

Newsletter

Kailakuri Health Care Project



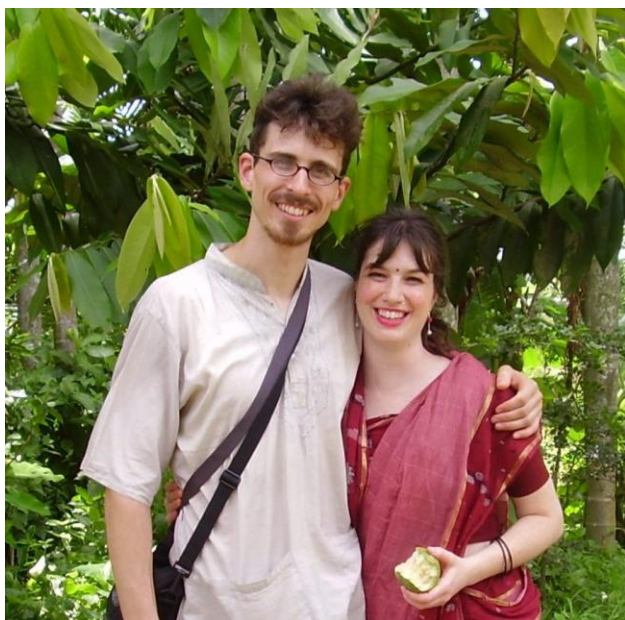
(Kailakuri & the Institute of Integrated Rural Development, IIRD)

Village Kailakuri, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh

MARCH 2013

new doctors, new buildings and highway robbery...

Drs Jason and Merindy Morgenson



Fr Doug Venne was a Maryknoll Missioner in Bangladesh from 1975 until he passed away in December 2009. Fr Doug lived in a little bamboo hut in a Muslim and Hindu village where he was the only Christian. He lived like the people, worked like the people, and learned from the people. His goal was to live Christ among the people. Fr Doug was a good friend of Dr Baker, who has devoted his life to serving the poor in Bangladesh.

In 1999, Fr Doug invited one of his relatives, Jason Morgenson, to "come and see" Bangladesh. Jason was interested in medical missions and had just finished his first year of medical school in the USA. Fr Doug introduced Jason to Dr Baker, which started a relationship that continues.

Jason spent a week or two helping Dr Baker in 1999 and returned for another month in 2000. In 2006, Jason graduated from Family Practice

residency in the USA with a new bride: Merindy Morgenson (Zoschke). Merindy, also a Family Practice doctor, has wanted to be a medical missionary since she was 13 years old. Both Jason and Merindy went to Bangladesh the summer of 2006 and spent a week at Kailakuri with Dr Baker. The staff and patients loved Merindy, and Merindy loved the staff and patients...a new relationship was formed. Jason and Merindy returned for another short visit in 2011.

Today, in 2013, Merindy and Jason have made the decision to become long-term medical missionaries at Kailakuri. They hope to live with the staff and patients, work with them, and learn from them alongside Dr Baker. They hope to live Christ in Kailakuri. Merindy and Jason plan to arrive in 2014 to begin work.

You can find out more about them through their website at merindyandjason.com.

Symposium

Dhaka, 2nd March

**"Making Health Care
Accessible to the Poor"**

With the support of our parent NGO (IIRD), and ICDDR,B we are hosting a Symposium which will bring together seven speakers who are working in health care for the poor in different sectors, and some very important guests.

We feel this symposium is very important for:

- 1) Advocacy for health care for the poor.
- 2) To make the work of KHCP better known and understood in the hope of model-copying and in-country funding as well as finding a national doctor.

The dry season brings with it construction...

...of new buildings and a gift of land. Last year Kailakuri was gifted land at Mominpur for a permanent Diabetes sub-centre. Construction of a new mud-brick building has been underway for the last month. We are grateful to the British Women's Association in Dhaka for providing the funding.

At the beginning of this year we were donated land at Chechua, another of our five diabetes sub-centres. At this sub-centre, like Mominpur, we are using the local primary school.



Edric with Kanchon Rozario (centre) who gave the gift of land at Chechua. (In Mande families the land belongs to the women.)

In 2011 Kailakuri Health Care Project supervised just under 1200 diabetes patients through its five subcentres. This work is done by paramedics under medical supervision reporting to the BIRDEM [Diabetes] Hospital, Dhaka.

Our largest construction project is at Kailakuri with the demolition of the old Special Nutrition Building which was found to be structurally



unsound. With thanks to the Dhaka American Women's Club who has provided most of the funds, a mud-brick building will replace it.

Mud-brick buildings are preferable especially for accommodation as these buildings are warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Maintenance of these buildings is also relatively simple and inexpensive with a mixture of mud and dung spread over the walls and floors three or four times a year – the photo below shows the construction of the special nutrition building.

Right: Creating a pad for the new Intensive Care tube well. (Funds for renovations to the Intensive Care Building were provided by the Social Islami Bank.)



Highway robbery...

Jugol is one of our staff. He is Hindu and lives in the village of Pargacha about 4km from Kailakuri. Jugol is married with two sons. In January he made a trip to Dhaka with some patients. On his way back, waiting at the bus station, a man put his hand on his arm demanding his bag.

About 10 people surrounded them and two of the men asked this man what was in the bag. The man said Jugol had stolen 4000 taka from him, the same amount Jugol had in his bag with his mobile phone. Jugol challenged him telling him to give the denominations, which he did incorrectly and Jugol said so. The man walked away and came back with six other men and taking Jugol into a house he started to hit him. Jugol managed to escape. Running back to the bus station Jugol was stopped by the two men who had asked questions. They returned his bag and mobile and told him to go home straight away. Fortunately he had some money in his pocket.

Jugol had been able to mobile the project while this was happening but there was very little we could do except phone the hospital where he had just been, in case they were able to help. It was a relief when Jugol called again to let us know he was on the bus coming back to Kailakuri.

A few days later a journalist called and asked Jugol if he knew the story of the stolen money. Jugol said yes and gave the journalist his version. Edric spoke to the journalist also. We understood the two men who asked questions and returned Jugol's bag were in the army. A few days later an officer of the army called and asked Jugol to come to Dhaka

to speak to them. When he arrived the officer apologised (Jugol says "in many words") and returned the 4000 taka. The man who stole the money was also there, he made his excuses and said to Jugol that he was very sorry. It was an unusual but fortunate turn of events for Jugol.

Newspapers full of violence seem to be the only ones that land on my desk, always one day late. Kailakuri is too remote to have newspapers distributed on time. I try to understand the politics of it all and know I fail miserably but as I see the headlines and the photos I wonder about the future of Bangladesh. I am told there is always an escalation of violence and unrest coming up to the elections, with nationwide hartals (strikes) called by political parties, vehicles and buildings burned, destroyed and people killed in the name of politics. Innocent people lose their lives, those standing up in righteous anger lose their lives and the corruption and disruption continues. Here at Kailakuri we seem to live in apparent peace (a little like New Zealand). I am sheltered by the Kailakuri Health Care Project and its staff though I have seen aftermath of violence and was once caught up with people fleeing. I am always grateful I have Kailakuri to come back to. The ordinary people of Bangladesh deserve so much more than this. I see them working hard, eking out a living in a country that has so much potential. For those of you who pray, please pray for changes to come about so ordinary families, particularly those living in poverty, can start to live with hope of a prosperous, peaceful future. *Christine Steiner (English Administration, KHCP)*

Our condolences to Asia Connection and the family of Bill Rose

It was with much sadness that we heard of Bill Rose's passing on 9th January. Bill, a good friend of Edric's and our contact within Asia Connection Inc will be greatly missed.

Bill's replacement is John Havican who also served with Edric in Vietnam. For those living in the United States donations and queries relating to support for Kailakuri, John's and Asia Connection's details are below.

To make a donation please write your check out to: Asia Connection Inc. On a separate note give your contact details and clearly state that the check is for "Kailakuri Health Care Project"

Post your donations to:
Asia Connection Inc.
PO Box 260475, Tampa, FL 33685-0475

for further information please contact...
John Havican: Email: jhavican@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.asiaconnectioninc.org

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WEBSITES

<http://sites.google.com/site/kailakurihealth> AND www.kailakuri.com

To make a donation

visit our websites or contact John Havican [USA], Glenn Baker [NZ] or Christine Steiner [BD] (see below)

Donations can also be made via PayPal on our website <http://sites.google.com/site/kailakurihealth>

Our most pressing need is help towards the on-going running costs of the project.

For any changes to your contact details or if you would like to receive your newsletter by email

please contact me (Christine) at kailakurihealthcentre@gmail.com

Thank-you so much for your support.