

KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(Project of Dr Baker's Organisation for Well-Being NGO)
Kailakuri Village, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



April 2021 – Easter Greetings, and some sobering news from Kailakuri...

On Sunday 28th March, Pijon Nongmin (Executive Director of Dr Baker's Organisation) was admitted to hospital in Dhaka, on advice from Dr Rishad who is the registered Bangladeshi doctor at Kailakuri. A CT scan showed that he had pneumonia (affecting over 50% of his lungs). He also tested positive for Covid. Pijon responded very well to high-level antibiotics and oxygen therapy and is feeling a lot better now. Dr Rishad attributed Dr Edric Baker's preference for low-dose antibiotics as a supporting factor. After remaining in hospital for about one week on doctors' advice, he has returned to his home village to rest. The cost is not cheap either, notwithstanding that Dhanmondi General and Kidney Hospital is a modest private hospital and they were able to negotiate some discounts on medicine costs through companies that supply to Kailakuri. Dr Rishad used to work at this hospital (and brought his mum there when she developed Covid), so he knew that they would take good care of Pijon. However government hospitals are overloaded at present, especially for Covid patients.

Pijon started feeling sick on about 17 March, with cold and flu symptoms, including a fever which was worse at night but fine during the day. None of the staff suspected Covid as he did not have the typical symptoms (such as a cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or loss of taste). He had not travelled outside the village area and knew of no one else in the local area who had fallen sick with Covid. After about a week Pijon was admitted to Kailakuri as an inpatient. The paramedics discovered fluid on his lungs and realised he was suffering from pneumonia. At Dr Rishad's urging, he finally made the trip to Dhaka for a Covid test. Pijon expressed surprise that he had become so sick, as he keeps pretty healthy and has no underlying health conditions. He is also fearful of other staff or patients falling sick with Covid, some of whom have pre-existing vulnerabilities such as diabetes.

Since Pijon's diagnosis, Sujit (Acting Medical Coordinator) and the paramedics have reviewed the health of all patients and staff to ensure that no one else has potential Covid symptoms. Thankfully Pijon's family and the administration staff have not fallen unwell. In Bangladesh you generally have to be symptomatic (and travel to a city like Mymensingh) to get access to a Covid test. Pijon wore a mask when working at the project and did not have close contact with patients. He has been isolating at home for the past few days and has a follow-up appointment in Dhaka soon.

It is now possible for Madhupur residents to access the Covid vaccine if they are over 40 years old. They have to complete an online form and present themselves to the Thana health complex in Madhupur.

On Sunday 2 staff members got their vaccinations, followed by 10 the next day. Unfortunately the vaccine is not available to staff under the age of 40 at this stage (despite being frontline health workers), as the government has limited supplies.



Retired staff member Kanon Bala Bormon receives her first dose of the Covid vaccine

In the last couple of weeks there has been a serious upswing of Covid in Bangladesh, with daily cases doubling in a matter of days. On April 6th, 66 deaths were recorded and 7,213 new infections (see thedailystar.net for further updates).

Update from Drs Jason and Merindy Morgenson



We hope and pray that everyone is doing well during this pandemic time. While the pandemic has decreased in the USA, the pandemic is increasing again in Bangladesh and a country wide lockdown mandated again. We pray that everyone at Kailakuri and in Bangladesh will be safe and that God will be with them. These are very difficult times for everyone, and we have lost many friends to the pandemic. In the USA, we have been surviving day to day with home-school for the kids and patiently waiting for the pandemic to decrease. We both have our coronavirus vaccines now, as do Jason's parents and family. Jason's family lives about a 2- 3 day drive from Merindy's parents' home where we have been staying. So we will be going to visit Jason's family in the

near future. We also have plans to visit all our family and friends that are spread out across the USA to tell them about Kailakuri. Please pray for us. Please pray that God will raise up many supporters of Kailakuri and the mission that Edric started so many years ago. We will be praying for you, too.

In Other News

An eye camp run by the BNSB Eye Hospital was held at Kailakuri last week. It was a much smaller affair than usual, with about 300 patients with various eye problems instead of the usual 1000- 1200 that have come other years, as Kailakuri didn't advertise it widely due to the Covid situation. Of these, 90 cataract patients will be given free lenses and 96 patients will be given free glasses.



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

- Internationally:
 - Paying online through our website via Paypal at 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 with your donation and contact details.
 - Please get in touch with Pijon Nongmin at drbakersonorganisation@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, 1920 Ralston Ave, Richmond, CA 94805, 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 drbakersonorganisation@gmail.com

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

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