

The sign reads: "A. G. Mission Library"
Calvin and the man who works for us are standing
among the ruins. (Gopalganj, May 1961)

Assemblies of God Mission
P. O. Gopalganj, Faridpur
East Pakistan

August 10, 1961

Dear Friends,

Greetings in our Lord Jesus from East Pakistan!

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT Mohammed Ayub Khan's recent visit to the United States has undoubtedly awakened more interest in Pakistan. In his address to Congress, President Khan said, "Today we press against you as friends seeking aid. If you do not give it, we may press against you tomorrow as enemies." Just as he was seeking more financial aid for Pakistan, so we are looking for more prayer support.

THE MONTH OF MAY is one we will long remember. While we do not feel free to write much, we want you to know that your prayers helped during the anxious days of tension in the first part of May. Frightened people fled to our house for refuge, and for several nights there was very little sleep for anyone.

THEN CAME THE CYCLONE! Less than one week after the disturbances, along came the worst storm in over forty years. For seven hours winds up to 100 m.p.h., accompanied by driving rain, roared through the province leaving untold destruction in its wake. Trees toppled; branches were literally stripped of their leaves; bamboo houses crumpled; corrugated metal roofs went flying, and grain fields were inundated. About fifty frightened, drenched men, women, children, and undiapered babies crowded into our small house when their houses fell. Taking advantage of the opportunity, we conducted a service and some heard the gospel for the first time. When the final count was in, hundreds were homeless, 1,500 reported dead, and damage ran into millions of dollars.

LEADING ASTROLOGERS predicted in their almanac that on the 11th of the Bengali month Sraban (July 27th) there was to be a most dreadful storm. Many people were fearful, and numbers delayed rebuilding their homes damaged by the May 9th cyclone. As the day for the prophesied storm approached, some splurged and bought sweets for the family while others added meat to their meager rice diet to feast one more time before dying. The feared storm, however, did not come, and so the predictions of the astrologers proved false. The prophecies of God's Word, though, are sure and true, and the predicted signs preceding the coming of our Lord are being fulfilled before our eyes.

QUITE A CONTRAST is how our recent ministry might be described. We spent ten days in the large port city of Chittagong ministering in the English and Bengali services. God's blessing rested on the ministry of His Word, and we sensed that people must be praying for us. Several people came to accept Christ as Saviour in both congregations. Shortly after arriving back in Gopalganj, Brother Olson left for a ten-day tour of the village churches. He stayed with the people in their storm-damaged houses, ate their menu of rice and spicy fish, and often slept on the mud floor at night. One morning as he arose and shook his bedding roll, a poisonous centipede fell out. Thank the Lord for His protection! In the services several sought the Lord for salvation.

YOUR PRAYERS MEAN MUCH to us these days. The tense and trying times of the past few months plus the humid heat have drained our vitality. Pray that the Lord will renew our strength. Pray with us also for God's blessing upon the national workers who labor with us in getting the gospel out. "Finally brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified even as it is with you." II Thess. 3:1,2. May the Lord richly bless you as you serve Him where you are.

Yours in His glad service,
Marian and Calvin Olson
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