

## LAMB HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

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*New Health Workers - ready to roll!*

Christmas 2006

Dear Friends,

The time has come for our 6 monthly newsletter and we have much to be thankful for. The work that was planned with the grant from the British government's Dept for International Development (DfID) is now well underway. The first group of 23 women health workers for one of the new areas have been trained and are out visiting the 7000 houses in the area - surveying their needs, giving health teaching and telling them of the healthcare facilities locally accessible and, if needed, at LAMB.

LAMB's new and expanded Training Centre was opened earlier in the year so that more and better training can be provided for local health workers as well as government and NGO staff, and it is already being well used. We are glad to hear that the LAMB Board have appointed the new Executive Director and the plan is that Mark Petroni will be handing over in the summer of 2007 - so please continue to pray for them.

Here are just a few statistics from 2005 to give you a taste of what is going on in the hospital:

- 498 new TB patients started treatment
- 3181 deliveries
- 50 operations for cleft lip repair
- 56,474 patients visited the out patient department
- 64 students at the LAMB school

Praise God for all that is being done in His name - next time we'll share some statistics from the community work.

Looking at the Poor Fund figures - £55,000 was given in 2005 to 5707 patients - an average of nearly £10 for each patient helped; 71% is given to cover the cost of treatment for women, and over 70% to those who are landless and with no regular income - many of these people have paid a proportion of their bill themselves. For everyone directly helped there may well be 10 others, for instance family members, who are indirectly and positively affected. LAMB looks to LHCF for most of the money for the Poor Fund.

As an example of 'whole person' care let me tell you the story of Robiul, who came to LAMB aged 15 having developed an illness (spinal TB) that left him paralysed below the waist. He had no father and was the wage earner, supporting his mother and younger brother and consequently had never been to school. Before going to LAMB he had developed huge deep pressure sores over his legs and back, probably made much worse by local 'kobiraj' treatment. The smell was so bad that no-one could bear to be near him, and



initially it was not clear if he could be helped. He was admitted though for palliative care and to help relieve his family's distress. Gradually the sensation returned to his legs and after 7 months the sores had healed with skin grafts. Gradually he learnt to walk unaided and he brightened up becoming an active member of the ward. One of the young men in the LAMB community visited him daily teaching him to read and write. He is still undergoing further surgery but is doing brilliantly, and will be able to work when he returns home. During his stay he asked many questions and has found faith. The cost of Robiul's treatment (70,000 taka / £550) was covered by the Poor Fund.

Not every story is such good news and Richard Todd (one of our Trustees who regularly visits LAMB and who works as an Interserve short termmer) includes in his diary entries a visit with Hannah, one of the chaplaincy team. Her job includes comforting the mothers whose children are still born - of

whom there can be 3 or 4 a day at this busy time of year. Regular attendance at an ante-natal clinic does not guarantee a successful birth but the mothers' obvious incomprehension shows in their anger. Hannah asks that we remember her as she tries to reassure these grieving women of the Lord's love and care for them in their sorrow, and prays that they will be blessed with another child. Richard saw, on his way back from talking with Hannah, a young mother whose first child had died the previous night at the age of 2 months, standing waiting to receive the body to carry her baby back home. The work of the chaplaincy team is not easy. Let us hold the staff in our prayers as we remember them working on the wards and in the community day by day.

We have over the past year or two been able to facilitate several short termers who have visited LAMB to teach in their English school, do a medical elective, help with administration etc and if you are interested in any such work please let us know. We've been able to send £32,000 for the Poor Fund and also grants for medical equipment and other purposes, including a major contribution to LAMB's building programme from a very generous donor in the UK. Thank you so much for your kindness in making all this possible. As the hospital gets increasingly busy the need for Poor Fund subsidy grows and we dare to ask for your continued support in this worthwhile project. It would be particularly good if some more people could help give LAMB a regular income by making a Standing Order, (a form is enclosed).

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Croft

*Please let us know if you want any materials to promote this work with your church or friends; if you would like to be added to the list of those who receive these newsletters by e-mail (easier and cheaper for us); or if you want to be removed from this mailing list.*