

BANGLADESH

Dear Brethren,

November/December 2022

I appreciate your prayers concerning my recent trip into Bangladesh. I departed Phnom Penh, Cambodia, traveled through Thailand, and arrived at the Hazrat Shahjalal Airport in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was about six hours in total. When I arrived in Dhaka, the airport terminal was without power, and we were in the dark for about ten minutes before the power came back on. Things just kind of happen like this in Bangladesh. Regarding infrastructure, I tell people that Bangladesh is like what Cambodia was thirty years ago. I was there for about three weeks, mainly in and around the capital. They say Dhaka is the most densely populated city on planet earth. People and dust everywhere with few smiles until they notice one from you. The trip was eventful. There was a political rally by over 30,000 people from the opposing political party in the street. Thirteen hundred were arrested, and one dead. A week before this there was a prison escape in Dhaka by a Muslim extremist who had killed an American journalist. I mentioned these things to give you a backdrop of what was going on while I was there.

I met up with brother Robin and his wife Shiuly, and they opened up their apartment for me to teach. They live right in the middle of the city. There seem to be mosques on every corner, and the prayers come over the loudspeakers five times a day. One elderly gentleman coming from the mosque asked me where I was from. I told him the U.S. There was an uncomfortable silence from him. He then looked up at me and said, "Oh, I have a nephew in Florida." Small world, isn't it? We had some college students travel from a university in Dhaka and others who traveled from the city's outskirts. I taught the bible between 6-8 hours a day, along with prayer and singing. Some couldn't come every day because of a class they had to attend at school or a work obligation. For a couple of days, the government shut down the bus system, which caused us some transportation problems. This was done because the authorities were concerned about the opposition party busing in thousands of people for the protest. Yet despite these setbacks, the time was a blessing, and I feel much was accomplished. While I was there, Robin mentioned that there were possibly fifteen to twenty people outside the city who would love to attend the bible study, but they didn't have lodging or a place to stay. I suggested that in the future if we had a place in Dhaka with a couple of extra rooms, we could lodge them while they learn and fellowship. Most of these brothers are single in their twenties and have a basic understanding of the scripture. It would be somewhat of a spiritual oasis for them in Dhaka. They all spoke at least two languages and came from four different regions of the country. Of course, the best part of the trip was just spending time with them and getting to know them. Some expressed a desire to be discipled and return to their homelands.

Establishing any new church in Bangladesh is a painstaking process, if the government allows it at all. The few churches you see in Bangladesh (some Baptist) have been established for many years, and this Muslim country doesn't want more of them. About five years ago, all foreign clergy including Catholic priests were told to leave the country. However, opposition to the Word of God is not always bad, and God often uses it to accomplish His purpose. I'm currently preparing my next trip and staying for a much longer duration. We hope and pray for a larger place to meet with additional brethren coming together. God bless every one of you. I couldn't do this without you.

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.