

# THE LINK Newsletter

WINTER 2017

THE  
WORLD OF A  
WORKING CHILD

LAYING THE  
CORNERSTONE  
IN NAOGOAN

## Laying the Cornerstone | IN NAOGOAN

**It was an exciting day for our partners in Bangladesh** when David Marshall, Executive Director for International Needs Canada, cut the ribbon to signal the beginning of the construction of the Naogoan Project. The first building phase, which is the ground floor, will be for the expansion of the Naogoan Free School including secondary level education. Over 280 vulnerable children are presently receiving a quality primary education at the Naogoan Free School. However, more and more children want to come to school and classes are overcrowded. **There is no space available in the present building to add more classrooms or for secondary education.** Many families cannot afford to send their children to government schools. Naogoan is situated in northwest Bangladesh where most of the people are subsistence farmers or fishermen. This project will greatly benefit the entire region.

Once the ground floor in the new building is completed, the current building will be used as a kindergarten and a training centre for women, teaching them computer skills, sewing and handicrafts. When the work of International Needs in the Naogoan district first began there were no female high school graduates.

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Girls were not expected to go to school. Now many boys and girls go to school and some have gone on to higher education in colleges, universities and medical schools.

Ripon Ghosh grew up in Naogoan and came from a very poor family. His father was a labourer who went for long periods of time without work. There was never enough food. Ripon's dream of going to school and becoming a doctor was a long way from the reality he faced every day. His parents heard of the Naogoan Free School and were thrilled when Ripon was accepted and enrolled in school. At the Naogoan Free School, children receive nutritious food, a uniform, medical care, and an education, enabling them to escape the cycle of poverty. Ripon shares,

“ I was very excited and overjoyed that I would be able to write and read books. I started attending classes and really liked the environment, as the teachers were very caring and loving. I was very studious and obtained good marks.



Ripon's hard work paid off and he is currently going to medical school, well on his way to making his childhood dream come true.

“ My future goal is to serve the poor in Bangladesh. I will always be grateful to International Needs and to my sponsor for their support. If I had not been given the opportunity to go to school, my dream would have remained just a dream.

Expanding the Naogoan Free School and adding secondary education will enable many children to get that much closer to achieving their dreams, and help transform poverty-stricken communities. Some will be the first in their family to graduate from high school.

“ More and more children are coming to our school every day, and we just can't turn our backs on them. **Thank you to all of our supporters who have made this possible.** - *McDonald M. Adhikary, Director of International Needs Bangladesh* •



**Seven longtime friends from Bow Island,** who now reside throughout Alberta, have reached their goal of raising \$50,000 by their 50th birthday in support of 490 orphans and vulnerable children at ZACTS School in north

western Zambia. The friends wanted to contribute significantly to a project in the developing world and perhaps travel to that community to see the impact of their campaign.

“ It was great to be part of such a collaborative and focused group, with a worthy cause in mind. While I knew we would be well-supported, I am still amazed at how quickly we reached our goal. It's nice to celebrate a half century by focusing on what we can do for others. - *Angela Vanden Broek*

**The 50 by Fifty Campaign** raised \$50,000 through various fundraising events including a cabaret, a silent auction, the Ride for Refuge, and individual gifts from family, friends, colleagues, and businesses. The group's chosen project was **ZACTS' Growing Change Poultry Project** which aims at helping ZACTS School become more self-supporting by raising and selling chickens. Four of the 50 by Fifty friends had the privilege of going to Zambia to attend the dedication of the poultry farm.

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## PRAYER CORNER

### Items for Prayer

**“You will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”** - Jeremiah 29:12

Please pray for the working children who come to our Drop-in Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to receive food and other practical support. Pray that the Centre will have well-stocked shelves and that the workers will be able to minister God's love and care to each child.

“ It was very affirming to see that our fund raising efforts were truly benefiting the community we had chosen to invest in. The money raised built barns and a slaughter facility and purchased freezers, thousands of chicks and feed. It is also paying the salary of a farm manager until the project begins to make enough of a profit. Because the community is in the copper belt, the market is viable and has good potential. There were enough funds left to pay for an incubator which would allow the project to hatch their own chicks – a more cost effective way to raise chickens. - *Clary Fox* ”

Our hats are off to Clary, Michelle, Pauline, Darcelle, Pat, Michaelleen and Angela, whose selfless dedication to vulnerable Zambian children is truly an inspiration. Their example inspired two 14 year old girls in Ontario to start a 15 by Fifteen campaign. (Each will raise \$1500 by their 15th birthday for mothers and babies in Guatemala and are encouraging other young girls to join them!) We pray that many will follow their example and find creative ways to help bring lasting change to communities in need around the world.

“ We are so grateful to God for the way He has provided for ZACTS Community School through the 50 by Fifty campaign. We're thankful for the women who gave of their time and resources to see this project completed. We pray that the Poultry Project will continue to grow and bless the school and the community. - *Eddie Jibusha, Principal at ZACTS* • ”



### Items for Praise

“From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised.” - Psalm 113:3

Praise God that the construction of the Naogoan Integrated Project has begun! Expanding the Naogoan Free School will enable many children to get that much closer to achieving their dreams, and transform poverty-stricken communities. Praise the Lord!

Please continue to pray for the funds needed to complete the project.



## 15 By Fifteen

Katelyn and Anna are two 14 year old girls on a mission! The girls were really inspired when they heard of the 50 by Fifty Campaign, a group of women from Alberta who raised \$50,000 for a project in Zambia, by the time they turned 50. What a great way to leave a legacy!

The two friends decided they wanted to do the same, and 15 by Fifteen was born. Katelyn and Anna each want to raise \$1500 before their 15th birthday for projects that will help women and girls.

“ Every day, around the world, women are abused and many young girls our age already have kids! That's just not fair. We're raising money for the power of **SHE** which stands for **S**afety, **H**ealth, and **E**mpowerment for women and girls. - *Katelyn* ”

The girls are focusing on Guatemala, where mothers and babies are dying because they don't have access to healthcare. They're also highlighting a women's empowerment project in Nepal, where vulnerable women receive training so they can earn a living, and a women's medical clinic in the DR Congo that ensures that women have a safe place to have their babies.

“ These are all great projects, but we're starting in Guatemala, because the Government of Canada is putting in 7 dollars for every dollar we raise. So if we get 10 girls doing this, that's  $\$1500 \times 10$  girls + 7 times match = \$120,000. That's a lot of money going to a great cause! If we get 100 girls on board, that's \$1,200,000! So, what are you waiting for? Join us! - *Anna* ”

Great idea Katelyn and Anna. Thank you for being a voice for vulnerable women and girls around the world. We would like to encourage our donors to support the girls' initiative by giving or sharing 15 by Fifteen with other 13/14 year old girls in your circle of influence, youth group, school, or other community groups. As Anna shared with her youthful exuberance, “what are you waiting for?” For more information or to donate, please visit

[www.15byfifteen.com](http://www.15byfifteen.com) •



## Zambia Staff Housing

Laurie and Murray Scott travelled to Zambia in October 2016, to visit ZACTS OVC School and see for themselves the new developments at the school. Laurie shares,

“ We saw so many welcomed changes at ZACTS since our last visit 2 years ago, such as the toilet block, the chicken houses complete with an abattoir, and a new deep borehole providing the school with a reliable water supply.

The Scotts were at ZACTS to “lay a cornerstone” on the first of the new staff houses being built for the school. The Zambian Government requires adequate housing before they supply additional teachers to rural areas.

“ We have 490 students ranging from kindergarten to grade 6, and employ 10 teachers. Our classes are becoming very crowded. Adequate housing will allow us to employ more teachers, enabling us to better meet the needs of our growing student population.

- Eddie Jibusha, ZACTS Principal

ZACTS School for Orphans and Vulnerable Children has been close to Laurie’s heart from the very start. She has visited the region 4 times in the last five years. At that time the children in this farming community had no school and they stole her heart. A longtime supporter of International Needs’ work in Zambia, Laurie was thrilled to hear of the rapid growth of ZACTS School and happy to return with her husband.

“ We were delighted to take part in the celebration surrounding the building of the new housing for teachers. One thing that impressed us was the many parents who attended the ceremony. ZACTS is truly a community school and the parents have stepped up to support their children and the staff. They made the bricks for the house, which was a major contribution. It was an honour to contribute toward ZACTS’ Staff Housing Project. - Laurie Scott, Supporter •

## The World of a Working Child

Hena is 8 years old and lives in a slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Because she was born a girl, her parents neglected her and sent her to work for extra income. Hena works from 8am to 10pm as a servant. She washes dishes, cleans clothes, washes floors, and cleans bathrooms. It’s a hard, difficult life for an 8 year old child. Hena’s prospects for the future seem bleak at best. She has very little time to think of lofty goals like going to school, playing with friends, or having enough food to feel full.



**Hena is one of 168 million children around the world who work every day.** These children are not able to go to school and have little or no time to play. Many are denied their most basic rights as children. International Needs’ Drop in Centre in Dhaka reaches out to children like Hena who work in cement factories, small roadside hotels, tea stalls, and shops. The Centre provides a safe environment where children can receive nutritious food, education, social and psychological support, healthcare services, and bathing facilities. Hena comes to the Drop-in Centre regularly and is very bright. She has quickly learned all her subjects and made new friends.

“ These children have very difficult lives and it is a beautiful thing to be able to provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support for them and guide them toward a better future.

- Calbert Halder, Drop-in Centre Director •

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