



February 2008 Story
Muslim Outreach and Education – Bangladesh
People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO)

Imagine that you couldn't attend school to learn how to read and write. That's what many children in Bangladesh face. The upper classes can afford better education for their children, but the lower middle class and poor cannot pay the cost of sending their children to school. Girls have little opportunity to attend school; the literacy rate for females is 31% and 50% for males.

People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) International began mission work and education in Beniarchar, Bangladesh, in 2005, opening a school for 247 students in grades one to five. The only school in a 60 mile area, there is an urgent need for a larger permanent building. A school will be constructed opening the door for equality in education and for sharing the Gospel with Christian converts and their families. The facility will educate 500-700 students per year from the primary grades through high school and provide classes for both boys and girls. In keeping with social standards in the area, boys and girls will be separated after the fifth grade level; boys will be taught by male teachers and girls by female teachers.

The US State Department estimates that 88% of Bangladeshis are Muslim and 11% are Hindu. Since only 1% of the population is Christian, there is a great need to share the Gospel and to provide a safe environment for converts and their families. The goal of POBLO is to bring the Gospel to the predominately Muslim population of Bangladesh. They have found that the best way of sharing the Gospel message is through Christian education, so that people can understand the message of hope and everlasting life through Christ.

Prayer: Lord, you said in Matthew that we should let the children come to you, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. So few children in Bangladesh know of You. We thank and praise you for the mission of POBLO and for the work they've begun in the remote area of Beniarchar. Bless everyone involved in the construction of the school building and those who will teach at the school. May the children's education enable them to understand, and share with their families, the message of hope and everlasting life through Christ. In Jesus name we pray. Amen