

BANGLADESH – NEPAL MISSIONS MARCH, 2019 REPORT

Greetings from the campus of Khulna Bible College in Bangladesh. Brenda and I have been here since February 27, and are more than half-way through the current session of the Spring semester. There are three weeks remaining of classes, after which we will enjoy commencement exercises and the Fourth Annual KBC Lectures. There will be more about those events in the next report.

There are ten students enrolled on campus. I am teaching the second year course entitled "Hebrew History Part 3" (the Old Testament Books of 1 & 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles) which covers the period from the death of David to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army in 587 BC. I also have the third year students (our "seniors") for "The Revelation of John." Both classes are going well.

I have made a practice of bringing books to our faculty and administration (four men) and conducting a special class with them on Sunday evenings. This time we are studying two class books on the Holy Spirit. Additionally I have written my own lessons, drawing from the other books for resources. This class too is going well. These faculty studies provide continuing education for our staff, as well as adding to their libraries and giving them opportunity to sharpen their English skills. It also gives us an opportunity to discuss spiritual matters in a good setting.

For the past three years we have held a carom tournament for our male staff and students, calling it the "KBC Carom Cup." Carom is a very popular game here in South Asia. The 2019 cup (# 4) was finished April 3. This year we also hosted a tournament for ladies on campus who enjoy the Bangla board game of Ludo, which is a variation of Parcheesi. Five teams of two played and the final game was also on April 3. Following both matches we awarded prizes to the winners and runners-up, then had a snack of sweets and sodas. Everyone enjoyed watching the matches (and participating) and the celebration which followed.



The Final Games of the 2019 Ludo (left) and Carom Tournaments at KBC

Also in March (on the 26th) we celebrated Bangladesh Independence Day by dismissing classes, cooking a special meal of mutton curry, and having a day of special events.

The day began with raising the Bangla flag, singing the national anthem, and offering a prayer of thanksgiving. This was followed by lighting a torch which was carried around the field to signal the beginning of the games. There were regular races, an "egg" race, long jumping, discus throwing, musical chairs, "greased pole climbing," and other games. After the games we

all enjoyed a good meal of fish (two kinds) and mutton curries with rice. Late in the afternoon prizes were awarded to winners of the various games, then we all enjoyed fresh watermelon. Yes, fresh local watermelons become available in Bangladesh in early March. And it is definitely hot enough to enjoy them.



Patriotism, Thanksgiving, Athletic Events, and Games Marked KBC's Independence Day Celebration

The games and special events of the month of March actually constituted only a small part of the activities at KBC. Predominant of course were the classes with each student attending four classes, each meeting two days a week for three hours each time. In addition students do some of the maintenance and cleaning work on campus, usually one afternoon per week.

I spend a lot of my time in class and lesson preparation, not only for my KBC courses, but also for sermons and seminar lessons both here and in Nepal, and in writing materials for use in the churches. I also help our teachers with materials for some of their courses as requested.

Additionally we make visits to as many congregations as we can work in, especially those who have particular needs. We were only able to visit one Church in March, but have plans to go to at least four others in April.

With graduation exercises and our annual lectures coming up at the end of this month we are already deeply involved in plans and preparations. Much work will be required by all of the staff and students as we will host approximately 70 preachers and their guests, plus the guests of our graduates. The fellowship and encouragement which these events provide will be well worth it.