

KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(In association with Indigenous Peoples Development Services)
Village Kailakuri, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh

June 2019: Partner Organisations, Drs & Nurses

Eye Camps at Kailakuri

Dr K Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital is a non government organisation in Mymensingh. It has been contributing to developments in eye treatment for a long time. There was a strong friendship between the late Dr Khalekuzzam (the founder of BNSB in Mymensingh) and Dr Edric Baker (the founder of KHCP). Their relationship developed into an organisational form. The activities of KHCP have been supported in many ways by Dr K Zaman's Eye Hospital. We cannot forget this and there are no words to express our gratitude. The contributions given by Dr K Zaman (BNSB) are below:



In 2018, 28 cataract patients had operations and lens replacement which was provided totally free of cost. Different types of tests are done at low cost as a preparation before the final operation.

Aside from that, tear glands, Pterygium, Corneal ulcer, injured Cornea and glaucoma patients were also treated at low cost. BNSB organised an eye camp at Kailakuri on 9 December 2018. 800 patients with different types of eye related diseases benefited from their services. 129 patients were treated with cataract and lens replacement for free. 480 patients were given glasses for seeing up-close. We have calculated the average cost of cataract and lens replacement for one patient at a private eye service centre, which is USD \$95 taka for an operation and \$3 for glasses. These camps were a huge help for Kailakuri (savings of over USD \$16,200). There was another eye camp on 16 June 2019 with 844 patients. Among them, 200 patients have had cataract operations and lens replacement. Almost 200 patients were given reading glasses. Kailakuri received the equivalent of \$19,600 worth of free services from BNSB. One of our staff also has training from BNSB. Without this help from Dr K Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital, it would be a challenge for Kailakuri to give eye treatment to poor patients. We express our thankfulness to BNSB friends and pray that we can stand together forever.

An Update from Drs Jason and Merindy

We'd like to thank God and everyone at Kailakuri for the all the help they have been giving us with our transition to Kailakuri. We moved to Kailakuri on 1 June. Kailakuri staff helped to watch the kids, clean out our apartment, and move everything to Kailakuri. Our new house is wonderful!



It is a traditional mud brick house with a tin roof and a few modern touches. We are planning on installing solar panels, as electricity is not reliable in Bangladesh and can go out for days at a time.

The kids have enjoyed running around outside, and the staff love having the kids around. Katheryn, Logan, and Naomi turned 5 years old on June 4th. The triplets started Kindergarten at the local mission school. They speak 3 languages at the mission school: Bangla, Mandi, and English. Mandi is a local tribal language. Most of the children are Mandi, and many of the younger ones do not speak much Bangla yet (the main language of Bangladesh). So our kids and the Mandi kids are in the same situation in that they are just learning Bangla. The teachers do songs with the kids, play games, teach them their numbers and letters, and teach them the names of flowers, fruits, and animals. Isabella very much likes playing with the neighbor's goats, chickens, and watching their cows eat.

Merindy and Jason have started seeing some patients and helped out some with the recent Eye Camp, which gives care to patients with eye problems such as cataracts, pterygium, refraction errors, diabetic retinopathy, and other vision problems. Merindy has also started adapting some recipes to the local fruits here. Her jackfruit-banana muffins are a favorite of the staff.

Next week we have to go to Dhaka for visa renewals. Please pray for our time there, and please pray for Merindy's foot. She hurt it about 2 months ago. The Orthopedic doctor in Mymensingh placed her in a splint and bedrest for 3 weeks, but the foot still hurts and is swollen. Merindy cannot walk very much. We are going to try to see another Orthopedic doctor in Dhaka, and get a second X-ray.

Volunteer Nurses from New Zealand



In February/March three nurses from Tauranga, Nerida Galley, Marie Monk and Lyn Elliot spent five weeks in Bangladesh visiting Kailakuri. Here are some of their impressions.

“The people of Kailakuri were so gracious in their welcoming of us. It felt in some ways that we, as New Zealanders, were representing Dr Edric Baker and that we were letting them know they had not been forgotten.”

Pijon, Dr Taki, Dr Jason, Lyn, Nerida, Marie, Dr Istiak

It is really hard to put into words the spirit of Kailakuri. It has a feeling of overwhelming love for people. All the staff are honourable, dedicated compassionate men and women who work tirelessly extending the great vision of Edric: “health for the poor by the poor”.

The outpatient paramedics see upwards of 100 patients per day and there seems a seamless system for coping with this volume. On arrival they are given a number and then, after initial assessment, go to a waiting area where a paramedic gives them health education while they wait. They are then seen by another paramedic for full assessment and treatment. Some may require admission to the inpatient section or be referral to a hospital (Kailakuri pays 60% of the hospital admission cost).

Admission to the Kailakuri inpatient section does not depend on the number of beds available – there are none, they sleep on mats over straw on the floor – it depends on who needs to be admitted. The staff have been very well trained, and receive regular on-going education, and despite having basic equipment and a limited selection of medications, they give an excellent level of care.”

Nerida, Marie and Lyn’s visit was a welcome morale booster for the Kailakuri staff. It is appreciated that since returning home they making efforts to raise funding for the project.

Link Group Coordination

At the past three Link group AGMs Peter Wilson has indicated that he would step down from the position of Coordinator when Drs. Jason and Merindy Morgenson arrive to take up their duties as Medical Officers in Charge at Kailakuri. The Link Group Executive have been reluctant to accept this and are now happy to announce that Peter has agreed to stay on with Nadine Vickers joining him as Joint Coordinator. Nadine who first visited Kailakuri as a volunteer in 2013, has an in depth knowledge of the project and has been making a most valuable contribution at many levels ever since. Thank you Nadine for your continued willingness to give of your time and talent.

A word to New Zealand Supporters

Looking back at our records we see that the amount you have donated annually has remained at much the same level over the past five years. We thank you for this faithful support. Over this period the official inflation rate in Bangladesh has been around 6% annually, but in truth it is probably closer to 10%. To maintain the health centre at the present level of activity we need to step up the amount that we send them each year. Can you please help by increasing your annual donation?

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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.*