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NEWSLETTER OF THE VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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Not To Be Ministered Unto, But To Minister"

Spring 2011

The College of Nursing Celebrates a Milestone with the Help of North American Friends



A spacious and gleaming new nursing library was dedicated at Vellore on March 11, 2011. The facility has been named in memory of Miss

Florence Taylor, a Canadian, who served as Dean of the College for 16 years during its early history. Miss Taylor played a seminal role in shaping the curricula of graduate nursing education not just for CMC but for all of India.

Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Thiru P.W.C. Davidar, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Information and Technology. Participating as Guests of Honor were Mr. Andrew T. Simkin, Consul General of the United States, Chennai and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Simkin. (See photo above.)

Dr. Suranjan Bhattacharji, CMC's director, introduced Mr. Davidar as a longtime CMC friend, who has held several important posts since joining the civil service in 1986, including that of Collector of Vellore. Two of his outstanding contributions have been shaping government policy on cadaver organ transplantation, and the accreditation of secondary hospitals in Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Bhattacharji expressed thanks on behalf of CMC faculty and staff to Mr. Simkin for the grant from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Program that made the library possible.

Mrs. Rosaline Jayakaran, Dean of the College of Nursing, recalled the historical antecedents of the present library – from a small corner facility with 1,000 books to this magnificent 11,000 square foot, three story structure featuring

the latest in technology and 17,000 volumes.

Completion of the Taylor Library is an important milestone in the fund raising and construction effort that began in 2003 to bring into being a new College of Nursing campus on land near CMC Hospital. American and Canadian donors contributed over \$700,000 to the cost of the new facility, in addition to the ASHA grant for the library. To follow in the future is a modern hostel for nursing students now crowded into aging facilities on the campus of the main hospital.

College of Nursing Dean Visits USA



Mrs. Rosaline Jayakaran, Dean of the CMC College of Nursing, visited nursing alumnae and other CMC supporters during February. She met with groups in New Jersey, Florida (photo above) and Washington DC. Her message was one of thanks for the donors who helped to make possible the new College of Nursing campus. She shared photographs of the spacious new nursing education building, which provides private offices for each member of the faculty as well as classrooms with the latest in audiovisual technology.

(continued on page 3)

The President's Column



For the first time since the 1990's, the CMC Foundation is utilizing outside expertise to help us expand our fund raising capacity. With the assistance of professional counsel, we are assessing the potential of our foundation and its constituency to support CMC as it expands its educational and research programs and its clinical services.

Times are changing, and the friends of Vellore are changing as well. Not so many years ago, support for CMC was defined primarily by churches and church people who had learned of CMC through presentations on mission. Dr. Ida Scudder herself campaigned among churches for support on many occasions during the first half of the twentieth century. Americans who had served on the faculty at Vellore retired in the United States and became active advocates and fund raisers throughout the land.

All of this has changed significantly in recent years. National Protestant denominations are struggling with declining support; and for the most part, they now lack the capacity to offer significant financial aid to ecumenical institutions like CMC. Local congregations now tend to define mission in terms of direct engagement by their members as volunteers—meaning that distant locations such as India often are at the bottom of their priority scale. There are no more Americans serving as faculty members at CMC, so there are none to return home as volunteers for the Foundation.

Even so, CMC continues to benefit from the generosity of hundreds of committed church people and congregational mission committees. These faithful friends are now joined by a growing body of health care professionals who know about CMC because they studied there or have served as visiting lecturers or volunteers. Many American medical researchers have active partnerships with CMC faculty in numerous investigations. The Foundation's board of directors now reflects these changes in constituency. Physicians and nurses constitute three quarters of our directors. Thirteen out of sixteen directors grew up in India, and eight of those hold degrees from CMC.

I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with me or any member of the board as we explore new directions for our organization in coming months.

CMC Launches Cancer Screening for Vellore Area

CMC commemorated World Cancer Day on February 4, 2011 by launching a cancer screening program for women. Individuals between 30 and 60 years of age were provided free screening for breast and cervical cancers. The program was inaugurated with a cancer awareness exhibition in central Vellore featuring relevant displays from several departments of CMC. Literature was distributed in English and Tamil to highlight the importance of regular screening.

Shri C. Rajendran, Vellore Collector, lauded the new program. He noted it was only appropriate CMC, which was started by Dr. Ida Scudder whose work focused on women, should initiate such an endeavor for the women of Vellore.

Dr. Lakshmi Sheshadri, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, announced that cancer screening camps will be conducted twice a month at various locations in the town.

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.

College of Nursing Dean Visits USA

(continued from page 1)

On the drawing board is a new dormitory for undergraduate nursing students. At the present time they are commuting from the old dorm on the hospital campus to the new facility, about a kilometer away.

Dean Jayakaran explained that CMC's nursing college is emerging as a critical regional leadership facility for southern India and beyond. The World Health Organization has vested CMC's nursing faculty with responsibility for training 90,000 Indian nurses in HIV/AIDS treatment protocols. CMC will be accepting larger numbers of students and expecting them to stay to work for a longer period following their graduation in order to meet a serious shortage of personnel.

It was a pleasure to have Dean Rosaline with us, if only for a short time. We wish her well as she presides over this vital and dynamic institution.

Many nursing students come from humble backgrounds in rural villages. They have worked hard to excel in their school work. A \$600 annual scholarship can give them the opportunity of a lifetime to attend CMC. A degree or diploma from CMC opens the door to a lifetime career serving people. If you would like to help change a young person's life in such a positive way, please contact the Foundation to arrange a scholarship gift. (See the bottom of page 2 for contact info.)

Rajamma

Rajamma, a 36-year old wife and mother of two, works as a maid to support her family. Originally from Andhra Pradesh, she came to Vellore as a young bride, breaking tradition by marrying the man she loved, not one picked by her family. Unfortunately, her husband developed a drinking problem that ultimately left Rajamma the sole wage earner in the family. When Rajamma developed severely painful swelling in her lower abdomen, she found herself in crisis, unable to work.

Fortunately, Rajamma lived in an area of Vellore served by Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) volunteers trained by the Low Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU) at the Christian Medical College hospital. She was able to see one of the volunteers

for help. The volunteer, realizing Rajamma's problem definitely needed medical attention, sent her to the LCECU, where she could get that help for minimal cost. At the LCECU, she was diagnosed with a hernia and surgery was recommended. The operation was performed by the surgical unit at CMC's main hospital.

As it turned out, Rajamma's operation and nine days of hospital care ended up costing over Rs. 18,000, a sum considerably beyond the working mother's ability to pay. But CMC has systems in place to care for people like Rajamma to insure that they get the medical care they need, despite their financial situation. Rajamma was able to borrow Rs. 3,000 toward her bill. Additional funds, some Rs. 4,000, came from the Person to Person program at CMC which draws on donations from generous supporters around the world. With that partial payment, CMC was able to absorb the balance of the cost from its own contingency funds.

Rajamma is just one of the many beneficiaries of CMC's approach to health care for the poor. It starts with outreach programs in the community to identify people in need, to the Low Cost Effective Unit to treat poor and low income patients, to the various funds, like Person to Person, to help make that medical care possible.

Americans can contribute to the Person to Person program through the Vellore CMC Foundation website (www.vellorecmc.org).



Rajamma and her son, with one of the social workers at LCECU

Special thanks to Ann Witchalls at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India, for supplying the information and photo for this story.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In Gratitude



Vick and Dorothy Williams of San Antonio, Texas, have recently announced their commitment to endow a professorship in the Department of Anatomy at Christian Medical College, Vellore. The Williams hope to begin contributing to the endowment fund during their lifetimes, and the principal fund will be completed through a bequest. This gracious and valuable pledge grows out of two decades of interaction with and volunteer service to CMC.

With the assistance of the Presbyterian Church, the Williams were able to serve as volunteers in Vellore in 1993 and 1998. Vick taught in his area of specialization, Anatomy, and Dorothy helped to manage the international volunteer program.

In ensuing years, Vick maintained contact with CMC colleagues and continued to interact with them from time to time on questions of research and instruction. Dorothy organized numerous projects designed to benefit CMC and led six group trips to Vellore. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Foundation and served terms as Treasurer and Vice Chair.

The Williams' decision to endow a chair in the Anatomy Department at CMC is based on a concern for the future of basic science instruction at CMC and elsewhere. Fundamental disciplines such as Anatomy do not have the life-saving drama of specialties like cardiac surgery or oncology, but they are essential for the training of all medical personnel.

"It's the impact on our lives of being immersed within the CMC community that has evoked this response," the Williams say. "We thought we were going to give something to CMC. It's they who have given to us."

An Historic American Gift for India's Future

The enduring value of bequests that create permanent endowments is illustrated by the continued vitality of the Fieldhouse-Myers Oration at CMC. For more than half of the twentieth century, Jeannette Fieldhouse was a teacher in the Chicago area and a faithful member of Thorn Creek Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan. Upon her death, she left a bequest to her local congregation with instructions that a portion of it should benefit the Christian Medical College at Vellore. This gift was the result of a visit she had made to Vellore as part of a church delegation and the admiration she developed for Dr. Ruth Myers, a long-time leader in the Microbiology Department at CMC.

Ms Fieldhouse's brother, Irwin Fieldhouse, worked in 2002 with the Vellore CMC Foundation and Thorn Creek Church to create a permanent endowment, held at the Foundation, which forwards income each year to CMC. The money is used to fund the "Fieldhouse-Myers Oration," which is given by a visiting scholar from North America, lecturing on a topic in either virology or microbiology. Now, many years after the death of both Jeannette and Irwin, the Seventh Fieldhouse-Myers Oration was held in early 2011. The Orator was Dr. Joel Palefsky, MD from the University of California at San Francisco. He updated CMC faculty on an important dimension of Human Papilloma Viruses and their relationship to cervical cancer.

In this way, the caring concern and the philanthropic wisdom of an American family of the twentieth century is benefitting Indian medical education down through the decades.