

May 2016

# Vellore News

CMCH Vellore Web site:  
Australian FOV web site:  
SA FOV email:

<http://www.cmch-vellore.edu>  
<http://www.australianfov.net.au>  
[safriendsofvellore@gmail.com](mailto:safriendsofvellore@gmail.com)

## Vellore Presentations Evening

7pm, Fri 20th May, 2016  
Rosefield Uniting Church  
2 Carlton St, Highgate



### Speakers:

**Dr Yacob Myla,**  
*Associate surgeon in General Surgery Unit 3 in Vellore.*

**Dr Jolly Myla**  
*Associate physician in the paediatric intensive care unit in Vellore*

They will be talking about their experience in Vellore and their brief experience in Adelaide.

**Dr Santosh Poonnoose**  
*Alumni from CMC Vellore, currently working in Neurosurgery at Flinders Medical Centre.*

Dr Poonnoose will be talking about his work in Adelaide and some reflections on his time here.

These presentations are always informative and fascinating - so if you have not attended in the past, why not make it this time? Supper will follow the talks. All Welcome!

Vellore  
Presentations  
Evening

From the  
Director of  
CMC Vellore

New CMC  
DVD

Broadwell  
Christian  
Hospital,  
Fatehpur

## SA FOV Annual Dinner Sat 27th Aug, 2016



### Book this date now!

Put it in your diary, on your calendar, or in your smartphone to keep this date free.

Invite along some family, friends, work colleagues for a wonderful Indian experience and to support the incredible work of CMCH Vellore. Additional details soon.

### Upcoming Events At A Glance

7pm Fri, 20th May 2016  
Vellore Presentations Evening  
Rosefield Uniting Church

Sat, 27th Aug 2016  
SA FOV Annual Dinner  
Fogolar Furlan, Felixstow

A reminder that if you wish to receive this newsletter by email and no longer require the paper form, please email: [safriendsofvellore@gmail.com](mailto:safriendsofvellore@gmail.com)

Remember to let us know if you change your email address.

### South Australian Friends of Vellore Committee

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## From the Director of CMC, Vellore, Dr Sunil Chandy

In September 2015 I completed three years as Director and I am more than midway through my term. I am immensely grateful to God for His manifold blessings to the institution which I am privileged to lead. I have 5 priorities for CMC:

**Building New Capacity:** We have been choked for space for the last ten years. Despite difficulties, this year we have made significant progress in the new campuses at Chittoor and Kannigapuram and within existing facilities. We are increasing our capacity to cater to a larger number of poor people who are our prime focus group.

**Bettering Existing Facilities:** We have improved our wards, clinics, waiting spaces and some amenities. The Main Hospital remains the nucleus of our institution and the centre point of our academic, clinical and teaching activities, and we have left no stone unturned to upgrade facilities. This work will continue unabated.

**Building Human Resource:** People are our most important asset. We are now 9000 strong with 1500 medical and 2500 nursing personnel. This is underpowered for the workload we handle, but medical manpower is a scarce resource the world over. So we have looked at new ways of recruiting, developing and keeping the people we need, and tangible results will follow.

**Boosting Mission Network:** A more empowered Mission Directorate assisted by a full time Mission Consultant and a Mission Co-ordinator, has been engaging with mission hospitals nationwide to seek ways to help them. We are building capacity through governance and clinical workshops and distance education courses.

**Broadening CMC's footprint:** CMC's reach has gone beyond the borders of Vellore. Our national presence has increased in areas of policy and programmes. International calls for greater involvement in research, education and service have resulted in new partnerships. Our faculty are drawn into a variety of community and clinical programmes worldwide. There is increasing interest in our educational and practice model. Friends of Vellore worldwide and the Alumni have increased their active engagement with CMC. We are a global institution with a larger mandate of "Go out into the world".

All this has happened because our faculty and staff have worked very hard and stayed committed to CMC's goal. More will come with your continuing prayers and presence. Thank you Friends for being such ardent ambassadors of CMC. Thank you for prodding us on to newer frontiers. Thank you for your resourcefulness. Remember you are part of us, however far you may be in distance and however long you may be in time. Please keep CMC Vellore in your prayers.



*Dr. Sunil Chandy in the busy Accident & Emergency*

### "Our Stories, Our CMC" - New DVD Launched

Abdul and Aisha (names changed) were over the moon when their twin babies were born safely in the Ida Scudder Centenary Centre, CMC Vellore. Our team was there to capture and share their moment of joy. They are featured in the film "*The Patient Experience*" — part of our new set of videos that tell some of the unique stories of CMC. Other films take you through the history of the hospital and college through to our future plans.



The videos were produced by Tim Nicholls and the same professional team that created the stunning film "*Home of a Healing God*".

"*Our Stories, Our CMC*" is a video package that introduces just some of the people and services that places the Christian Medical College, Vellore, at the forefront of medical care in India. There are ten programmes on this disc — some provide an overall view while others focus on individual stories.

In "*Our History*" you will hear how Dr Ida Scudder was called to start her simple clinic. Then see how CMC has grown into a hospital that meets the needs of hundreds of thousands of patients each year.

There are inspirational stories of research and stories of communities whose lives have been touched by CMC's unique way of serving the sick and needy. CMC Director, Dr Sunil Chandy, outlines his Vision for the Future and makes a heartfelt call to ensure that the hospital is able to meet these demands. '*We believe that everything we do, whether it is healthcare, patient care, service, or research is rooted in the values that the Christian Faith teaches us.*' Dr Sunil Chandy, CMC Director.

This journey of faith needs your prayers and gifts to continue transforming lives through excellence in healthcare, education and research. The programmes are available on YouTube for you to watch. If you wish to obtain a free DVD copy please email [safriendsofvellore@gmail.com](mailto:safriendsofvellore@gmail.com) with your details and we will be happy to send you the DVD.



## Beacon of Light in the Ganga-Yamuna Valley Broadwell Christian Hospital, Fatehpur

### About Fatehpur

Fatehpur is a district that lies between the 3 major cities – Lucknow to its north (120 km), Kanpur to its west (90 km) and Allahabad to its east (120 km) and between the 2 most holy rivers of India – the Ganga and the Yamuna. This district in the south Central part of the state of Uttar Pradesh is classified among the worst 100 districts in the country of India and is reputed for its severe corruption, extreme caste system, near absence of law and order, exploitation of the poor and high levels of female infanticide. The people in Fatehpur are generally hostile and until a few years back used to carry guns and rifles with them due to severe disintegration of trust between people following centuries of invasions and survival of the fittest. Many of the areas have no access to good drinking water, electricity, medical facilities and any government machinery. Fatehpur district happens to be one of the most drought affected districts of the country in 2015. This has forced poor farmers to either commit suicide or migrate to other areas in search of work.



### History of Broadwell Christian Hospital, Fatehpur

Broadwell Christian Hospital was started in the year 1909 with the help of a donation from Mr. Samuel Broadwell, by 2 Canadian missionary doctors, Dr. Jemina McKenzie and Dr. Mary McKenzie under the banner of Women's Union Missionary Society (WUMS). In 1967, when the missionaries were asked to leave the country, BCH had no other option but to close down for about 7 years. It was during this time that Emmanuel Hospital Association was formed in order to take up some of the many hospitals that had closed down due to the efflux of the missionaries. BCH, Fatehpur was taken up by Emmanuel Hospital Association under the leadership of Dr. B.W.Lyall, a retired civil surgeon from Jhansi in 1973. But the untimely death of Dr. Lyall in 1980 put the hospital into some of its worst crisis years for the next 2 decades. The closure of the hospital was being contemplated several times over the next 25 years but it was God's grace alone that sustained this hospital through these crisis years. In the year 2005, under the leadership of Dr. Juni Chungath and Mrs. Helen Paul, the hospital's reputation started a turnaround from one that was in its death bed to one that had still some prospects to move forward.

### Present situation

In 2008, at a time when the hospital was without doctors for about 8 months and EHA was contemplating again on closing down the hospital, myself, Dr. Sujith Varghese Thomas and my wife, Dr. Sunitha Varghese, both graduates and postgraduates from Christian Medical College, Vellore, felt God's leading to come to Fatehpur. At that time, I was working as a Consultant Surgeon in the Colorectal Surgery department in CMC while Sunitha was an MD in Community Medicine and both of us had committed our lives to work in needy areas of North India during our MBBS student days in CMC. We reached Fatehpur in May 2008 with our 3 year old daughter Soumya.



I was asked to take up the post of Senior Administrative Officer, Medical Superintendent and Consultant Surgeon in the hospital while Sunitha took up the position and responsibility of the Community Project Director and Consultant Obstetrician. Most of the buildings were in need of repair and the hospital had very few equipments for giving good quality care. The hospital was devoid of many licenses mainly because we were not willing to pay a bribe to the authorities as the usual custom was. Over the next 2 years, in a bizarre sequence of events including suspension and removal of some of the difficult authorities, all the licenses that were due and the payments that were due from the government were released without having to pay any money as bribe or commission. It is a tribute to God's faithfulness in the sustenance of this hospital.

By August 2009, we were blessed with a baby boy (Saral). We had the privilege and joy of conducting that delivery. The hostile behaviour of the people, the people's inability to trust and the constant struggle with corruption and evil made our journey progressively difficult and frustrating but

through it God was moulding us and breaking us to learn to love those we could not love. Over the next few years, God provided us with one or two junior doctors to help us. 2011 was a year of several personal struggles. These struggles made us contemplate on leaving Fatehpur many times but there was a still small voice that kept inspiring the vision that God had shown for Fatehpur and this guided us to stay on and fulfil what God had entrusted into our hands.

Even though, we were only 3 or 4 doctors, we were having around 160 to 200 deliveries per month, about 45,000 patients per year at the outpatient, about 4000 patients per year as inpatients and about 600 to 700 major operations per year. The task looked impossible but today when we look back we do not know how we managed it. Our vision was mainly for the poor and in order to make it poor friendly, patients were charged only Rs 50 for their first visit and for all subsequent visits had to pay only Rs 10/ to see the doctor.

Our Community health department led by Sunitha, worked initially in the Teliyani block in building the capacity of the people and empowering the people to manage the health of their own villages. People were taught how to apply for what they were eligible for and how to plan for their villages. Over the next 3 years, these villages changed dramatically and the people took ownership of the change. It was not like the people from the mission hospital did it but rather "the people from the mission hospital held our hands, taught us to walk and then we did it ourselves". This brought about sustainable change in lives of individuals and communities.

Our greatest satisfaction in the midst of all trials and difficulties is seeing lives change. Our vision is "Fellowship for transformation through caring" and our hope is that we can reach out to this district of Fatehpur and several other districts surrounding us with the love of Christ and thereby see transformation in lives of individuals and communities.

### Present phase of rebuilding

It has been 8 years since we have been at Fatehpur. We have seen amazing ways in which God has led. Over the last 8 years, our primary focus in the medical care has been as a general practice set up with an emphasis on maternal health and child care. On a general practice mode, the hospital has been able to provide good care and services. This present phase of planning is focussed on building few needed speciality departments. The departments that we are focussing on other than obstetrics and gynaecology and paediatrics are general surgery, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, general medicine, anaesthesiology, ENT and critical care. This phase of planning requires us to plan both in terms of required infrastructure for the functioning of the above departments as well as personnel required for each. For the same, it is time that we form a team of doctors who can take this vision forward. As an answer to that prayer, we praise God for bringing Dr. Emil Genistopher, an orthopaedic surgeon from CMC, Vellore and his wife Dr. Nanma Livingstone, a psychiatrist to join our team in August 2015. Our present operation theatre is not safe to conduct orthopaedic cases and with the recent standards that have been pronounced by the Clinical Establishment Act, we have realised that the standards of orthopaedic theatre are quite high. With these in mind and also the need for the intensive care unit and accident and emergency unit, we started a new phase of constructions after taking the help of EMI2 (Engineering Ministries International) for designing purposes. The construction work was started off with money that had been saved over the past several years and also from generous contributions from several of our friends.



Even though the requirements are huge, I go forward purely on the basis of knowing that God will open the doors at the right time as we press forward to do His work in this land. If you are convinced that our work is genuine and you would want to join along with us in this mission, with what God has given you, please do write to me at the email below and I shall answer to your further queries regarding our work as well as bank transfer details. If you are Indian citizens, our hospital has the 80-G license by which your donation will have tax benefits. For those who are donating from abroad, the hospital has an FCRA registration by which we are eligible to receive foreign contributions and is a registered charitable organisation and therefore depending on the policies of the country in which you are residing, your donation is also eligible for tax benefits.

Fatehpur is an area of need and very devoid of quality, affordable, compassionate health care. Broadwell Christian Hospital has been providing this for a century in spite of many limitations. It has faced ups and downs and several near closures. It

is God's grace that has sustained this hospital all these years. There is a need for holistic care and change in this land where people have always learnt that they cannot trust anyone. As our small team in Broadwell Christian Hospital moves forward to accomplish the God-given vision of being a fellowship for transformation through caring, it is an invitation to each of you who read this, to join in this mission to reach out to the suffering and needy in a hostile, yet corruption-filled area at the heart of India.

For any contact information:

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## Heartbreak and Hope in the Children's Cancer Ward

Watching over your son going through the various stages of childhood is a joyful experience but for Elamaran's\* mother it was short lived, as at 8 years she noticed him developing swollen tummy and legs. Then began a long journey of pain, stress and tears as he battled lymphoblastic lymphoma. The biggest hurdle the family faced was finance: where would the money come from on a coolie's meagre wages? The CMC team rallied round and hunted for funds from all sources — internal and outside. Success enabled him to have intensive chemotherapy and antibiotics when infection came to call. Against the odds he successfully moved on to the maintenance phase, but then he was admitted again with excruciating pain: the cancer was back. The family opted for palliative treatment, but wanted him to spend his last days in CMC. When he finally passed away, his parents could hardly tear themselves away from the hospital, it had become a second home. We were glad that he had received the very best in palliative and supportive care. The Child Health team raised the money to pay for his last rites.

Sabia\* is a bright, intelligent girl from a remote village in Andhra Pradesh, dreaming of becoming an IAS officer. Tragedy struck when her father died suddenly but this only made her mother more determined to give her daughters the best start in life. Five years later Sabia developed high fever and was diagnosed with leukaemia. Once upon a time these words would have been her death knell, but through the sheer commitment of the family and the team, and with funds raised from various sources including Sabia's school and the Development Office Emergency Fund, she won through. On the way she struggled with endless biopsies and admissions, and suffered multiple setbacks, infections and a bleed in her brain which left her paralysed for a time.



*Loving care for a sick child in CMC*

Her mother was a constant pillar of support. We were delighted that Sabia scored 95% at 12th standard and joined college to study her favourite subject, mathematics. She continues to pursue her ambition of writing the Civil Service entrance examinations. We wish her well and salute both Sabia and her mother.

(\*Names have been changed).

Tax deductible donations to CMCH can be made online at:

<http://australianfov.net.au/donations/>

Simply and easily make a donation to the work of the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore.

Dr. Ian Roberts-Thomson  
8 William St  
Hawthorn, SA, 5062

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