

## October 2015 Newsletter

Village Kailakuri, Madupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh

Nearly two months after Edric's passing you will be pleased to know that the health centre is continuing to operate smoothly. In this Newsletter three of the senior management team, Roton, Pijon and Sujit share with us their reflections on the current situation at Kailakuri and their beloved 'Dr Bhai.' We also hear from Sister Jennifer Clarke who the KHCP Committee and Staff have been pleased to welcome as their Project Advisor.

### Roton Asst. Director Programs



From the bottom of my heart I would like to say "hello" to everybody. I am Md. Noor Amin (Roton). I hope and pray that everyone is doing well. I came here in 2004. I joined as Dr Edric's personal assistant. I worked for many years as his helper. I was able to learn a lot from Dr Edric. In my life this is my fourth job. Actually you cannot call the work at KHCP a job. At any other workplace the orders come from high up but at KHCP we never use the words "boss" or "sir". The members of the staff are all brothers and sisters. Everybody believes that this work is their responsibility and we all work together like a family. Our staff does not have much formal education and we come from families as poor as the patients we admit but our motivation to work and learn is very high. We have many years of experience working here at KHCP with our Dr Bhai.

We all know that humans are mortal. Dr Bhai on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September left us for heaven. He left behind for us this project, thousands of supporters and followers. It is true that he is no longer standing beside us but every day when we start to work it is impossible to forget him. We find him in any and all work we do. We remember his teachings and we will never forget them. When he was with us we learnt from him that it was more important to be independent, to do what we thought was right and not wait for orders. We believe our responsibilities have grown.

When we work for the poor there are always two worries that stay with us no matter what, funding and where we will find a MBBS doctor. We hope that our donor friends will stand by us. Even though we don't currently have a foreign doctor here there are two Bangladeshi internee doctors with us. They are hard workers. We hope that sometime in the near future we will quickly find a MBBS doctor (Jason and Merindy) and they will stand with us. Their names will be Dr Bhai 2 or Dr Bhon (sister)

## Pijon Asst. Director Management

Dr Edric created the Kailakuri Health Care Project for the treatment of the extreme poor. This project was his whole life's work and he created it using his medical knowledge and his experience. The staff learnt from him how to help the patients by receiving training from him and watching what he did. He passed away but he left in his place a unique and special healthcare centre. There is a strong leadership team and a strong management team and any complicated problem is brought to the Project Committee for it to be solved. We believe Dr Bhai discovered that he had pulmonary artery hypertension two years ago and that he understood that his time had come. From that time on he started planning how the project could be sustainable without him. Gonoshasthya Khendro last year started sending two internee doctors every two months. Since the beginning Dr Edric created a paramedic team to handle the basic treatment and they are still highly motivated. We can see every day that this project is still needed and that there is nothing that could replace it. The relationship we have with the local community runs deep. The community and everybody involved are supporting us in such a way the project will not fail. KHCP is currently running the way it always has. I would like to thank you for standing by our side.



## Sujit Acting Medical Coordinator

**Hello over there to the support groups of KHCP. The KHCP is still alive and well thanks to all of your support.**



I am Sujit Rangsa from the local Mundi tribal community. Before Dr Bhai's passing it was his wish that the management of the project was passed into my hands. I now work with each department the way Dr Edric taught me to. Dr Bhai taught me to work with the staff hand in hand and to handle problem calmly and with patience. Five senior staff helps me in particular, Roton, Pijon, Bijoy (Assistant Director Outdoor) and Onen (Assistant Director indoor). We are altogether 93 staff in the KHCP family and so far we are working together as strong as ever. Dr Bhai created the design of The Kailakuri Project to eventually be independent of him. He taught us to follow his design and that all we need is a MBBS doctor to monitor the health side of the project and update training to the paramedics.

The project is very essential for the extreme poor in this village and the three communities (Hindu, Muslim and Christian) and we continue to support them, as was Dr Bhai's wish.



Sujit and Jibon (Paramedic) fixing a plaster cast to Antaz's (Health Educator) broken wrist.

# Sister Doctor Jenny Project Adviser



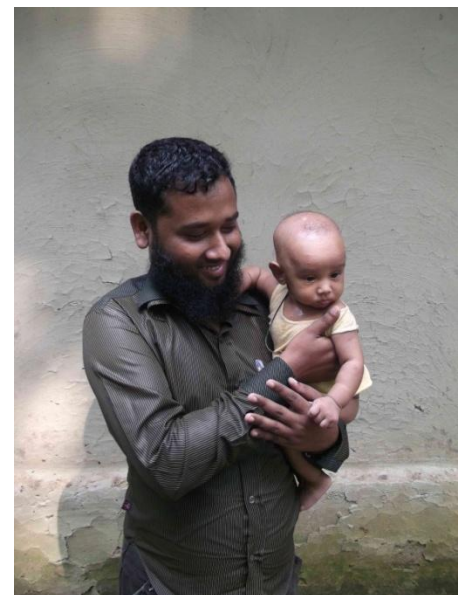
Sr. Dr Jenny enjoying tea, after our committee meeting with Mariko Inui, Meroni Didi (Committee member), Happy Begum (committee member).

Doctor Bhai, Edric, always called me Sr. Dr. Jenny as I am a Catholic sister who is also a doctor. I came first to Bangladesh in 1980 and worked in Tuital in a small health centre in a then remote part of Dhaka district from 1981 - 1994. After some updating, I returned to Dhaka in 1997 and later worked for 3 years with UNICEF on a project to address maternal mortality and violence against women. In 2004 when I was appointed to a leadership role with our Sisters, I had a finger in 13 pies! My connection with KHCP grew over years. Edric visited us in Tuital and I visited first Thanabaid and later Kailakuri. Libby Laing, a nurse who worked at Thanabaid, stayed with us whenever she came to Dhaka. Over the years, Edric has used me as a sounding board to discuss the various challenges

faced by the project. When I returned in 2013, Edric was again in touch and when he was diagnosed, I tried to be a support to Edric in the many challenges he faced and also to the staff. Edric prepared himself for death and also prepared his staff for the time after his death. His great consolation was to know that Jason and Merindy were committed to Kailakuri even if it would take time for them to arrive. Edric carefully chose the three persons to lead the project, ones who would continue the philosophy of health care for the poor by the poor and who would work with the community. They managed the project for the last six months of Edric's life and have repaid his faith in them to continue the project after his death. I now have been appointed Project Adviser and visit at least once a month and am in contact by phone and email even more often. It is a privilege for me to support the project in this transition time.



Our Rena Didi (health worker) checking the blood pressure of an outpatient.



Our Mojid Bhai (Asst cashier) and his new born daughter named Minha

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## Donations can be made by...

- Paying online through our website via Paypal at <http://sites.google.com/site/kailakurihealth>
- Making an online 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**
- Posting a cheque made out to “Kailakuri Health Care project – Link Group” to  
KHCP-NZ Link Group, Waiewe St, Whakatane 3120, New Zealand

Please email Glenn Baker at [treasurerkhcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerkhcp@gmail.com) with your donation and contact details for receipts, also details of any regular automatic payments you wish to set up.

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