

# CANADIAN VELLORE LUDHIANA COMMITTEE

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## News from CMCH Ludhiana

### Report from William Virgin

I spent one month in Ludhiana with a short trip to Woodstock School in Mussoorie. I represented the Vellore Ludhiana Committee at the Governing Body Meetings for CMCH Ludhiana and brought back copies of detailed reports for the Committee. I visited with the representatives from Friends of Ludhiana UK and USA. In the evening we attended Snow Night, a performance and supper put on by the residents of Snow Hostel, one of the female students hostels.

I conducted a total of 20 seminars for the College and Hospital on the following topics: Stress, Healthy Communications, Anger Management, Forgiveness, Values, Goals and Service. In addition, I conducted a number of counselling and mediation sessions.

I visited with the Director, the Principal of the Nursing College, the Director of Finance, the Director of the BCRIC, the Principal of the Medical College and others to discuss needs and potential projects that the Committee could help with.

I attended Graduation ceremonies and the Founder's Day Program. The first batch of graduates from the Allied Health Services College received their diplomas this year. I was also invited to be the Guest of Honour at the Nurses College Initiation for the 2010 graduates.

I was well received by the Fellowship Department (Chaplaincy) and I appreciated how much they accepted me as one of their own. I spoke at a number of church gatherings and on the last Sunday of March, I preached at the CMC College Service.



## **Betty Cowan Research and Innovation Center (BCRIC)**

### Plans for Rural Outreach

The Director, Neeta Kang, has been meeting with Dr. Kanwal Masih (Medical Superintendent) and Dr. Benjamin (RHOP) to finalize the plans. Below is a brief outline of what the Center will be doing in the rural areas:

1. Breast cancer screening, education on self-breast examination, awareness on lumps and family history.
2. Cervical pap smears, education about hygiene.
3. Awareness and understanding of early detection in relation to survival and treatment costs.
4. Education on prevention, food/spices with anti-cancer properties - brochure will be provided.
5. Fine-needle aspiration cytology for the women with lumps in their breast.
6. All samples will be brought back to CMCH for analyses and reporting.
7. Those who are found to be with cancer will be given counselling on what needs to be done. The poor patients fund can be used to help defray a percentage of the cost, we can even arrange for them to be brought to CMCH - all of this will be explained to the village head before we even start the screening program.

The Center will hang a banner on the side of the CMCH bus stating that the funds have been provided by Edwina Mountbatten Trust through Friends of Ludhiana (UK). They estimate that about 600 women per village will come for screening. For now the Center will focus on only two villages as the funds permit. Repeat visits will be made to these two villages in order to get as many women screened as possible.

In other news, Debashish and Dr. Kang have registered for the International Conference on Stem Cell and Cancer in December at Pune, India. They are working hard on a poster presentation by Debashish (on Medulloblastoma) and an oral presentation (Astrocytomas) by Dr. Kang. Data will come from the DBT project and will be generated from the BCRIC Molecular Research lab. Awards will be given out for the best presentations.

## **News from CMCH Vellore**

### **New Head of the Chaplaincy Department**

The Rev. Dr. Malhia Joshua has recently become the Head of Chaplaincy. A 15-year veteran of the department, he received his theological degree from Serampore University following his studies at United Theological College in Bangalore. He spent many years working with blind

children in a residential school in Kerala. In 2005, he earned his doctorate from the Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras. He studied the ethical dilemmas encountered by CMC Vellore doctors in the course of their work for his dissertation.

During Rev. Joshua's time as Head of Chaplaincy, he wants to focus on improving audio and video facilities in the wards. Currently, worship services in the hospital chapel are broadcast in audio to the wards, but the system is not in good repair. Rev. Joshua wishes to upgrade to a video system for the wards and also to offer carefully selected music that would be calming and reassuring for the patients. Other plans include adding more chaplaincy services to the students. He hopes to add two full-time pastors, one for medical and allied health students in the college campus and one for the College of Nursing students.

### **CMC Launches a Second Campus**



On April 24, 2010, the laying of the foundation stone for a second campus was commemorated. The campus will be located a few kilometres south of the town of Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh. Over 600 acres were purchased with the help of the local government. CMC Director, Suranjan Bhattacharji, envisions a university of the health sciences which will emphasize the connections between body and spirit, the secular and the sacred, the earthly and the divine. "With the cooperation of the government, we can build clinics, labs, offices and housing that we so urgently need." Within three months, CMC will open the first clinic with nurses initiating health services and doctors arriving shortly afterwards. The new campus is a about a 20 minute drive from both the Vellore and Chittoor train stations as well as being situated on a highway. This will allow service to patients from all over India as well as the local villages. Now,

approximately 600 patients a day visit CMC Vellore from the Chittoor area and it is hoped that much of this flow can be redirected to the new campus, relieving pressure on the Vellore outpatient clinics.

### **Dr. George Chandy Retires**



Dr. George M. Chandy, Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and a former Director of CMC, retired in May this year following 27 years of committed service. He first came to CMC as a medical student in 1967. Upon his graduation, he went to the CSI Hospital in Kerala to complete his service obligation and served as Medical Superintendent there in 1976. He went on to CMC Ludhiana, where he obtained his Internal Medicine degree. In 1983, he returned to Vellore and joined the Department of Gastroenterology.

Appointed Professor in 1995, he led the department from 1998 to 2002. He served as Medical Superintendent from 1999 to 2002 and then Associate Director for a brief period. From 2002 to 2007, Dr. Chandy served with distinction as Director of CMC, initiating many new services, specialities and departments that led to awards and top ranking for CMC among India's medical colleges. In 2007, he was awarded the Dr. BC Roy National Award for Excellence in Healthcare in recognition of his inspiring leadership.

Dr. Chandy will also be remembered for his deep faith, his warm personal touch and kind words. He showed deep concern and empathy for all. In spite of his heavy responsibilities, his deep love of music was shown as he continued to conduct choirs and musicals in CMC and the church. He encouraged and supported countless activities to strengthen community life through retreats, management workshops, musical events and celebrations.