

Home Leave for Edric Baker

During August-September 2008, Dr Edric Baker spent time on home leave in New Zealand. He spent the first month with his parents, both now in their mid-90s.

He then spent a month travelling around the country talking to groups interested in the work at Kailakuri. During this time he spoke to groups in Whakatane, Te Puke, Tauranga, Rotorua, Auckland, Whangarei, Whangaparoa, Hamilton, Taupo, Napier, Raumati, Porirua, Lower Hutt, Christchurch, Halswell, Lincoln, Nelson and Wellington. He also gave media interviews for TV Shine, Radio Rhema and Radio NZ National and New Zealand Catholic.

On his return to Kailakuri at the end of September he found that activities had carried on as normal. A tribute to the staff, the training they have received and their commitment to their community.

Significant New Supporter

While in Wellington, Edric met with Mr. Gareth Morgan who was impressed with Edric's track record and what is being achieved. He committed the Morgan Family Charitable Trust in principle to provide some financial support to Kailakuri health Centre for a period of five years.

Cost of Living in Rural Bangladesh

In October the staff of Kailakuri completed a study of their personal living expenses which found that their cost of living had increased by 73% over the past year. As a result they have now received a significant pay increase (but not 73%).

Libby Laing Working at Kailakuri

In mid-October 2008 Libby Laing retired paediatric nurse from Taupo, New Zealand travelled to Kailakuri and will work there for 2.5 months. Libby has volunteered two months of her time almost every year for the past ten years and has been instrumental in establishing the village mother-child health care programme. This programme has proved to be very beneficial. Babies lives are saved and Mothers are raising healthier children.

Edric says that it is very noticeable that after three years of the programme working in a village that the number of outpatients coming to the Centre for treatment drops off significantly. This is because simple messages of better nutrition and hygiene have been learned and applied by the villagers.

New Zealand Cricket Team Honours Edric Baker

While in New Zealand, Edric met with the Executive Committee to the NZ-Bangladesh Friendship Society which provides services to the Bangladesh community in NZ.

They were very interested to learn that Edric had lived so long in Bangladesh and what he has achieved in service for the poor. They pointed out that the NZ Cricket Team (the Black Caps) would soon be visiting and playing in Bangladesh and suggested that contact be made. The result of this is that on the evening of 19th October, the team Captain, Daniel Vettori, honoured Edric in a ceremony in Dhaka by asking him to present test caps to each of the NZ players selected to play in the second test match. The team presented Edric with BGD Taka 20,000 and seven Black caps shirts.