

Meghalaya children's day care centre in North East India

Background

Nongtariang is a village in North East India, approximately 30km from Shillong which is the capital city of Meghalaya. The soil is fertile, however it is mostly owned by city people, hence the local inhabitants (the Bhois) have to work the land for these city people, receiving very low wages in return. Consequently the adult literacy rate is only 20%, most of the children are mal-nourished and many of the men have turned to alcoholism for escape. Education is seen as less important than the daily fight for survival.



The paddy fields in Nongtariang



A typical mud, thatch & bamboo house in Nongtariang

The centre

The Senior Pastor of the local church has pleaded with our local Ropeholder to help the church establish a day care centre to throw a lifeline to the children. The work will be undertaken by a Pastor, elders and members of the church. 50 children have been selected for the centre and each will be encouraged to regularly attend school. They will each receive a well balanced meal on school days, will have their health regularly checked and will receive extra help and coaching with school work where required. The church will teach the children Biblical values, Christian choruses and how to pray, and the children will be encouraged to attend Sunday School. In the future it is hoped that sufficient additional funds will be raised to provide the children with warm clothes, shoes and school books.

The initial cost for each child to attend the centre is £95 per annum. Supporters of this project will not sponsor a specific child but will receive an annual update and photographs on the progress of the centre and the 50 children in general, with example reports on how some of the individual children are progressing.



Our Ropeholders and the local pastor meeting the families in need of help



Birda (right) and her younger brother, Kitbok. Birda had been working as a maid in Shillong but had to return home to look after her 3 siblings when both her parents died. She cannot earn enough in the village to pay for her siblings to attend school. Kitbok is nearly 16 and still at kindergarten level education.