

THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, ODDANCHATRAM

NEWS LETTER, DECEMBER 2017



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Oddanchatram!

We Praise God that we can reach you through this newsletter as we share with you what God has been doing in our midst over the past one year. We request your continued prayers and support. We stand amazed to see how God has grown this institution which started in 1955 with very little and with few people to its present size. Some of you have been a part of this story at some stage of your life and we thank God for this. The Season of Christmas brings peace and hope to us because the Lord Jesus came into this world and into our lives. "And they will call Him *Immanuel*— which means *God with us*".

The Fellowship:

We remember our founding members for their faith, perseverance, foresight and courage. We praise God for all our senior members of the Fellowship who continue to guide us and show us the way by their life and example. We request your prayers for the good health of Drs. Kuruvilla Varkey and Susan Kuruvilla, Drs.P.K.David and Elizabeth David, Drs.K.O.John and Mary John. Please pray for the ministries of the fellowship members through the Life Revision Seminars, Marriage Enrichment Seminars, Inner Healing Meetings, Counselling programmes, Village Outreach Ministries and supporting other mission hospitals and organisations like EMFI, MUT etc.,

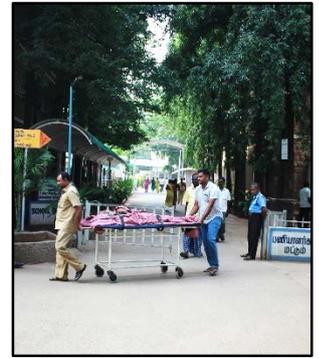
Praise God for adding two more members to the Fellowship this year making us twenty five members in all. Drs.John Jacob and Sherin John joined as members this year. Dr.Annie Jacob Continues to be bed ridden and her second son Dr.Anish and family live with her. Drs.Leni and Celin are on leave for their children's education. Dr.Leni visits the hospital once every month to conduct Nephrology Clinics. Drs.Cijoy and Ancy are also on leave, Dr.Ancy has finished her MS in Ophthalmology and Dr.Cijoy is presently doing a Fellowship Programme in Endocrinology at C.M.C. Vellore.



The annual meeting of the Fellowship was held from 16th to 18th June. The theme for the annual meeting was "*Understanding the Times*" and we are thankful to our advisers Rev.John Wesley and Mrs.Mercy Wesley, Dr.Johny Oommen and Mrs.Mercy John and Dr.George M Chandy. Please continue to pray for the Fellowship as we need to be constantly reminded of the sacrifices and simplicity of the founders and that God's plan and purposes for it will be fulfilled in the coming years.

The Hospital:

Bed strength has remained at 300, though many renovations have been done and facilities increased. The challenge is to maintain simplicity, usefulness and informality along with discipline and quality. Yet another challenge is to give affordable, ethical care to patients in this age of commercialism and litigations. Hospital continues to be busy with an average of 1300 out patients per day. We have now 407 permanent staff in the hospital.



We record our deep appreciation to all our staff for their sincerity, loyalty and hard work. Dr.Thomas Philip, Dr.Sleeby Thomas and Miss.Ushakumari (Warden) officially retired from service after many years of sincere work. All of them continue to serve the institution in their respective areas of responsibilities. We record our gratitude and deep appreciation to them. This year six staff members completed 25 years of CFH service. We Praise God that Dr.Kuruvilla Varkey received the Mategaonkar award of the C.M.A.I., Dr.John Jacob received the Young Missionary Award of the C.M.A.I., and Dr.Latha Paul received the meritorious alumnus award from C.M.C. Vellore for 25 years of service in mission hospital. We praise God for the NABH entry level accreditation that the hospital received in May 2017. We thank and congratulate our hospital NABH team and all the staff members who worked hard and tirelessly for achieving this.

New Building and Facilities:



1. New Office building on the second floor inaugurated in January 2017
2. New Building with spaces for accommodation, meeting and dining hall in Pachalur Ashram inaugurated in June 2017.
3. OPDs shifted to first floor – Paediatrics, Dermatology, Family Medicine and Dr.Kuruvilla Varkey's O.P.
4. New Diabetic OPD facilities built near 47 OPD.

Praise God for

1. The abundant rains received and for the 24 hour water supply we have now.
2. The various spiritual programmes held during the year:- Institute of Medical Mission (I.M.M.), LRS, Saline Meetings, Bible Seminars, marriage enrichment programmes, Village gospel outreaches and Sunday School ministries etc.
3. Dr.George Philip and Dr.Mary Philip's visit to Kampala, Uganda to conduct classes for Masters of Family Medicine programme arranged by ICMDA and CMC Vellore.
4. Many doctors, para medical staff and nurses deputed to other mission hospitals.
5. Batches of visitors from various church groups and medical students who visited us.
6. The Silver Jubilee Alumni Reunion of the DNB Family Medicine Training Programme in CFH- conducted from 3rd to 5th of November 2017.



Pray for

1. A revival in the spiritual life of our Staff and students
2. The various Bible study groups in the campus and that the word of God will cleanse, encourage and strengthen us.
3. The healing of Miss.Reena, daughter of our record room Staff Mrs.Vellaiyammal, who is undergoing treatment for T cell leukemia in C.M.C., Vellore.
4. The upcoming Christmas season- its preparation and celebration, that we may not miss our Saviour in His time of coming to us.
5. Dr.Paul Emmanuel and Dr.Latha Paul who have gone to help out in Pioneer Christian Hospital at Impfondo, Republic of Congo.
6. God's guidance and grace as we are planning to start B.Sc Nursing Course and other B.Sc courses in allied health science streams.

Training Programmes:

The following are the present training programmes of the hospital:

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|------------------------------------------|-----|--------|
| a) General Nursing and Midwifery Course | ... | 3 Yrs. |
| b) Diploma in Laboratory Technology | ... | 2 Yrs. |
| c) Diploma in Medical Records Technology | ... | 2 Yrs. |
| d) Diploma in Radio Diagnosis Technology | ... | 2 Yrs. |

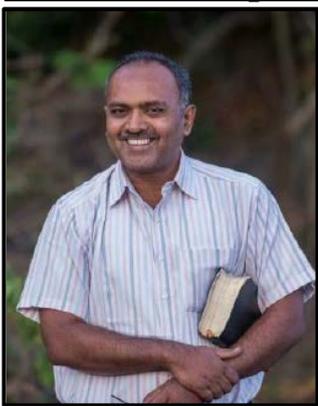
(The above courses are accredited by the CMAI)



PG Courses for doctors:

Our hospital is recognized by the National Board to train doctors in the disciplines of Family Medicine and General Medicine for the award of D.N.B. degrees. We are also a centre for the M.Med training for doctors under the university (organized by CMC Vellore) for their contact programmes. There is also a one year Nurse Anaesthesia Assistant training programme run by the department of Anaesthesia.

The Area of Spiritual Nurture:



The sudden home call of Dr.Alex on the 5th of May was a shocking news for the CF Community. Dr.Alex and Sr.Hanna Alex have been serving like resident chaplains for the last 6 years in the CF Campus. Their Bible studies for the many groups of staff and students, seminars on financial management and marriage enrichment (Tamil and English), Bible quizzes, Skits and dramas were an integral part of CF community life. Dr.Alex has left a deep impression in CFH. All categories of staff and students miss his cheerful and enriching presence. We praise God for his life and continue to pray to God to comfort and sustain Hannah and their children.

Regular Bible studies, retreats, village ministries, Sunday Schools and patient evangelistic ministries are continuing. Our two evangelists are helping us in providing Pastoral care. The second half of the year is the most enjoyable period with the arrival of annual sports and games, Bible and sports quiz competitions, special chapel services and the choir practice for Christmas Carol Service.

Pachalur Retreat Centre continues to be a serene and inspiring place for retreats. This year Mr.Antony retired after many years of service there as caretaker.

We praise God for him and for bringing to us Mr.Isaac Doss and Mrs.Vasanthi (engineer & architect) who have joined as the new care givers.

This campus is being increasingly used for personal, family and small group retreats. EMFI medical students' camps are conducted twice a year. It is our hope and prayer that the

Pachalur Ashram will continue to be a place where many young people make decisions for the Lord and serve Him with their lives.



Community Health Department Initiatives

1. Village Clinics & Self-help groups' initiatives continue to function well.
2. Palliative Care done by Dr.Anish and team continue to benefit patients requiring end of life care.
3. The School health team visit schools and conduct programmes to address health issues, gives group education on issues specific to their age and teaches life skills.
4. Community health awareness campaigns were conducted on issues like Dengue Fever, importance of using toilets and avoiding open air defecation, against child abuse, need for blood donation etc.
5. CMHIS Medical camps were conducted in 12 villages.
6. A Silver Jubilee alumni reunion of DNB Family Medicine and Primary Care Training programme of CFH was conducted from 3rd to 5th of November 2017.
7. Weekly meetings for old age people are being conducted in 3 villages, 16 people were given hearing aids using government schemes, Income generating activities like making paper bags, agarbathis were done.
8. Evening tuition centers for school children are being conducted in 5 villages.
9. Career guidance and adolescent groups
10. Family enrichment programmes



Boys Home and Sadhuji Home:

Sadhuji home continues to take care of destitute inmates. Mr.Keba and Mrs.Kamu Keba are staying there to oversee its activities. There are 10 boys in the boy's home who are being taken care of and sent to the local school.

As we are coming close to the end of the year 2017, our hearts are filled with gratitude to the Lord for His faithfulness and protection upon us. Psalm 100: 4, 5 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with Praise; give thanks to Him and Praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Please pray for the Christian Fellowship, Oddanchatram that it may remain an authentic healing community which truly reflects the character and life of our Lord Jesus Christ. May generations of young people come here and genuinely encounter Jesus and commit themselves to follow Him and seek His Kingdom.

We wish you and your family peace and joy at this Christmas and a blessed New Year!

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