

Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme



Monthly Report

From: James S. Pender	To: Bishop Sarker
Date: 4 th January 2010	cc: Bishop Mankhin, David Mazumder, Biswanath Roy, Ruhul Q. Tito, John P. Biswas, Bangladesh Group

Subject: Monthly Report for December 2009

The highlight of this month was to see some of the materials for the MLE approach to education produced for use in schools during 2010; fantastic to see the Santali language in print.

WORK UNDERTAKEN

CBSDP-Rajshahi

Multi-Lingual Education (MLE)

Linda continued to lead work in developing materials and a curriculum for implementation of MLE for 'KG Level 1' classes (4-5 year olds) in CBSDP-Rajshahi's schools next year. James, Habil, Rev. Salku Murmo, Rattan, Nipon and other CoB church members assisted in producing and colouring-in posters for the classrooms showing animals, fish, birds, vegetables and fruit with Santal and Bengali names shown in appropriate scripts. Linda also worked on teachers' manuals, curriculum and timetables with the Schools Supervisor. The manager in discussion with senior staff and advisors also finalised the 10 villages which would have MLE approach (Santali language) Pre-primary classes and the 2 villages with GBK approach (Bengali language) Pre-primary classes within the working area.

Visit to MAASAUS

On 8th December James, Linda and the Schools Supervisor Habil Kisku visited a Community-based Organisation (CBO) which was also receiving technical support from SIL, Bangladesh and had been running 3-5 schools using an MLE approach for the *Mahali* ethnic minority in the Rajshahi area for the last three years. The visit included visiting a school and observing teaching, as well as discussion with the Executive Director in the office and receiving copies of the materials they use.

Pre-Christmas Celebrations

Attended 4 Pre-Christmas celebrations with CBSDP staff: At the Rajshahi Office (15th), Paitapukur Sub-Centre (12th) and Belgoria Sub-centre (10th) as well as with staff and dignitaries at Nobokoli Craft Training Centre (14th).

Climate Change

Training on drip-feed irrigation

On 8th December gave training on how to use old plastic bottles for drip feed irrigation in kitchen gardens which is a form of drought/climate change adaptation at Paitapukur Sub-centre of CBSDP-Rajshahi. This technique was developed by CARITAS in nearby Chapai Nawabganj district and observed on a visit to their field area earlier in the year.

Methodist Church Letter of Solidarity

Helped set up a meeting between Methodist representative Ben Bradley and a Bangladeshi representative of CANSA (Climate Action Network-South Asia) of which Church of Bangladesh is a member. Ben who cycled to Copenhagen to raise awareness on climate change handed over the letter of solidarity on climate action from the President of the Methodist Church in Britain on behalf of the Church to Golam Rabbani of CANSA (who works with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies) at the COP 14 in Copenhagen. You can see more details and photos on the weblink to Ben's blog: <http://tinyurl.com/y9bxqv4>



Picture: Ben handing the letter of Solidarity to Golam in Copenhagen

Climate Change Flip-chart

Assisted the manager of CBSDP-Rajshahi in adapting a flip-chart on climate change produced by CARE, Bangladesh for use among our development group members.

Youth Seminar

On the 5th December assisted by the CBSDP-Rajshahi Acting Assistant Manager gave a session on climate change to the 40 or so youth from Church of Bangladesh, Lutheran and Roman Catholic denominations at Karmamaria village.

Church of Bangladesh

Marriage Counselling

As one girl from the CoB was getting married to a Jamaican boy she'd meet during a CWM programme, the Dean of Rajshahi requested Linda and I to give some basic counselling and share on cross-cultural marriage. Linda also preached the sermon at the wedding at Paitapukur village in three languages (English, Santali and Bengali) – a multi-lingual sermon!!

Plans for January 2010

- To take leave between 14th -19th and 22nd to 24th January within Bangladesh.
- To assist in the completion of the final draft of the Jobarpar Deanery climate change project proposal and submit it to Tearfund.
- To assist in the completion of the final CBSDP-Meherpur project proposal and submit it to Christian Aid.
- To assist in the preparation of annual progress reports

Publications

- On Wednesday December 2nd 2009 I was cited on the front page of the *Daily Star* newspaper (Dhaka, Bangladesh) which included the quote: 'In Bangladesh, the issues are magnified by the density of the population. Any climate-induced disaster "inevitably affects millions of people," researcher James Pender wrote in a recent sweeping report on Bangladesh'. See weblink: <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=116061>