

RESCUING CHILDREN FROM LEPROSY - Part 1.

Opening Our New Children's Unit - at Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, Nepal (NLT/LLHSC)

Inaugurated on World Leprosy Day - 28 January 2018

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WHAT A TOTAL THRILL! - our new Children's Unit at Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital (LLHSC) was opened ... and on World Leprosy Day (WLD) - 28 January 2018.



Opening the Children's Unit with song - Inpatient leprosy-affected children singing Nepali songs and hymns

Opening our Children's Unit on World Leprosy Day 2018 is so amazingly appropriate. WHO had set "Children" as the major focus for 2018 World Leprosy Day worldwide, with goals -

- * zero leprosy-disability in Children,
- * zero Children with Leprosy

It has taken some 3 years to build our Children's Unit. It has been achieved through wonderful support - funds, encouragement, prayers - from churches and friends around the world, and an enthusiastic visionary building team here.



Our new colourful Children's Unit



Girls' Ward in new Children's Unit – warm & child-friendly

This Children's Unit is so awfully much needed – both immediately... and even more for LLHSC's future, and the sick children we treat. Look at our extremely busy patient numbers - in 2017 we managed

- **22,976 child-consultations** as outpatients ... these included:
- **307 child-consultations for leprosy** of whom 123 were new leprosy cases (it's still; spreading!).
- **22,669 non-leprosy children** – (eg typhoid, diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis, parasitic diseases, skin infections, respiratory diseases, malnutrition and many others)

However - only 53 children were treated in hospital as inpatient admissions in 2017 – a major reason for the discrepancy between huge outpatient numbers and small inpatient numbers being our past lack of child-appropriate beds. With our new Children's Unit this capability has now dramatically changed. The planned purpose of the Children's Unit is to ensure LLHSC provides:

1. **Proper compassionate inpatient care for children:** To provide a good standard of warm, gentle, inpatient child-care and treatment, with happy child-friendly purpose-built inpatient accommodation for children, ... plus a modern classroom and recreation/fun/play space.
2. **Meeting child admissions needs:** To provide at least a small number children's inpatient beds (6 for boys; 6 for girls) for required admissions - for leprosy and other childhood diseases - from the huge ever-increasing numbers of child outpatient consultations (22,976 in 2017).
3. **Child safety and protection in our care:** To ensure the experience of hospitalised children is welcoming, safe, happy, and non-frightening, and is consistent with our Child Protection Policy.
4. **Income generation:** To help generate income for LLHSC's sustainability, through the good standard treatment of non-leprosy (general) child admissions (since all with leprosy are treated free at LLHSC).

Opening Ceremony of our New Children's Unit. ... Children played a major part in the inauguration....



A thanksgiving prayer - then singing the National Anthem



Our local Member of Parliament – Mr Mahato – cutting one of the 5 ribbons



Four of our leprosy-affected inpatient children each cut one of the other 4 coloured opening ribbons – (left) Shova 15 ; (right) Punwashi 11

Children played a major part in the inauguration. Pre-school Children from our Lalgadh Sunrise Preschool gathered, with patients, staff and guests. After a thanksgiving prayer, we all sang the Nepal National Anthem. Then 5 colourful opening ribbons were cut, by our local Member of Parliament and 4 leprosy-affected inpatient children. Up the steps, then they then drew back the red sash to display the inauguration brass plaque acknowledging the generosity of donors, churches and friends from around the world. Can you see the names?



(A) Neelam 17 - cutting an opening ribbon (B) Brass plaque acknowledging generous donors from around the world – Australia, USA, Switzerland, UK... and there were others.. with funds, prayers, encouragement. And the bottom line: “Jesus said ‘let the little children come to me’ ... and He took them up in His arms and blessed them”



(A) A badge for each speaker, and a scissors for each ribbon-cutter (B) Pre-school children singing an action song about beautiful butterflies



(A) Speakers & guests - always *must* sit at the front; (B) Patients & staff gathered in Recreation Room of Children’s Unit – for the inauguration;



Enthusiastic opening speeches – an unavoidable part of ceremonies here.

An enthusiastic song from Nama – our Maintenance Supervisor



The inspired Building team – Bijay (engineer), Nama (Construction Supervisor), Suman (Project Supervisor)



Snacks for all at end of the ceremony – happy Punwashi



Snacks for all – including all ages patients



Happy Staff – the Children’s Unit is finally open!



After the others have gone, the nurses brought a celebratory cake ...with fireworks on top



Boys ward – with our first two boy-inpatients – Santosh 15, and Punwashi 11.

Santosh is an amputee (left leg) and has gross ulcers on his right foot... severe complications of leprosy

Punwashi has a flare-up of his Type2 leprosy reaction

Girls Ward – with its first two girl-inpatients – Shova 15, and Neelam 17.

Shova has severely leprosy-deformed hands and feet.

Neelam’s leprosy has resulted in a left-leg amputation. She is being treated for a deep ulcer on her stump.



Rescuing Children with Leprosy So for whom and how will the Children's Unit be used?

At LLHSC we treat more leprosy affected-children than most other leprosy hospitals world-wide.

This involves... diagnosis – clinical & laboratory, medical treatment – outpatient and inpatient treatment, reconstructive surgery, physiotherapy, special footwear, splints, self-care training, rehabilitation, prevention activities, literacy, scholarships, schools-support, community outreach to find leprosy-affected children, and transcending all - compassionate care and love. We also treat a huge number of kids with many other nasty diseases.

Remember – we managed 22,976 outpatient children consultations last year! With the new Children's Unit, our inpatient hospital care for sick children can meet the huge outpatient sick-children numbers more caringly, compassionately and appropriately.



Early diagnosis - Good!

Now little Fulo aged 5 will get early treatment and will be completely cured.



Three cheerful guys with different forms of leprosy – Santosh has badly mutilated feet needing a left leg (below knee) amputation; Mohan has a leprosy-abscess damaging his left ulnar nerve – we decompressed that; Punwashi has a serious Type 2 lepra reaction needing high steroids course



Reconstructive surgery – restores leprosy-wrecked hands and feet



Our teacher – Martha – runs classes in hospital – most kids are illiterate



And then – there's our community outreach ... Supporting poor & needy schoolchildren and their schools in remote areas

Children with leprosy are an especially important vulnerable target group. The World Health Organization (WHO) now stresses this as a strategic priority - finding leprosy-affected children, early diagnosis and treatment, tackling the complications and disabilities.

Nothing short of rescue is needed!

Much more in our next newsletter: . There's more of the Facebook Site and Website of LLHSC (see links below)

Many many many thanks & warmest wishes and God bless!

graeme & meena

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