



The Vellore Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.

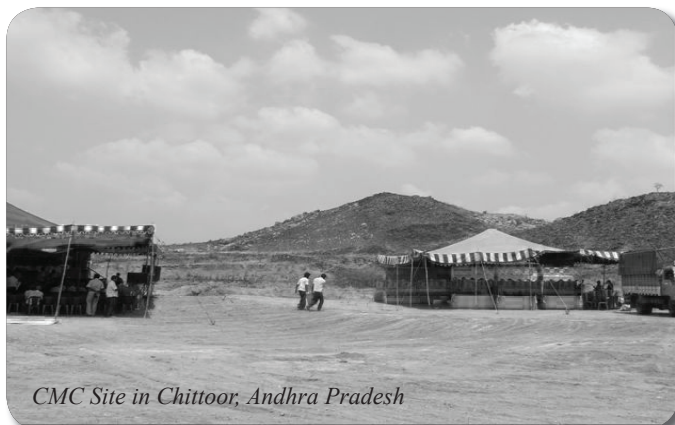
Website: www.vellorecmc.org

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"Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister"

Fall 2010

CMC To Build Second Campus in Andhra Pradesh



CMC Site in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

For the first time in its distinguished history, the Christian Medical College, Vellore is opening a campus outside its hometown. Since early in 2009, plans have been afoot to found a major branch of CMC Vellore in an area known as Chittoor (site pictured above), roughly a 45 minute drive from the present-day hospital.

Chittoor lies in Andhra Pradesh, the state immediately to the north of Tamil Nadu. With the cooperation and encouragement of the state government of Andhra Pradesh, CMC has purchased two large tracts of land, together amounting to over 600 acres. One site will be devoted mostly to housing for faculty, while the larger plot will eventually feature a medical college and major hospital.

CMC Director Suranjan Bhattacharji along with several Associate Directors have spent much time over the past eighteen months making sure that CMC has clear title to all of the land, and that "encroachers" or squatters are dealt with according to Indian law. Most of the land is uninhabited and the few businesses that are found there will be moved or bought out.

At the present time, a wall is being constructed around the larger of the two sites. In

coming months construction will begin on a temporary clinic and small hospital, which will be replaced by more permanent structures in a few years. Within the year there will be a range of clinical services offered to the people of the region. Because Chittoor is a poor area, the need for support for more patients through the Person to Person program and other funds will grow as activity expands.

Given the extreme lack of buildable sites on and around the present hospital campus, the acquisition of these 600 acres will be of great help in providing space for institutional expansion. It is expected that some of the crush of patients now seeking treatment in Vellore will be re-directed to this campus. Railroad connections for Chittoor are nearly as good as those for Vellore. Currently, hundreds of people travel from Chittoor to Vellore every day for treatment. It is hoped that most of these will find their needs met on the new campus.

The poverty of the Chittoor area and the relative lack of good health facilities call for an expanded effort by CMC in community health and family medicine. The creation of a new medical college and nursing program in Chittoor will provide an opportunity to forge a curriculum specifically designed for health professionals with a commitment to serve in low-income areas. The new campus will also provide space for research facilities, making possible a major expansion of activity in this important area.

CMC officers are planning for a "green" campus development with maximum water conservation strategies. Both sites offer many opportunities for beautiful landscaping and well-designed open spaces.

President's Column
Back in the USA

Louis L. Knowles



My family and I have returned to New York after a marvelous ten-month sojourn in Vellore. Our hearts were warmed by the generous hospitality of all the faculty, staff and students who became our friends. We deeply appreciated the opportunity to share in the life of the community, the celebrations, the worship, the retreats, the education and the work.

I was especially encouraged during my stay to find CMC entering a new era of growth and outreach. While CMC continues to function as a medical “city on a hill” to which people in search of health care are drawn in great numbers, it is also developing bold new initiatives addressing the health needs of the nation, now and in the future. This newsletter features articles about some of these

important efforts: a new, separate campus which will become a second medical college, serving the needs of a very poor area of Andhra Pradesh; a burgeoning Distance Education program to upgrade medical competency among India’s physicians; and a model program of senior day care to address the growing problem of neglected elders.

CMC faculty are involved in national programs aimed at improving health care in rural areas, revitalizing medical education, starting medical education institutions in the underserved northeast and furthering medical research activity. On an international level, CMC personnel are improving health care in Afghanistan, helping restore health care to war-torn African countries and alerting the global health world to the growing epidemic of diabetes in developing nations.

CMC is increasingly accepting the mantle of leadership in transforming health care, both nationally and internationally. Those of us who live in the global “North” should ask ourselves if we are ready to accept the changing nature of the worldwide struggle to bring health to all. We are accustomed to being in the driver’s seat, with our partners in the South along for the ride. Now that the roles are reversing, can we maintain our enthusiasm? Can we continue to invest ourselves in a supportive role? I believe CMC can be a pivotal institution in the struggle to bring good health to the people of Asia, Africa and even Latin America. CMC can become the trainer of trainers for medical education and practice adapted to the needs of the poor. It can be the catalyst for a new era of medical research focused on the neglected diseases of the South.

You and I can be a part of this exciting future—as part of the worldwide network of Friends of Vellore, our contributions of money, hospitality, contacts and institutional linkages are a highly valued asset that gives CMC extra resources to fulfill its vital role in building a better future for us all.

**Vellore Christian Medical College
Foundation, Inc.**

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 725, New York, NY 10115
Toll Free: 1-800-875-6370 ♦ Tel: 212-870-2640
Fax: 212-870-2173

Email: foundation@vellorecmc.org
Web site: www.vellorecmc.org

Louis Knowles, President ♦ Philip Ansalone, Editor
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation, Inc., in response to the healing ministry of Christ and inspired by the legacy of Dr. Ida S. Scudder, is to provide a focus for excellence and integrity through the support of the wide range of programs of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India.

Day Care for Senior Citizens

As the Indian economy heats up, young people are being drawn out of the villages of India to work in industries concentrated in the cities. In many cases they leave behind aging parents and relatives who have no independent means of support and who must get by on their own as best as they can.

In 2006, CMC’s Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA) surveyed the people in its service area and concluded that the neglected elderly were the most vulnerable part of the community. Under the leadership of Dr. K. R. John and Dr. Rita Isaac, RUHSA began a series of pilot programs to find ways to help the isolated elderly. The most urgent need turned out to be providing at least one full meal a day. A daycare center was set up in Keelatathur, with others following in two more villages, Kavasampet and Shozamur. In addition to providing a daily meal, RUHSA is establishing a program to help participants increase their income. Female goats are being entrusted to groups of the elderly so that, when goat kids are born, they can be sold to provide income for both the group who owned the goat and the individual who took care of it.

One such individual is Mariamma (pictured below), an elderly widow who lives in Kavasampet and goes to the RUHSA Day Centre (DC) there. Her two sons have moved away and don’t provide any help for her. She lives in a thatched cattle shed with the goat. Because of cataracts and joint pain, she cannot work. The DC, the charity of neighbors and the goat are her only means of survival.

The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City has awarded a generous grant to help expand RUHSA’s program for seniors. That gift, and others like it, will go to help Mariamma and other aging villagers who face similar challenges.



CMC Reaches Out to the Nation through Distance Education



Dr. Jochin Velavan

It is a grim fact of life in India that many young doctors with only a four and a half year MMBS degree are forced to practice medicine, mostly in poor rural areas, because there are too few seats in the nation’s graduate medical schools. While legal, it is still a hazard for the health and well being of the public since many of these young doctors have had minimal hands-on experience in hospital settings.

Four years ago, the Christian Medical College at Vellore initiated a Distance Education program to address this problem. The core curriculum offers a diploma in Family Medicine. With additional information and practical experience, these young doctors will be able to treat more patients in their local clinics; and, consequently, it will save their patients money as well as increase the number of people successfully treated.

Under the creative leadership of Drs. Vinod Shah and Jachin Velavan, the program is focusing in eight states with high poverty rates. About 260 physicians are currently enrolled in this affordable program. In addition, several state governments have worked out agreements with CMC to pay for training of batches of their doctors. So far, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Bihar have become involved.

CMC faculty work as coordinators and in addition, the International Christian Medical and Dental Association, based in the USA, provides volunteer physicians as coordinators. There is one coordinator for every twenty students, and each coordinator puts in about 33 days of work over the two-year period.

This innovative approach to medical education can provide many valuable ideas and models for programs in other countries. Within India, Distance Education is a means by which CMC can reach out to thousands through its commitment to high quality medical practice.

For more details on the program, check our website <http://www.vellorecmc.org>.

Memorial and Honorarium July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

We thank our friends who gave gifts in memory or in honor of family and friends in recognition of their lives and works. The contributions for support of CMC Vellore are living memorials enabling student education and quality health care to those in need.

In Memoriam

Dr. K. Abraham	Arthur Holmstrom	John P. Stevens	Arjun & Renee Mohandas
Mr. David Murphy	Mrs. Edith M. Holmstrom	Mrs. Elizabeth G. Stevens	Mrs. Peggy A. Pierce
My Parents and Brother	Caroline M Holt	Mrs. Ann Sukumar	Palliative Care Team At CMC
Mr. Philip F. Ansalone	Mrs. Marion P. Harris	Dr. Dawn Selim	Dr. Barbara Anderson Head
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Reeve and Martha Betts	Ms. Mary Gard Jameson	Mrs. Bernice Howatt	Donald & Anna Roberts & Family
Dr & Mrs Eugene K. Betts	Mr. Larry Wangberg	Ernest Thomas	Dr. Chandly & Shanti Samuel
My Mother and Father	R. Park and Alice Johnson	Mr. Kenneth G. Van Tine	Vadis Robshaw,
Seshadri Bhattacharya	Mr. Thomas H. McGuire	Wells and Beth (Scudder) Thoms	Richard & Sara Haber
Dr. E. Irene Boardman	Vivian L. Johnson	Dr. & Mrs. Norman Thoms	Nirmala H. Slater
E. Irene Boardman Fdtn	Mr. Dwight Johnson	Thangamani Vethamani	Mr. Richard Slater
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Niharr R. Ghosh	Gordon & Cynthia Sherman		
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Dr. Manorama Sarma	Dr. Carl F. Von Essen		
Hermon	Lillian Smies		
Norman and Eleanore Heym	Mr. John R. Smies		
Mr. & Mrs. David R. Heym			

In Honor of

Ruth Allard
Mrs. Sarah J. Allard
Alexander, Anya, Eleanor, & Grace
Mrs. Linda Pierce Knutson
Melissa Artopoeus
Rev. Otto F. Artopoeus
Sara Bhattacharji
Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Harrison
Dora Boomstra
Ms. Pearl M. Bruining
My Children & Grandchildren
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Mani Mani
Richard & Doris Burnett
Mrs. Patricia & Eric Gass
Dr. & Mrs. Alex Mathew
Sanjay & Reeba Alexander

CMC Staff Visit

Mrs. Beulah Premkumar, Professor of Nursing at CMC, will visit the USA in late October and early November. She will be speaking on behalf of CMC at the annual meeting of the Foundation on November 12 in New York. She will also participate in the second conference of the National Association of Indian Nurses of America (NAINA) October 22-23 in Houston. The rest of her itinerary will include Chicago, Washington DC, Kansas City and Iowa City, Iowa. For details, contact the Foundation office, 800-875-6370 or foundation@vellorecmc.org.