

An estimate of what it will cost

Preparation Costs...

UK orientation, health check and vaccinations	£800
Travel to Bangladesh (and return after 3 years).....	£750
Language study.....	£150
3-week FH Orientation course, accommodation & travel	£1,000
Setting up, including laptop and satphone	£1068
Add FH-UK admin 10%	£419
Total	£4,189

Monthly cost in Asia

(Includes rent, personal travel, food, health insurance
utilities etc. Also includes FH-UK admin 10%)£414

You can help!

- Talk to Joel about his work and ask to receive his prayer letter.
- Pray for him and for his work.
- Keep in contact to encourage him.
- Make a gift towards his preparation costs.
- Take out a regular standing order to give towards his monthly financial support

Thank you.

All gifts should be sent to the Food for the Hungry UK office. Cheques should be made payable to Food for the Hungry UK, marked for support of the work of Joel Blacker, or use the enclosed form. Remember that, if you pay UK tax, the Inland Revenue will add a further £2.80 for every £10 you give to a UK charity. Please use the enclosed declaration form.

Food for the Hungry (FH) is an international Christian partnership committed to working with poor people to overcome physical and spiritual hunger and poverty worldwide.

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Registered Charity Number 328273*



Food for the Hungry UK

New Staff assigned to Asia

Joel Blacker

Asia Regional Coordinator

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them - the Lord, who remains faithful for ever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.

Psalm 146 verses 5-8



I am a 23 year old Christian from York. In May I shall be going to work for Food for the Hungry as Asia Regional Coordinator, initially for 3 years. Over the past number of years I have felt called by God to devote myself to working in a development setting; I feel that a powerful theme emerging from God in the Bible is a commissioning of Christians to care for the poor, the hungry, the oppressed and the downtrodden.

Over the past few years I have been building some experience which I hope will be useful for such a role. I recently finished an MA in Conflict, Governance and Development, focussing on issues regarding the causes and resolution of food crises and famines. I have also spent significant periods of time in various roles in both Africa and South America.

I have been particularly impressed with Food for the Hungry's aim of working with poor people to overcome hunger and poverty, motivated by the Gospel call to meet both spiritual and physical needs. I am particularly inspired by their methods of working with local communities, recognising their ability to solve their own problems, rather than imposing top-down development on communities.

About the Role

As Asia Regional Coordinator, I will be assisting the Regional Director, John Marsden, with tasks such as organising and communicating with the individual Country Directors, while also networking and organising ideas and resources across Asia. This will involve 'living out of a suitcase' some of the time, travelling around Asia, while returning to a permanent base, probably in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Working with John Marsden, who is both a Country director for Bangladesh and Regional Director for Asia, will allow John to put more focus on his staff and responsibilities in Bangladesh. This position gives me the opportunity to play a key role in progressing Food for the Hungry's strategy in Asia.

On a personal level it is a great opportunity to serve God while also gaining huge experience and learning a large amount about community

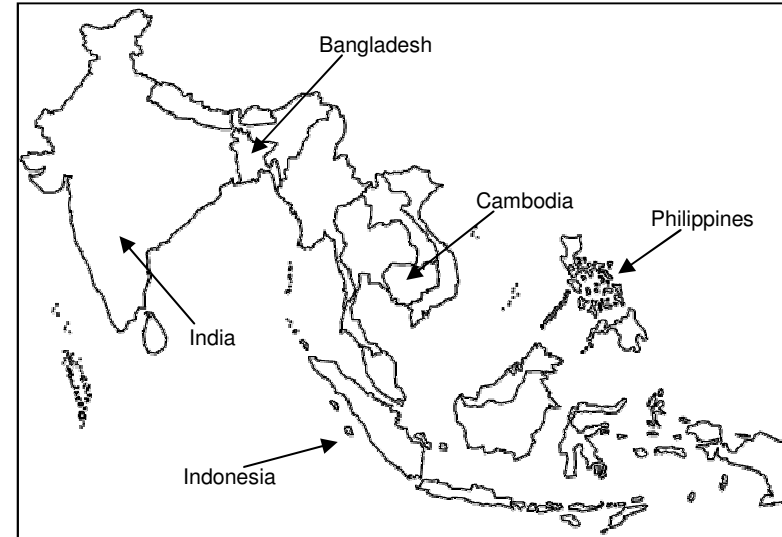
John Marsden, FH Asia Regional Director, writes, *"When I accepted the job of Regional Director for Asia in addition to Country Director for Bangladesh I knew it would be a big workload, but I took it believing I had heard God say "my yoke is easy and my burden is light". I see Joel very much as God keeping His promise. Joel's support will free me to concentrate on mentoring FH's field leaders in Asia, working with them to develop field strategy and seeking what else God would have FH do in Asia."*



FH's work in Asia is diverse – 400 staff in 10 countries involved in work ranging from disaster relief and rehabilitation through to long term church development. FH was founded in the Bangladesh famine of 1972 and during the 1970s also opened relief work in Philippines with boat people fleeing the Vietnam war and on the Thai border with refugees from the massacres of the Cambodian Pol Pot regime. FH now has large, mature, long term operations in these three countries

generally managed and run by local staff. FH Cambodia recently concluded work in one region and moved transformational development teams to a remote area in the far north previously un-served by Christian NGOs. FH Philippines is transitioning to become a national organisation using its own resources to address poverty in that country, while FH Bangladesh is becoming a centre of expertise in transformational development within the worldwide organisation.

FH also has expatriate staff in several countries of the Southeast Asian mainland. They train and build up local Christians in wholistic



development, often in the face of very oppressive political regimes. There are also teams in China doing business as mission and seeking other opportunities to communicate Biblical worldview in action. A local partner in India

has a strong vision "to mobilize and equip the church to impact society through local church-based wholistic ministry; and through the application of Biblical worldview to all spheres of life".

Most recently FH responded in Indonesia to assist people rebuilding their lives after the North Sumatran tsunami.

For the future, FH faces the challenge of blending Asian staffing and skills with the resources in the wider FH family to address the physical and spiritual poverty still evident in much of the region, from the Middle East to the distant islands of SE Asia.

Plans and Dates

April - May 2008	Preparation and fundraising in UK
End of May	Travel to Asia
From beginning of June	Get settled in Dhaka and begin orientation for his role.