

# Friends of Vellore, Victoria

A division of the Australian Board of Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital Limited, ABN 18 110 916 375

## FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

### CMC VELLORE DIRECTOR'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

My dear friends,

Anniversaries such as the New Year are yearly events that are similar to a spiral staircase. As you climb, you reach the same part of the circle but always higher than the one before. The clear view of the rungs below is what helps us with the rest of the climb to the top. Hardly anyone, nay no one, ever stops midway on a staircase.



So it is with life as well. We are standing at the threshold of another New Year which has dawned on us like a flower unfurling its petals in the warmth of the morning sun. At a vantage point, where we can look back with gratitude at the year that has slipped away, and with hope and anticipation at the year that lies ahead.

21st of December 2012 was predicted by the soothsayers and astrologers as the end of the world. That day, like many other predicted doomsdays in the past, has come and gone without a whimper. Another example of the folly of human wisdom and the infallibility of God's word as in Mathew 24: 36. We have the promise of a great future as the new year unfolds.

2012 has been another year of blessings for our institution. Just too many to enumerate. Let's take a few moments to reflect on our personal and institutional lives and see for ourselves how good God has been. I have had the privilege of meeting many who have received new life by the care given in CMC. I have met many staff whose lives have been transformed by CMC. I have met many patients who believe that there is a divine presence in the hospital environment for which 'pilgrimage value' they keep coming even after they are well. All this, amidst our constraints and shortcomings! So if our institution continues to find favour with so many patients from all over the world, we must thank God for being the wellspring of our resources. We must also thank God that we have been called to be a part of this great mission.

There needs to be convergence of four ingredients for success. Skill, Enthusiasm, Opportunity and God's blessings. The New Year unfolds with tremendous opportunities. Opportunity to respond to the changing needs of our country. Opportunity to cater to the burgeoning patient population across all ages from pediatric to geriatric, who have few better places to find quality health care. Opportunity to create new systems that will keep us relevant to society and enhance our vision. So if we can take a resolve to harness our skills, mix it with enthusiasm, seek out these new opportunities and flavour everything we do with God's anointing, WE WILL BE A BLESSING to many more in our country.

One more thought to share with you. If we are partners in the building of God's kingdom, its appropriate that I request you to be more forthcoming in your time and talent. I am aware that there is a lot of leadership potential amongst the young faculty. Please step on centre-stage for CMC needs your inputs in steering this institution to greater heights. Let's begin this year.

So, amidst all our difficulties, let us look to this New Year with hope and the assurance that God is with us and that we are 'co-workers with God'. I thank God for each one of you.

**Warm regards and prayers**  
**Sunil Chandy**

(Message from the CMC Vellore website)

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### SOME INFORMATION ABOUT CMC VELLORE WHICH WE ALL SUPPORT

#### DEDICATION OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

The Sewage Treatment Plant on the College of Nursing Campus, Kagithapattarai, was inaugurated by Ms. Jennifer McIntyre, the United States Consul General on December 20, 2012. The project has been funded by the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) programme with a matching grant from CMC, Vellore.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Project is a *Go Green Project* which emphasises the concept of Reduction, Recycling and Reuse of the available natural resources through efficient utilisation of local water resources, greening the campus and limiting the depletion of the ground water levels. The project assumes significance, given the poor monsoon that the country experienced, and the severe water scarcity that is a chronic problem in Vellore District.



#### CMC SHARING THE JOY OF THE SEASON WITH THE COMMUNITY

Christmas celebrations in the Central Prison and special Prison for Women were held on December 16, 2012. Professor Rosaline Jayakaran, Dean, College of Nursing was the Chief Guest on this occasion. The inmates of both the prisons enjoyed the Christmas lunch provided to them. In her Christmas message, Professor Rosaline emphasized the hope of a happy life in Christ for all people, irrespective of race, income and status in society. Professor Ravikumar, Deputy Dean, College of Nursing, also addressed the gathering. Children from educational institutions in Vellore, including Vidyalayam, gave a much appreciated cultural programme. The Christmas gift to Central Prison was a fax machine. This celebration was made possible by the efforts of many - prison officials, volunteers, cooks and school children. The Co-ordinator and Treasurer of Vellore Prison Ministry, Professor S. Gunasekaran Vaz, (VIT University) and Professor I. Jayapandiraj (Voorhees College) respectively thank all the staff and students of CMC for their generous contribution and help.



(Both stories from the CMC Vellore Newsline)

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

A warm welcome to all Victorian Friends of Vellore and, I hope you all had a Christ filled Christmas.

The 24 December issue of the CMC Newslite, Rev. Robin Phipon Lepcha, Head of Chaplaincy, had a 'Christmas Message' depicting a thank you to Joseph. Rev. Lepcha believes that, '*Joseph deserves our attention, appreciation, and gratitude*'

- *Joseph was a **man of faith** – His faith in God is recognized and he was called a righteous man.*
- *He was a **man of dreams**. He understood the message in the dreams, and worked on his dreams even though he had to make difficult decisions.*
- *He was a **man of obedience**. He obeyed the leading of Yahweh, the Lord God and did everything he was asked to do, without expecting the reward.*
- *He was a **faithful citizen** to obey the Government order of the day. He travelled to Bethlehem and Egypt, and in doing that he fulfilled the prophecies foretold.*
- *He was a **faithful husband** to give due respect to his wife Mary, and to family life. He was a loving, caring and understanding husband.*
- *As a participant, in realizing the Word of God being fulfilled, he received the embodiment of the invisible God.*
- *He was a person who **welcomed visitors** and provided hospitality to them.*
- *He was a **faithful earthly father**, 'protector', 'provider and teacher' in raising the 'young' Saviour of the world.*

I don't know about you, but I look eagerly to the Christmas message in my church on Christmas day; to hear how the story of Jesus' birth will be shared. Each year a different perspective has been considered and, I cannot but wonder how I would present this story. Consequently, I was delighted with Rev. Lepcha's focus on Joseph the person who showed such character in the face of such incredible circumstances.

During the latter part of December and early January, the news brought to us the 'plight of women in India'. I cannot help but reflect on Sunny Philip's work involving the 'healing of women in India'.

Sunny needs our support in the work he is doing for our Lord. He is very aware of the plight of women in India and is doing something about it. Not too different from the above story of Joseph, depicted as a man of faith, dreams and other traits including faithful earthly father. Faithful earthly father is a good depiction of Sunny and his project to those women who suffer from abuse in India.

May our dear Lord bless you all as we continue to support those in need in India.

Yours in His love,  
Liz Guiver, President FOVV

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## A VERY PERTINANT TALK BY SUNNY PHILIP AT OUR RECENT AGM

It was reprinted in full in our last Newsletter and outlined in some detail the **Why Transform 4Life** project. It described the very adverse impacts of abuse of woman in India with comment including "Why am I taking the example of rape and sexual abuse? Because unlike most other forms of abuse, its impact on the victim is at least three fold in India."

In recent weeks the gang rape of a woman on a bus in India, while reflecting the content of Sunny's message, has jolted many Indians and may, at last, become the catalyst for positive change. Pray for change in this area.

## SUNNY PHILIP ON THE SICK LIST

Sunny's daughter Sara advised that Sunny had successful bypass surgery in December and is recovering well. Pray for him and his work for our Lord.

## A GOOD STORY FROM GLENDA CRESWICK BY WAY OF DAVID PRICE

David advises that he met Glenda, who attended our AGM, in Mornington in December. She was just back from India where she has been with Mukta. Glenda is keenly involved in the work of the International Leprosy Mission and was their International Projects Coordinator until 2 years ago. She is sister to the legendary Dr Trevor Smith who, in 2010, was awarded, together with his wife Heather, an Order of Australia for his ongoing work over 40 years at the TLM McKean Centre in Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand.

Glenda told David of the events and miracles for which she praised God, and acknowledged the influence and support from our friends at Vellore. She is of the opinion that the Vellore story and a related example of how God's grace and the specialist skills of a Vellore Professor have come together through the faithful and persistent advocacy, and christian care of an agent here in Melbourne, in Mornington actually, is astonishing. David sees this as good news of the first order and that it reveals a glimpse of the amazing spectrum of service Vellore provides year after year.

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## Plan to join us on Saturday 4 May, 2013 for the FOVV Annual Fundraising Dinner

**Details coming shortly**

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### FOVV INFORMATION MATERIAL:

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