

KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

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

Kailakuri Village, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



April 2020: Easter greetings from Kailakuri

Covid 19 is a distressing phenomenon for all of us in the current times. Dr. Newaz, registered doctor at Kailakuri Health Care Project, warned the staff about this early on and advised them to prepare for the virus after it was discovered at Wuhan in China. Dr Jason and Dr Newaz have both given training on the virus on different occasions. Staff are now taking the following precautions: always wearing masks, washing their hands repeatedly, spraying the compound with bleaching powder, treating patients as soon as possible after arriving at the outpatients' clinic, isolating them if they have flu or cough symptoms, and maintaining two metres distance between staff and patients.



Dr Newaz delivering staff training

Jason said that "If we believe someone has coronavirus, we are to send them to the local government hospital in Madhupur for testing. We have sent two patients so far, but both have tested negative. The hardest part of this epidemic for Bangladesh right now is that food prices have jumped 50-100% due to government restrictions on travel. Almost all shops are closed by government order."

Merindy adds, "The kids have been off school since late March. I think there has been a lot of nervous energy around the virus. So far it has motivated some good discussions about hygiene and cleaning after each patient that may have been a good idea to implement anyway. Jason commissioned 200 masks from a local tailor. Which he had done in about 3 days, I think. I have been making some masks for our family, though I'm still pretty slow."

Pijon explains that Kailakuri has many follow up patients with diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, TB or kidney disease, as well as expectant mothers and 0-4 year children. If they are not properly treated and cared for, they could develop serious complications or even die. Therefore diabetes sub-centres remain open so that diabetic patients can collect insulin, VHP staff still go to the villages to see mothers and children, inpatients are treated with extra care and patients' attendants are trained to wash their hands and wear masks and are educated about Covid 19.

They requested PPE from various local government officials and especially want to thank Assistant Professor Dr Nazneen Akter and a long-time associate Biplob Banerjee who organised 10 PPE and some masks, and Assistant Professor Farha Tanzim Titil and her friend who organised 40 PPE as well as gloves and masks. This is already in use, especially by TB staff.

Covid 19-positive patients have been found in two nearby districts, Jamalpur and Sherpur. The Bangladeshi government is taking various steps to control Covid19, by testing for Covid in

divisional cities, making news announcements in print and electronic media, conducting police raids to ensure social distancing in communities and distributing food to the poor who are not earning sufficient income during the lockdown. Alongside the government, some NGOs, voluntary organisations and individuals are helping in different ways as well.

On 17 April 2020 there were over 1,500 cases in Bangladesh and 60 deaths. Pijon thinks the situation is getting worse – people are very worried, but they still spend their time at the tea shops. It is very difficult to go to Madhupur and the banks are only open from 10am until 12pm.

The virus presents particular difficulties for Bangladesh, a very densely populated country with hospitals concentrated in the main cities but most people living rurally.

We are concerned about potential impacts of the virus on our day-to-day running. For example, securing medical supplies from BIRDEM for our 900+ insulin dependent patients, given the current travel restrictions. We generally take seven new diabetic patients to Dhaka each month to register with BIRDEM and qualify for subsidised treatment, but the accommodation facilities we rely on are closed due to Covid. Officials in Madhagonj are very concerned about the spread of coronavirus. Next month Kailakuri will need permission from local authorities before preparing for another diabetes sub-centre visit there.



Staff member spraying bleach on the compound

Work continues on our 2019 Annual Report, with the main set of statistics now collated by staff and more of the analysis to come. We hope to have this published in a few weeks' time.

A Patient's story from Sujit, Acting Medical Co-ordinator

Greetings to all of you at Easter, on behalf of the Kailakuri Health Care Project. Coronavirus is a major threat to all of us. Let's pray for those infected and those who have passed, as well as their families. With your support, Kailakuri's work is going relatively well despite the difficulties.

Today, I want to tell you about a young child with burns. His name is Shamim Mia, aged 15 months, from Borakuri village. It is 3 kilometres away from Kailakuri. He got burnt on 6 March 2020. His father works as a day labourer, and his mother as a household worker. They have seven children. They struggle with very little income and cannot afford medical treatment.

A rich person from their village gifted some land to Shamim's parents so they could make a basic house from plastic. But it is not waterproof. They cannot afford electricity. Whereas others rely on electric lights, they use kerosene lamps. When pouring kerosene into the lamp one day, the kerosene container caught fire and exploded at once. Shamim and his mother got badly burnt and their house caught on fire as well. However Shamim's burns were the worst. The same night their relatives sent them off to Kailakuri. After seeing the extent of Shamim's injuries, I thought he would not survive. I asked Shamim's parents if they could take him elsewhere for better treatment. And they replied, "we are poor and illiterate people, it is best for us to stay here".

Because of the coronavirus situation, we couldn't transfer Shamim to another hospital. So we started treating him, and after five weeks he has continued to recover. All of Shamim's family are happy. In the midst of our current circumstances, we find courage and peace when we see Shamim's recovery. To do this kind of work we require your prayers and assistance, as always.



Shamim and his mother when they first arrived, and again several weeks later

KHCP – NZ Link Group

News

Message from the NZ Coordinators

Morgan Foundation

For the past 11 years the Morgan family's Foundation has been a major donor to Kailakuri. This came about after Edric met Gareth Morgan in Wellington in 2008. Gareth was very impressed with what the grass roots community approach that Edric had established at Kailakuri was achieving. He said he would like to support the project and, although none of us had thought or talked about Edric getting older at that stage, he said he thought there was a 'succession problem' and he pledged five years of generous financial support to see the project through that phase. As it has all unfolded, it took over a decade for succession to take place and the Morgan Foundation has continued as a major financial supporter for all of that time.

When Edric embarked upon his work in Bangladesh he was at first supported by a small family circle of relatives and friends. As the years went by more people were drawn into this circle of supporters until today the Kailakuri family encompasses the community served by the project, the staff and supporters in Bangladesh, New Zealand, North America and Europe each linked together in the spirit of family that Edric engendered, each with their role to play in the family. Thankyou Jo, Gareth and your Foundation Manager Margaret for becoming part of our Kailakuri Family Circle and what you have contributed to the delivery of health services for the poor.

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 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
 - 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, 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 drbakersonorganisation@gmail.com (international) or Hilary Lynch at tui_eden@xtra.co.nz (NZ)

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

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