

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

VELLORE PRESENTATIONS EVENING

7:00pm, Fri 10th May, 2019
Rosefield Uniting Church
2 Carlton St, Highgate

Speakers:

Dr Juliana Josephine Joel
Intensivist from Vellore

Adil Isaac and Rohan Jacob
Medical students from Adelaide University who have recently visited Vellore

Supper will be provided afterwards where you can chat with the speakers and each other in an informal and relaxed setting.



April 2019

Vellore Clinical
Presentations
Evening

Initial SA FOV
Dinner 2019
details

The Scudders
in India

Initial SA FOV Annual Dinner Details

The John DiFede Centre will again play host to this year's annual dinner.

Sat 14th Sep, 2019

John DiFede Centre
10 Freebairn Street, Windsor Gardens, SA 5087

More information to follow, but keep that night free
and start inviting family and friends!

Upcoming Events At A Glance

7pm, Fri 10th May, 2019

Clinical Presentations Evening
Rosefield Uniting Church

Sat 14th Sep, 2019

SA FOV Annual Dinner
John DiFede Centre
Windsor Gardens

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

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.

South Australian Friends of Vellore Committee

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The Scudders in India

One Step at a Time: The Birth of the Christian Medical College Vellore

The roots of the medical school in Vellore can be traced back a hundred years to a young doctor who abandoned a successful clinical practice in New York to become a missionary.

The words of the tract pierced his heart like a dagger, and he had no rest until he had offered his services to the Foreign Mission Board.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions accepted John Scudder as a missionary, and on 8 June 1819, he sailed from Boston harbor with his wife Harriet and baby daughter Maria. Seas and rivers have been the highways for much of human history, transporting people, trade and ideas. The apostles Peter and Paul travelled westward to the lands around the Mediterranean. Early Christians and the successors of Thomas voyaged across the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea and India's western coast. The Suez Canal was fifty years from connecting the Red Sea with the Mediterranean, and so the Scudders crossed the Atlantic Ocean and sailed around the treacherous Cape of Good Hope. Once safely in the Indian Ocean, they sailed east. After three months they reached the port city of Calcutta, the capital of the East India Company's territories in India. A few days after disembarking, the Scudders' cherished two-year-old daughter died. It was a loss that would make most parents question the wisdom of their radical decision and their faith in the ways of God. But John Scudder wrote to his mother:

October 1819, Calcutta

Oh, my dear mother, how shall I take up my pen to mark upon paper the dark shadow of death! My dear little babe is no more. She has left us forever. She was attacked with dysentery on the 22nd of October, and after three days of suffering, passed into eternity. This is a heart-rending trial; but we can say, and we do say, the will of the Lord be done. We do not wish her back here in this poor wretched world. My dear Harriet bears it remarkably well. Oh, my mother, had she, the dearest object of my affections, been called away, how dark and disconsolate would I have been! Pray much for us; we need divine support more than you are aware.

The Scudders sailed on to Ceylon. Two more children died soon after birth.

When Harriet Scudder agreed to support her husband in this journey she was aware that she might never return to America or see her parents again.... this young woman in her twenties was able to find quietness of heart, gratitude to God and meaning in the future:

November 1821

"I do indeed feel grateful to our God for giving you, my mother, a quiet mind concerning us. Although our Father's hand has been heavy upon us, we must not, and we will not be unmindful of his mercies. He has preserved our lives. He has furnished us with all that has been needful for our comfort. He has placed us in the midst of kind and affectionate friends, who share in our joys and sorrows, and, I trust, has given us some fervent desire to see souls brought into his kingdom."

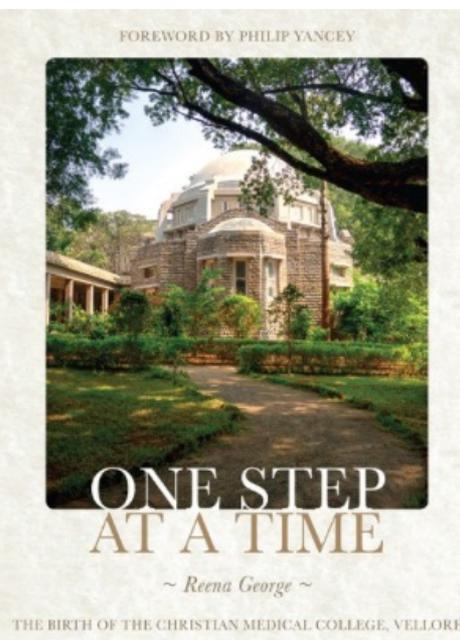
In the years that followed, the Scudders went on to have eight sons and two daughters who survived into adulthood.

The longest and the hardest separations were when the five eldest children travelled to the United States on their own to complete their studies. Henry and William, the two eldest sons, left in 1832, aged eleven and ten. Great was the trial when Mrs. Scudder kissed a mother's farewell, with gushing tears

and a breaking heart, as she placed them under the care of the ship's master, who promised to paternize them on the voyage.

They did not see their parents again until they were adults, in 1842. Through letters and prayers, John and Harriet Scudder tried to pass on their vision and values to the next generation.

John Scudder was driven to reach as many people as possible during the thirty-six years he worked in Ceylon and India. When a difficult choice had to be made, duty nearly always took precedence over family. Yet, his most enduring legacy was not schools, dispensaries, preaching tours, or tracts, but his sons who went on to establish the Arcot Mission near Vellore. As John and Harriet Scudder mourned the deaths of their first three children, they could not have foreseen that forty of their descendants would together provide a thousand years of service to India.



The journey of the Scudders was the primary thread that led to the birth of the medical school in 1918....

"The ideas which your child receives from you, with regard to the relative importance to be attached to different things, will generally retain their influence even to its death, shaping and modifying its course at every step of its existence." John Scudder 1844

Excerpts from: *One Step at a Time: The Birth of the Christian Medical College Vellore*, Reena George, Roli Press 2018
Unfortunately this book appears to be difficult to source from Australia.

Quotes from:

Waterbury JB. Memoir of the Rev. John Scudder M.D.: 36 Years Missionary in India. New York: Harper and Brothers; 1870.
Scudder J. An Appeal to Christian Mothers. New York: The American Tract Society; 1844.

More information on the Scudder missionary history can be found here: <http://scudder.org>

International Women's Day Celebrations at CMC

At the Bagayam Campus:

CMC celebrated International Women's Day for the very first time this year, with an evening to remember the outstanding women pioneers of the institution. The event, organised on the 11th of March, three days after the official day, saw the active participation of the students from the Medical, Nursing and Allied Health streams, as well as the faculty from various departments. Rev. Dr. Arul Dhas, Chaplain offered the opening prayer and Mr. Richard Samuel organiser of the event welcomed the gathering.



The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr. Annamma Abraham, retired faculty and psychologist and the other eminent speakers invited were Dr. Anna B. Pulimood, Principal and Dr. Vathsala Sadan, Dean of the College of Nursing. Dr. Anna Pulimood pointed out CMC's distinction as an institution where women have always been awarded equal pay and equal opportunities for growth. She also spoke with obvious pride of the yesteryear women leaders - almost all of them from a mission background - who gave their all to the institution. She recounted, among others, the moving story of Dr. Gwenda Lewis, who contracted polio by giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a polio patient who had arrested in theatre. Despite this experience that would have proved to be a death sen-

tence for the career of many a medical practitioner, Dr. Lewis went abroad for rehabilitation and came back to serve the poor here.

Dr. Vathsala Sadan spoke about this year's theme for Women's Day and the significance of the colour purple for the day. She recalled the outstanding leaders in nursing like Vera Pitman, Florence Taylor, Delia Houghton, Pauline King and Aleyamma Kuruvilla and their invaluable contributions to the institution, which for many years, had focused its training efforts solely on nursing.

At the Jawadhi Hills by the Community Health Department:

On 7th and 15th March 2019, World Women's Day was celebrated at Chinnaveerapat village and Amattankollai village in Jawadhi Hills. This was initiated by the Social Workers of Community Health Department along with the Nurses and Occupational Therapist. The programme started with a talk on the theme, 'Balance for better empowerment'. This was followed by a quiz conducted to assess the awareness of the community regarding rights, government schemes, health issues and health facilities.

The members in the community had been asked to prepare various food items and a Rangoli for a competition. Close to one hundred and fifty participants including children were present for the program in each village. The enthusiastic response from the community was encouraging and included representation from three women's self-help groups.



Another aspect of the programme was the distribution and planting of one hundred and five tree saplings which were given to the women participants who showed an interest. This was done to improve their awareness and participation in environmental issues, particularly reforestation.

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

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$..... to the work of the Christian Medical College and Hospital at Vellore, India.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Phone No.....

(Donations are tax-deductible if made to the Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital Support Fund)