

# LAMB HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

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Dear Friends,

The work of LAMB continues, providing care for those who come day by day to the hospital, continuing their community group development work (see the enclosed leaflet), and also responding to the needs of poor people who lost their homes in the recent floods. So that you have some idea of the work that is going on in the hospital the following are some of the hospital statistics from 2003.



- Out-patients – 45,589 seen. An outpatient visit for a woman costs the equivalent of 12 pence and this includes assessment and basic investigations but not treatment.
- 459 TB patients received the 8 month course of TB medicines – given free.
- In-patients – 5,507 patients.
- 2,352 deliveries and 869 blood transfusions.
- Most of the poor fund is spent on in-patients with 60% of patients needing some subsidy (including 12% who pay nothing).
- 100 disabled children were admitted to the rehabilitation centre.

Some of you will not know that Christine Edwards, an obstetrician from Whitehaven serving with Interserve, who has worked at LAMB for 15 years, was awarded the OBE in this years honours list. This is in recognition of her services in obstetrics to the women of Bangladesh and also reflects the good work of her team at LAMB, providing exemplary safe delivery for thousands of mothers.

Another story to share is of Romesh (his actual name has been changed) who came to the hospital 8 years ago when he was only 8 years old. He had broken his leg badly – with the bones sticking out from his skin, and initially had it set in a ‘plaster’ cast made of cow dung by the local healer. He had developed septicaemia and tetanus and had been taken to the big medical school hospital where his parents had paid extortionate fees – to no avail, and had been told that there was nothing that could be done and that he would die. The amount they paid was the equivalent of the price of a local house and left the family penniless. Romesh was taken to LAMB where the staff thought it was most likely that he would die. He was however admitted and prayed for – and slowly began the long road to recovery. The family became friendly with the staff and over the following weeks were

given the odd proverb or verse, and began to hear more of the gospel. This year Romesh came to faith – and so did his older brother. Two of his sisters have started Bible correspondence courses. The Holy Spirit is at work.

We have some more good news – also evidence of God at work, this time in the UK. We (meaning us all / you!) have reached the £50,000 target that LAMB asked us for in 2004. We are still incredulous – and very grateful to God, and to yourselves for the part played by so many of you. One couple asked for all their wedding presents to be given as cash gifts to the foundation, coffee mornings have been held and Bengali meals shared. The money raised has gone for the poor fund, and we have also been able to give some towards staff housing, a project delayed because of lack of funds. We have recently received a request to help fund Elsie Hasdak to do a Masters in public health. She has been at LAMB since leaving school ten years ago and is now a Trainer /Teacher in the Community Health Department having worked for many years as a paramedic in the hospital. She is the daughter of the late Pastor Soren, who was at LAMB for its first twenty years, and is seen as a potential future national director of the programme, and so we consider this training a good investment.

We have spent quite a lot of time applying to charitable trusts but have had no success so far. In the light of the LAMB Board's views we have decided against proceeding with our application for lottery funding because some supporters were not happy with this, and so we would be very grateful for ideas of other possible sources of funds.

We do need to continue raising funds for LAMB and again ask you to help us. We need to raise another £50,000 in 2005 and so forgive us for enclosing gift aid and standing order forms – but please ignore these if you are already giving regularly to us.

Thank you for your partnership with us in this work, and may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rosemary Croft  
On behalf of the LAMB Health Care Foundation



*This picture shows the opening of the new staff housing partly funded by LHCF*