

LAMB HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

3 Elmcroft Close
Eaton Rise, Ealing,
LONDON W5 2HQ
020 8998 6315
jsbeastall@hotmail.com



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Dear Friends,

We have a lot to share with you as we write to thank you for your partnership in LAMB's work this last year. Again, the Poor Fund has been sufficient to meet the many needs and we thank you for your generosity. We have received gifts this year from coffee mornings, from a football team, Sunday schools, from trusts, from several churches and even from Durham University rag week, but mostly from individuals giving designated contributions. Thank you everyone.



The LAMB Project now employs 270 hospital staff and 150 community health staff which I hope this begins to give you an idea of the huge impact this project has on this northern area of Bangladesh. Highlights in 2005 include the building of a new ward - encouraged by Engender Health (another charity) who wanted a facility to treat women who had fistulas following difficult deliveries. Some of you may have heard of the fistula hospital in Ethiopia. There is an American surgeon, Dr Bob, at LAMB now who is able to teach the necessary skills for this operation as

well as carry out many other operations. So more beds were needed for this work - and for the increasing number of deliveries taking place; this October there were 343 deliveries at LAMB, 50 more than in October 2004. Amongst these births were 20% more babies with low birth weight, but the number surviving was actually more - which is a real tribute to the midwives and the paediatric staff. The photos show the outside and the inside, and the opening by Dr Mark Pietroni of the new ward. Some of you kindly made donations specifically towards this, and LHCF also obtained a grant from the Beatrice Laing Trust.



There are two things that we would ask you to especially pray for. The first is for the appointment of a new Executive Director for LAMB, as Mark is likely to leave in 2007. Advertisements have been placed - but a man or woman after God's heart who has great wisdom will be needed to lead this large work forward. One of the most exciting things is to see the staff and work at LAMB influencing healthcare policy at national level so that its impact goes beyond its area - and we pray that this influence will be not only organisational but also spiritually, working against ingrained corruption and towards the common good.

The second item for prayer is for an application to DFID (British Government overseas development) for a large grant for the next 3 years. A lot of work has gone into this and we hope to hear the outcome in February; please pray for those making the decisions.



Two of the trustees, Richard and John, have visited LAMB this November (at their own expense) partly to work and attend meetings, but partly so that they can better understand the needs and to see how the money we are raising is being used. The positive attitude of senior nursing staff at Lamb was brought home to Richard when he met Sobita Roy, one of the lead nurse-midwives. Despite just completing a tiring ten and a half hour night shift on a labour ward, Sobita was clear in speaking about her priorities. Practical nursing is combined with a high level of caring, which Sobita says is her primary responsibility towards patients. *"I find my work rewarding because we work for the poor - it makes me sad to see their condition, but*



they appreciate all that we do for them." Sobita wants to care not just in medical treatment but in other ways too. She told how she provided food for a hungry man when the bazaar was closed during the recent festival of Eid and she gives clothes to poor families.

The nurses work very much in the front line, almost as do our paramedics, and are able to start treatment before the doctors arrive. Sobita asks us to pray that *"our staff will improve our care for patients - and grow in patience!"* Such a desire to grow in service is a challenge to us all.

In 2006 LAMB will be expanding its service to those in need. More patients will be treated and more local people will be trained to work in their communities. So LHCF would like to widen its support and contribute to other aspects of the work in addition to the Poor Fund. If you wish your money to be directed only to the poor fund we will of course do this, if you let us know.

This letter comes at Christmas when our own lives and finances can be under pressure. I realise that we are asking you to add to these by taking a further interest in the work at LAMB. But as we start the new year we have a wonderful opportunity to stand alongside the patients and staff there. Please pray that there will be high standards of care and service and that LAMB may in every small and big decision continue to work towards its objective, 'that all may have abundant life'.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rosemary Croft
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.