

Bangladesh Update

Dear Family and Friends,

May 2016

A cyclone whirling without and double hurricanes churning within...this describes the past few days here in Bangladesh.

Cyclone Roanu came ashore Saturday afternoon damaging hundreds of homes and killing over 20 people. God protected our area though. We only had 2 uprooted trees and lots of fallen branches. Please pray for the Bangladeshis affected by this storm, especially those who live on the islands. They are once more rebuilding their homes and their lives.

Along with the physical storm, we have been dealing with two inner storms. The first inner storm to hit was a new law prohibiting unregistered nursing schools in Bangladesh. All nursing schools must be approved by the government and must follow the government curriculum. Up to this point, we have been advised by our Bangladeshi administrative staff to continue as an unregistered school. With the new law in place, this is suddenly no longer possible. We currently have 24 nursing students who are finishing the 1st year of our 3-year training program. We need wisdom to know how to navigate this storm. We desire to honor God's name, follow the government regulations, and provide for the students who have committed so much of their lives to us. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom!

The second inner storm hit immediately after the first. On May 11th, we received the Pii report from the ABWE and Donn Ketcham Investigation. From 1966-1989, Dr. Donn Ketcham sexually abused 23 missionary children and women in Bangladesh. A video of ABWE's response, the executive summary, and a downloadable link to the full 280 page report can be accessed from the following website: <http://www.abwe.org/protecting-our-children/>

The information in the report is heartbreakingly disturbing! I was literally nauseated as I read it! I and the majority of my teammates were not here in Bangladesh when these horrible events took place. Most of us have never met Donn Ketcham, nor do we know the victims. However, his sin and subsequent events from 1989 to the present, are affecting us all. We are filled with immense sorrow over the pain the victims and their families have been suffering for many years, and we've been praying specifically for God to heal their hearts, their lives, and these deep, deep wounds.

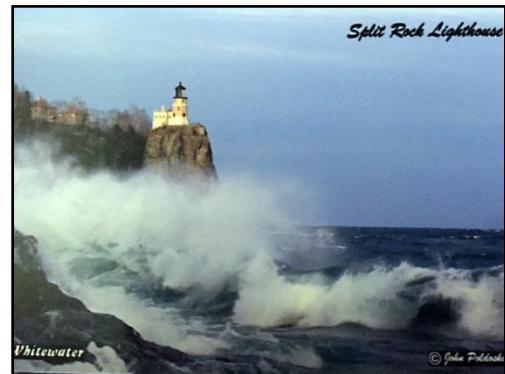
Formal, independent investigation of this issue began 5 years ago. Many of us thought the report would bring about some closure, but this is not the case. Our Area Director and others came to our field this past weekend to meet with us and answer our questions. For many of us, our trust in ABWE administration has been damaged, and it will take time for them to demonstrate that they truly are trustworthy.

Much has changed on our field since the 1980s. Our team culture has changed, our policies have changed, and we have better accountability. Over the next weeks and months, we as a team will be reviewing these to see how we can improve them even more. We appreciate your prayers!

If you have questions about any of this, please feel free to write to me.

I read a story today that was an encouragement to me. "Years ago, a major art gallery sponsored a competition ... for the best painting on the subject of 'Peace'. The painting that won was a real surprise. The scene was the ocean in a violent storm. The sky was ominous, the lightening was cutting across the sky, and waves were crashing into the rock wall of the cliffs by the shore. Where was the peace? You had to look twice... There, about halfway up the cliff was a bird's nest tucked into a tiny hollow in the rock. A mother bird was sitting on the nest with her little babies tucked underneath her, sleeping soundly. That was peace!"

(<https://hutchcraft.com/life-issues/uncertainty/peace-in-the-midst-of-the-storm>)



Jesus Christ is the only One who can give that kind of peace. The picture above sits beside my bed. Jesus is my Lighthouse – guiding me through the storm, protecting me from the rocks, lighting my way. He gives me "Peace in the Midst of the Storm".

Lisa