

Tersingh

When we were driving through Malbar Town, we came across a middle aged man named Tersingh Neiak who was suffering from Polio. This poor man has been suffering from this illness from the very young age of 3.

From our car, we could see him using the strength in his arms and hands just to get himself around the rocky ground.

Tersingh lives with his parents, just behind a primary school. The foundation of their home is made of cow dung and their roof from straw. Naturally this leaves lots of gaps and the home itself is in no way secure. Still, inside their home they have done what they can to create separate space through building partitions and now have a separate bedroom and kitchen.

They have also managed to create a room for their cows. see pictures below:



We wanted to do something to help so we bought a tricycle for Tersingh. This would help him be more mobile and reduce some of his suffering. When we gave it to him, he did not know what to say. He just couldn't believe it. He was speechless. He looked up into the sky for a few minutes....

I asked him what he said to god. He replied 'I have been suffering from this since I was 3 and after all these years, you sent me someone to ease my pain'.

This was the greatest gift for Tersingh. He spent many years as a child being left out of things by other kids. What hurt even more was that he used to watch other kids play games and run around the playground, something which he knew he would never be able to do.

He spent much of his childhood sitting in a corner and crying for hours on end. Other times, he would look to the skies and ask why he was given this illness in the first place. The hardship of dragging his body around for years on end on rocky and thorny grounds was so tiring. What's more is that the pain was unbearable. The skin on his legs was torn in several places and as a result he would have to stay in bed for days in order to recover.

All Tersingh knows is his village. Because of his condition, he has not spent even a minute outside of the village as there was no-one to take him.

He was so overwhelmed. Finally he knew that god had looked down on him. He said that his father always told him never to give up on god and believe in the fact that one day help would come. Tersingh said that today he believed that there is god.

We are so lucky that god has not given us a life of poverty like Tersingh.

Please see picture below with Tersingh riding his tricycle looking so happy. Now he will be able to get around and will be able to ride to visit other close villages.







