

# KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(Project of Dr Baker's Organisation for Well-Being NGO)

Kailakuri Village, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



## Feb 2020: Kailakuri's Independent at last

After Dr Baker passed away in 2015, everyone thought the organisation he created would no longer function without him. We faced huge challenges. Dr Baker started the primary health care clinic in 1983 with three staff (two health workers and a cook). Over time the clinic slowly expanded its activities.

Doing non-profitable charity work for very poor patients is very challenging work. We learnt this from Dr Baker, who also faced a number of difficulties. But with everyone's support and cooperation it has been possible to form an organisation together. In honour of Dr Baker's memory, the organisation was named "Dr Baker's Organisation for Well-Being".

After two and a half years of perseverance we have finally received NGO Bureau registration and budget approval. We are greatly indebted to those who have helped in various ways. We are reliant on the help of many people for this organisation to continue providing health care services to the poorest. Thank you so much to everyone who was part of this massive effort.

**Pijon Nongmin, Executive Director**

Dr Baker's Organisation for Well-Being

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Dear Friends,

**(by Sujit Rangsa, Acting Medical Co-Ordinator)**

Sending love and greetings from the Kailakuri family. With your prayers, encouragement and support, our beloved Dr Baker's Organisation is running well. The seed that Dr Baker planted is evident in the work of our whole staff. We want to share a few examples with you.

The patient's name is Anasta Nokrek, aged 30, from Mymensingh district. Her home is 100 kilometres from Kailakuri village. She is an indigenous Garo, from a poor family near the Indian border. She came from a family of six, the youngest amongst three brothers and one sister. Her father married off each of her older brothers, who then moved to their wives' parents' homes as per Garo tradition. Unfortunately, a few years later she lost her father. She was only 8 years old. Who would look after her family then? Her mother was elderly and had very few assets. They survived with some support from her brothers. In the midst of these difficulties, Anasta stayed at home until she was 13 years old. It was only possible for her to study up to Class 7. She wanted to continue her education, but her mother could not afford the school fees. Her older brothers still contributed a bit financially, but it was not enough to live on. With the help of a neighbour, she moved to Dhaka for work. She was an apprentice in a beauty parlour for two years and sent money back to her mother. She continued working for a few years on low pay, and her salary gradually increased over time. In 2015 she got married to a Garo boy. They had a daughter one year later and were living happily together. Then misfortune struck again.



In 2016 she started developing shoulder pain. Over two years they spent all of their savings and assets visiting various private hospitals in Dhaka for treatment. But the pain didn't improve, and steadily got worse. She had already lost her job and her marriage also broke down. Her husband could not support the family and fund his wife's treatment. In the end, she returned to her mother's home in the village. Her mum earned a little income but they also went hungry at times, and health care was a distant thought. Anasta thought she would die and she was mentally preparing herself for this. In May 2019, she heard about the Kailakuri Health Care Project from someone else in her village and she was hopeful again for the first time. When she arrived, she was very underweight, could not walk, had shoulder pain and a fever. After 2-3 days, staff took her to Mymensingh Medical Hospital where she was

discharged after one week. They said that for better treatment, she should go to Dhaka. Her situation had not improved. In the end, KHCP liaised with Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP). In June 2019 Anasta was admitted to CRP. There she was diagnosed with TB of the spine and began treatment. Anasta has received treatment at Kailakuri for the past nine months and will continue taking medication for another 3-9 months. Her shoulder pain has almost disappeared and the doctor advised that she can return to work. Before discharging Anasta, Kailakuri helped to reconcile her with her husband. She has returned to live with him.

Your continued financial support has made it possible for us to save lots of lives like Anasta's. Thank you very much to everyone who has supported this important work.

#### Other highlights from the past few months:

- In November 2019 Hanif Sangket from the famous **Ittaydi TV programme** visited KHCP to interview Jason and Merindy Morgenson, in a show that reached over 50 million people and resulted in record numbers of visitors to Kailakuri. Link on our FB page.
- In January epilepsy specialist **Dr Selina H Banu** and her team from Dr M R Khan Children's Hospital and Children's Health Institute held a free camp at Kailakuri. They treated 120 epilepsy patients and cerebral palsy patients, took blood samples for analysis and donated blankets for the poor.



- A **Belgium group** funded maintenance of the maternity building they built 10 years ago
- The Tangail Deputy Commissioner (a Govt appointed official) funded a new 3-room **administration building** at Kailakuri which was officially opened on 26 February



- An eye camp was held at Kailakuri by BNSB Eye Hospital from Mymensingh and treated 900 patients, with 260 cataract operations and 60 sets of glasses distributed.
- In New Zealand, Soldiers Without Guns documentary has raised an average of \$500 per screening), with more planned in Auckland, Whakatane, Wellington and Christchurch.
- Dr Newaz Ahamed has been appointed as a Bangladeshi registered doctor at Kailakuri.

### **KHCP – NZ Link Group News**

### **Message from the NZ Coordinators**

**Fundraising for Kailakuri.** The Link group has been licensed to show the documentary '*Soldiers Without Guns*' as a fundraiser for Kailakuri. Telling the story of how New Zealanders brought an end to a bitter ten year civil war in Bougainville PNG, this fascinating movie. is well worth

seeing while at the same time earning some funding for Kailakuri. If your group would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please email Peter Wilson on [kailakuri.nzlink@gmail.com](mailto:kailakuri.nzlink@gmail.com) and he can arrange to send the DVD to you. For a review of *Soldiers Without Guns* see: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/film/film-reviews/112126031/soldiers-without-guns-how-nz-helped-solve-bougainvilles-problems>

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**FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.com/kailakuri](http://www.facebook.com/kailakuri)  
(Like our Facebook page and receive regular updates)

**GIVELALITTLE** [www.givealittle.co.nz/org/khcp](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/khcp)



*Kailakuri is dependent on your support. Donations can be made by ...*

- From New Zealand:
  - Making an online payment to our New Zealand bank account (ANZ, Whakatane). Account name: Kailakuri Health Care Project – Link Group; Account number: 01 0486 0185024 00.  
Please email Glenn Baker at [treasurerkhcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerkhcp@gmail.com) with your donations and contact details for receipts, also details of any regular automatic payments set up.
  - Posting a cheque to “Kailakuri Health Care Project – Link Group” to KHCP-NZ Link Group, PO Box 522, Whakatane 3158, New Zealand.
- Internationally:
  - Paying online through our website via Paypal at [www.kailakuri.com](http://www.kailakuri.com)
  - 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.
  - Please get in touch with Pijon Nongmin at [drbakersorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:drbakersorganisation@gmail.com) for options to donate within Bangladesh.
- 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, 1226 Scott St, El Cerrito, CA.94530-2458, and give your contact details for a receipt.

For any changes to your contact details or if you would like to receive your newsletter by email please contact Pijon Nongmin at [drbakersorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:drbakersorganisation@gmail.com) (international) or Hilary Lynch at [tui.eden@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tui.eden@xtra.co.nz) (NZ)

*Thank-you so much for your support.  
Our greatest need is gifts towards on-going running costs.*