



# LHCF Newsletter

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May 2010

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

New members to our LHCF group ask new questions – one such question is about ‘who we are’.

A good summary would be to describe us as ‘Friends of LAMB’ – and we are currently considering changing our name and logo to better reflect this. If you have any thoughts or ideas regarding this, then please let us know.

We have now passed a fantastic landmark – since our start in 2003, £1 million has been raised for LAMB.

## £1,000,000 - 1 Million Pounds

We **praise and thank God** for His continued provision, but we also want to thank you, our Friends and Supporters for helping us to achieve this.

### Thank you

not only from LHCF and LAMB,  
but also the tens of thousands of patients who haven't been turned away.

Our main aim remains the same – to support LAMB, both prayerfully and financially, so that no-one is turned away from LAMB because they cannot afford their treatment.

We have historically done this through our support of the Poor Fund. The good news this year is that donors have already made significant contributions to the Poor Fund, enabling us to explore with LAMB's Project Director, Peter May, how we can best help the very poorest who live in northwest Bangladesh.

We long to see God's love made visible in the villages, and so we hope to be able to support more of the community health work. One of the benefits of this will be preventing some of the illnesses that so often take people to LAMB.

LAMB is in an extremely rural location, surrounded by rice fields; and yet in this area, which is less than 20 miles square,

there are well over a million people, with 40% surviving on less than \$1 a day.

According to 2005 National statistics:-

- The literacy rate of everyone over 7 years old was less than 30%;
- Half the population are under 18;
- The average age for girls to be married, is 15 years.

These few simple facts show some of the ongoing concerns. We wouldn't accept these figures in our countries, so why should they be accepted there.

As the focus of our fundraising expands, we look to God, and you, to help us in raising the next million pounds for LAMB.

## Small Steps, Big Steps.

Looking after a disabled child is hard for anyone, but with little social support and a community often seeing the disability as a punishment, it must be exceptionally difficult. Mothers can feel isolated in their suffering; drained by physical demands and hopeless about the future.

But in LAMB's Community Health areas, there are monthly clinics that mothers can attend with their disabled children.

One such clinic is in the village of Bherveri and for many of the mothers attending, having the opportunity to share their problems and concerns has been a big step forward and the clinic

day is the highlight of their month.

Joining a group of up to 25 mothers, gives them a chance to share their experiences and most importantly to encourage one another.

There are regular checks on the child's height and weight and mothers receive guidance on specific exercises that can stop deformities worsening. LAMB also makes made-to-measure aids to assist sitting, standing or walking.

A community chaplain sometimes visits the groups telling them about the Christian holy book and prayers are said for their concerns. Through this, the mothers are hearing of God's love, and are beginning to believe that change is

possible.

Attitudes in the community are also changing, with more encouragement, support and sympathy, rather than ostracism.

More change is needed, but the first small steps have been taken.



# What Happens Once Treatment Is ‘Complete’?

Leaving hospital after an operation is always a good outcome for any patient. However, it may not be the end of their problems, and getting back to an active life is especially hard for many older people.

Abdul Kasem came to LAMB having suffered a stroke on his left side and with an infected right leg. After treatment, which included amputation above the knee, he was struggling to move about on his own.

Before his illness, Abdul was a landless farmer and so had no savings to cover the cost of his treatment. His bill of £200 was too much for his family, but they managed to collect £60 towards it. The rest of the bill was met from the Poor Fund.

It would have cost less than £1 a day for him to stay on for ten days of physiotherapy, but he was too frightened of incurring more cost, not fully understanding that the Poor Fund would also have covered this.

His poverty prevented him from getting all the help he really needed and he discharged himself too early.



Patients discharging themselves early is a common occurrence on the wards of LAMB. Their poverty and concern about payment prevents them from completing their treatment. Please pray for those who are responsible for the challenging task of deciding how much the in-patients should pay towards their treatment and those trying to convey this to the patients.

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## Parbatipur Clinic Delivers Its First Safe Birth

A Safe Birth Unit has now opened in Parbatipur (the nearest town to LAMB) so that normal deliveries and antenatal check-ups no longer need to take place at the hospital, which is 3 miles away. Muni was the first mother to safely give birth; to a healthy daughter weighing 5.9lb. The clinic is a partnership between the town's local government and LAMB.

Two midwives, Nazma and Nargis, will be working there providing cover day and night. They were trained and are supported by LAMB, but their salary is paid by the municipality. As it had been

some time since she completed her training, Nazma was anxious when Muni arrived. She said "Despite being nervous I had the confidence to do this delivery and managed on my own."

A delivery at a Unit only costs around £4.

At the moment, there are nearly forty women registered with the clinic who are expected to give birth over the coming months, and the Government Health workers continue to encourage all local pregnant women to register with the clinic.



We long to see more co-operation between all levels of government and agencies such as LAMB.

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## New Opportunities

*Vicky, a medical student, will be travelling to LAMB this Summer. We asked her to write a few words for us.*

Ever since working in an orphanage in India during my gap year, I have been thinking and praying about being involved in long term overseas mission work. I have had many great experiences, which have helped me to develop my relationship with God, and my desire to work in cross cultural mission. I am currently studying medicine at Sheffield University, and am about to take my first year exams.

I am travelling to LAMB this summer to help teach English to some of the staff there. I believe this will be a great way to develop relationships with people from Bangladesh and develop my understanding

of and empathy with their culture, way of life and religions.

I am also hoping to get some experience in the hospital - seeing how a mission hospital is run, experiencing the different health issues in Bangladesh and how these are targeted and treated. After a very busy year at Uni, I am looking forward to having the space and time to devote myself to developing relationships with people at LAMB as well as with God.

*We trust that Vicky will have a rewarding time at LAMB and would ask that you pray for her and also the many visitors to LAMB.*

*If you're interested in Short Term Mission at LAMB, please email [Rosemary Croft - RC@LHCF.org.uk](mailto:Rosemary.Croft@LHCF.org.uk) - to discuss the possibilities.*