

A NEW START TO LIFE

Mr. Stamroy Kongjih is a resident of a village called Myllap which is within Pynursla, East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya. Son of Late Mr. E. Suhroy and Late Mrs. T. Kongjih, Mr. Stamroy Kongjih is married to Mrs. M. Khongsted. With 6 sons and 2 daughters, they are a family residing in a house made of bamboo and are less privileged financially.

Mr. Kongjih was a farmer and in the past was the bread winner of the family. However, when age got the better of him, his children took up the mantle of breadwinners. 7 of his 8 children are casual laborers working day and night to make ends meet. While his youngest daughter is still in school studying in Class 8.

Despite the fact that most of his children are engaged in labor work, the monthly income of the family though is no less than Rs. 2,000 per month. Due to this very reason Mr. Kongjih (although knowing full well that his eye sight is fading with time) did not seek any medical intervention to address his eye sight problem. He continued living with this condition for 8 years and was going through the motion of life with a certainty that he will one day be blind.

With the passage of time, performing daily chore and basic task became more of an obstacle for Mr. Kongjih as he aptly puts it, *“The condition of my eyesight deteriorated to a point where I could not see nearby objects clearly and I was constantly antagonized by the fear of falling or hitting something accidentally”*.

Just when he was on the brink of giving up hope, he met an Aganwadi worker who advised him to visit an eye camp scheduled on 27th July 2018 at Pynursla Block where a team from Bansara Eye Care Centre (with support from the Society for Promotion of Eye Care & Sight) would arrive.

This piece of information served as a ray of hope for him. Though skeptical at first, he mustered enough courage to arrive at the eye camp on the said date. When he was examined, the team from Bansara realized that his condition was severe and referred him to the base hospital located in Shillong to undergo surgery.

At this point, Mr. Kongjih experienced an emotion of excitement and anxiety at the same time. The thought of recovering his vision now seems to be a reality and he did not want to miss it by any means.

When he arrived on 6th August 2018 in Bansara Eye Care Centre (Shillong), Mr. Kongjih's date of surgery was scheduled on the subsequent day of 7th August 2018. As the day of surgery drew closer with every minute, Mr. Kongjih visualized about activities that he would do when his sight is restored. With an experienced team handling him, Mr. Kongjih underwent a successful surgery.

A day after the surgery was completed, Mr. Kongjih seemed to be a different man altogether. His body language was positive and it seems as though he was personifying optimism in the way he carried himself.

Before leaving home though on 8th August 2018, he couldn't help but express his gratitude to the staff at Bansara by stating, *"Thank you so much for your kindness, hospitality and for accommodating me. The care and service that you have provided me will forever remain in my heart. May God bless you and shower his blessings in all the work that you do. God bless!"*
