



## Perfect Partnerships



Shubhro with Staff Nurse at Prem Jyoti Hospital NNU

**There has been a 100 percent increase in the numbers of children Shubhro is seeing here at St. Luke's.** Part of this due to a link with a lovely Christian Maltese missionary - Marcette, who has been working with children in this area for well over 30 years. Her mission organisation works largely through the Jesuit priests in Pakur District, and as a result of Marcette - and also Peter and Elaine - (see below,) we have now been able to establish a link with the Jesuit priest and Sisters who

work in the surrounding communities.

Marcette has a particular heart for the children with neurological problems, and over the years has formed a bond with the families of these children. Some of the children suffer from cerebral palsy and birth related injury, and so working with the entire family becomes important.

Physiotherapy and other adjunctive care such as provision of mobility and other aids to the children has improved their



### Dear Everyone,

We feel bad that our newsletters are becoming later and later. We are just into summer and only now sending you our spring news. And it's definitely summer now! We have a 'nice' combination of 43C heat and a lack of water with no pump at the moment. Water needs to be carried from half a mile away! But lots going on as you will read and many things to give thanks for.

More details on our webpage.

quality of life. It is touching and encouraging to see the deep love of the parents for their children some of whom are completely dependant on them. Marcette is approaching the end of her working life, and is keen to hand over the reins of care of these children, so linking with us at SLH has been an answer to prayer.

Peter is a GP in Coventry and came to St Luke's Hospital first in 1976 to work with Drs Bryan and Helen Thompson. A couple of years later Peter came back with his wife Elaine,

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## Fullarton Guild's 80th Birthday Project

Many of you would have seen the fund raising event for St. Luke's advertised on our website where the Dregorn Musical Society performed a great variety of music to suit all ages. The concert was a huge success and supper with home-baking afterwards - the perfect 'icing' on the cake! Many people were involved in making the evening such a memorable occasion and special thanks go to Catherine Rennie and Sheila McQuaker

but also to the many folk from the Fullarton Guild and Fullarton Congregation who played their part, and to all those who came to support the event.

**£3000 was raised - this was an amazing effort by all our friends - thank you all so much.**

We were hoping to raise funds for a basic Neonatal Resuscitaire but now can buy the best Neonatal Resuscitaire and an infant radiant warmer also.



Cheque presented by Catherine Rennie and Sheila McQuaker

Thank you for your interest and prayers. This newsletter has the edited highlights of the work at St. Luke's - more news and photos on our website: [stlukeshiranpur.com](http://stlukeshiranpur.com)

and over many years they continued to return to Hiranpur, working both at St Lukes and also in other mission hospitals, Dumka being one such. Peter worked latterly more with the Jesuit Missions in this area, and hence the link with Marcette. So when they came to visit at the beginning of February, Peter and Elaine brought Marcette and two of the Jesuit priests along with them

Peter and Elaine have three children, and have given both short and longer term service here on fifteen separate occasions. Thus our staff here were delighted to meet them again when they visited and be brought up to date with the family news, their "children" now leading their own lives away from home, but still keenly interested in what is happening at SLH.

Both of us enjoy the challenge of seeing inpatient referrals at Prem Jyoti Childrens Hospital. Many of you know Shubhro's special interest as a Paediatrician is in Neonatology (looking after sick or premature babies) so it always a delight for him to go to PJH to advise on management of sick neonates there.

## Working and Learning Together

Laboratory technician and X-Ray technician interns from Prem Jyoti Hospital join to help out at SLH, to gain experience, but they have themselves been a great blessing to us.

We have been praying for a laboratory technician for nearly three years now, but Shubhro and Elisabeth still doing all lab tests themselves, and sending to outside laboratory for the more complicated investigations. Prem Jyothi Hospital suggested they could send their laboratory and X-ray technician students who were in the final six months of training to SLH for clinical exposure. Ezekiel and Haridas ran the laboratory in March and learned some new techniques from Shubhro. Phillippe in X-ray accompanied James everywhere, and gained insight because of James vast experience. As a result of this new set up both PJH Interns and we at SLH are benefitting, and we look forward to a continuous run of Laboratory interns here, thus freeing up Elisabeth and Shubhro to do other patient related work. Once the laboratory technicians qualify, we very much hope one of them will join our staff permanently



Ezekiel and Haripada looking on intently as Shubhro teaches them another method to check patient haemoglobin

## More partnership as Eye work restarts

Over the past couple of years, an organisation called Tadworth and Walton Overseas Aid Trust (TWOAT) have been praying specifically for Eye Work at SLH to be re-started, and to that end TWOAT gave financial help to rennovate the Eye Hospital, starting with the roof, where structural damage had been caused by tree roots growing down into the walls from the blocked gutters. This had caused water damage to the internal walls, so there was internal work to be done also in the ward and OPD rooms. All that remains is a lick of paint, and we hope to get that done and also order wipeable mattresses and pillows (see later story) before the next eye surgical camp.



**When Elisabeth first came to India, and people talked about medical or surgical or eye camps, she imagined lots of tents in a field somewhere with various activities going on inside each "camp"** But that is not what it means at all. Rather a group of medical and nursing staff get together to plan to see a number of people at low cost, and then plan out their treatment. So over the years Shubhro and Elisabeth have been involved in a good number of medical camps in various parts of India from rural Jammu in North India to one in the slums in the city of Kolkata. As was explained in our last newsletter, the eye surgeons had already started coming to SLH on a weekly basis, and were diagnosing quite a number of people who required surgery, mostly cataract surgery. We were keeping a list of these people with their contact numbers, or some sort of contact when they did not have a phone.

Then we asked the surgeons what date they may propose to carry out surgery - they planned a Saturday at the beginning of March, so we began to advertise the forthcoming eye camp. Patients started arriving early that morning and the eye team reached by saw 70 patients by mid morning and out of them operated on 20 during the afternoon and evening.

Sunita was in charge of cooking rice, dal and vegetables for everyone and they all had second helpings, both patients and their relatives alike.

By that stage we did not have mattresses for the beds, so everyone slept together on a carpet on the floor of the eye ward. They were seen the following morning, and followed up later on for dressings, and their have been no complications.

For the past 25 years such eye camps have been a regular feature at St Luke's Hospital, and prior to that, during Dr Bryan Thompson's tenure as Medical Superintendent he himself did every kind of eye surgery, amongst his busy schedule of other hospital work.

We trust and pray that this will be the first of many further eye camps, where poor people will be able to have surgery to restore lost or failing sight.

## The Civil Surgeon

The Chief Medical Officer who holds the highest office in government medical services for our part of Jharkhand has been very sympathetic to our requests to develop services from St Luke's Hospital, and into the surrounding areas. The Civil Surgeon, and his team carried out an inspection of St Luke's Hospital in January this year.

They were delighted with the quality of the equipment and the cleanliness of the hospital, and advised on the remaining things we have to do - building a deep pit for safe disposal of human and other waste products, getting some fire fighting equipment into all the hospital buildings and other such measures.

Following his visit, the Civil Surgeon signed several official documents recognising St Luke's Hospital as a hospital where cataract eye surgery may be performed for anyone below the poverty line, free of cost.

### How does this work?

It works through an insurance scheme set up by central government whereby each member of a non-earning or extremely low income family are registered.

Once they bring their registration papers to any government recognised health institution, they are issued with a health insurance card, containing the patient's photograph and thumbprint. All deserving patient's data is computerised. We had to buy a special machine which can read thumbprints and talk to the computer. But the big hurdle in the entire process is the acquiring of the signature from the Civil Surgeon.

## James wears many hats.

**James Hembrom was born in 1941 at St Luke's Hospital when the hospital had only been running for 12 years.**

James father was Dr Edmund's cook, so James grew up in the hospital, and was a bright child, doing well

at school. Dr Bryan Thompson, who had taken over from Dr Edmunds saw James potential, and sent him to CMC Vellore to train in Radiography. Following

training James returned to SLH and has spent his entire life serving here.

He became proficient in giving ether anaesthesia, and also in wound dressing, but his love was to be working in the dark room in X-Ray, and he developed many excellent X-Ray images over the years.

James is also talented musically, and plays violin, and leads worship with his tenor singing voice.

James is also a Pastor, taking services in the St Luke's Church in the Mission compound, but also in many of the surrounding villages, it will be James who is called to conduct a funeral or a worship service.....and he is always available.



*James and Shubhro at Pharmacy counter*

## Premlata

**One day towards the end of January a young unmarried girl called Premlata came with her father to visit us. Premlata, herself a tribal girl had received some basic nursing training in another State, and was at that time working in a private hospital in a large town 100 kms away. But her family live close to Hiranpur, and so Premlata came to ask if she could come to work with us. She had brought all her nursing training certificates and also her school leaving certificates.**

Talking to Premlata and her father we were impressed by their sincerity and by Premlata's attitude and desire to serve. Premlata had been working in a baby unit and had confidence nursing newborn babies, but had no experience of other nursing. Elisabeth asked Premlata if she would be willing to go to Prem Jyoti Hospital for training in operating theatre and maternity nursing.

Premlata readily agreed, and thus gave her notice to the private hospital she was working in, and duly returned to us at the end of February. She started her two months of hands on training in PJH at the beginning of March through to the end of April. Now she is working as a staff nurse there, and continuing to gain experience. We are paying for her training and also her salary, and the Nursing Superintendent at PJH is delighted with Premlata's work, and even more with her desire to learn. Premlata has agreed to stay for one further month at PJH and will then start with us. Each time we come to UK, Premlata will probably go to work for PJH, to keep learning more.



## Reshmi's Triplets.

From the Autumn 2017 newsletter you might remember us telling the story of triplets born in July 2017. We had looked after Reshmi during her pregnancy, and discussed the safest place of delivery would be Prem Jyothi Hospital. Thus when Reshmi's husband 'phoned Elisabeth to say what sounded like her waters had broken, they immediately went to PJH. The three little ones had a stormy start to life, suffering from some of the problems that come with prematurity in a hot humid climate. And all of them have been seeing Shubhro from time to time. But recently we were delighted to see them at 21 months - and how they have grown - all reaching their milestones.

# Prayer changes things!

## Please pray for:

### **A formal opening of the Thomson Solar Power Plant by Summer 2019.**

Continue to pray that the new inverters will be installed in May, and we can formally open the Thomson Solar Power plant.

**Pray we may have wisdom in order to choose the correct scan machine** - not only the cost and functions of the machine, but also the after sales support from medical physicist. Even in a temperate climate with careful use, scan machines are sensitive and often break down. In Sarenga, the scan machine was often out of commission due to our inability to persuade medical physicists to travel from Kolkata to mend or service the machine.

### **Civil Surgeon**

Our previous Civil Surgeon was transferred to another district, so from April there is a new Civil Surgeon in post. Pray he may be sympathetic towards the work we are doing, and the services we hope to develop. All the dialogue and planning which happened in the first three months of 2019 with the then Civil Surgeon Dr Marandih. Pray that promises will be kept with regard to government payment for patient care for those below the poverty line (majority of patients we serve)

**Continue to pray for personnel to join us - especially midwives, a theatre nurse and a doctor.**

**Pray that the water situation will be sorted out for lots of reasons!**

**James Hembrom** (see page 3) is our oldest and most long serving loyal member of SLH staff. James needs surgery, but is not yet fit. Pray that God would heal his kidney failure enough for him to be well enough to go through anaesthetic and surgery. James is very grateful to those already praying for him, and says thank you.

## *Thanks to our faithful God for prayers answered.*

**Thompson solar power plant** - new inverters have been ordered from Delhi, and we are trusting the company in Kolkata will install these after the elections in May. In the meantime all the electric wiring to the Eye Hospital has been replaced, so that during the Eye Camp, we had 24 hour solar power for the patients. We were able to "turn off" all other parts of the hospital, so that the one working inverter plus our existing 2 kW solar was channeled only to the Eye Hospital,

An Ultrasound Licence to practice has been granted to St Luke's Hospital although final papers still require signing for Prem Jyoti Hospital. So Elisabeth hopes to start scanning at Prem Jyoti Hospital by the summer time, and also here at SLH once we choose a scan machine.

Give thanks for the continuing mutual support between PJH and SLH in terms of laboratory technicians, radiographer, development of scan services and good dialogue between medical and nursing staff between the two hospitals, so that patients get an ever improving service from both hospital.

**Now that one Eye Camp has run successfully, we hope to run many more for the scores of people who are daily going blind in the surrounding communities.**

### ***GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE SUPPORTING ST.LUKE'S WITH PRAYER, FINANCE, TIME AND ABILITY***

Tadworth and Walton Overseas Aid Trust in Surrey whom our friend Mary Heath put us in touch with, and was herself a voice for St Luke's. (see page 2)

Thanks to St Lazarus Trust for the gift of wipeable mattresses and pillows for the eye ward beds, And special thanks to Dr Kirsteen Dutton (nee Thompson) for putting us in touch with St Lazarus Trust. Next time we have an eye camp patients will be able to sleep on the beds, rather than on the floor.

Thanks that Premlata will be joining us, and pray she is the first of others who may come forward.