

A Brief History of Thanarbaid

What is the Thanarbaid Health Centre Vision?

The work at Thanarbaid springs from a strong Christian desire to express in a meaningful and practical way, the love of God, as taught to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. The programme is based on the following beliefs:

- Religious, humanitarian, sociological and medical imperatives all require us to focus on the bottom of the community
- The poorest have the greatest needs
- The poor must ultimately be the ones to change their own situation
- The condition of the poor will not change unless there are others in the community who are willing to work beside them, protect them and provide them leadership
- Health actions must be centred on the poorest in the community
- Health actions must be determined by what the actual needs of the poor are, and what is realistic for them
- Health actions should draw no distinction between prevention and treatment
- Staff should be drawn from the community and provided with careful training and supervision so as to ensure proper understanding of their tasks.
- Where there is a significant medical component in the health programme, medically trained leadership is necessary

The present programme began in 1983 when Dr. Baker was posted to the centre. Equipped with extensive previous experience in New Zealand, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Zambia, plus postgraduate diplomas in obstetrics, child health and tropical medicine, Dr Baker set about evolving a health centre operated by the poor, for the poor. Painstakingly starting off at the very bottom, Some of the staff had to be taught to read and write before work could start. The programme remains for the poor, staffed by the poor. Staff have to be highly motivated. The highest paid staff member works for NZ\$46.00 per month. The programme has now expanded to the point where it provides primary health care for 10,000 people and deals with serious medical cases from a wider population of 100,000.

What are the Components of the Programme?

Primary health care actions in ten villages,, antenatal care and family planning, prevention and treatment of common diseases, outpatient clinic, support for the government's immunisation programme (E.P.I) and inpatient care for those that can not recuperate at home, promotion of religious and humanitarian motivation through morning prayer, devotions and staff meetings Constant on the job training is a very important component in success.

CONTACT DETAILS

Postal Address

Dr. Edric Baker
Thanarbaid Health Care Centre,
Vill. Thanarbaid,
P.O. Pirgacha 1996,
District Tangail,
Bangladesh.

Email: smsm@citechco.net
Attn: Dr. Edric Baker

Donations Address

Mr. J.V.T. Baker,
28 Butler Rd.,
R.D. 2, Whakatane,
New Zealand.

Cheques should be made out to:
Edric S. Baker.

Alternatively by arrangement direct to
Dr. Baker at the above address.

What Are the Thanarbaid Health Care Centres' Needs?

Thanarbaid probably runs the most cost effective primary health care service in Bangladesh –if not in the whole of Asia. The user-pays principle is applied, but the fees patients can afford to pay only amount to around 6% of costs. Because the centre caters for families at the very bottom of the socio-economic scale, the service not self funding Financial donations, large or small are always welcome. Your prayer support is also highly valued.

How Can You Help ?

- Send a donation to help meet our general expenses.
- Send a donation to help a particular facet of the work – for example, ante natal care, village health care and education, outpatients clinic, inpatient care, the diabetes programme, or the T.B eradication programme.
- Give somebody else a copy of this brochure.
- Remember the programme and the staff in your prayers.

The Thanarbaid Health Clinic

The Thanarbaid clinic is situated in a Church of Bangladesh owned compound and comprises an administration tin shed, a chapel, an outpatient tin shed, a mud wall kitchen/dining room, four mud wall inpatient residences and one outpatient tin shed shelter.

Most of the diagnosis and treatment of the 16,000 outpatients seen each year is accomplished by supervised uncertificated paramedics who have been trained on the job.

All staff take part in an ongoing training programme with regular sessions scheduled every week. The clinic cares for 700 inpatients per year. Low cost, time tested appropriate procedures and generic medicines are used at all times. The clinic is also base for 18 village healthworkers who provide antenatal care, preventative health, nutrition and family planning and sanitation education.

Kailakuri Diabetes and T.B. Subcentre

The subcentre was established in 1996 and co-operates closely with the Diabetes Assoc. of Bangladesh, and the Damien Foundation, an NGO charged by the government to carry out a T.B. leprosy programme in the area. The demand for help in controlling stabilising and controlling diabetes is rapidly expanding. The subcentres' diabetes programme is growing by 30% each year. T.B is a major killer. The multi-drug Direct Observation Treatment Short Term treatment is proving very effective. The Damien Foundation meets all drug costs and most of the running costs except staff and incidentals.

Thanarbaid Health Care Centre

Tangail District Bangladesh

What is the Thanarbaid Health Care Centre ?

Thanarbaid is a primary health care centre located 150 miles North of Dhaka, which forms a part of the Church of Bangladesh (Anglican and Presbyterian) Social Development Programme. The Centre is completely immersed in the community and provides appropriate health care for all, but especially those who are poor, vulnerable, weak and suffering. The medical officer in charge is New Zealand Dr., Edric Baker. He is assisted by a New Zealand registered nurse, Libby Laing. The remaining 48 staff are all drawn from the local poor. They have had little, or no formal education and have been trained on the job to fulfil all of the duties required for diagnosis and treatment of outpatients, care of inpatients and village health care work. With a population of over 120 million people crammed into a space 20% the size of New Zealand, the United Nations ranks Bangladesh as No.164 in the Human Development Index of 175 countries. The Thanarbaid Centre works with the poor in one of the poorest regions of the country.