



Publisher's Day

Tarun Rangsa (litdiv@aob.globalctg.net), general manager of the literature division of the Association of Baptists in Chittagong, Bangladesh, spoke at length with freelance writer Brittany J. Boughter about his days leading a very challenging work.

Books For Bangladesh

By rickshaw, it takes me 20 to 25 minutes to get from my house to work. A rickshaw can accommodate two passengers in addition to the driver. There is a lot of traffic in Bangladesh. Sometimes there is an accident, where a van or truck collides with a rickshaw. Only a few people own cars in my country. Most people ride the bus or rickshaw. Public transportation is easy to use. Many people walk.

I try to get to work by 7:30 or 7:40 a.m. to open the office. We have morning devotions everyday from 8:00-8:30 a.m. This is very important for our work.

Only half of one percent of people in Bangladesh are Christians. We are a minority in the country. Christians are very poor and can't afford to buy books. They are not habitual readers. This is all very challenging for our publishing house.

After devotions I split my day into two parts. In the morning I try to finish all of the administrative jobs. I check the mail, send mail, and think about what we can

do in the future. I make a plan for the following day the night before. It is not always easy to follow the outline but I try. I want to stay focused.

We face a lot of problems on a daily basis. When an internal problem arises, I talk to my staff and we pray to understand God's will. We might have a board meeting to solve some issues. It can be hard to be a manager!

We normally have a two-hour lunch break everyday. A lot of the staff members go home for lunch, but I bring my lunch from home and eat it in the office.

From 2:00-5:00 p.m. I help the editorial department. In 2004 we published seven translations; this year we expect to publish ten titles. We have a backlist of over 260 titles.

I enjoy my afternoon work the most. I read the books we want to translate or promote. My favorite part is checking the manuscripts and translations; I love it.

My favorite book that we have worked on is *Unger's Bible Handbook*. I read through and checked the book over five times. We



"It was such a joy to pray for Tarun and his ministry," says Viola Goodson, of Cook Communications Ministries. "I felt honored to meet him." Tarun Rangsa Marak, of the Association of Baptists, attended the International Christian Publishing Institute held March 2005.

published the *Handbook* with Gospel Literature Service (GLS). We did not sell that book, but gave it to pastors and Christian leaders as a free gift. We lost a lot of money but people learned about our work. GLS provided all of the funds for the book; then it was printed in Hong Kong by Angus Hudson Ltd. We did the translation and editorial work. When we were finished we sent the final copy to Angus Hudson and they checked it one last time and printed it.

We are involved in a lot of partnerships outside of our country. Our products are dependent on partnerships and donations. We have to ask other organizations for help. Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries.

Apart from the Bible Society, there are two Christian publishing companies in Bangladesh. We often meet with the other publisher, the Christian Literature Center, to check the products on their list. We have a good understanding. We buy each

other's books and sell them. There are many secular publishers in Bangladesh. Also, some Christian authors try to publish books on their own, often with outside help.

I obtained a Master's in Theological Studies. And last year, I received my Master's in Divinity from Golden State School of Theology in Stockton, California, U.S.

an incubator after she was born. The doctors didn't think she would live, but she did. God is so good. Now I want to tell everyone the story of how He healed her. Maybe I should write a book!

Before I got involved in publishing, I worked as a pharmaceutical technician for four and a half years. Our studies are not often related to our jobs. Studying science does not guarantee that I will be employed as a doctor or biologist. There are not enough jobs in Bangladesh so college graduates may work in a field that is unrelated to their studies.

I had no prior experience in publishing when I started my current position. I have worked with Association of Baptists for 12 years. I started as a translator and proofread-

er. Later I was promoted to editorial manager. Then, in September 2001, I attended the Leadership ICPI. After visiting CCMI, I was given the responsibility of acting general manager. I have learned that I need proper training before I do anything. I try to learn as much as I can before starting something new.

This position is not easy. We are making some changes to our original mission. We really need to be more business-oriented. We need to plan our marketing, but it is very hard. In the last two to three years, the quality of our books improved and our sales increased. We are trying to get a good network of marketing and distribution all over the country. I ask you to pray for us. ❖

Only half of one percent of people in Bangladesh are Christians.

The Association of Baptists has the largest Christian publishing ministry. There are 11 staff members in our literature department. There is a manager in each department: marketing, editorial, and press. Publishing is just one part of the Association of Baptists' ministry. We are also involved with hospitals, church planting, a small Bible college, and a training institute for laboratories.

I love to teach. I am a part-time teacher at the Bangladesh Baptist Bible College. I teach once or twice a year and it takes me six months to prepare the lessons. I have taught on the Gospel of John, Ephesians, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, and Christian ethics.

I have only been teaching for the last two years so I am still very new. In 2004 I didn't teach any subjects because I was very busy with my own studies. I have three Master's degrees. From Chittagong University I received a Master's in History. From the Bangladesh Theological Seminary, which is affiliated with Northwest Baptist Seminary in Tacoma, Washington, U.S.

It is sometimes hard to fit teaching into my schedule, but it is easy to work on the lessons because I can do this after I leave the office.

Our office does not work on Friday and Saturday. Friday is a government holiday. Our church and many of the churches in our area worship on Friday instead of Sunday; other churches in other areas worship on Sunday. The Bible Society takes off on Friday and Sunday.

On Friday I am involved with church all day. I have also been serving as a deacon at my church for the last three years. I often preach.

Saturday is my favorite day because it is totally my time. I like to go home and spend time with my family. I enjoy the office but I love my family. My wife and I have been married for 10 years and we have an eight-year-old son and a three-year-old daughter. My wife teaches Bengali at the American school. We had a terrible experience with our daughter when she was born. Our daughter had problems with her heart and lungs during delivery. She spent 14 days in

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