

United Mission to Nepal Hospitals' Endowment Trust January 2010 Newsletter No 6

I am very conscious that my annual letter gets later and later each year and I am sorry that I now seem to have slipped even further! It in no way reflects the general energy of the Trustees and last year was yet another when we give thanks for your continuing generosity and interest.

The Trust has sent, in the Nepali accounting year to July 2009, a total of £25,649 which is shared according to each hospital's endowment fund interest. Today's present financial situation means that the interest earned in the current year has been severely cut - but the Trustees unanimously agreed to maintain the next grant in line with previous years. The annual figures just released by the hospitals show, generally speaking, a rising outpatient attendance and rising charitable care.

A recent development, which we have watched with great interest, has been the readiness of the UMN leadership team to restate a commitment of their support to Tansen and Okhaldhunga Hospitals. They have agreed in principle to a tripartite agreement with the Government and a new hospital NGO, with two representatives from UMN on the NGO Executive Board. The name is suggested as the 'United Mission Hospital Association'. Much work has been undertaken but the uncertainty within Nepal's Government means that the much needed approval is yet to be granted by the Ministry of Health.

Patan Hospital meanwhile has been remodelled as the 'Patan Academy of Health Sciences' and is due to appoint a new CEO. The new buildings are now in use and the new entrance forms an impressive gateway to this enlarging hospital. However under the new Academy would any person wishing to send a gift directly to the hospital please stipulate that it is designated 'Patan Hospital only'.

Okhaldhunga Hospital has a new Hospital Director, Tuk Bahadur Harijan, who is no stranger to UMN. He was a Gandaki Boarding School scholar, worked in Andikola and Jhimruk and was with INF at Khimti in a health project. He brings great enthusiasm and compassion to the role and is working hard towards maintaining funding.



Amp Pipal Hospital has greatly benefited from Dr. Starkey's commitment - supported from Germany - and he returns from leave in October. Prem reported that Babu Ram Giri, their administrator, gained much from the support the Trust gave for his study in hospital management and in spite of their remote situation he keeps in good contact with the Trust. We understand that there have been a considerable number of referrals from nearby Lamjung Hospital to Amp Pipal where their good orthopaedic care has been recognised.



Tansen Hospital has all the new buildings operational which gives greater efficiency (and increasing workload!) in all departments. Although there have been one or two troublesome 'incidents' we understand that all hospitals are at risk now from 'dissatisfied clients' and it is not just Mission hospitals that are targeted. Their statistical summary bears out their commitment to hard work and service to the community.



Roger and I were in Nepal last September, volunteers on a Habitat for Humanity 'Global Village Team'. We gave ourselves a week in Kathmandu and were able to meet the Hospital Directors from three of the four hospitals. Michael Hawksworth, also in Nepal, was able to visit Tansen. We are greatly encouraged that they continue to maintain their charity care element within their budgets.



We noted, however, the increasing sense of 'lawlessness' within the capital, spreading countryside, which is a cause for concern. It is hard to see how this unrest is to be contained if the Government is not able to agree to the 'constitution' which was promised after the elections last year. Traffic in Kathmandu is unmanageable, electricity load shedding is severe and 'bundhs' are an almost daily occurrence.



Nevertheless it remains a nation on all our hearts and with the start of this new year in mind we make no apology for encouraging you to continue to generously support the Trust in 2010. You **do** make the difference for so many.



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