

Helping Friends in Need (cont.)

After doing the ward rounds on 9th February 2005, we were taken to Mulaithivu which was about 10km from this hospital. The whole area was devastated but the local population with the Tiger cadets had done a remarkable work clearing the area and housing the people in temporary camps. While we were there, we saw a number of aid workers too helping the population.

We were then taken to the orphanage. There were 2 orphanages, one for girls and the other for boys. Most of the orphans had lost their parents during the civil war and some during the tsunami. These orphanages were well run and we gave a donation to the orphanages.

The next day (10th February 2005), we did an early ward round and recommended the necessary treatment for the patients whom we had operated on. The patients will be followed up by Dr Sivapalan and by the orthopaedic surgeon in Jaffna Hospital, Dr Umapathy.

We left Dr Poonambalam Memorial Hospital and visited Kilinochi town. This is the capital of the Vanni area. In Kilinochi, we were received by the local council leaders. They thanked us for the help that we had rendered and asked us to come again as they desperately needed our help. We proceeded to Jaffna where we visited some interesting places.

The next day (11th February 2005), we flew from Jaffna to Colombo and left Colombo at 12.35 am on Saturday (12th February 2005) and arrived in Kuala Lumpur at 8.30 am.

Conclusion

Since there is lack of orthopaedic expertise in Sri Lanka, there are many cases that need to be attended to. The population had many orthopaedic problems and neglected trauma cases due to civil war and the tsunami disaster. The local doctors had requested that further teams be sent to help them manage the orthopaedic problem and they also said they would appreciate it if we could source some orthopaedic equipment or implants for them.

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