

## .....Overseas Partner Fact Sheet.....

### Harpur Memorial Hospital

#### How it all started

In 1889, Dr Frank Harpur, an Irish missionary, started work among the villages of the Nile Delta, using a houseboat. He was especially welcomed by the people of Menouf, who gave him a piece of land on which he started the Harpur Memorial Hospital, in 1910.

The town of Menouf is 70 km north west of Cairo, in the green delta of the Nile. It has a population of about half a million and is surrounded by many poor villages where farmers try to eke out a living from the land.

The Harpur Memorial Hospital now has 120 members of staff, 75 beds and two operating theatres and over 50,000 outpatients are seen each year. It has recently been renovated, enabling it to provide comprehensive and modern standards of patient medical care.



*Above: A view of the Harpur Memorial Hospital*



*Right: Dr Samir is the hospital's Director*

#### Current Activities

As well as the usual departments one would expect to find in a hospital (surgery, general medicine, paediatrics, gynaecology, x-ray, and the like) the hospital also has clinics for TB, leprosy and tropical diseases. There is a pharmacy, a dental unit, an eye clinic and a laboratory. The hospital has modern x-ray machines, radiology equipment and the ability to perform microsurgery.

The hospital keeps its fees very low, and those who cannot afford to pay anything are treated free of charge. No patient is ever refused treatment. Many of the patients are children and they receive free immunisations and check ups.

#### **Key facts**

Founded: 1910

Location: Menouf, Egypt

First Grant from BibleLands: 1987

BibleLands' Grant: £18,348 p.a.



In 1983, a medical records department was started, with a file for every patient. This system is unique in the area.

In Egypt, the emphasis is more on treating patients, rather than also on preventative care. However, the Harpur Memorial Hospital aims to reach out into the community and offer health education to enable the prevention, or a reduction in the severity, of the diseases in its patients.

The hospital has expanded this outreach work to provide social services to those who are in most need in the surrounding villages. For example, a system of small loans has been started, to enable women to learn crafts which will provide income.

The hospital holds a weekly church service for both staff and patients.

People with leprosy come to this hospital from across Egypt, as most other hospitals will not treat them. They feel that here, at this hospital, they are loved and accepted, as well as treated.



*Above left: Some of the hospital's 120 staff*



*Above right : Mena spent 30 days in an incubator – without this care, he may not have survived*

The Bishop of Egypt, Bishop Mouneer, was the Director of the hospital for almost 20 years before he became Bishop in the year 2000. He once wrote "One of my dreams was to have a very modern hospital, but I changed my mind when I saw those huge hospitals in Cairo, complex buildings that look like palaces, filled with modern equipment so that it is difficult for ordinary people and especially the poor even to enter. Building one hospital like that costs as much as sixteen primary health care units, each able to offer services to thousands of needy patients."

Instead, the hospital's vision is to serve the community by providing much-needed health care to all people regardless of their social, economic and religious status. This community-based hospital reaches out to those who need health care and provides a good standard of medical care to the most vulnerable.

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