

## LAMB HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

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Dear Friends,

The picture of out patients registering upon arrival reminds us that every day at LAMB people receive high quality medical attention combined with personal care. This outstanding work goes on week by week due to the commitment of the staff, the support of the local communities and the prayers and giving of supporters like you in several countries. Thank you for standing with us and in particular for making it possible for LAMB to continue to make healthcare available to the poorest women and children through the Poor Fund, which LHCF sees as its main responsibility.

We are excited to announce that after several months waiting we have received a grant from the Department for International Development (DfID) to run to mid 2009. In our last letter we asked you to pray about this and the outcome gives us reason to be thankful to God. The grant will enable LAMB to extend its work to three new communities, reaching an additional 75,000 people. The grant is also to be used to increase awareness among women of their rights to healthcare and to advocate the LAMB model of community healthcare more widely. Staff at LAMB will already be getting the project underway so do pray that all the resources will soon be in place and working to the benefit of local people. At the same time the ongoing needs of LAMB need to be met so we should also keep these in mind as we pray - especially the recruitment of Bangladeshi doctors remains a priority. Also advertising continues for a new Executive Director as mentioned in our last letter.

At the end of January LAMB held a conference in Dhaka to share the successes and challenges of the work - several stories of how lives have been changed illustrated LAMB's motto "that all may have abundant life". The large audience heard independent appreciation of the LAMB model of holistic healthcare founded on values related to service, compassion and respect for all persons. The aim of this 'dissemination conference', which is hoped to be the first of many, is to inspire others to work in similar ways - to show that it is possible.

For many of us who have not visited it is hard to imagine who is being helped so here is a story. Sara had no living children and so when she became pregnant for the third time her mother-in-law decided she should not have help from LAMB - she thought previous miscarriages were caused by crossing rivers on journeys to LAMB. Although a healthy baby was delivered at home the placenta was not delivered and Sara started to bleed and lost consciousness. Neighbours persuaded the mother-in-law that Sara needed help from the local LAMB-run safe delivery unit, where a community

midwife started treatment before she was transferred to the hospital. Once she got the care she needed (including an operation and blood transfusions) Sara's recovery was rapid but her life had been threatened not only by poverty and lack of local health facilities but also by traditional beliefs and distrust of basic conventional medical care.

This story illustrates one of the barriers to making healthcare accessible to women and children, and the staff see undue delays in getting help too often. There remains a big task to get people in rural communities to understand what benefits healthcare can bring, and because men make most of the decisions for their families they need to be included (see the photo below). While it is good to see these men attending the opening of a Safe Birth Unit, there are many others who need to be persuaded that their women and children will benefit.



*Bisnupur safe birth unit opening*



*Signing in at the health centre*

As we hope to enjoy summer weather we remember that at LAMB the next three months are the monsoon season when people do not travel so much, even when they are ill and should get help, which is all the more reason for running more accessible community health centres.

Several of us who support LAMB do so because we know someone working there and they are grateful for our prayers. But we are also encouraged to think of the people who day by day benefit from the work at LAMB - they are the reason for LAMB's existence. A letter is too short to share much information so if you would like an opportunity to hear from a trustee who will be at LAMB in July please contact me at [richardt@lambproject.org](mailto:richardt@lambproject.org) with your contact details and I will be in touch when I return.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Todd  
*On behalf of the LAMB Health Care Foundation*

*Please let us know if you want any materials to promote this work with your church or friends or if you want to be removed from this mailing list.*