



**UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust**

**May 2006**

**Newsletter No 3**

“Namaste”, and how good to be writing again for the Trust.

The Trustees continue to watch with interest and prayer the transition period for the three hospitals as they come under new management..... Amp Pipal already functioning as a District Hospital under different governance. That this is taking much longer than anticipated is no reflection on the tardiness of those concerned, more a recognition of the complex changes taking place. The hospitals' future management under Christian influence is at the heart of the UMN handover discussions, and much has been achieved.

The situation however moves forward in fluctuating bursts of energy, and things may have changed again by the time you receive this letter. It was anticipated that HMG and the Ministry of Health Nepal would consent to the Handover Agreement for the Tansen and Okhaldhunga Hospitals and authorise it for the end of May 2006 when full responsibilities will pass to Human Development Community Services (HDCS), a Nepali NGO. The new constitution for Patan Hospital, where it is proposed to establish an autonomous body, was also anticipated for the end of May 2006. Sadly the recent events in Nepal may well delay all these plans. The UMN intends to continue secondment of expatriate staff providing charity support to the hospitals until 2008. Amp Pipal's Chair of the Management Committee is in close touch with Prem Maharjan (a Trustee) who continues to work with UMN Transition through this period.

If this sounds confusing then imagine the effect on the staff! However on a recent visit to Nepal, not funded by this Trust, Roger was able to meet with three hospital Chief Executive Officers, and with HDCS management, and enjoyed a good exchange of information. Bill Gould also visited briefly.

The Trust has given the second installment of interest due to each hospital from their designated funds, and has also distributed interest from the undesignated monies, a total for the year of £11,010. The figure is calculated from the timing of the transfer of the UMN Endowment money. Next year much more interest will be available. In response to a request to the hospitals from the Trustees it is very pleasing to note the free/subsidised care given as a percentage of the hospitals' 2004-05 income is: 8% Okhaldhunga, 4.7% Patan, and 6%Tansen, Amp Pipal has yet to respond so we do not have their figures.

Nepal is going through difficult times as we are all aware. But now, not only is there political insecurity but the failure of the rains and resultant water and electricity shortages adds to the sense of disarray. There is 'load shedding' of electricity for up to five hours a day and the diminishing water supply causes great anxiety, affecting the farming community particularly badly with their very poor winter crops. Poverty is a growing concern with local shop keepers and field workers unable to work due to the curfews and all this is creating an even greater dependence on the provision of free or subsidised care within our hospitals. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider making a further donation to the Trust so that we continue to have sufficient capital to thus increase our interest on investments. Any cheques should be made payable to UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust.

It is particularly pleasing that the Trust has been able to support the hospitals this year, a pattern which will continue....and we acknowledge that you, our donors, are the ones who made this possible. We are deeply grateful to all of you for your generous gifts and continuing interest in this work.

Jen Marston  
Trustee and Secretary

