

# KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(Kailakuri & the Mati NGO)

Village Kailakuri, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



## Happy Easter 2016

This month sees the arrival of Dr Stephen Pearce and his wife, Georgina. They are visiting with us from New Zealand and will return home at the end of June. They learnt of Dr Bhai's work from New Zealand friends and supporters who gave the newsletter on to them to read.

### A Life-Changing Story

Hello, my name is Suronjon Bormon. I was born in Pirgacha, Tangail District. This is a remote village area. I didn't know how to love people before I came to work at Kailakuri.

I was unable to attend school and so I was unable to read. As I was very poor I went to Dhaka to seek work. After working for a year in Dhaka, I became ill. There was no affordable treatment for me. I came to Dr. Bhai and he diagnosed my illness as Kala Azar (Black Fever). It was a serious illness. Dr Bhai treated me and then I went to Tangail District. The disease returned and again I visited Dr. Bhai. Dr. Bhai told me that I might die soon.

I was terrified and one night I woke up at midnight in despair. Dr. Bhai came to me and comforted me. I asked him "Am I about to die?" Dr Bhai began to cry too, and asked me to pray. After a long series of treatments (120 injections), and with God's help I improved.

Since 1998, I have been working with Dr. Bhai, supporting poor people like myself. I have helped to save lives with Dr. Bhai's help. Here is one example.



Suronjon with a patient at Kailakuri

Once a poor boy, aged about ten came to seek help. Ruben was from Hagurakuri and was bleeding from an injury.

Dr. Bhai told me that he needed ketamine and that I must stay with him. It was about 8pm, and Ruben was fitting. Dr Bhai was trying unsuccessfully to put in a line for saline solution, and Ruben was about to die. Dr. Bhai said to me, "I may not be able to save him." I said, nervously "If you allow me too, I'll try and do it." Then, after a few attempts, I found the vein and the drip was put in. Dr. Bhai embraced me and said, "Thank you, Suronjon, you have saved his life!"

I have worked for Dr. Bhai for 17 years now, and I am a paramedic. When I reflect on these experiences, I become emotional. I have a purpose in life and I have helped many people, which I could never have done without Dr Bhai.

Now that Dr. Bhai has passed away, I recall a time, in about 2003, where I was anxious and unable to eat. I took him dinner and embraced him. He said he was worried that his vision for caring for the poor might not eventuate. I remember him saying to me, "If I have to leave Bangladesh, you must continue this work." Happily, Dr Bhai found a way through, and his work did indeed continue and it does continue to this very day.

Dr Bhai's presence is **with us** always in our work here at Kailakuri.

## Ataur Rahman

For the past 14 years NZ has been fortunate to have Mr. Ataur Rahman acting as Honorary Consul for Bangladesh. Since he became aware of Edric and his work some years ago, he has been a staunch supporter. Earlier this year he made his sixth visit to Kailakuri. Here is what he had to say:



Mr Ataur Rahman on his latest visit to Kailakuri

*On my recent trip to Bangladesh in late Jan/early Feb I visited Kailakuri and was warmly greeted by Nadine and all the team like an old friend! There was immediately a feeling of loss and sadness as my old friend Edric was no longer there. I was happily surprised at the calm that existed as all the staff were efficiently carrying on with their good work routinely. Edric had trained them all!!! There was some anxiety as to the future but what impressed me was the air of quiet confidence and positive teamwork and attitude. I said a quiet prayer at Edric's grave side and left with a positive frame of mind for the future."*

Thank you for those comments Ataur, and thank you also for the valuable Dhaka introductions you have made which have been helpful to Edric personally and to the Health Centre.

## Sari Fashion Parade... by Rebecca Moore

On Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> in Rotorua, New Zealand, there was a flood of colour in support of the Kailakuri Health Care Project. We held a successful fashion show showcasing over fifty beautiful saris and outfits. The models were all volunteers (friends, colleagues, family members) coming together to fundraise and to celebrate the beautiful clothing from Bangladesh and India. The outfits were loaned by Sugi Shaw and her friends who also helped dress the models. Along with dancers performing and a light supper, a power-point presentation gave the audience an insight into the terrific work being carried out by the staff at Kailakuri. With ticket sales, donations and raffle ticket sales the evening raised over \$2900.

Just as important though was the raised awareness of the Kailakuri Health Care Project through the promotion of the event. By asking to put up fliers, talking with people, placing notices in newspapers, and creating a Facebook event page many more became aware of the Kailakuri Health Care Project. I encourage you to get together with a few friends and plan your own fundraising event for Kailakuri. You do not need to start with something as involved as a fashion show. Our first steps were raffles, muffin sales and a garage sale.



## Our Financial Situation

As you may have realised from the latest Annual Report, we have experienced a difficult financial year. Despite project costs only increasing by 4% in 2015, the low New Zealand – Bangladeshi exchange rates have worked against us, meaning a 23% increase in expenditure when converted into New Zealand dollars. In 2015 we relied on New Zealand income for 70% of our project funds.

## Donated laptops

OrionHealth have generously donated three laptop computers to replace the aging machines currently being used at the clinic. OrionHealth is one of New Zealand's largest and most successful IT companies, providing healthcare software solutions to thousands of customers all across the globe. Many thanks to CEO Ian McCrae and CIO Johan Vendrig for making this happen. Both Ian and Johan were impressed with what Kailakuri was achieving and pleased to be able to help. In addition Microsoft has donated the software required through its charity program.



Edric's nephew, Stuart Lynch, receiving the donated laptops



This is Pijon Nongmin, Kailakuri Health Care Project manager, busy using one of the donated laptops. Batteries are essential as the power is only on for about 3 hours per day. Internet access is dodgy at best. A solar power charger is available in the Inpatient area on the other side of the road. Further such facilities are sorely needed. Thank you to Orion for their generous donation.



## Visitors' Corner

Hi, my name is Georgina Pearce and I am here with my husband, Dr Stephen Pearce. We are from New Zealand. I see the tremendous work which is being done here, by the poor, for the poor. The amount of meals which are prepared, not only for the patients, but also for their loved ones is amazing, especially when you consider this is all done with no electricity. The paramedics provide services for about 6000 people (consultations and education) every month, to those who would otherwise have no affordable treatment available to them. A personal thanks to the New market Rotary Club in New Zealand for the building we are staying in. A plea for the poor. Please check your pocket for loose change. Can you spare that amount and send it to Kailakuri?

**Share this newsletter with your friends, the poor are depending on us- we are their only hope. Can you help, today?**

### *Contact Us...*

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#### **WEBSITES**

<http://sites.google.com/site/kailakurihealth>

**FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.com/kailakuri](http://www.facebook.com/kailakuri)

(Like our Facebook page and receive regular updates)

### *Donations can be made by...*

- Paying online through our website via Paypal at <http://sites.google.com/site/kailakurihealth>
- Making a telegraphic transfer (TT) payment to our New Zealand Bank Account (ANZ, Whakatane, New Zealand). Account Name: Kailakuri Health Care Project - Link Group; Account Number: **01 0486 0185024 00**, **SWIFT code ANZ BNZ 22**. Please email Glenn Baker at [treasurerkhcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerkhcp@gmail.com) with your donation and contact details.
- If you live in the United States, you can write a cheque to "Asia Connection Inc". Please indicate on a separate note that the donation is for Kailakuri and send to Ted Rose, Treasurer, Asia Connection Inc, 7 Colby St, San Francisco, CA. 94134-1136, and give your contact details for a receipt.

*Thank-you so much for your support.*

*Our greatest need is gifts towards on-going running costs.*