

## CANADIAN VELLORE LUDHIANA COMMITTEE

23 Farmview Cres. Toronto ON M2H 1G5

Tel: 416-921-2301 Fax: 416-494-7304

E-Mail [vel.lud@sympatico.ca](mailto:vel.lud@sympatico.ca)

**November 2008**

### CMCH Ludhiana



A new mobile dental van was dedicated in August 2008. It will help to promote and provide oral rehabilitation services to people in Punjab and several neighbouring states.

The Department of Community Dentistry has been reaching out to people in remote areas of Northern India for over 20 years, providing basic treatments such as cleaning fillings and extractions as well as providing dentures to rural seniors. The new van, donated by the Friends of Ludhiana UK will be used for remote areas, and the old van will service the population close to Ludhiana.

### Childhood Eye Disorders

The Department of Ophthalmology conducted a workshop for general practitioners in the city. Topics included paediatric cataracts, squints and retinopathy of prematurity, all of which can lead to permanent blindness. A

retinal green laser has enabled CMC to start laser therapy for premature babies suffering from retinopathy. Corneal diseases account for a large percentage of childhood blindness caused by vitamin A deficiency. CMC's Low Vision Services provides devices to help children to best use their remaining vision, helping them to act independently in normal daily activities.

### Comprehensive Medical Camp

A free medical camp was organized at Christu Jyoti Hospital, Amloh where about 150 patients were examined by a team of doctors from the orthopaedic, ophthalmology and medical departments. This continues the practice of serving the poor and needy in remote areas with good quality health care.

### Prayer Requests

1. Give thanks that the Governing Board and Society meeting was held smoothly on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Praise God for all the leaders and representatives from both within and overseas for their leadership and support.
2. Praise God for all the individuals, families, churches and organizations who support CMC, Ludhiana through their prayers, encouragement, finances and various other resources that the Lord bless them as they continue to

support and promote the work of CMC Ludhiana.

3. Thank God for the initiatives and leadership of our Director Dr. Abraham G Thomas, and the entire administrative team.
4. Pray for support for the hospital management team, faculty members and the entire staff in fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to each one.
5. Pray for good health, strength and wisdom for all.
6. Uphold the patients who come for quality care and hope to receive holistic healing.
7. Remember all the new Doctors and staff who have joined our institution, pray that their time here may be enriched in relationships and love of our Lord.
8. Pray for all our alumni working in different mission hospitals both within and overseas. Pray that God may use them as healing agents for the sick and suffering throughout our land.
9. Pray for the Advent Season services such as the Christmas Campfire Carol Service, Communion Services and Ward Caroling that this celebration will reflect the true meaning of Christmas.
10. Remember the Nursing, Dental, Physiotherapy and Medical students as they prepare for their upcoming professional exams.

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## CMCH Vellore

### **New Medical Intensive Care Unit**

In October, Rev. Dr. Malhia Joshua dedicated the new Medical Intensive Care Unit and High Dependency Unit. The old unit has been refurbished and bed capacity increased. This will ensure better care for critically ill patients.

### **Geriatric Care Workshop**

The College of Nursing and the Department of Geriatric Care co-sponsored a one-day workshop on Healthy Ageing. About 60 nurses attended. It provided the opportunity to update their knowledge about the care of the elderly and those with chronic diseases. Nutritional needs, counseling, medical care, proper assessment of needs and measures to help make their lives more fulfilling were studied.

### **CMC Begins Mission Workshops**

CMC conducted its first Missions Workshop in the Senate Hall in the spring. About 50 delegates from various

mission bodies attended the workshop, which addressed the practical problems encountered by mission hospitals in India. Many of them are facing difficulty remaining viable and relevant. Urgent steps are needed to restore and strengthen them.

At the outset, the delegates were encouraged to voice their expectations from the workshop. They unanimously agreed that they were keen to get to know, interact, partner and network with one another. Is Christian Medical mission relevant? Are the existing mission hospitals relevant? How can we become relevant? These were some of the issues discussed.

According to Dr. Vinod Shah, co-ordinator for Distance Education in CMC, unless mission hospitals become the custodians of true caring they will become a forgotten entity. Faculty from CMC, Christian Institute of Management, Christian Medical Association of India, Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India and others led the sessions. The mission representatives appealed to CMC to look into the vital need for networking the Christian mission hospitals.

The Missions Office organized a follow up workshop in October on a variety of topics related to medical missions. About 150 delegates participated in both plenary sessions and small group discussions. A number of speakers presented different models of medical missions in the Mission Challenges sessions. Delegates were challenged to consider medical missions as a vocation.

## **Towards National Accreditation**

The Administrative Committee has authorized CMC to work towards accreditation by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Health Care Providers (NABH). The accreditation will be a tool to improve standards of care throughout the institution. A Quality Council meeting, attended by 65 Departmental Quality Managers selected a Quality Steering Committee to work on this endeavor.

## **Anti-Retroviral Therapy Centre**

A patient-friendly Anti-Retroviral Therapy Day Care Centre was opened in August. This is the result of a partnership between India's foremost cement manufacturer, ACC Ltd., CMC's Trust for Infectious Diseases and the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). The land and technical support is supplied by CMC. ACC Ltd. is funding the infrastructure and two professional chairs and NACO will give financial support through the World Bank for extending anti-retroviral therapy.

Approximately 3,000 patients will be treated in a year. Clinical services for infectious disease, free care and support will be provided. The clinic has a consultant, medical officer, nurse, pharmacist, lab technician, medical record officer and data entry operator. This is a first time collaboration of this kind in India.

Dear Friends:

In India, most health care must be paid for privately and it is expensive. Many private practitioners take financial advantage of vulnerable patients. Some government hospitals provide free treatment, but these tend to be understaffed and do not give good quality care. There are Christian hospitals such as Ludhiana and Vellore who provide free care for some poor patients and subsidize costs for many others.

Ludhiana is using several health priorities outlined in the UN Millenium Development Goals to maximize limited resources. They will focus on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS and malaria. Vellore is working towards the goal of devoting 30 per cent of their annual hospital income for free care.

I invite you to share in this caring ministry as much as you are able. Ludhiana has a Mission Fund to help the needy. Vellore has a Person to Person Program providing care for 4,222 poor patients last year.

I recently had the pleasure of discovering a band, *Aradhna*, meaning “Adoration” in Hindi. The band has recorded several albums of spiritual songs influenced by eastern and western music. With Aradhna’s cooperation, we are pleased to offer a copy of their latest album entitled *Amrit Vani*, or *Immortal Word* to those who contribute \$60 and more. More details about Aradhna can be found on the website: [www.aradhnamusic.com](http://www.aradhnamusic.com).

May God richly bless you as you continue to pray for and share in the mission of these two hospitals.

Sincerely,

Helen Flanagan  
Chair

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Please complete this form, cut and mail to:  
The Vellore-Ludhiana Committee, 23 Farmview Cres. TORONTO ON M2J 1G5  
Please make cheque to Vellore Ludhiana Committee.

Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used:  
As needed                      CMC Vellore                      CMC Ludhiana                      Divided equally  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_