

KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

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

Kailakuri Village, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



January 2021 – New Hope in a New Year

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Kailakuri Health Care Project's activities are running smoothly. Our health staff are constantly at risk of catching the virus but are taking precautions and have not shied away from their work.

In the meantime Bangladesh has signed a deal to buy 30 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine from the Serum Institute of India and hopes to start distributing this in February. This would cover 15 million people – from a population of almost 170 million. Frontline workers such as government health service providers and police will be given priority. They are also expecting to get 68 million doses from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) in 2021.

The story of Rakibul Islam – as told by Sujit Rangsa

Dear friends, we extend our greetings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

One of our younger brothers has a new lease on life. His name is Rakibul Islam, he is eight years old, and lives in Dublakuri village in Jamalpur district. It is 12 kilometres away from Kailakuri Health Care Centre. He is a smart boy and likes sports. He was playing that day with a cycle tyre, as he often did. But while he was playing with it, he fell into a fire. This was eight months ago. He was taken to the Mymensingh Hospital Medical Hospital by his family straight away. He got admitted and stayed at the hospital for one and half months. After that he got discharged and went home.

The family started taking medication from village healers and unqualified pharmacists. Rakibul got a bad infection and fever because of taking those medications. Rakibul's family came to know about Kailakuri Health Care project from their neighbours. One day they came to the Kailakuri Health Centre and got Rakibul admitted as an inpatient. Kailakuri started looking after him affectionately. Eventually he recovered from the bad infection, fever and malnutrition. This is not all; his family was taught how to protect their children from fires and keep them safe.

However his right knee had become bent and inflexible due to the burns. He needed to get a skin graft after recovering from the infection. All of his outdoor activities like sports and walking was no longer possible. He was not able to straighten his leg. His family was worried about who would do skin the graft operation and how they would pay for this. All of family members were depressed by Rakibul's situation. His father is a day labourer and his mother is a housewife. They have no valuable assets and are extremely poor. Two operations (for the skin graft and stiff knee) would be very expensive. They could not afford even to contribute to this and relied on us to see what we could do!



Dr Hasan (right) meets Rakibul at Kailakuri

We discussed the patient's situation with Dr Sharif Hasan over the phone. He is known as a humanitarian and is a retired professor of Bangabondo Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Even though he is a busy person, he came to the Kailakuri to meet the patient. Dr. Hasan, who is a plastic surgeon, assured us that he would take full responsibility for the operation. Then he advised the Kailakuri team to feed Rakibul special nutritious food to help prepare him for this operation. Even though Kailakuri was feeding him nutritious food, his condition did not change much. It was necessary to further improve his physical condition before the operation.

Dr. Istiak Ahmed is another humanitarian who worked at Kailakuri for four months during his internship period. He took all responsibility for Rakibul's nutrition expenses. I am quoting his writing for your kind information.

"Good morning. My greetings to all members of Kailakuri family. I cordially remember our beloved Dr. Edric Baker, who is the organizer, and dreamed to set up a hospital for the poor people. I humbly let Dr. Edric Baker know my cordial respect and love especially on this day (the day he died). I respectfully remember the industrious people throughout the world who are doing their best for surviving themselves. On this day, I am very much keen to help four poor patients at Kailakuri for two months by giving their treatment cost partially and fully for certain treatment cases. May our almighty God accept our all-good work and aims. Amen."

After fulfilling Rakibul's nutritious requirements, Prof Dr. Sharif Hasan Sir was able to admit him to the Sheikh Hasina Burns Institute in Dhaka. With the help of other doctors, Dr. Sharif did the operation free of cost. Rakibul can walk and play as he liked to before. His family is incredibly happy. All members of his family are grateful to those humanitarian doctors. We, the Kailakuri family express our love and gratefulness to those doctors as well as donors and supporters. And we believe that your support and cooperation will help us to conduct Dr. Baker's unfulfilled wishes.



Update from Drs Jason and Merindy Morgenson

We arrived back to the USA in September 2020 for a 6 month sabbatical. Our plans were to travel around the USA, giving talks about Kailakuri and visiting friends and family. We were not sure what to expect, though, due to the coronavirus pandemic. We spent the first two weeks in quarantine at home, and the first month in adjusting back to life in the USA. The kids got to see some of their



cousins, and we started going to church in the small town where we live. Shortly after that, Merindy's father had to have unexpected major surgery.

Several people at church also got coronavirus at the same time. So, for the past month or so we have been voluntarily staying at home again while Merindy's father is recovering from the surgery. We are doing home-school for the kids, so their schooling has not been affected. Jason continues to

do Bangla class for the kids each day, and we continue to call staff at Kailakuri so that the kids can say hello. The children often say that they miss Kailakuri and ask when we are going back. For everyone reading this newsletter, we would like to say thank you very much for all your support and prayers. We pray daily for all the staff and patients at Kailakuri. We plan to return to Kailakuri around March 2021. Please pray for us. We will be praying for you, too! Merry Christmas!!

In Other News

- In mid-December, a high level Government team – including Dhaka Divisional Commissioner, Md Mustafizur Rahman, Tangail DC Md Ataul Goni and other officers visited Kailakuri.

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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