

Namaste

A recent visit to Nepal for a holiday gave Roger and I an opportunity to visit both Patan and Tansen Hospitals and to talk with a number of people closely involved with their management. As the visit also came closely on the heels of the announcement from the UMN that the 'memorandum of understanding' between them and HDCS, giving them the authority to run Tansen and Okhaldhunga Hospitals, would not be renewed in July 2008 we had much to absorb.



Patan Hospital's new Maternity Wing

In my last letter I wrote of monitoring the 'charity care' provision made at Patan Hospital and on a visit there this was discussed. Both the CEO and the Business Manager assured us that 'free care' remained one of the provisions at the hospital and figures show that 4.4% of the hospital fees are covered by charity care. (£80,000) Speaking to local people they perceive that treatment in Patan Hospital is expensive, charity care hard to access, and they choose more local

health clinics rather than go there for health care.....'only go for serious things'. However this only serves to underline the great need for continuing support for the 'charity fund' so that health care does not become too expensive for those most in need and funds are available and accessible. The building programme for the new Maternity Wing and the improved training facilities look impressive and it is planned to be operational this August. The Simon family from the USA have been committed donors and given unstinting support.

The hospital itself is 'remodelling' with the formation of the Patan Academy of Health Sciences which has been endorsed by the Cabinet of the Government of Nepal. It has some way to go but Dr. Arjun Karki (Chief of the Department of Medicine) has the vision and drive to direct the future of the Academy. In an article in the Patan Hospital Souvenir Brochure (2007) he states 'the goal is to train technically competent, caring and socially responsible physicians and other health care professionals.....'.



Skyline view of Tansen's new Midwifery block, with drying area!

Tansen Hospital has undergone a big rebuilding programme since I was last there with new midwifery and orthopaedic buildings and a 'soon to be completed' emergency room and dental department. Initially it appeared the hospital had expanded but in fact much of the work has been to upgrade areas and bed numbers are only marginally increased. The new buildings have allowed the redesigning of various other areas such as out patients and

generally the hospital is greatly enhanced. They face a challenge from a new teaching hospital six kilometres away and patient numbers are down on last year. However when accidents occur in the Tansen area, unfortunately all too frequently, the injured are invariably taken to Tansen Mission Hospital as it continues to maintain an excellent reputation.



Patan Hospital CEO (R Prajapati) & Nursing Sister (Ram Shova Risal)



Roger & Tansen Business Manager (Bhubaneshwar)



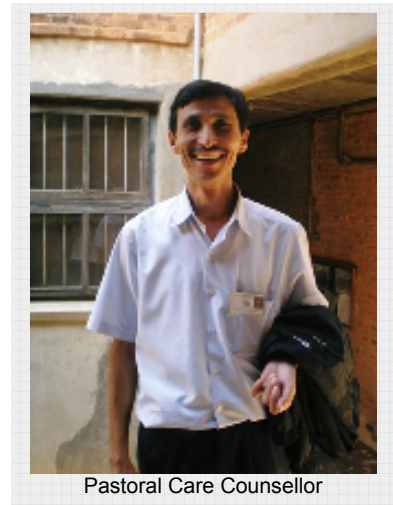
Inside a new ward at Tansen



Waiting to be seen in Tansen

We met a member of the team of pastoral care workers, one of six called to assess patients applying for charity care, and felt very encouraged by the continuing provision of funds. The Business Manager confirms they have good support for their 'free care' fund and figures show that 8.8% of the hospital fees - 3,304 patients - are covered by charity care. (£50,000)

News from Okhaldhunga Hospital remains very encouraging and it is impressive to note that 19.8% of their hospital fees are covered by charity care. (£16,000) The Business Manager from Amp Pipal and the Chairman of the hospital committee meet one of the Nepal based trustees



Pastoral Care Counsellor

occasionally through the year, and 4.4% of hospital fees are covered by charity care. (£2,200)

Referring to the 'memorandum of understanding' between Tansen and Okhaldhunga Hospitals and HDCS. This will not be renewed in July 2008 leaving the situation that the UMN will continue to support the hospitals in recruitment, pastoral care and channelling of funds

and will assist in the setting up of a support structure in Kathmandu for management and logistical support. However the hospitals will be seeking a viable alternative option for independent legal status which is targeted to be by 2010.



"Play lady" visiting young patient

It was interesting to be in Nepal over the recent elections which were remarkably peaceful. We would like to think there is a great opportunity for the country to benefit from the current changes, especially as the new constitution is written, and we sense this feeling is shared by a large number of people of all political persuasions.

At our last Trustees Meeting we discussed the August grants to the four hospitals towards their charity care budgets and these

will be sent with our encouragement that the management staff continue to recognise and respond to the necessity for charity care provision as they produce their annual budgets. At the same time it is pleasing to note the good levels of charity care achieved in the past year.



Building work continues at Tansen

Donations to the UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust throughout the year have been generous and the ongoing interest and support from so many encourages us. The market forces have not been to our favour recently but nevertheless the interest we receive from capital will be well used in the coming months and we are grateful for all your gifts. In round terms the UMNHET grants covered nearly 20% of the charity care given by the hospitals in 2006 - 07. May I therefore use this letter to express our great gratitude for all your support... and also encourage you to remain committed to the Trust.



Another satisfied customer!

In appreciation.

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