

## Compassionately Happy Hospital Care... and Support for Ultra-Needy Schools High-up in Remote Sindhuli District

### May 2018 Newsletter - Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, Nepal (NLT/LLHSC)

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Since our last newsletter in February 2018, which highlighted the thrilling opening of our new Children's Unit at LLHSC, busy busy work continues in both hospital and community outreach. We have been with NLT/LLHSC for 11 years now. Thanks to you - your prayers, your funding and your encouraging support – LLHSC has seen a huge increase in patient numbers, increasing clinical compassionate care with free services for the leprosy-affected, increasing international visibility, and amazing infrastructure developments, that have transformed LLHSC into one of the world's busiest leprosy hospitals.

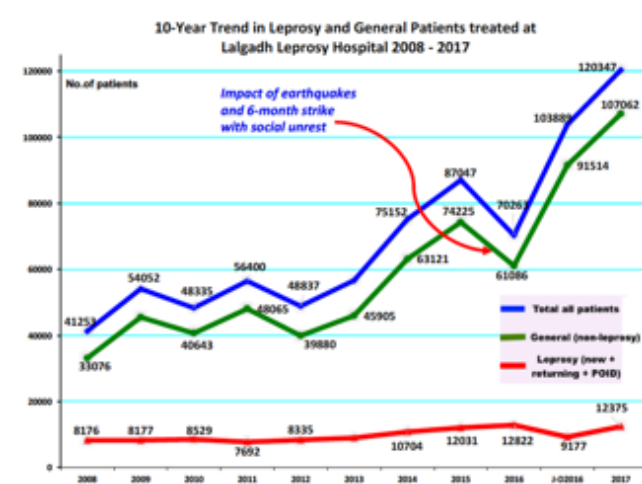
In this newsletter, here is a glimpse of ...

- the busy ongoing hospital work,
- Easter-time,
- ultra-needy schools in high remote communities

The hospital gets busier and busier as the hot weather approaches – it's around 40 degrees at Lalgadh each day now. At present we are managing 600 – 800 outpatients (patients coming for consultations) per day, and our nearly 100 Inpatient beds are full, our new Children's Unit is full, and our diagnostic services (laboratory, X-Ray, ultrasound, pharmacy) are stretched.



Here is a ward- round going on with our Inpatient Team, in the beautifully colourful new Children's Unit



Outpatients (OPD) Consultations 2017	
	January – December 2017
New Leprosy	1,172
All Leprosy	12,046
General – TB, typhoid, meningitis, skin diseases, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases ...	109,352
<b>Total OPD consultations</b>	<b>121,398</b>
<b>Total Children consultations</b>	<b>22,976</b>

Patient numbers have risen spectacularly over the past 10-years. In the past year (2017) we managed 12,046 total leprosy consultations, 121,398 consultations of all sorts of diseases, which included 22,976 children and 54,936 women consultations



(a) Dr Yamuna checking on Nirmala's progress – she has a severe form of leprosy, and has come from the far east end of Nepal.



(b) Neelam, who needed a left below-knee amputation for leprosy a couple of years ago, is back in hospital with an ulcer on her stump.

Foot-washing and foot-soaking is an essential part of daily leprosy management in Lalgadh Hospital. It helps prevent the deterioration of nasty infected leprosy foot-ulcers with the eventual mutilation and loss of one's foot, and it helps prevent new foot-ulcers developing. This is a compassionate service that goes on here daily.

**At Easter-time** it has a special significance for us - especially on Easter (Maundy) Thursday – as it is a visible reminder of the upper –room foot-washing and humble compassionate service that Jesus urged ( John 13) his followers to give themselves to.

Here are some pics of foot-washing... **FOR INPATIENTS** in Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital; **OUT IN THE VILLAGES**, where it is done through our 101 Self Help Groups; **IN OUR SELF-CARE UNIT**, where leprosy-affected folks are taught how to look after themselves in their villages, even with leprosy-mutilations and disabilities of eyes, hands and feet.



The Inpatient leprosy-affected ladies in Lalgadh Hospital – our nurses helping with the fun of daily foot-soaking



(a) The leprosy-affected guys in Lalgadh Hospital – foot-soaking fun; (b) Out in the villages – Meena helping with foot-washing and the bandaging





**IN OUR SELF-CARE UNIT, - leprosy-affected folks are taught how to look after themselves in their villages, even with leprosy-mutilations and disabilities of eyes, hands and feet. Done with joy...and sometimes with "music" (this pic from a year or so ago)**

Patient happiness is a crucial part of holistic patient care – for leprosy affected folks who are so often poor, needy, marginalised, ostracised, and at the bottom of the social wood-pile, and who have often lost hope in life because of stigma and loss of fingers, feet, eyes.



**Dr Yamuna, Martha (IPD schoolteacher) and nurses distributing goodies (a) spicy samosas, and (b) sweet julabis - for no special reason except the happiness of the patients**



**Happiness in Lalgadh Hospital – despite leprosy**





Happiness in Lalgadh Hospital – old adults, and young children - despite leprosy



Meena, each morning, runs daily "laughing classes" . Hysterically funny! (pics from last year, but still happening most days)

**Opening our Children's Unit on World Leprosy Day (28 January 2018)** was so amazingly appropriate. The World Health Organization (WHO) had declared "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 at LLHSC



Our new Children's Unit – Opened on World Leprosy Day 28 January 2018



There are still some amazing finishing touches going on. For example we are painting the walls of the Children's Unit with Himalayan scenes – and with the help of a painter, **some of the leprosy affected children inpatients are helping to paste an amazing array of multi-coloured animals on the walls. Mind-blowing ... but wait for the next newsletter where I'll show you much more of this!**



(a) Punwashi 12 painting a multi-coloured deer in the boys' ward; (b) Neelam 16 painting a multi-coloured kangaroo in the girls' ward

### Support for Ultra-needy schools in high remote earthquake-affected areas

Two weeks ago we went up to high areas of Sindhuli District, to help support a new needy school – Nakajuli School, and continue with support for an even higher remoter school – Kalika School, which is still badly earthquake affected.

We are helping build a new school at Kalika, but meantime are providing the children with school-clothes, schoolbags, reading and writing materials, books, soap and towels, toothbrush, sandals, and a snack. We are also installing solar panels, and have already helped put in a piped water-supply from a spring about 1 km away up the mountain-side.

We also run a health-check-up clinic at Kalika.... Firstly for the children, but then also for the parents. We are the first doctors to ever go there.



The trip getting there is initially a 2-hour winding, reasonable-road ascent to the top of the Sindhuli range, .... then another 1½ hour rough hair-raising road, only possible with a high-base land-rover. That gets us to Nakajuli School.

After Nakajuli School there is another ½-hour rough steep "road" to where the "road" finishes. Then it's a steep steep 1-hour climb on foot.... To reach Kalika School.

Some of the mothers and local young folks come down to help carry up the equipment we are bringing – the school equipment, the medical supplies for our clinic there, and the solar panels.



Nakajuli School



(a) Mothers of children at Nakajuli School watching, ... as (b) we distribute schoolbags, school-clothes, writing kits, soap & toothpaste etc



Nakajuli School. Some of the funds for this support came from United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG) Geneva

Then ... it's the steep steep uphill climb on foot to reach Kalika School....





(a) Hauling up the supplies for Kalika School - Up, up, up, and more up



(b) spectacular view on the way up – Meena, Dr Yamuna, Nurse Urmila



(a) Nearly at the top....



(b) ... and that's Kalika School on the ridge - way down below



Kalika School – with their one teacher Sabina (this pic taken on our previous visit)





Distributing schoolbags and school-clothes and footwear ... and more



Bijay (our engineer), Suman and helpers Installing solar panels on the school-roof



Piped water supply from a spring 1Km away up the mountainside





A health check-up clinic for all the children - (a) Nurse Meena and Dr Graeme, and (b) Dr Yamuna



Waiting for their check-up (a little nervously?) ... they've never seen a doctor up there before







Many children only have this one set of clothes that they wear everyday ... and all the children have lice in their hair



Work finished..... So back up, and then down, the mountainside – job well-done. More to show you next visit, as the new school building is erected.

There's much more of the busy work of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital in our next newsletter. And more pics on the Facebook Site and Website of LLHSC (see links below)

*Many many many thanks to you all for your support, prayers, funding encouragement, interest and compassion.*

*Warmest wishes .... from the LLHSC Team, and God bless!*

graeme & meena

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