

THE LINK Newsletter

SPRING 2019

Baskets of Love Bring HOPE | Doblogonno School Library NOW OPEN

Naogoan Building Project Are we there yet?

The building project at the Naogoan Free School is slowly moving toward completion, but there is still much to do. **We're not there yet!** The first two floors are really beginning to take shape, with most of the plastering done. The electricals for the kitchen and dining hall are finished. The walls for the third floor have not yet been erected, **but the need is urgent to finish this section to provide living quarters for 100 street children.**

These children will receive:

- Full-time care
- An opportunity to go to school
- Nutritious food

Once the Naogoan building project is completed, the school will have the capacity to provide education for 400 community children, from elementary to high school. For many families, their children will be the first to graduate from high school! The Naogoan Free School is transforming this poverty-stricken community and opening new doors of opportunity for their children.

We're so grateful for your past generosity and are asking for your support once again to finish the Naogoan Building Project. It's a great way to empower this community to shake off the poverty that has enslaved them for generations.



"Because my family was unable to pay school fees, I was excited to go to the Naogoan Free School. I loved learning and did very well in class, earning a GPA of 5 out of 5 in my fifth grade. My good marks got me a scholarship! I am presently in grade 9 studying science and would love to be an engineer. I'm very thankful to God and International Needs for enabling me to pursue my dream of getting an education. Because of my family's poverty, I am sure that my parents would have arranged an early marriage for me, but thank God, He helped me. Please pray that I will be a special blessing in my community." • Rima



Baskets of Love • Bringing Hope in Bangladesh

Many widows and vulnerable families gathered at the distribution of the Baskets of Love and were incredibly grateful for the help and support they received. Widows in rural Bangladesh are amongst the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Often deprived of their rights, they live in stark poverty and neglect. Your generous gifts of food and mosquito nets are a very practical way to remind them that they are not forgotten - someone cares. **Thank you so much!**



"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." • James 1:27

Prayer Corner

ITEMS FOR PRAYER

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

• Max Lucado

Please pray for the completion of the Naogoan Building Project in Bangladesh. One hundred street children are anxiously waiting for their new home.

Doblogonno School Library

DEDICATED TO GOD AND DECLARED OPEN

It was with great joy and anticipation that the Doblogonno School Library was declared open in March 2019. Bookshelves, reading tables, chairs, and a total of one thousand books were purchased through the generosity of Canadians. The collection of books include works of fiction such as adventure and action stories, animals/pets, classics, friendship, science, and short stories. Non-fiction books include science, history, biographies, and many other topics. Reference books to serve as teaching aids for the teachers were also purchased.

At the commissioning of the new library, there were representative from the Ghana Education Service, the Methodist Education Unit, and International Needs Ghana. Also, in attendance were members of the student body, and teachers.



ITEMS FOR PRAISE

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."

• Psalm 150:6

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Doblogonno School in Ghana. Their new library was officially opened in March 2019, with joyful celebration.

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Mr. Kofi Wornyo, representative for the Ghana Education Service, shared these words, "I would like to commend International Needs for all the support they give to this School, and to Ghana as a nation. The Doblogonno School is now the only school with a library in a circuit of nine schools. I encourage the students and staff to put their new library to good use, and keep it well maintained so it can serve its purpose for many years to come."

Reverend Jane Dor, the director for children's ministry with Methodist Education, prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the library, and declared the Library open. Thank you so much for your generosity, and for providing a literacy rich environment for the students at the Doblogonno School.



Meet our Volunteers

• Emma Kessler

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Children hold a special place in my heart, which I believe is a gift from God. In Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me... for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these!"

I believe International Needs helps bring children, families, and communities to Jesus, and I feel blessed to play a small part in this ministry by volunteering in the office. I help with the sponsorship letters and am touched by the impact a simple letter can have on children all over the world. It encourages me to write to my sponsored child more often. I would like to encourage anyone who has some free time to volunteer with International Needs. They do good work in many parts of the world, where it's desperately needed. Working together, we can make a difference.

A New Beginning for Tanzina

Tanzima lives with her parents and younger sister in a slum in Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. Her family does not own any land in their village. Whatever they had was washed out by the river. In their desperation, the family came to Dhaka in the hope of a better life. Tanzima’s father, Abdus, found work as a rickshaw puller, and her mother, Kohinoor, cleans other people’s homes. Their combined income helps to provide for their daughters’ basic needs, but there is not enough to send them to school.

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Tanzina shares, “My sister and I really wanted to go to school but our parents could not afford to send us. Then we heard about the Banasree Free School. I was so excited when my parents enrolled me in the nursery class. Now, I am in grade six and doing very well in my studies. I got a GPA of 5 out of 5 for the national exams. My family and my teachers are very proud of me. In our school, we receive more than an education. We are taught manners and good behaviour, morality, and discipline. I am delighted to study here, and I am thankful for the people who support this school.”

The Banasree Free School has 153 students attending classes. Most of them come from the surrounding slums, and have little access to services such as clean water, sanitation, and medical care. Because the slums are densely populated, there are no safe areas where children can play. Families are very grateful for the Banasree Free School, where their children can learn, play, and dream about a better future.



Community members and leaders are educated on water safety.



Thank You!

We shared a need and you responded with generosity. Now the families living on the island village of Kome have peace of mind when they send their children to school. Your gifts have made it possible for the Togbe Memorial School to purchase two new canoes and 30 life jackets to provide safe transportation to and from school for the island children. On behalf of their families, and the Tobge Memorial School in Ghana, we thank you!

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS CANADA

Upcoming Discovery Tours

Ghana Medical Tour	Oct. 13 - 26, 2019
Bangladesh Medical Tour	Oct. 30 - Nov. 13, 2019

For more information please contact Corrie Mulder at
905.389.1118 or corrie@internationalneeds.ca

Equipped for Life Murshida's Story

Murshida lives in a small village outside Jessore, Bangladesh. She has two brothers and four sisters. Her father is a farmer, and yet there never seems to be enough to eat.

One of Murshida's brothers is disabled and her father can't bear the expenses of their education and her brother's treatments. As the eldest in the family, Murshida felt very keenly her responsibility to take care of her brothers and sisters. After passing her secondary school exams, she went to Jessore to find work.

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Murshida shares, “I knocked on many doors but it was in vain as I did not have any training or higher education. I wanted to get training but could not afford the fees.

Then I came to know about International Needs' Jessore Project that provides computer training for girls like me, without any cost. So I enrolled and received a Certificate as an Office Assistant.

When I finished my course, I was able to get a job at the Passport Office. I do all my work on a computer. I like my job, and I am very happy that I can help my father support our family. I am so thankful to International Needs for the help and training I received. In the future, I hope to serve my community, and help those who are helpless like I was.”





Sydney & Ruby

Sydney and Ruby are very special sisters from Tecumseh, Ontario, who have taken on the challenge of raising \$500 to help provide clean water for families in Kebenu, Ghana. Their mom Valerie came home from a Women Making A Difference (WMAD) meeting, and shared with the girls their goal of raising \$5000 in the next month, so the Kebenu Water Project can be finished earlier than planned.

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Valerie shares, “I asked the girls if there was anything they thought we could do as a family to help make this happen. We brainstormed and they came up with the idea of cleaning up people’s yard this spring. The idea came easily for them since over the last few years, they have learned to help our elderly neighbour. When they were outside shovelling snow in our driveway, they would come in and ask if they could shovel our neighbour’s driveway too, in case an emergency happened, and help would not be able to get to her.

If they saw her picking weeds in her garden, they would run over and ask if they could help. She would try to give them money, but they would refuse. However, homemade cookies were always accepted.”

Sydney and Ruby are homeschooled, and very active in the Girl Guides program. Sydney is involved in theatrical dance, and Ruby plays girls hockey. Their parents, Marc and Valerie, are very proud of them, and we are too!

Well done girls. We hope that your actions will inspire others to follow your lead, and show compassion and care for people in need, here and around the world.

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NAOGOAN INTEGRATED PROJECT

Support the building project at the Naogoan Free School in Bangladesh, and help:

- **Expand their capacity.**
- Contribute to the education of **400 community children**
- Provide a home for **100 street children.**

DONATE