



Baby receiving kangaroo mother care

## LHCF September 2018 Newsletter

### Coming up: LAMB Supporters' Day, 13th October

Aiming to meet, inform and encourage our lovely supporters ; 10.30am—3.30pm

Venue | The Good Shepherd Mission, 17 Three Colts Ln, Bethnal Green, E2 6JL

For more details, and tell us you plan to come, write to Judith Hansford, 71 Anderson Ave, Earley, RG6 1DH

### Kangaroo mother care

A baby born in LAMB's clinic in Parbatipur in March 2018 wasn't breathing, so the LAMB Community Skilled Birth staff performed bag and mask ventilation for 15 minutes. After establishing breathing, the child was referred quickly on to LAMB hospital's paediatric unit, where it was clear she was very sick. She needed oxygen, 'Kangaroo Mother Care', anti-convulsive medication and antibiotics. The baby gradually recovered and started sucking and moving normally. 10 days later the baby was discharged, alive and well thanks to the chain of care, in particular the skill of the Community Skilled Birth staff. *Kangaroo mother care is strongly promoted by LAMB as a cheap, effective alternative to incubators. The babe lies in a cloth bag on the mother's chest and is warm, close and safe.*



### Transformation!

*"There is light in this Family Welfare Centre after 40 years"* said a member of the facility management committee to an external evaluator during the evaluation of one of LAMB's community projects, Responsive Reproductive Health Services (RRHS). The evaluation found remarkable development of the government-run clinics since the start of the project in 2014. The report states: *"The evaluation found high-functioning service units providing high-quality services...These service units are the very embodiment of primary health care, providing accessible quality-assured services 24/7...The project has transformed these run-down sites into centres of excellence, both in structure and function."* LAMB Community Health and Development Programme currently manages ten such projects. Please pray for creative innovations to support ongoing sustainability of the achievements in improved running. It is a great challenge to work collaboratively with government health officials and providers, as well as with elected and informal community leaders to develop responsible, accountable health systems.



### Nazira

Nazira (pictured) has cerebral palsy affecting her left arm and leg, and epilepsy. As a 12-year old she was unhappy and care-less about her appearance. Her mother died when she was small, and her father had re-married. She walked with an obvious limp and she could not use her left arm very much. She came to the LAMB physiotherapy outpatient's department where she started exercises for her arm and leg, using an arm splint to wear at night. Gradually Nazira improved but remained sad and withdrawn. With some persuasion, she joined the Protibondi (= disabled) group and slowly her life began to change. She made friends, had a daily routine, earned money and cheered up. Her father noticed this change, and came to Rehab to see about Nazira becoming a regular member of the gardening group run by LAMB's rehab department. Today Nazira is 18 years old. She is happy, very bright, beautiful and attends the Protibondi School in Parbatipur. She has learnt a lot and is an accomplished singer and dancer (amazing considering her disability). This year she got married! Her new family love her dearly and recognise how accomplished she is.

*Only around 2% of women with a disability get married in Bangladesh.*



### Unstoppable Marriage Protection Team!

*"We are very happy to be able to stop 2 marriages in Gopalpur union. Our joint initiatives have saved 2 girls from the curse of child marriage and it prevented them from dropping out from school. We would not let our class mates stop their education and marry someone before 18 years of age. Please pray for us so that we could help adolescents in our school and in our community"* – said Rubina, the leader of Child Marriage Prevention Team in Gopalpur high school. (Part of the recent DFID-funded ASHIRBAD project)

## A message from Kyle Scott, LAMB's Executive Director

Following the last letter's prayer request for more senior doctors "We ask prayer for a Korean/American couple (internal medicine and dentist) who are exploring the possibility of working at LAMB. We've also just heard about a paediatrician who may be visiting in the next few weeks. These are critical needs for LAMB and we pray that God will make his will clear". LAMB remains without a senior physician to lead the medical team. Paediatrics, Maternity and Gynaecology remain well staffed with senior doctors.

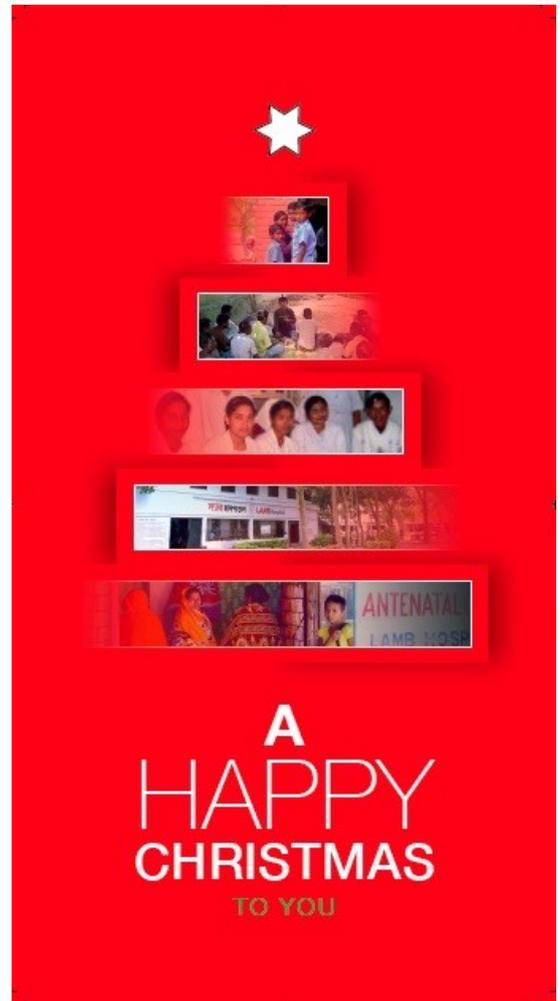


### Education is fun!

These boys are participating in one of the group education sessions run as part of the ASHIRBAD programme - promoting sexual health with the aim of reducing teenage pregnancy. The sessions provide accurate information and educators can give good advice, something which can be hard to find in rural communities.



**Susanto** is an operating room technician and nurse. He has been a faithful staff member for more than 30 years!



### Christmas cards

**Our 2018 Christmas cards will soon be available! You can order them from**  
Christine Edwards, 22 Estcourt Rd. Gloucester GL1 3LG  
Suggested contribution is £2.50