



Compassionate care for underprivileged communities

Lakhnadon Christian Hospital Begins Again

Lakhnadon Christian Hospital (LCH) was founded over 100 years ago by Scottish missionaries in Lakhnadon, Madhya Pradesh in Central India, strategically located between the cities of Jabalpur and Nagpur along two major national highways. Previously, scarce medical care in this region forced mothers to travel long distances to give birth. Surgical illnesses went untreated, and preventable conditions often turned deadly.



Row 1: Dr. Stephen, Dr. Riya, and Nurse Supervisor Mrs. Shantsheela; Row 2: LCH nurses and technicians

Serving nearly 250,000 people across surrounding rural and tribal communities, **LCH was a place of refuge and dignity for thousands of underserved families.** However, the effects of staff shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic forced it to close. For several years, this loss of care was deeply felt in the surrounding communities. Despite growing healthcare demands, **the region still endures a severe shortage of specialist and emergency medical services.**

Clinical services gradually resumed in January 2022 through the support of partner organizations

and the dedication of a new team of healthcare professionals. **Today, the hospital is in a new phase of restoration and growth.** A surgeon and a junior doctor have joined the team, allowing for trauma surgeries, general and laparoscopic procedures, and comprehensive inpatient care. The two doctors, plus nine nurses, are serving the community through mother and child health services, pediatrics, general medicine, and emergency treatments.

A needed renovation of inpatient wards and the operating room, along with the purchase of

laparoscopic equipment and surgical instruments, has been funded by a grant from an Indian foundation. **But Lakhnadon still needs to replace their outpatient building and add more housing for nursing staff,** along with acquiring quite a few types of diagnostic and treatment equipment in order to give their patients quality care.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Renewing Hope!



If you have not made a donation to EHA for more than two years (or ever) your gift will be doubled if you give between now and December 31!



LCH staff serve today with the same spirit that inspired its founders over a century ago: compassion for the poor, integrity in service, and a commitment to healing.

We invite you to partner with LCH at this crucial moment in its history—restoring hope and transforming lives through accessible and compassionate healthcare for rural India.

(Pictured: Husband and wife team Dr. Stephen and Dr. Riya)

The Joy of New Birth

*Complicated Pregnancy Ends
with Healthy Baby*

by Dr. Stephen Tom Jude

Soniya, 23, waited with excitement for the arrival of her first baby. But at 27 weeks, that joy was shaken by news that her unborn child had severe intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR). **Suddenly, uncertainty and fear overshadowed the pregnancy. Now she wondered if her child would even survive.**

What followed was a long season of monitoring, waiting, and hoping—week after week of follow-up visits to LCH, each one a small victory. Then at 32 weeks, Soniya was rushed to the hospital with severe abdominal pain. With premature delivery and the baby's condition uncertain, transfer to a facility with advanced care was advised.

But Soniya and her family refused. **LCH wasn't just another hospital—Soniya herself had been born within its walls**, and it had served her family for generations. In their moment of fear, they chose to trust it again.

The team acted immediately: tocolysis to stop contractions, steroids to speed the baby's lung development, and constant monitoring from Dr. Stephen and Dr. Riya. Against all expectations, the pregnancy continued for six more weeks.



At 38 weeks, Soniya's tiny baby girl—breech, and weighing less than 4 pounds—was delivered by caesarean section. For a brief second, time stood still. Then she cried—and tears filled the eyes of doctors, nurses, and staff. **What had once seemed impossible had become reality.** Both mother and baby recovered well and went home without complications.

Soniya's story is about more than a successful delivery. It's about a family's generational trust in a rural hospital—trust that kept doctors and nurses fighting even when the outcome was uncertain. It's a reminder of why rural maternal and newborn care matters: in underserved communities, mothers often face pregnancy with limited access to specialists and emergency obstetric support. **Yet timely care, close monitoring, and dedicated healthcare workers can change outcomes dramatically.**

“Sometimes miracles begin simply—with a mother choosing to trust the hospital that once gave her life too.”

Burn Victim Saved at LCH

*Returning Home with Dignity, Hope,
and the Opportunity to Rebuild a Life*

by Dr. Stephen Tom Jude

Ram, 42, is a farmer who built a simple life around hard work and responsibility. Like many families in rural Madhya Pradesh, his livelihood depended on **the cattle he raised—not merely animals, but his family's income, security, and survival.**

One evening, a fire broke out in his cattle shed. Hearing his animals' terrified cries, Ram ran into the burning structure without thinking of his own safety. He got the animals out alive but suffered devastating injuries himself.

At the hospital, doctors found nearly 45% of his body burned. He was in severe pain, dehydrated, and critically vulnerable to infection. In the past, a patient like Ram would almost certainly have been referred to a distant, more advanced facility—hours of travel, overwhelming expense, and sometimes losing the patient before care even began. **This time, things were different.**

With renewed clinical services at LCH, the team chose to treat him there, close to family and community. What followed was days of relentless, compassionate care: carefully monitored fluids, repeated wound

dressings, infection prevention, pain control, and round-the-clock attention to nutrition and vital signs—all driven by an exhausted but determined team of doctors and nurses.

Ram worried less about himself than about his family, his fields, and whether he'd work again. Slowly, signs of recovery appeared. His condition stabilized day by day, until he was discharged, stable, healing well, and free of the infections that so often complicate severe burns.

Most importantly, he returned home with dignity, hope, and the chance to rebuild his life and keep caring for his family. For LCH staff, this case reflects a quiet but significant transformation—**cases once considered beyond a rural mission hospital's capacity are now managed with confidence, continuity, and compassion, closer to home.**



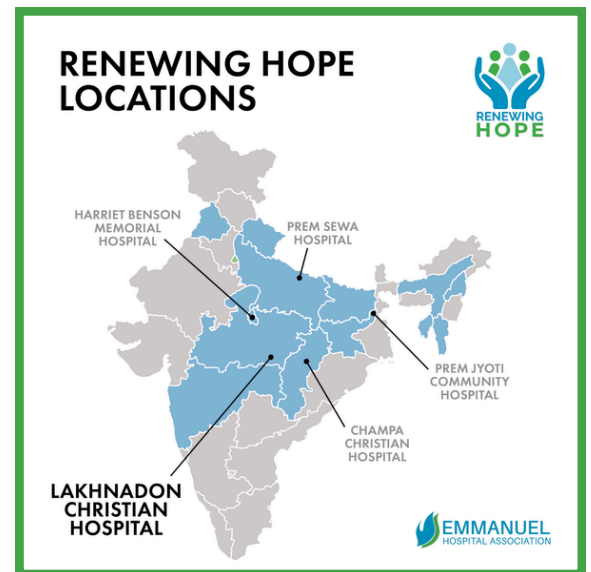
LAKHNADON CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

BY THE NUMBERS

- Medical Staff: 1 doctor, 1 junior doctor, 9 nurses
- Specialties: Surgery
- Outpatients: 4,700
- Deliveries: 9
- Palliative patients: 80/mo.
- Inpatients: 340

Areas of Focus to Renew Hope

- Renewed strength, wisdom, compassion, and endurance for all staff members
- Completion of the operating room construction funded by an Azim Premji grant
- Additional physicians—including an anesthetist, a pediatrician, an OB-GYN and a radiologist—plus more nurses
- Financial provision for several years of unpaid staff salaries (\$48,000)



NEEDS AT A GLANCE

- X-ray machine
- Lab equipment upgrades
- CT scanner machine
- Ultrasound machine
- Outpatient building reconstruction
- Housing for nursing staff
- Solar panel installation

