

KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(Kailakuri & the Mati NGO)

Village Kailakuri, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



'Carrying on in Edric's Footsteps' June 2016

Dear Friends,

"Eid Mubarak"! It is now ten months since our beloved Dr Bhai (Dr Edric Baker) passed away. At times we feel discouraged at his loss but we are very grateful for your ongoing support and encouragement, which has allowed us to continue running the Kailakuri project smoothly.



An old photo of Dr Edric, Libby and Fr Doug from December 2006, kindly passed on by Sr Jenny.

All three are now in heaven.

(L) - Dr Edric Baker
Libby Laing
Doug Venne

Dr Bhai taught us to think about our project responsibilities carefully and take the initiative to resolve potential issues in advance. Many people say the percentage of poor people is decreasing as Bangladesh becomes more developed, but in our area we have noticed many poor patients who cannot afford to pay for health treatment. Government salaries have been increased recently, and this has exacerbated inflation. The poorest are feeling the effects of this in terms of increased prices for basic goods (while they struggle on low, unpredictable incomes).

Our project donations have remained relatively stable but expenses have risen slightly each year, because of increases in patient numbers as well as inflation. We have also been adversely affected by the low New Zealand-Bangladeshi exchange rate. Dr Bhai donated his entire inheritance to Kailakuri, and because of this we have been able to operate as usual in 2016.

Our concern is for next year. Kailakuri staff have not received a salary increase but they are working hard, as before, as they are motivated for the sustainability of the Kailakuri project. While Dr Bhai was alive the project experienced financial crises at various times, but we were able to overcome these because of his fundraising efforts and complete dedication to the project. However none of us measure up to Dr Bhai. To continue Kailakuri's service to the poor we are trying our best to raise funds within Bangladesh and from overseas. We do not want any poor people in our area to die because they cannot afford to access medical treatment.

Care of Burns Patients at Kailakuri

Parbeen, aged 35, from Ramnaghor village is married with three children – two sons and one daughter. She had a bad infection in her leg, and at first they sought treatment from a village healer (kobiraj). When this failed they took her to a medicine vendor (who offer treatment advice as well as dispensing medicine). However this did not result in any improvement. Then someone suggested they come to Kailakuri. Parbeen was admitted as an inpatient for two months and her infection gradually cleared up, with daily dressings and medication. But in the meantime, her husband lost interest in her and demanded a divorce. As it happened, Dr Shareef noticed Parbeen's situation when he visited Kailakuri one day and wanted to provide her with a skin graft operation. Dr Shareef Hasan, retired, was Assistant Professor, Plastic Surgery Department at Bango Bondhu Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka. He completed Parbeen's operation free of cost at a nearby private clinic, and also brought assisting medical personnel with him. After this Parbeen eventually returned home to her husband. They are now living happily together. Parbeen still comes to Kailakuri for follow-up visits and she is very grateful for her care.

Tuni Nokrek, aged 16, is from Mominpur village (about 15 km away). Her father works in Dhaka as a security guard and her mother is a day labourer. Tuni is the third of four siblings. Her family is very poor, and she decided to support them by working as a beautician in Dhaka. One day at her hostel, they were sitting down for dinner when the electricity suddenly went off. But as one of the cooks was lighting a kerosene lamp, her clothes caught on fire. Out of fear, she threw the lamp away and three others including Tuni were caught in the flames.



A photo of Dr Shareef and Tuni before she underwent her skin graft surgery

They took Tuni to a private hospital, but the treatment costs were huge. Five days later, Tuni's family brought her to Kailakuri. We provided regular dressings and medication, and her

condition continued improving over six months. By this time she was badly in need of a skin graft operation, as the skin on her arms and neck had tightened, restricting her movement. We were able to arrange subsidised operations with St Vincent in Mymensingh and Gonoshastaya Kendra (which provides two-monthly rotating internee doctors at Kailakuri). This month Dr Shareef provided another operation, to resolve the skin stiffness and enable free movement of her arm. Tuni's condition has required a number of operations because of the seriousness of the burns. She asks for your support and prayers that she will heal up quickly.

Another patient, Bilashi, comes from a village 100 kilometres from Kailakuri. After visiting a neighbour's house one day, she was standing by the fireplace talking to someone, when her sari caught fire. Bilashi suffered 32% burns. She has been an inpatient at Kailakuri for the past three months. We are very grateful that Dr Shareef has offered to provide Bilashi's skin graft operation (free of cost). Bilashi was living with both of her parents, her husband and their two children. Her father became blind when Bilashi was three years old and her husband has a low IQ, as well as her older daughter. Her father begs and her husband does day labour for a living. Their household of six struggles to get by with these two small income streams. Bilashi requests your prayers and she is waiting for Dr Shareef to fix a date for her skin graft operation.



Bilashi with her mother, husband and oldest daughter in Kailakuri inpatient department

In other news, we expect New Zealander Kate Day to arrive in Dhaka on 25 July. She plans to stay in Bangladesh for one month, while completing interviews for Dr Bhai's biography. Kate has already interviewed over 50 people in New Zealand, including family and close friends of Edric and is in email communication with international contacts. We are investigating grant funding options for the writing and publishing costs. We look forward to the biography's completion!!

We would like to finish by saying thanks to all of our international supporters who have continued journeying with us since Dr Bhai's passing. We are hopeful for the future, as American doctors Jason and Merindy are expected to arrive later this year (after they reach their Interserve fundraising target), and partnerships with other organisations in Bangladesh remain strong. We are encouraged by recent visitors to the project such as Stephen and Georgina Pearce and offers to donate medicines, time and various skills in support of Kailakuri patient care. We welcome interested medical personnel and English speaking volunteers to consider a medium to long-term commitment at Kailakuri.



To the left is a photo of our paramedic Akhi cleaning Bilashi's burns before her daily dressing is applied. Our special burns dressing room was set up in early 2015, to allow for the breeze to come through but protect patients from dust and flies when their wounds are being dressed. We have had a number of burns patients come and go since then.

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WEBSITES

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

FACEBOOK 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 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.*