh never ever thought of this kind of attack in Bangladesh. As we all Muslims, Hindus, Christians and other Ethnic groups fought and laid our lives for our freedom and language . They all were living in peace and harmony as Bengali and Bangladeshi. But from July 2016 the scenario has changed in Bangladesh. People are now living in fear, feeling insecure everywhere in Bangladesh. People are seeking secured shelter. In this situation the BBS is continuing its Mission to reach out people with the Word of God, which can give them comfort and hope in this time of fear and insecurity. Still the Word of God assuring people in its own way. As it says, “Fear not, for I am with you.”(Isa 41:10). This living word is our living hope and that is why still we all moving forward with the Word of God. This Word shows the right way to people. It helps people to open their eyes, helps them to know the right way to go to heaven. It provides the right message of God, as it has the true way to reach to God. It has the right call for all to love God and to love people and creation, even to love enemies. These words help people to wake up and walk in the right path. Therefore, BBS take this hard time as an opportunity to sow the right seeds that is the Word of God to harvest in near future. We also keeping it in mind that we should be wise as serpents and innocent as dove. (Mt.10:16). We humbly continuing our ministry even when there are risks. We are doing it because we are committed to share the Word of God with all here in Bangladesh. We need your prayer support and your partnership. We are thankful to you all who have already extended your kind hand to us and your prayer for our ministry here in Bangladesh. We are humbly inviting you who are willing and waiting to be with us when we are in need of your presence for our ministry. Hope to have you all with us in near future. Please note that we have submitted one proposal to develop new materials to share and distribute the Word of God in this crucial time when people are persecuted and also looking for peace, truth and justice. The name of the project is “ Hope during Persecution.” Proposal No- 100733. Requesting you all to have a look and pray for the project to implement here to show many the right way to God and also to give hope and life to many in this time of crisis.

Along with sharing and distributing the Word of God we are continuing our Scripture engagement programs so that many can be involved in reading the Word of God and also live according to the Word of God. Therefore, we have introduced Lay People Bible Study programme through which the Lay people are getting opportunity to meet and do Bible Study in their respective churches and houses. This Bible study programme is helping them to develop their knowledge about Scripture and also helping them to grow spiritually. Especially the new churches where the congregations are from other faith backgrounds are getting its benefit as they are learning more through this Bible studies and growing in their faith, which is contributing the churches to have strong faithful disciples.

The BBS organized training on Trauma Healing with the support from ABS and WR, which is now extended to many churches in Dhaka and in rural areas. It will grow more and will be a blessing to many in near future when our participants will have the advance training in October 2016. We believe that it will heal many and encourage people to have deeper faith on the Word of God, which will bring change in our churches and society.

You will be happy to know that we have started four Bible libraries in four different remote rural places where people are now able to receive Bibles and its related materials easily for their use and also to order their need through the libraries. Through these libraries people are now able to access different versions of Bibles, children are getting their class texts books which often they do not get from their schools. We are going to have a partnership with Radiohope to broadcast our programme. You can hear the programme by clicking on www.radiohopebd.com. Please send your feedback to us to improve.

Once again we like to request you all to continue to pray for us. We assure our prayer for you all. We believe that with your prayer and presence we will be able to continue our ministry for His Kingdom here in Bangladesh.



Trauma Healing Program

The trauma healing program seeks to address the spiritual, emotional and psychological needs of the traumatized people those who are under emotional pains or shocks. Those who have been affected with pain as a result of violence, crimes, domestic abuse, moral decadence, political unrest, natural disasters, etc. BBS have been arranging some group lessons in order to support local churches to transform the traumatized people.

Trauma Healing group lesson: Trauma Healing group lesson took place on 10 August, 2016 at Narikelbari, Gopalganj, the southern part of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Bible society organized the program. 18 participants from Narikelbari Catholic church attended in the group lesson. Most of the participants were the women.

There are 05 lessons address in group lesson. They are:

1. *If God loves us, why do we suffer?*
2. *How can wounds of our hearts be healed?*
3. *What happens when someone is grieving?*
4. *Response: Taking your pain in the Cross and*
5. *Forgiveness*

Through all sessions participants experienced, learnt and shared their sufferings with the group and get relief from their wounds of Trauma. All participants have satisfied and happy to get the TH lesson. Mr. Richmond Joydhor, Media Secretary and Mr. Dipankar Rema, Program Coordinator, attended as facilitator of the group lesson. Another group started on 13th August 2016 at St. Thomas Church, Moghbazar, Dhaka. Mrs. Mary S.Sangma led the group.



Translation Department (Scripture Translations):

Garo Bible Translation: Format Marking and Revision work is going on. Also Preparation for DBL is going on.

Shantali Bible Translation: Translation work is going on the book of Jeremiah.

Chakma Bible Translation: Chakma Translation for NT has done till 2nd Peter. And Revision work is going on OT- Book of Isaiah. On July 11-12, A Reviewer Meeting was held at Believers Church Campus, Khagrachari.

Marma Bible Translation: Translation Work for NT is going on book of Mark. On July 13, A Reviewer Meeting was held at Believers Church Campus, Khagrachari.

Bengali Study Bible: Computer correction work is going on.

MBCL Study Bible: Work is going on Gospel of Luke.

Bengali Common Old Version: We are collecting from the reviewers.

Children Materials: 4 Books of Wisdom Series has been completed. Character Bible for Children-has been Completed.

Manna: A daily devotional book “Manna-2017” work in progress.

Calendars: wall Calendar, MBCL wall Calendar, Desk Calendar, Diary planner, Program Calendar Work in progress.



Literacy Follow up gathering at Mushoria

Literacy skills among the members of Mushoria Catholic church. The low literate women in the village Mushoria are slowly developing their reading and writing skills. In a recent visit at Mushoria Catholic church, Mr. Richmond Joydhor from Bible Society attended the literacy class and found that the women are learning and practicing the lessons from the Bible stories with so interest. He talked with the participants. This literacy class helped them to learn many Bible stories and empowered them spiritually. The songs and drama from Bible stories is a unique form which draw their attention to the lessons.

The most aged person and only the male participant in the literacy class Mr. Ridoy Gain age-90, attend the class regularly. He said, “ This audio based literacy class is very helpful and innovative idea to reach people in village. Mostly women in the village are low literate and they do not have chance to go to school, so this class is appropriate for them. So, I told all my sons and grandsons to send their wives to attend the literacy class and develop their skills”. Mrs. Bobita Gain, one of the participants who has been learning and developing herself in this class. She says, “ This class helped me a lot. Now I can read from the literacy book. In the beginning I did lot of mistakes now I am confident. I could not pray to God but now I can pray”. The literacy class has been extended in other churches in Gopalganj area. So, the members of the rural churches in this area are gradually improving. They attend the church regularly, collect tithes and offerings and have the regular family prayer meetings.



Children Program at Kids Home, BYFC



Spiritual Awareness for Mothers at Khagrachori

We praise God that we are continuing the distribution of the Word of God through the Churches cooperation. Last two months we have visited some places with the Word of God and provided scriptures as their need. The places are Khulna areas: AG church, Baptist Church, Rupsha, Church of Bangladesh- Khalishpur, Bharashapur, Mongla-Chila, AOB Churches, Chittagong, Malumghat, Lama, Peergacha, Thanarbaith, Sokhipur, Edilpur, Razshahi, Paitapukur – Church of God and Catholic Church - Razshahi, Fellowship Church Pakri, Salvation Army, Talithakumi Evangelical Church, SDA Church, BBCF, Believer Church, Light Foundation, CDC Bible School, Noapara and Rajendra etc.

You will be glad to know that Bible Amar Priyo Shathi (BAPS) and Jishu Amar Adarsha were held with students in many places around country namely Lama Banderban with the help of Bangladesh Tripura Association of Baptists, Sokhipur -Bobe Presbyterian Church, Edilpur COB hostel, Girls' hostel – St. Paul's Church(RC), Thanarbaith and Paitapukur, Bangladesh Gospel Church- Bonshidhor - Panchaghor Rasulpur- Birganj, Laxmichap - Nilphamari, and Kids hostel BYFC- Birgang and Birampur and the children hostel of Talithakumi Evangelical Churches- Birganj. We provide them Bible, New Testament and Bible story books. All the students were very happy to receive Word of God in different format and committed to read the Holy Words.

Mothers Program: This year we have started to encouraging mothers with the word of God and to share spiritual responsibility for their children and family members. So this time we organize two mothers program at Bharashapur and Chila Baptist Church. We provide special book “ I AM SHE” and small New Testament to all participants.

Bookstall: We were able to put our Bible display stall at Christian Memorial Church- Tea Garden- Malumghat And Tribal Baptist Church- Lama Banderban and Birampur Kids Hostel. Many people got opportunity to purchase Holy Bible, Christian Songs CD, Christian Hymn Book, Color Book, Christian Comics, Men-Women Series etc.

Scripture Supply: We have supplied Holy Scripture to Khulna, Gopalganj, Sylhet, B.Barua, Chittagong, Uttara, Rajendrapur, and Noapara.



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Lay people's Bible study program at NCFB



Children Program at Gospel Baptist Church, Bongshidhor



Literacy Program at Ramshil



Youth program at Bobe Hostel, Tangail



Translation review meeting at Khagrachari