

LAMB HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

3 Elmcroft Close
Eaton Rise, Ealing,
LONDON W5 2HQ

020 8998 6315

jsbeastall@hotmail.com

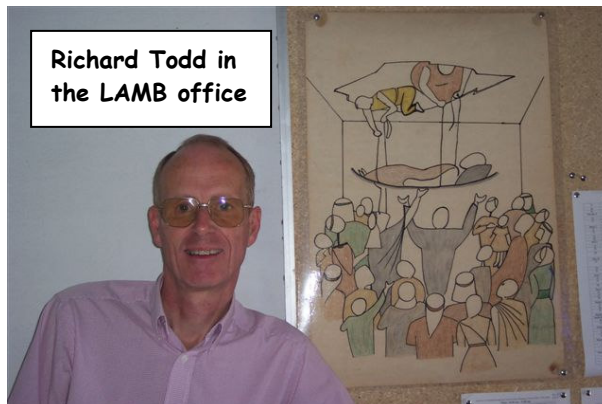
June 2005



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to write this update to you, about the on-going work at the LAMB project. One of our Trustee group, Richard Todd, has recently returned from a second visit to LAMB and it is from his report that a lot of the following is gleaned. He writes,

'LAMB Hospital and Community Health Project serves the poor of north west Bangladesh, a rural area where most people live on a knife edge. Incomes are very low and life is dependent on favorable weather for good harvests to give them enough to eat. People come to LAMB with a fear of death, afraid for their families, and worried about not being able to pay. So how does LAMB live out its motto verse *'that they may have abundant life?*



A recent meeting with community leaders provided encouraging feedback such as, *'nursing care is wonderful here'*, *'staff attitudes and approach affirmed'*, *'impressed with care of very small babies'*, and *'poor people benefiting from care they wouldn't have otherwise received'*. There is a growing acceptance of the spiritual dimension to the work, *'the day starts with prayer, remembering who the Creator is, which sets the tone for the work they do.'* As the medical needs keep growing, so too does the opportunity to bring Jesus into the life of the hospital; the chaplaincy team of five spends time with anyone who wants spiritual comfort. To me the LAMB staff represent the Lord Jesus in meeting peoples' needs by healing through good medical practices, caring attitudes and listening prayer. I saw in the families and friends living examples of those who bring sick people for healing. They may not think of themselves as coming to LAMB to meet Jesus, but that is what the picture on my office wall showing the friends letting down an invalid in front of Jesus, says to me.



Beauty has been a social worker at LAMB for five years, and each day she comes face to face with women whose lives are held back by poverty. Here in rural Bangladesh women are the last in the family to eat and often arrive at hospital without having eaten for a couple of days. The social workers assess new patients carefully to determine how much financial help they receive, using a form to evaluate the household's annual income and expenditure. This will include how much land they own and the value of their annual crops.

Hanida came to LAMB for her delivery once she knew her baby was the wrong way up, and was assessed by Beauty. Her thin body and worn clothes showed that this first-time mother was poor. The poor fund saved her from anxiety over paying for her child's birth.

Despite her difficult life - her husband had deserted her - she managed to smile as she answered Beauty's questions. Hanida's son was delivered safely and weighed a healthy 3.5kg, so she did not stay at LAMB for more than a day or so. Had she not received help, she would probably have stayed at home and had a risky, traumatic birth. The cost of her stay was 1500 Taka or £15 - equivalent to a month's earnings. This sum was way beyond Hanida's means so she received a grant of the full cost of her stay.'



As you already know LHCF has set itself the task of ensuring that LAMB's Poor Fund has the money needed to continue its essential work. Running at just over £1,000 a week this is a challenge that the trustees want to meet. We would very much like to increase the number of supporters who receive our mailings. We know that the best way of doing this is through personal contact and therefore we are again asking for your help. Please could you

- *Pray that LAMB will receive the resources it needs*
- *Pray for wisdom for each of the three social workers in their daily work allocating the Poor Fund*
- *Ask your friends to support LAMB through the Foundation*
- *Ask your church to make a one-off gift (We know some of you have already done this).*

With this mailing we have enclosed 3 brochures hoping that you will be able to pass them on to friends. We can also send or e-mail letters that you might want to use to give to your church 'mission committee' or friends, and we will happily send you more brochures. You may want to download the 8 minute presentation from the website www.lambproject.org. If you are unable to do this but would like to see the presentation, let us know and we can send you a CD with it on. A reply slip is enclosed for all of these. If you would like to see a copy of the annual report and accounts for the period to December 2004 please contact us. We do want to be able to grow support for this excellent work - so thank you for your partnership and for all the help that you give us.

Yours sincerely,

John Beastall
On behalf of the LAMB Health Care Foundation

Charity registration No. 1101217