



# JOINT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES

## *Catalyzing Transformational Development*

### **Uzbek Government Orders JDA Closure**

JDA was notified on October 3rd, that it must shut down. The allegations by the government are untrue, but we will not fight this in court. If there is any way possible for us to continue our programs in Uzbekistan we will.

Nation building begins at the family level in communities. This is where JDA's commitment lies. In light of the deteriorating political climate in Uzbekistan, the importance of the area of our focus could not be more significant. As the government continues to close down western based organizations, deny visas to development workers and silence any independent journalism, the rural poor find themselves at the mercy of an oppressive government,

It has been a difficult year, working in this climate, but our staff has courageously kept moving forward, developing and expanding our programs, applying for program grants, and forging new partnerships with funding organizations.

Our focus has been to equip people and their communities. This equipping will enable communities to continue to develop without JDA's programs. We believe that the values that have been taught, caught and passed on will allow communities to succeed in spite of government and political changes; to ensure a future that provides for adequacy-socially, economically and spiritually.

### **Back to School in Afghanistan**



A dedication of the new second floor was held on September 3rd and both boys and girls are back in school.

The second floor of the Sultan Ibrahim School was finished in August. The community donated the unskilled labor for construction, working with JDA's engineering staff.

They also donated the materials and labor to construct a wall around the perimeter.



# Girls Move to New Classrooms!



Last year the girls had classes in an abandoned home.



Damage from rocket propelled grenades.



No sooner had these back school picture been laid out in the newsletter-we received word that the school had been attacked in the middle of the night with 5 rocket propelled grenades. People came out of their homes at the sound of gunfire and the four men fled. The terrorists were followed until the trail disappeared in a canal. Thankfully, no one was hurt and only a stairwell and some windows were damaged. The government has since provided the school with an armed guard in addition to the local watchmen.

Our response can be to just give up in weariness and the seemingly overwhelming adversity, or to press on for the sake of these communities who are bravely standing their ground against terrorists.

The day following this attack all the students were back in school. We ask you to continue to support ongoing efforts in nation building in Afghanistan and not to give up.



Sincerely,

Robert C. Hedlund, CEO and Founder

