

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Mrs. Monica Lamare is a resident of Sahsniang Block B, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya. Married to (Late) Mr. Ioanis Lakai, she is blessed with a daughter, a son-in-law and 4 grandchildren. However, before the Outreach team from Bansara met her, her life was literally on a downward spiral.

During her prime she was a farmer and after her husband passed away, she became the primary breadwinner of the family. But, unfortunately, when she developed problems related with her eyesight, her son-in-law then took it upon himself the responsibility to provide for the family by pursuing farming which earn the family a monthly income of close to Rs. 3,000 per month.

Her daughter worked as a labourer before; but due to her mother's condition, she was no longer in a position to make any contribution towards the family's earning since she had to care for her (Mrs. Monica Lamare).

With the passage of time, her condition became severe and she soon developed blindness in both eyes. For a period of 12 years, she lived with this condition which has had a negative impact on her life and family members. She became so pessimistic that even when she encountered the outreach team from Bansara Eye Care Centre (who were working in collaboration with the Society for Promotion of Eye Care & Sight), she had already given up on her life and was certain that she will continue to be blind till her last day.

However, by means of counselling & sharing of information by the staff from Bansara Eye Care Centre, a new found feeling of hope was rekindled inside her and she agreed to visit the Eye Hospital, Bansara Eye Care Centre, Shillong.

Diagnosed with cataract in both eyes, she underwent surgery that had the potential to change her life again. After the surgery was completed and while she was still in a recovering stage, she dreamt of the day where she would be able to see her family members, friends, relatives and everything around her. However, she thought it was not possible anymore given that she is now too old and lamented it as wishful thinking.

Eventually when her eye dressing were removed, much to her surprise, her vision was restored. Delighted and thrilled, her happiness knew no bound.

All this while, her daughter constantly had to be around her, but now she can move independently & pursue her hobby of gardening, caring for her grandchildren and engage in household activities like cleaning, cooking, etc.,

After attaining her sight back, she exclaimed, "I feel as if God himself has heard my prayers and sent his angels to help me see again". She is grateful to the staffs of Bansara Eye Care Centre and everyone who had played a part in helping her regain back her vision.