



### **A Story of hope and healing from our hospital in Dumki**

Sathi Akhter is a 4 year old girl who severely burned her leg when she got too close to an open cooking fire. Her father is a poor fisherman who sought help from local self-acclaimed healers. Non sterile herbal oils and pastes were applied to her wounds for one and a half months with no improvement in her wound. She became progressively more infected and ill. Finally the local healer suggested Sathi's father take her to another doctor, but his money had all been spent. His fellow villagers collected some money and he was able to bring Sathi to another health sub center by boat (their only transport from their remote village location). The doctor at this health sub center recognized her critical condition and, knowing of the care available at LHCBS, promptly referred her to our hospital in Dumki. After admission Dr. David treated her with intravenous antibiotics and surgical debridement of her wounds twice a day. At the time of debridement, a large number of maggots were found in the wound. After two days treatment she improved dramatically, and is expected to return home to her family completely recovered from her life threatening infection.

Sathi's story is a perfect example of the reputation of LHCBS in the community of providing skilled care by our doctors and nurses, and improving the health and well being of those we serve living in the remote areas in southern Bangladesh.

### **Our Work in Bangladesh in 2012**

- ❖ Total 8000 patients
  - 6700 outpatients
  - 1300 inpatients including 392 deliveries
- ❖ 1800 Vaccinations for women and children
- ❖ 10,000 women and children received primary health education
- ❖ 51 students in the LHCBS Primary School

### **Our Newest Doctor in Dumki**

Dr. Sayla is our newest appointed physician and joined the staff in Dumki last month. She is a graduate from the Barisal Medical College in Bangladesh and specializes in Ob/Gyn. She joins Dr. Justine, Dr. David and Dr. Uttam in providing care of our patients.

### **Changes for the Board of Directors LHCBS-USA**

We welcome Dr. Heidi Thorson, and say good-bye and a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Maynard Jacobson.

Dr. Jacobson served faithfully on the board for many years. He traveled to Bangladesh in 2003 and witnessed the healing and hope of LHCBS first hand. We are grateful for his insight in our work together, his commitment to LHCBS, and his passion for Christian mission in the world. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!

Dr. Heidi Thorson joins us this month as our newest board member. She practices in Minneapolis and specializes in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Clinical Genetics. Along with her medical expertise, she brings the youth, energy, and social networking communication skills of the next generation. We wish her a warm welcome!



Joe Slater with Dr. Jucy (newest LHCB Board member) in Dhaka

## First Impressions

Joe Slater - President LHCB-USA

I am honored and humbled to share my thoughts and reflections from my first trip to Bangladesh this past March where I experienced the the people, culture, geography and daily struggles that together define the reason for the existence of LHCB.

Prior to my departure, I heard countless stories from previous travelers about the kindness and beauty of Bangladesh. While very specific and colorful, these descriptions did not do justice to what I saw and experienced. From the moment I landed at the airport, I was struck by how many people were moving about. I traveled by car, boat, plane and foot. Everywhere there were people - polite, respectful and courteous to my eye, but the sheer quantity was unlike anything I have ever experienced.

In Dumki, I toured the LHCB facilities and saw firsthand the incredible work being done. I witnessed the strong relationships Pius Seroo, Executive Director, has developed in just over one year. I met with the skilled and compassionate LHCB staff, watched them work and heard their stories. I listened as they asked me (us!) to help them help the women and children of Bangladesh. Doctors, nurses, cooks, drivers, orderlies and maintenance workers all spoke proudly of the work they were doing. Not in a boastful way, but one that acknowledged the presence and guidance of God's love for each of us to help one another. I visited two different remote LHCB mobile clinics and the lines of waiting patients at each location stretched far out the building. I had the honor of meeting local leaders in Dumki, and listened to them speak so highly of the work LHCB does in their community.

In Dhaka, I participated in our first Joint Planning and Oversight Council (JPOC) meeting as stipulated in the newly revised LHCB Constitution. This group (comprised of two members each of the three partners: LHCB, ELCA-GM and LHCB-USA) prioritizes the mission work and coordinates the communication between the three partners on the most effective strategies for reaching our goals. We accomplished our meeting through modern technology - Skype! The following day I joined the LHCB Board Meeting. The eight member board has been completely rebuilt over the past 18 months and is comprised of highly qualified, competent and compassionate individuals. I am excited to work with them and watch as their faith, talent and passion help us make LHCB more effective and efficient.

LHCB is a pillar of strength in the Dumki region of Bangladesh. Our work is making a difference! And now having been in Bangladesh, meeting the people and seeing the good that we facilitate firsthand, I can *feel* the love of Christ at work. What a blessing.

*We pray for all who are suffering in pain and illness both here and in Bangladesh. May God, the great healer, mend their bodies and souls, and grant them days of better health, strength and comfort. We pray especially for Kristy and her family as she continues on her journey of healing and recovery.*

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## In Memory of Dr. Oliver "Bud" Peterson

*"Just to be is a blessing! Just to live is holy!"*

*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*



*Bud and Jean, July 2012*

Jesus said, "I have come to give you life and life more abundantly." Bud Peterson's legacy is one of life lived all the way up. The abundant life of God's own dear child ordained in his baptism to be Jean's husband of 63 years, to be the father of Wendy, Jill, Lucy and Lynn, and to be a gifted physician is all sheer grace and gift.

The Gospel is a spiral; a single pebble dropped into a pond sending out ripples of surprise and love in an ever widening circle. Bud did mission trips with his wife and daughters before they were fashionable. The call to go to Bangladesh and provide maternal infant health care half a world away was the culmination of God's spirit working in Bud's life. Everything in this mission can now be seen as a lifetime of preparation for this one last outpouring of new life and new love!

*Pastor David Holm*

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.*

*Hebrews 10:24*



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# LHCB-USA NEWS

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Lutheran  
Health  
Care  
Bangladesh-  
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*Bringing hope  
and health to  
women and  
children in  
southern  
Bangladesh  
through God's  
love and grace*



## **“Glad to See You, Glad to See You” A Daughter Remembers**

It is the opening line to a simple Bangladeshi song of welcome and one song that brought great joy to my father, Bud Peterson. We first heard it as we climbed, road-weary, out of the van after a 12 hour car-and-ferry trip from Dhaka into the fading evening light there at LHCB in Dumki. It was 1997 and we had come to celebrate the dedication of the new hospital, raised out of the mud flats of southern Bangladesh. Beautiful young women in fuchsia saris lined up at the iron gate of the new hospital to sing to us as they draped flower garlands around our necks. “Glad to see you, glad to see you; glad, glad, very, very glad.” And I saw tears coming to my father’s eyes.

For 19 years, this LHCB has been a blessing for many and for my Dad. Countless babies have been born, families built, lives saved. The fine Bangladeshi staff, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, have been gathered together compelled to give their best in rural, impoverished and beautiful Bangladesh. And my Dad was called, empowered to give his best in his final two decades of life, to loose God’s healing love for the people of southern Bangladesh. The entire endeavor made him a better man: deeper in faith, humbled and blessed by amazing co-workers in the Gospel, focused and stretched in this gospel project, this health care and community development ministry raised out of Roland Miller’s question: “Why not?”

So could it be that when the light faded from his life on April 23 and he was welcomed into the fullness of God’s healing love, those words rang out again, in a new way? “Glad to see you, glad to see you; glad, glad, very, very glad.” Yes, indeed - glad, glad, very, very glad! Thank you, God. Amen

Pastor Lynn Peterson

### **Matching Grant in Memory of LHCB founder - Dr. Bud Peterson**

The generous gifts given to LHCB-USA in honor of Bud’s life total \$4,000. Our privilege is to match these gifts and double the impact to strengthen the mission, to launch this new chapter in the life of LHCB, and to affirm our strengthened relationship of accountability and support with the ELCA. This challenge is offered in memoriam.

Who will answer the call today to continue this ministry of healing in southern Bangladesh? How will we translate our hearts and hands in acts of sacrifice marked by the price of mixing it up with the poor and discovering the kingdom coming to us in the here and now? 40 gifts of \$100 achieve the match. Please give generously!