



JANUARY 2025

BANGLADESH TRIP REPORT

by Prakash Chandra Giri, Gary G. Hoag, and Rebecca Nilanjana



TRIP VERSE

Judges 4:9

"Certainly, I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh."



TRIP AIMS

1. Team up with new friends at the Bangladesh Evangelical Alliance (National Christian Fellowship of Bangladesh).
2. Teach on accountability, share global applications, and identify team of local advocates to draft standards for Bangladesh.
3. Train stewards to replicate Stations of Generosity to grow local giving to God's work.
4. Travel to places of work and worship.

Gary G. Hoag (GTP President & CEO) and Rebecca Nilanjana (GTP Regional Facilitator for South Asia / NobleRank Growth Strategist) flew from India and Prakash Chandra Giri (GTP Curriculum Developer) flew from Nepal to Bangladesh from 16-20 January 2025 with 4 aims in view. The onsite teaching event activated 27 stewards to form a working group to draft standards to bring accountability to churches and ministries (top photo) and the onsite training empowered 35 stewards to spread generosity nationwide (bottom photo).

AIM #1 – TEAM UP WITH NEW FRIENDS AT THE BANGLADESH EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE (NATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF BANGLADESH) OR NCFB

We report 5 fruits. **Fruit #1: Invitation.** After Gary spoke at the World Evangelical Alliance Future of the Gospel Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, in October 2023, Martha Das, the NCFB General Secretary (pictured at right with us), approached him, like a “Little Tiger” as Gary says (a nickname Martha likes). With the zeal of Lydia (see Acts 16:15), she insisted that Gary and GTP come to Bangladesh to bring standards and peer accountability to build thriving churches and ministries. **Fruit #2: India.** This trip took place within Gary’s visit to India, next door, from 7–22 January 2025. Gary had a window of opportunity, but came at a time of tension between the countries. The former prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, fled to India in August 2024 amid deadly riots, ousted after 15 years of rule. Today, Bangladesh requests her extradition. **Fruit #3: Improbable.** Gary and Rebecca had a Zoom in December 2024 with Martha, Violet Ruma (from World Vision, whom Gary met at Lausanne 4 in Seoul and pictured with Rebecca below) and Bishop Philip Adhikary, NCFB President (pictured with Gary in second photo at right), and mapped the details of this improbable visit. We felt led to trust God to do the impossible and provide visas in advance (for Rebecca) and on arrival (for Gary). **Fruit #4: Ideal.** To have the ideal GTP team, Gary asked about bringing Prakash from Nepal. Martha and Philip affirmed this, so we got him a visa and he joined. God brought the ideal GTP and NCFB team together (third photo at right). **Fruit #5: Indestructible.** In this way, God united NCFB and GTP as an indestructible team.



I invited Gary to come to Bangladesh because standards are much needed. I commit to coordinating the working group to form a peer accountability group for Bangladesh with help from GTP. Thanks.
– Martha Das, General Secretary, National Christian Fellowship of Bangladesh

The vision that GTP cast to bring peer accountability to churches and ministries in Bangladesh is excellent. I feel in my heart that standards and compliance is necessary. I will engage those I serve to collaborate to make this vision a reality.
– Bishop Philip Adhikary
President, The Evangelical Alliance of Bangladesh (National Christian Fellowship of Bangladesh) / Chairman, The Bangladesh Bible Society (BBS) / Chairman, College of Christian Theology Bangladesh (CTB)



AIM #2 - TEACH ON ACCOUNTABILITY, SHARE GLOBAL APPLICATIONS, AND IDENTIFY TEAM OF LOCAL ADVOCATES TO DRAFT STANDARDS FOR BANGLADESH

We report 7 fruits. **Fruit #1: Supplication.** Back in 2020, Alfred Bidhan Bala, President of River of Life Ministries in Khulna City, started joining GTP for Monthly Global Prayer Hour. He has prayed with and for GTP ever since (pictured with Gary at bottom). We attribute the favor of God on our visit in part to his faithful prayer. **Fruit #2: Start.** Though the invite came near the start of her NobleRank service, Rebecca accepted it with the enthusiasm of Deborah (see trip verse), and God would grant her victory (pictured top right). **Fruit #3: Scripture.** Gary shared a biblical foundation for peer accountability with the Old Testament example of Ezra and Nehemiah and the New Testament example of Paul. Prakash facilitated the table discussions (second photo at right). Everyone loved it. **Fruit #4: Stories.** Gary told the ECFA story and mentioned names. Bishop Philip shared with excitement how he knew some of them. Rebecca added stories about the people in the accountability movement in India, and this surfaced mutual relationships. We saw God working. **Fruit #5: Standards.** After Gary shared the ECFA standards and Rebecca spoke about the NobleRank standards, Prakash got them talking again. Everyone felt determined to bring standards to Bangladesh. **Fruit #6: Survey.** Never has 100% of an audience said "Yes, I want to serve as an accountability advocate to help draft the standards." NCFB had the right people in the room and God stirred. **Fruit #7: Steps.** Martha will work with Gary and Rebecca and others at GTP to empower these willing workers to bring peer accountability to Bangladesh.



It was very good and effective session and I have learnt a biblical standard for accountability, integrity, and to make goodwill. I want to practice this where I am serving. I pray from my heart that God can help to keep these standards in practice.

- John Das, Bangladesh Fellowship Foundation, Executive Director

Accountability is an excellent and appropriate topic for the ministry workers and professionals here. Thank you so much for sharing the GTP ministry and plan for how to start up a peer accountability group in Bangladesh. Congrats to Gary, Rebecca, and Prakash for wonderful facilitation over the sessions. May God bless you!

- Lal Pangkhua, General Secretary Evangelical Church of Bangladesh (ECB)

This session has opened my eyes. I want to learn more about sustainability with accountability.

- Mithusilak Murmu, National Christian Fellowship of Bangladesh, Program Manager



AIM #3 - TRAIN STEWARDS TO REPLICATE STATIONS OF GENEROSITY TO GROW LOCAL GIVING TO GOD'S WORK.

We report 6 fruits. **Fruit #1: Representation.** At the NCFB office in Dhaka, we trained 35 pastors, teachers, trainers, and professionals in Stations of Generosity from 7 of the 8 divisions across Bangladesh. **Fruit #2: Relevance.** Participants expressed gratitude for this relevant training as everyone needs to know about generosity but one said that "no pastors talk it." **Fruit #3: Receptive.** In the post training survey, many called it "excellent" and said they "learned a lot" that they want to go apply. **Fruit #4: Resource.** In God's timing, IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) translated the Stations of Generosity participant's guide and facilitator's guide into Bangla for an upcoming training. So, we trained the bilingual audience in English, but with the Bangla guides. We praised God for providing this resource as yet another divine blessing on this trip. **Fruit #5: Replication.** In our survey at the end, 3 participants said they want to spread the generosity training in the next 0-3 months, 16 in the next 4-6 months, 5 in the next 7-12 months, and 3 said next year. Prakash will work with Martha to support this replication. **Fruit #6: Return.** Praise the LORD, Martha has agreed to serve as GTP Country Coordinator. We will work with her to spread trainings, activate peer accountability, and collaborate for future visits to serve God's workers in Bangladesh.



Most important is to store treasure in heaven. Generosity makes the community experience like a family - we carry each other. Mission is God's heart, and generosity helps the mission work.

*- Mitaly Malakar
Bangladesh Assemblies of God Church
National Ministry Manager*

Whatever have, everything belongs to God. God give His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for my salvation. I can show my gratitude through generosity. I don't need to think about my daily life, but firstly, about the Kingdom of God. The 'Handful of Rice' story of Mizoram encouraged me a lot in that every little step moves us towards great things if we depend on God. Thank you, GTP.

*Tusher Anton Adhikari
Bangladesh Baptist Church Fellowship
(BBCF), Internal Auditor*



I grew up in a generous, rural, and indigenous local church. Many women including my mother participated in 'Handful of Rice' as well. The Stations training has value and is based on biblical principles. Quite helpful!

*- Milon Patwary, Koinonia, Director
(Pictured with Prakash at left)*

AIM #4 - TRAVEL TO PLACES OF WORK AND WORSHIP.

We report 4 fruits. **Fruit #1: Dhaka Assembly of God Church.** Gary preached to 300 people at Martha's church on "Understand the Loaves to Strengthen your Service" from Mark 6:30-52 (top photo below). **Fruit #2. Talitha Koumi Church in Dhaka.** Gary preached to 150 at Bishop Philip's Church "The Power of Generosity" from Mark 6:30-44 with Bangla translation (bottom photo).



Fruit #3: GRASP Garments. Bishop Philip runs a clothing factory with micro-lending, a medical clinic (top photo below) and 400+ employees and many do not know Christ. He shares the gospel with them each Christmas and Easter.



Fruit #4: Gazipur, Solmaid, and Vatara. Bishop Philip runs 9 orphanages serving 600 children. We visited the Gazipur (25), Solmaid (29), and Vatara (61) and met 115 children. These surprise visits impacted us, and he asked for help. Bishop loved the GTP trip report format. We will share it with his administrators to strengthen their partnership and communications. *This unexpected travel knit our hearts together!*

