



### POINTS OF INTEREST

- ≈ From the MS
- ≈ Reaching to different communities in India
- ≈ Beyond India: Uganda
- ≈ Community perceptions
- ≈ From the School Of Nursing
- ≈ From the Nursing Service
- ≈ Exposure visit

### Dear Friends,

So here again we stand at the second month of 2017. Though 2 months have passed, here let us review those days which have left us and look forward to the ones that are still awaiting us this year, in the light of GOD. 5 verses to remember and ponder in the coming days...

- **II Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here.
- **Isaiah 43:18** - Forget the former things: do not dwell on the past. Old ways won't open new doors. Our failures aren't final. Put the past in the past. Some things are worth keeping and some worth leaving.
- **Psalms 90:12** - Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Time is a limited resource, more precious than even money. So invest it well in things that 'really' matter.
- **Lamentations 3:22,23** - His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Every day we wake up, is a day we get to experience God's grace and faithfulness. Refuse to take even a single one for granted!
- **Ephesians 4:32** - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.

Well friends, the Bible has plenty to say about all kind of things we'll face over the next 10 months. That's why we need to dig deep into God's Word every day of the year. May God use this newsletter to connect us and use us in the expansion of His kingdom.



### From the Medical Superintendent ..... Dr. Valsa Tharian

As usual, the November, December and January months were very busy with all the Christmas activities on top of the NABH preparations. The Annual Sports was held with healthy competition and enthusiasm over the last few months and prizes were given. The Carol services, Annual dinner and Thanks giving service were memorable. Founder's day was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> and was well attended by the public.

Preparation for NABH entry level assessment kept all staff alert and busy. By God's grace, the assessment went smooth with very few non compliances which have been worked on and submitted. The office was shifted to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor new office block on 23.01.2017. The sudden demonetization that rocked the country had its effects on the hospital also to a small extent. By God's grace, we were able to tide over the situation fairly smooth. Our Administrator and Office superintendent both recovered without any complications after Bypass surgery and have rejoined duty by God's grace.

We were able to send 8 doctors including Drs George Philip and Susan who went to Uganda to teach for 2 weeks under ICMDA program. 2 nurses, 1 Pharmacist & 1 X-ray technician on deputation during this November – January months. Christian Dental College, Ludhiana sent 4 of their interns for 2 weeks posting in our dental Department. CMC Vellore PG registrars in Dermatology & Medicine also came for short postings.

For the 1st time, Christians in mental health gathered together at Pachalur for 2 days on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Counselors, Psychiatric social workers and psychiatric nurses all came together. Thank God that we could host this new venture, thanks to the tireless effort of Dr. Sony Mathews Luke.



*Reaching to different communities in India .....Dr. Latha Paul*

I started with my usual destination Kashmir. This is the fourth visit in last 6 months of curfews and hartals in the Kashmir valley. We have been helping the Mission hospital in the valley since the year 2000. It was good to have Dr Roy Elias, a GP from South Africa with me this time. Heavy snowfall was awaiting us. Though nice to watch, the after effects were not pleasant. The temperatures dropping to -100C and no electricity for a long



period of time. Later Dr Paul also joined us and we could perform many Surgeries including a 1Kilo fibroid!

From Kashmir, I went to Lalitpur in UP to attend EMFT's Prayer Conference. Our Junior Doctor Jeba had already reached there from ODC. After a couple of meaningful days in Lalitpur, Jeba and me proceeded to Purnea which is located in North Eastern part of Bihar which is about 3 hours drive from Siliguri.



Traveling in North Indian during winters is always challenging. Every train passing through Delhi was delayed by not less than 6 hours. So finally we reached Purnia after canceling and rebooking exercises. The purpose of going to Purnia was to help a Mission Hospital run by NIEA , a missionary organization involved in Church Planting, Seminary training, Bible translation, schooling for poor children and many others. The Hospital was started 3 years back by the Director of NIEA who happens to be a Medical Doctor



The poverty and oppression in Bihar was palpable. But the compassionate care of this mission hospital is attracting many hapless patients from far and wide. We were able to treat, perform surgeries and teach the students. After a week full of fruitful ministry , I reached home. Dr Jeba chose to help for a month there. Well, what else can I say, "The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few" ---what Jesus said 2000 years ago, is still reverberating in my ears. As I shared about Bihar, two of our nurses are willing to go for 6 months period. Praise God.

*Beyond India : Uganda .....Dr. George and Susan Philip*

Last month we had the privilege to visit the continent of Africa and stay in Kampala, Uganda for a period of about 2 weeks. I was asked by ICMDA, and Vellore to help facilitate the Masters of Family Medicine (MFM) Contact program 1 and 2 which is run in Mengo Hospital, Kampala. . We stayed with Drs. Anil and Shalini Ninan who made sure that our stay was most comfortable. The day was packed with activities and patient discussions culminating with an end of posting exam for the trainees. Trainees from South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Uganda, Scotland and West Indies had come, nine in all. Susan helped in the South Sudan Health Initiative and took classes for students training to be medical officers.



We were able to taste the local food Matokae (cooked raw banana which is mashed), Poshoo (steamed maize --the African idili), G-nut paste (Ground nut paste! the popular curry) and their fish and meat preparations. We were able to attend few church services – one in the Cathedral (Anglican) and two Sundays in the town (Baptist). Culturally there are many differences between Asians and Africans. Teenage pregnancy, unwed mothers and single mothers are common. Polygamy is common in the tribal culture.



Our African brothers are warm and generous, but there remains much to do as unemployment, corruption and crime are major problems in Uganda. We had the opportunity to watch a cultural show which show cased their tribal music and dances. On a weekend we were able to go for a trek in an Mabira rain forest and see the source of the river Nile and have a taste of Nile Tilapia..



We praise and thank God for this opportunity and for the journey mercies and protection we had during our stay in Uganda.

***From the School of Nursing .....Mrs. Bessi Rajan***

We praise and thank God for Mrs. Kethsiyal, who completed her M.Sc.(N) in Psychiatric Nursing and rejoined in School of Nursing. Mrs. Ben David has been blessed with a boy baby on 11th December 2016. Inspection report from Board of Nursing Education and Tamil Nadu Nursing Council has come positive. Students’ participation in Christmas choir, sports and other activities was good. 31 nurses have completed their GNM training and a retreat was conducted for them on February 16<sup>th</sup> in the theme “Biblical basis of Work”. Pray for the final year Nursing students who have appeared for exam in February 2017.

***From the Nursing Service.....Mrs. Mercy Quila***

We praise and thank God for the new staff who have joined. Christmas was celebrated along with the boys home children. Dinner was served and clothes were distributed. Thank God for Mrs. Panjavarnam (ANM staff) and Mrs. Palianammal (OPD assistant) who were blessed with babies. Praise God for Ms. Diana, Ms. Esther, Ms. Hepziba, Ms. Lincy and Ms. Selvi who are completing their higher studies. Pray for Ms. Ajitha who is suffering from Von Willebrand disease and is on treatment. Pray for the comfort of Mrs. Chitra (occupational therapist) and her family who have lost their son Emmanuel.

***Exposure visit .....Dr. Alexander***

Twelve students from Carmel bible college, Sivakasi visited CFH on the 1st and 2nd of February with the purpose of gaining an exposure on the healing ministry. They were greatly blessed. One of the students said, “We learned how CF hospital was started. It was a humble beginning, but God made it as great blessing for so many people. We saw kingdom of God in CFH campus. Doctors are humble, and we were able to see their sacrificial work. Everyone is working for God and doing hard work. Learning about CFH principles like "No foreign fund" is great learning for us. Surely this visit widened our understanding about God and God's work. This visit made us to become better God's servant. May God bless all CFH staff.” May God continue to use us for His Kingdoms Glory.



Focus Group discussions (FGD) were conducted to test client perceptions about CFH services. 10 group discussions were conducted with patients and bystanders at CFH, 2 with Ward Aids & Security at CFH; 6 outside the hospital, involving market workers, Municipality staff, teachers and a self help group. The following findings were common across all groups:

**Positives:** Immense faith & trust in CFH; Doctors’ diagnosis is best; Staff treat kindly; Try to cure with simple affordable medicines, no side effects; Operation only if medicine does not work; Discounts & free treatment given; Will try till the end for normal delivery; Because cost is so low, patients come from other districts & queue up from 6 am; No one takes bribes.






**Negatives:** DELAY a major problem. Therefore local people tend to visit private practitioners for simple illnesses and come to CFH more often for complicated illness. Infrastructure needs improvement; more cleanliness in public places. Have a night stay place for bystanders

**Inferences:** This hospital is highly relevant in today’s context, as an institution providing low cost high quality services, with caring and empathy





**Occasional comments:** Some staff don’t respond well; they could be polite.

**The Way Forward:** CFH should upgrade its technology and have a cardiac unit and CT/ MRI. Another opinion was that the hospital “continue as it is, and not change”

**Praise God for....**

-  Successful completion of the NABH inspection.
-  New office space and the smooth shifting
-  Christmas celebrations and the outreach programs
-  Spiritual enrichment programs
-  The newly shuffled Bible study groups.

**Pray for.....**

-  God’s guidance in sustaining the hospital and its service.
-  Water had to be rationed. Need to have more good rains.
-  Day-to-day management of affairs – for wisdom and discernment to all in administrations.
-  Spiritual life of our staff and students- for a

