

Joseph- a changed life because you gave...

Joseph is a cute little boy. He's probably 5 or 6 years old. Where Joseph lives age is really not important. It's just not something that is kept up with. In Joseph's mind, he has seen the "WHOLE WORLD"! In the Bangladeshi village named Paik Parra, where Joseph lives, nobody leaves. There are tens of thousands of villages like it, where more than 96% of the people never leave the village. They are born there, they live there, and they die there; even though there is a town less than five miles away.

Joseph thought life in Paik Parra was the way things were supposed to be, the only way. He thought it was normal to go to bed hungry. He thought it was normal for the floods to come and destroy his home and the family's modest crops. It happened every year. He thought that the standing stagnant water that brought mosquitoes with diseases was normal. He thought it was normal for his father to beat his mother. In Bangladesh, the ladies are sometimes so disrespected that it is not uncommon for female babies to be killed by their parents with no consequence. That's just how it was.

Now there was a church... the Church of the Nazarene and this church had started a program that Joseph really enjoyed, the Child Development Center. Joseph got a nutritious meal every day, just one, but that was more than he sometimes had been getting at home. Joseph learned social and hygiene skills. The workers at the center cared for Joseph and he really liked that. Every few months a nurse would come to the CDC and give Joseph a health check up. She would give him and the other children a pill. Joseph sure didn't understand why it would make these big worms come out of his body, but it made him feel much better. Joseph also learned of a man who loved him, this man was Jesus.

Joseph's father watched from a distance and wondered "why do these people love and care for my child?" The stage was set and one night the church showed the Jesus Film. That night Joseph's father and the people of Paik Parra began to learn of this man named Jesus. They began to understand why the workers at the CDC could show so much love to Joseph and the other children. It was because this Jesus had shown them that love. That night Joseph's father gave his heart to Christ.

A month or so after the Jesus Film showing, I had the privilege of visiting Paik Parra. The children in the CDC were anxiously waiting. They wanted to show us what they had learned. They performed skits and sang songs. Then Joseph came up and told us he wanted to sing his favorite song. It just happens to be my favorite song. You know it... "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me."

Have you sung this song to your children?
Well, they sing it now in Bangladesh THANKS TO YOU!

Story by Glen Argabright