

BANGLADESH

Dear Brethren,

March/April 2022

We seem to be getting back to normality here in Cambodia and for this we are grateful. The government here states that mask-wearing is now up to the individual but I'd say eighty percent of the population still is wearing them. From what I understand, Bangladesh is a little more cautious in their policy but they have gone mask free as well. I greatly appreciate your prayers for the ministry here in Cambodia as well as in Bangladesh. I made two trips to Bangladesh before the country closed its doors two years ago but the Lord in His grace allowed me to connect with a few believers. We've been able to minister to folks despite all the opposition from many directions. After reading the following verse many times throughout my life it really took on meaning over the past couple of years;

“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” Col. 2:5

All reports are that the discipleship training went well even though we didn't have the numbers we were expecting. It was held at the Chittagong Hill Tracts region which is Southeast of Dhaka. This is about a seven-hour drive by bus from the capital. If you've never traveled on a Bangladesh bus then just consider yourself fortunate. There are more vehicle fatalities in Bangladesh than in any country on earth. On my first trip in there were thousands of young people protesting in the streets. I figured it must be for higher wages or some political injustice but to my shock, I learned they were protesting against failed traffic policy and the daily traffic fatalities. The population of the capital Dhaka, if you can imagine this, is over 22 million people!! One giant eternal traffic jam. If you're looking to try your patience then Dhaka is the place for you.

Our ministry is among the Chakma people. They are the largest of the twenty-seven tribes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and have a population of 300,000 people. There is a total population of about a million and a half people in this area. It's the only 'hilly' area of Bangladesh. The country is only thirty feet above sea level. Many of the Chakma write in the Bengali script.

Most of the folks that attended were Christians as it was intended as a three-day discipleship meeting but we did have some villagers come out and attend out of curiosity. Our meeting may have conflicted with the month of Ramadan and the Muslims capping it off with their holiday of Eid al-Fitr. We also have some men holding bible studies in their homes in Dhaka. We are blessed to have the Bible Society located right in Dhaka in addition to putting together our own material. I would appreciate your continued prayer for these men and this ministry to their own people.

Please pray for me as I work on the visa situation. I can get a thirty-day tourist visa but this is not what I'm looking for. I'd like at least a one-year renewable visa. Certainly no problem for an all-powerful God so I wait in His timing with prayer. Thank you and may God bless you as you serve Him where you're at.

In His Grace,
Bro. Tim Moriarty
Col.1:20

If you would prefer to receive this letter by e-mail just contact my home church secretary (jane@postfallschurch.com) or myself.