

Ed and Karen Scott's Journey Notes

Dear family and friends,

August 2006

Rita, a rural woman of Bangladesh, is designing and making clothes for many of her neighbors and friends. She also has been able to sew some handicraft items using traditional design patterns. She is currently earning about \$65 per month net income. She has a number of other women whom she has trained to do this work. Rita has been doing this for



over ten years and would now like to take her business to the next level. However, her limitations are a lack of money to buy the cloth and thread she would need in order to enlarge the business. She could also use help in marketing and setting up her accounts system. I was introduced to her by Ashok Baroi who we have known for over twelve years. Ashok has about twenty other women who are being trained in various aspects of operating their own small businesses. Typically Bangladeshis must move to the city to find jobs. Helping these women enables them and the people they hire stay in the rural areas close to their families. Ashok wants to help these women form businesses that will be a witness to their Christian faith.



We believe God is urging Christians in the marketplace to, "wake up and see the harvest." Commerce is opening new

doors for the Gospel that traditional missionary efforts were never able to open! God is giving many men and women visions of



forming "Kingdom Businesses" that will be used to glorify God throughout the nations. These businesses will generate resources that will be a blessing to scores of people, pointing them to the life of Christ. They will also witness to Christ through businesses that are operated according to biblical values and ethics. This is badly needed in countries where corruption is the name of the game.

They often need help to get started. The spiritual and economic benefit of people owning their businesses would be significant. In many countries churches have been dependent on the west. If members of these churches were able to run their own businesses they could better meet the needs of their families and churches—releasing them from this terrible dependency.

You can offer a helping hand. No matter what line of business you are in, you have a role to play in the great commission. Keep an open heart and perceptive mind to what God is doing in our day and time. There is a great need for people like you to mentor business

people in developing countries. Mentoring can be done through email, visits, training men and women in business skills, giving financially, and by praying. You could be one such person. It's time that business people found out that they are needed to help God's kingdom grow—in other ways besides giving money. Now is the time to be actively involved. How can you help a woman like Rita expand her business? How can you help her business to be more successful?

The current crisis in the Middle East is raising discussions about the end of the world. The possibility of Armageddon is again being tossed about on television and radio talk shows. There are certainly new global threats, but that should not hold us back from listening to Jesus' call to action. He said to *all* of us, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations— and surely I am with you



always, to the very end of the age". It may or may not be the end of the age but Jesus told us to GO and He will be with us. Being involved in Business as Mission in some manner is a way for you to go.

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We have been working in this new area of business as mission for just over one year. We are extremely excited about this call and wonder why we hadn't been doing mission this way before! We'd like you to join us on a "Business as Mission" trip to Bangladesh. We're going this fall and will need people to train others in business skills during the winter months. Don't panic, we have easy to follow materials for you to use!

Would you like more information on the upcoming trip? We also have information of how God's word is being spread through business ventures.

Give us a call at: 612-605-8698

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Blog with us at: <http://www.wmpl.org/pwp/ekscott/>

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