



**LAMB International**

**Journal #4 - Kyrgyzstan**

**February, 2008**

### **MED WISH – CATALYST TO PARTNERSHIPS**

Here are a few pictures – know that you (MED WISH) were a blessing to this very poor hospital. The intensive care unit was pleased to receive this and the relationships we built will be in place to help others.



### **WHEN A CHILD DIES...**

Now let me tell you the story. A man by the name of Sergae called us to tell us he had taken a baby to the hospital that was very ill. He wanted our help. We arranged to go to the hospital. Our goal was to go and pray for the little one and the mother. The baby was 8 months old, and said to be dying.

The mother and child had been in the hospital for two days; each day costing her 700som. This is the equivalent of \$19.56 each day. She did not have money to stay for any additional days. We had planned to pay for additional days for her and the baby. We also took baby food and food for her. Hospitals cannot supply enough food to meet the needs of their patients and parents are expected to bring in food to care for their children.

Upon arrival at the hospital we were met by the head doctor for the intensive care unit/ward. The ward is far from what you would ever see or understand unless you have been in a developing country and have visited their hospitals in the villages. The doctor was not especially pleased at our arrival and held us in the hall to explain that others had need too and why would we all come to help this one dying child.

We had the medical supplies from Med Wish with us. We had decided to take them when we went to the hospital instead of at a later date as we had originally planned. After the doctor's comment, we told her that we had brought her some items she might



be able to use and if she wanted them we would be glad to leave them. She immediately changed her attitude and suggested we move into a different room and show her our items. When she realized we had antiseptic cream, iodine, bandages and gloves, she was delighted. Her nurses unpacked the two suitcases and were just amazed at the items.

From this exam room we went to the child and mother – the entire group with the doctor. The child was extremely white/yellow and cried at every touch from her mother. It was obvious the child was in great distress. We prayed for the child, gave her mother the food and then went to ask the doctor how much longer the child would/could be staying at the hospital. The doctor said that since we had been so generous with the donated items, she would extend her stay without cost to the mother.

We left the hospital pleased at once again being able to join with a person and see results that benefit children and families. The joy would not last long. Just as we sat down to dinner we received a call from Sergae that the child had died. Our hearts were broken. Sergae and Annya had done so much. They had a relationship with this mother and child – we were just strangers in the mix.

Life is so very fragile in this country. Death is felt often in families and the death rate is troubling. Humanitarian aid seems so insignificant in this situation, yet we feel it was all part of a much larger important picture. This dear little baby girl and her mother said a wide-ranging chain of events in motion. They brought together several different groups of people, initiated interactions and communications which started relationship-building, and allowed us to give the humanitarian aid to her in the entire intensive care unit where other children will be needing care, perhaps helping to ensure these children will be given favor in the future.



Will it matter that WE were there? NO. However, the head doctor won't forget the faces of the local people – the faces of Mercy Foundation, Lepta Plus, and the Tokmok Family Orphanage staff – who were all there together with us.

We will leave this country in just a few days and quickly become a faded memory to them. But this little child and her mother will forever be remembered as the ones who

caused this one day of partnership among individuals that have lived in conflict in the past; perhaps the first step to a new beginning of collaboration. We praise God for Med Wish and their generous donations of medical equipment to take to the developing countries. We grieve for our friends Annya and Sergae and their dear little Katya, the mother who lost her precious baby girl.

Again, we thank you for your prayers and support as we serve in Kyrgyzstan. Tomorrow the arrangements will be made for the baby and the mother left with nothing. We know God has a perfect plan and we pray we will be able to serve the family, Annya and Sergae in the way they most need.

Sometimes our tears flow with confusion.