

Dear **Brothers and Sisters** of Gynea Baptist Church,

Nomoshkar and greetings from Bangladesh! Baptist World Aid Australia wrote and told us of your May Missions Month, we are pleased to write you to tell you about the situation of our program, and how we are using the money you so generously donated. We were very glad to hear about how you raised funds for us, and were so encouraged to hear about how interested your church has become in our work with people with disabilities. In Bangladesh, people with disabilities are usually left behind of development. Many development programs exclude people with disabilities, so we are trying to fix this problem. Many donors from Bangladesh and other countries are not adequately aware of this kind of exclusion. We are so grateful to you for your noble effort in taking the initiative of fund raising for the upliftment of the people with disabilities in Bangladesh. We also thank you for your prayers.

Some Important Events since May 2009

Three of our members with disabilities have completed their Secondary School Certificate and have been admitted into the college. This is a great achievement because many people with disabilities in Bangladesh do not attend in the school even due to social stigma.

One member, Miraj already had one leg amputated several years ago because of a disease called borses. This year he had his other leg amputated caused by the disease. We had given him a wheelchair but his wife had to carry him over the front step into the house. So she was getting a very sore back. We shared this problem with his neighbours, and together built a ramp in front of his house. Soon he will start a local cake making business. We are hoping things will continue to improve for Miraj.



Family and neighbours making



Miraj using his new ramp

This year we are planning to continue working with the community to change negative attitudes and create opportunities for people with disabilities. We are grateful to Baptist World Aid Australia for organising through the Australian government an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development volunteer, Briana Wilson to work with us for one year. She is an occupational therapist. We needed an occupational therapists' help very much to help us to develop capacity of the people with disabilities. Together, we are trying to find out ways that people with disabilities can do more activities for themselves, can look after themselves, participate actively in the community life and can earn income for their livelihood. We have a plan to start a sewing training course for people with disabilities soon. We are also thinking about starting a community toy library. This will provide toys for therapy for children with disabilities, and also allow children without disabilities to mix with disabled children more. We hope this will help to change attitudes in the children and their parents in the community.



Three girls with hearing and speech impairments participating in embroidery and beading training. They work together in complete silence to make beautiful dresses communicating via sign language. The dresses are made to order and sent to



Barack riding his tricycle

Another member, Barack was found two years ago crawling on the ground because he could not use his legs affected by polio. He has been involved in one of the groups, but still he did not have a job because no one wanted to do business with him because he crawled on the ground and was so dirty. Now, he has a tricycle that he rides, and he has a job collecting toll from the bridge. This has increased his confidence and added new hope in life. Sometimes he does have tricycle race with the rickshaw pullers!

We are also very happy that we recently got a new physio technician staff member, Howa Khatun, she is full time so she will be able to provide more physio therapy this year. We are happy that we were able to get a female staff member as all of our current staff members are male. Having a female worker is good because this provides easy access to the families in the community. Sometimes man is not allowed to go inside the house due to religious and cultural practice.

Please continue to keep praying for us.
With love and peace,

Project Staff

Ashutosh, Lablu, Max, Mozzeum, Shohug, Kanchon, Jalil, Howa,
Shofique and Briana.