

Visit to Ludhiana Christian Medical College and Governing Body Meeting Report

September 12, 2013

Summary Report by Max Marble



New OT & Office Block



Additional Dorm at Ross Hostel



New College of Physiotherapy

Director Dr. Abraham Thomas' report to the September meeting of the Governing Body was upbeat and positive. It received repeated compliments by Governing Body members. Ludhiana CMC ranks in the top 15 out of the 400 medical colleges in India. There are currently 1250 students from 30 states and union territories in India and 40 NRI (non resident Indian) students. Out of the 75 medical students, 46 are women and 29 are men. Out of the 60 B. Sc. nursing students, 43 are women and 17 are men. Patient statistics remain steady at 75%-85% occupancy, with an average of 1000 outpatients per month. Patient income has increased by about 23%, although expenses related to salaries and supplies also have gone up to match it. Income from the Pharmacy Department has increased greatly while providing quality drugs at concessional rates. The Blood Bank license has again been renewed. At a time when "external (foreign) support was little due to worldwide recession" funding for outreach work and care and well-being of the poor and needy has increased by 23%. Doctor Thomas credits the increase with the "faculty contributing immensely."

Dr. Thomas reported that they have been able to "revive many of the departments and upgrade them to PG studies, recognized by the Medical Council of India/Dental Council of India/University. The College of Nursing has, besides B.Sc. and GNM, M. Sc. Nursing in all subjects with an intake of 25 per year. The Medical College has MD/MS in all disciplines, the latest being Dermatology and DM/MCh in six subjects, which include Neurology, Nephrology and Paediatric Surgery added recently. The Christian Dental College has presently Paedodontia and is awaiting DC permission for more subjects of Oral Surgery and Prosthodontia for the MDS course."

In the area of personnel Dr. Thomas reported: "Our strength in providing good services and education is dependent on our doctors, nurses and allied staff getting the best of training in India as well as abroad. Dr. Anish Chopra has joined Gastroenterology after training in USA, Dr. Vinay Gaikwad in Surgical Oncology after training in Tata Memorial and Dr. Geetika in Paediatric Intensive Care at Australia. Dr. Nitin (Paed. Surgery) and Dr. Dhruv Ghosh (Paed. Surgery) will be returning by the beginning of 2014. Dr. Chepsy (Hemato-Oncology) is also expected in 2014 to strengthen our present faculty. Dr. Roy Korula, former professor and Head of CTVS, CMC Vellore, has committed to join for a few months to help the Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit."

There are still 86 ongoing court cases, although 6 have recently been decided, all in favor of CMC, including the Supreme Court judgment on undergraduate and postgraduate admissions. This allows CMC to continue to administer its own entrance examinations.

The Governing Body voted to increase salaries and benefits for all faculty and staff. These noteworthy increases will take effect in April of 2014. We will receive more information at the March Governing Body meeting. A committee has been working diligently to completely work out details for the increases.



Prayers of dedication were offered for the three new building projects.

There were a number of ground breaking dedication services during the board meeting, as well as the dedication of a car donated by the Federal Bank for ambulatory patients. The new Ross Hostel addition will be on the Ross Hostel property. Immediately behind the new dormitory, the new College of Physiotherapy building will be built facing the opposite direction as the hostel. The new surgical block with operation theatres and offices will be just to the right of the hospital entrance where the blood bank is located. The building projects will take 18 months to complete. Money will be borrowed for the projects that will hopefully bring in the income needed to pay for them.



During the meeting retired Rev. Noel, who served as head chaplain for many years, was honored. The Fellowship Department recently published the poems that he has been writing and sharing for a good part of his life. Each Governing Body member was presented with a copy of this book of poetry, which is called Geetmala. During the meeting Rev. Alex Peter was voted in as the new Head Chaplain and Head of the Fellowship Department. He is with the Marthoma Church and most recently served as a youth minister in

Chicago. I made a short video of him introducing himself. If you are connected to the Internet while reading this click on Rev. Peter's picture to listen to him.

A section of Dr. Thomas' report was entitled "Overseas." Here is that part of the report:

"I am grateful to our overseas Board for their concern and support to continue the legacy and strengthen our international relationship. Particularly, I need to mention the funds received in the last financial year till 31st March 2013.

USA	Rs. 77.5 lakhs (= \$129,166 - US Board, US Alumni and other sources)
UK	Rs. 16.7 lakhs
Germany	Rs. 65.6 lakhs
Switzerland	Rs. 5.6 lakhs
Australia	Rs. 2.84 lakhs
France	Rs. 12.3 lakhs



Rev. Peter

Subsequently, US Alumni has sent Rs. 35.0 lakhs for a laparoscopic set for OB & Gynae (Beryl Howie Fund) and Friends of Ludhiana (UK) Rs. 45.0 lakhs for GI endoscopy system.

Canada Fellowship has contributed to the James Ashwin Fellowship in Physiology to encourage research work in Physiology.

I am grateful to Dr. Keith Hine and all colleagues of Friends of Ludhiana, UK and Dr. Sunil Thomas for inviting me to share the Ludhiana experience with them last May. Rev. Max Marble continues to support the work along with the US Board and US Alumni. We hope we continue to strengthen our ties with the Alumni and Board worldwide as we reach out to the masses."

Dr. Thomas ended his report with these words from Scripture: "As we go forward, we have the assurance from the Lord, Psalm 139:10 'You would be there to lead me, You would be there to help me.'"



The laparoscopic set funded by the US Board and US Alumni has been purchased but had not arrived. They are hoping to have it operational by the time the US Alumni have their reunion at CMC in October. The College Chapel mounted LCD projector and mounted screen for which the US Board sent funds arrived a week ago, have been installed and are operational. It is a very nice set with a bright image. I was also able to follow up on the following donations from the US Board: \$25,000 for the Gift of Life,

\$3,000 for the Fellowship Department, \$4,000 for the Dental College, \$3,000 for medical student scholarships, \$5,000 for the Head of the Department of Medicine. The money had been allocated to the areas that we directed. On our visit to Dr. Bedi's office we met the next child to receive surgery in the Gift of Life program. The need for the surgery was very dramatic in this case since the mother and father brought both their daughter who needed the surgery and their healthy son. Their 5 year old daughter weighed 16 pounds, the very same weight as their 18 month old son.



In the evening, after the Governing Body meetings, Rev. Alex Peter led a worship service for the Governing Body members with musical numbers by the students interspersed with short transitional messages by Rev. Peter. I was invited to give the closing prayer and benediction. If you are reading this connected to the internet, click on the picture below to listen to the choir.



Student Choir Singing During Worship Service for the Governing Body