

# Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada

*Ministering God's love through medical training & care at CMC Vellore & CMC Ludhiana since 1913*

## Committee News

Dear Friends & Supporters,

April 30<sup>th</sup> brought the Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Toronto, a time to look back over what we were able

to do in 2015, to look forward to what our short and long term future might hold and to hear from our special guest speaker, Dr. Thomas (Ponna) Thurairatnam about the vital role CMC Vellore & Ludhiana continue to play in providing health care in India, especially for the poor.



2015 saw the birth of three new projects and a continued building of our existing projects. Decisions were made to start a rehabilitation fund in Vellore as well as scholarships in both Vellore and Ludhiana for students in the Allied Health Sciences. Two of our nursing scholarships in Vellore received additional funding along with the Emergency Fund for needy patients. In Ludhiana, funds were added to the James Ashwin Memorial Scholarship in Physiology and the William & Zelma Virgin Scholarship in Medicine. The committee was advised that with the new government of India's economic policies, interest rates would likely fall. The additional funding was sent to protect against diminishing awards.



Looking to the future, Douglas Virgin (Chair of VLCC) spoke about the historical transition the CMC's made, beginning as missionary run institutions to fully developed colleges and hospitals ably run by Indian nationals. His challenge to those attending was to tap into the tremendous South Asian community in Canada to make a similar transition. The future for a strong Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada lies in having this community, who know and understand the value and importance of the CMC's, take up the cause, get involved and become the heart & soul of the committee. We heartily welcome all who are able and wish to contribute!



*"My work is for a King." Dame Edith Brown, founder of CMC Ludhiana*

**Who We Are:** Dr. Vinita Sundaram, Member, Director, Vice Chair:

Vinita has multiple historical connections with both CMC Vellore and Ludhiana. Her father trained in Vellore & two of her grand aunts in trained Ludhiana under the founder, Dr. Edith Brown.

As a child Vinita says she had already decided to become a doctor. When the time came, she was accepted into CMC Ludhiana completing both her MBBS and MD degrees. Then it was on to CMC Vellore for a fellowship in Haematology and bone marrow transplantation.

When she and her family first immigrated to Canada, they discovered they were living near our headquarters - we quickly welcomed her and her husband, Pradeep Henry, into the committee. They have since moved to Saskatoon. Vinita says, "I enjoy living on the prairies" and "I pray that the CMC legacy will continue to provide hope for those in need."

Even though distant, she and Pradeep are a vital part of the committee, communicating with us electronically. Their expertise, wisdom and input are highly valued, along with their understanding of all things Indian.

**Ludhiana News**Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada Scholarship in Allied Health Sciences

We are very pleased to announce a new project with CMC Ludhiana. All the laborious paper work has been done and signed and the initial endowment funds sent for the very first scholarship in Allied Health Sciences to be offered by CMC Ludhiana. Students in this field often come from families who cannot afford to send their children for this level of education. This scholarship will not only help students to graduate but, upon graduation, be very beneficial to the family because they will now have at least one member earning a steady wage – much better than subsistence!

William and Zelma Virgin Memorial Scholarship in Medicine

Miss Saumi Maria Baby is the recipient of this scholarship for 2016. She is following in her sister's footsteps who is currently an MBBS Intern in CMC Ludhiana. Of special note, she is exactly the type of student the Committee loves to support because she is sponsored by the Emmanuel Hospital Association of India. This association operate many mission hospitals strategically placed in the rural and more under privileged areas throughout India and are generally staffed with doctors and nurses who are graduates of CMC Ludhiana and Vellore. As an EHA sponsored student, this is where she will do her practical work and hopefully continue on after graduation.

Approval of Enrollment Increase

In April we received official notice from the Director of CMC Ludhiana, Dr. Abraham Thomas, that the government has approved an increase from accepting 50 MBBS students per academic year to 75. The College has been planning and working on this for many years so it is, indeed, joyful news to know that CMC Ludhiana will now begin to send out 25 more doctors per year with each graduating class!

Milestone in Haematology & Bone Marrow (Stem Cell) Transplants

A recent email from Dr. M. Joseph John informed us that the Department of Clinical Haematology Haemato-Oncology & Bone Marrow (Stem Cell) Transplantation completed their 100<sup>th</sup> transplant on April 28, 2016. This is truly a milestone for CMC Ludhiana demonstrating their leadership in advanced medical treatment in India!

## Vellore News

### The Development Office Emergency Fund

Once again, we were able to send a donation to this fund which subsidizes the cost of necessary medical care for patients who cannot afford it. Below are the stories of the three individuals who received care as a result. (all names have been changed to respect privacy)

#### Emmanuel:

is 5 years old with an elder sister. His Mom is a nursery school teacher



and his Dad is unemployed. The family live on a total of less than \$1,000 CAD. per year. Emmanuel needed a nasal glioma excised but the family could not afford it. The Fund granted a portion of our donation to pay for more than half the cost of his treatment, a cost of more than a full year of their family income.



#### Salome:

is age 27, a mother with 3 children. She first went to a local hospital after being bitten on the leg by a poisonous snake. On arrival at

CMCV, she already had cellulitis, acute kidney damage, muscle deterioration and was in critical condition. With 5 weeks of three kidney dialysis treatments/wk., antibiotics and ICU hospitalization, she returned home healthy again. The Fund covered about ½ the cost. The family are so happy to have Mom alive & back in the house! They gratefully expressed, "CMC is truly, the home of a healing God!"



#### Joshua:

is a 39 year old painter, his wife is a part time domestic helper. They have two young children and Joshua's mother lives with

them. Born with congenital heart disease, he was unaware of it until recently developing some symptoms. The local government hospital first investigated before Joshua and his wife came to Vellore. Here, an angiogram revealed an obstruction. Open surgery was successfully performed and Joshua has made a good recovery. Again, half the cost of treatment was borne by our donation to the Emergency Fund.

## Linnea Good

### A Singing Sojourn to the CMC's

*As a special project, funded by Linnea's supporters, Linnea, David Jonsson, and their three teens, Patrick, Nicole & Isaac, travelled to share their music ministry with staff and students of the CMC's this Nov/Dec. Here are some of her reflections.*

It is our second mission visit to CMC Vellore. Dr. Samuel Stephen, conductor of the Chapel Choir, has invited me to join him in co-conducting this year's Advent Carols and Lessons service, an India - Canada collaboration. The choir numbers close to 80 students, supportive faculty members, western exchange students and children. Singing opens the spirit to the Holy.



However, by week 3, it is clear that I am not well. I have been admitted to the hospital with dengue fever. I am utterly miserable - achy, nauseated, missing everything. But there is prayer - in rolling South Indian English. It falls like a waterfall over rocky hills, like a river onto the dry Palar Riverbed.

There is ... an unhurried pace, a "presence", the speed of arrival in a place where prayerful attention will be given to someone.

One nurse takes my temperature. She reminds me that God is with me. Another comes to change my IV drip bag. Her eye contact is complete as she listens to me, and shares confidently, "God is the Only Healer".





Rev Finney arrives to visit later in the afternoon and soon after him, Dr. Stephen. Both stand quiet and concerned, hurry-less. The entire choir is praying for me. Apparently they hold out some hope that I might possibly make it to conduct our Carols and Lessons service. I am buoyed by this. We close with "a word of prayer" and only when the door is almost closed behind him, can I see the speed of his footsteps kick up one notch, as Finney moves on to his next of many, many appointments.

Imagine the healing that is possible when every person who speaks to the patient expresses confidence that God is powerfully present. Not inane promises that everything will be just fine, but that the healing belongs to God who loves us. I believe that this is the CMC difference: the prayerful reliance on the Spirit. It results in a more humane kind of medical care, one that treats the whole person. It changes the life of the one offering the care as well as the one receiving it. One international seminar leader we met said to us: "I don't think you will find anything like the CMC anywhere else in the Christian world."

I was indeed able to make it to the service for which we had prepared for a year - albeit a little unsure on my feet on stage. It was a rich evening of sharing faith. Now, as I speak to Canadians about my travels, I joke about how I had prayed for a deeper experience of CMC on this trip and how I shall be more specific in my prayers in future! However, I would not trade these 5 days for anything – and thank God for a prayer answered.

## In Closing

As a follow up to the opening article about becoming involved in the future committee work, we would love you to contact us. Where can we put your skills to work for a great cause?! Our contact information is below.

### In Loving Memory:

This month, it was our honour to receive a gift in memory of the Repo children, Mark, Gary and Renée. We consider it a privilege to be entrusted with ministering to those in need in the memory of loved ones.

### Thanks:

All the things you have just read about were only possible because of you, our supporters and friends and your generous and compassionate hearts. Peoples' lives are being changed for the better because of your prayers and gifts. As a committee, we thank you and are honoured to have you as our partners in ministering, advancing medical education and providing medical care to those in need in Christian love!

## DONATION & CONTACT FORM

Please complete and mail to:

Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada, 722 Coxwell Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4C 3C2

Tel. 416-921-2301, email: [info@cmchospitals.ca](mailto:info@cmchospitals.ca), web: [www.cmchospitals.ca](http://www.cmchospitals.ca),

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/www.cmchospitals.ca](http://www.facebook.com/www.cmchospitals.ca)

**Please make cheque payable to: Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_. My preferred use:

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