



# Friends of Ludhiana

Christian Medical College (CMC) Ludhiana  
Punjab, North India

## PRAYER TOPICS

July 2013

## Prayer Topics – July

### Week 27 : 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July

Statistics show that around 20,000 new cases of **CANCER** are diagnosed every year in Punjab, an incidence rate estimated at one case for every 800-900 people. The incidence of cancer is rising due to multiple factors, such as an increase in an ageing population, smoking/tobacco abuse, an unhealthy lifestyle (such as physical inactivity and inappropriate food habits) and increasing awareness. CMC Ludhiana is one of the first institutions in North India to offer comprehensive treatment to cancer patients including surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and palliative care since the 1970s.

A dedicated **MEDICAL ONCOLOGY UNIT** was re-established in March 2011 and runs OPDs six days a week, two of these in the city centre. The team caters to a wide variety of patients with solid tumours. A new Oncology Day Care facility administers chemotherapy and other supportive care medicines to cancer patients on an OPD basis.



Most cancer patients need multidisciplinary care and the medical oncology unit works in close association with other specialities, including the radiation oncology unit. Some 75-80% of patients will require radiotherapy at some point in their treatment and CMC has recently upgraded its **RADIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT** with state-of-the-art equipment

and facilities to continue to offer first class treatment.

### CMC STATISTICS FOR 2011-12

1,567 patients seen in Oncology OPDs  
216 new registrations with suspected cancer  
889 admissions

#### Cancer Incidence

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 21% - breast | 9% - lung          |
| 20% - GU     | 3% - head and neck |
| 15% - GI     |                    |

CMC is involved in education, through the hospital and its comprehensive medical camps, about the most common symptoms of cancer, their early presenting features and detection, and the need to seek urgent help where these have been identified.

### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *new state-of-the-art radiotherapy facilities including a linear accelerator*
- *the success of a cancer screening camp for women*
- *regular teaching for oncology nurses and physician assistant students*

### PRAY FOR

- *a growth in awareness among the population of the causes of cancer and a willingness to seek treatment*
- *an earlier diagnosis of cancer in patients to reduce it from a terminal condition to a chronic, but treatable, disease*
- *the skill and diligence of staff in administering chemotherapy*
- *future plans for the initiation of clinical trials and the expansion of palliative care services*
- *the development of patient support through a cancer support group and through the Fellowship Department*

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5 v.16

## Week 28 : 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July

The **PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT** is responsible for CMC's 1,800 staff members. It is sometimes difficult to attract well-qualified staff because of the shortage of adequate housing or the attraction of higher salaries outside CMC. The Personnel Officer has an important task in relating to staff at all levels from senior medics down to sweepers.

**STAFF WELFARE** Housing for staff at CMC is not easy. Many live in crowded staff quarters, much of it needing upgrading, and additional housing is a priority. For those not in hospital quarters, rented accommodation is very expensive and often inadequate. There is an added problem with maintaining adequate water and electrical supplies and sewerage. New facilities for some of CMC's junior and senior staff have recently been completed, but more is still needed. The housing for senior nursing staff is very old and needs to be replaced as well as that for Group III staff.



### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *a positive change in attitude of many staff*
- *new accommodation units provided in recent years*

### PRAY FOR

- *the work of the personnel officer in relating to existing staff and in recruiting new personnel*
- *the ongoing need for adequate staff housing for all groups including the provision of more up-to-date accommodation for senior nurses*
- *the maintaining of good interpersonal relationships amongst CMC staff*
- *dedication to commitment, compassion and excellence*

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2 v.5

## Week 29 : 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July

The **CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY, HAEMATO-ONCOLOGY AND BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT (BMT) UNIT** is the first in North India. The team specialises in the management of patients with haematological disorders (red and white blood cells, platelets) and haemato-oncology (leukaemia), lymphoma and multiple myeloma. It has performed over a dozen successful stem cell transplants since 2008. A new five-bedded Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit has been constructed on the fourth floor of the hospital. This unit, once operational after the procurement of some items, will be the only dedicated BMT unit north of Delhi performing paediatric and thalassaemia transplants.

A small booklet on the unit's Code of Conduct and Core Values is being planned; this will outline the principles, policies and practices (personal and professional) to be followed as staff carry out their work and will shape their decisions, actions and goals based on Biblical standards.

There are 4,500 registered haemophiliacs in India and comprehensive care for patients involves good clinical and laboratory facilities, including a blood bank, rehabilitation support, an orthopaedic team for surgical needs and infectious disease diagnosis and management back up. CMC initiated a **COMPREHENSIVE HAEMOPHILIA CARE CENTRE** in 2010 and the haemophilia clinic gives patients access to a range of consultants and specialties where



expert opinions will be given and disease management strategies planned.

#### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *successful stem cell transplants already performed*
- *the start of haemophilia care with a workshop for patients and their relatives*

#### PRAY FOR

- *the start of the new five-bedded unit*
- *patients who are admitted and the staff and doctors looking after them*
- *all staff in the unit as they seek to uphold the code of conduct and core values*
- *the setting of spirit-driven goals for the coming year*

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16 v.13-14

#### Week 30 : 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July

In late July new **STUDENTS** are arriving for admission to their courses. Some of the students will have travelled long distances, living away from home and family for the first time, and face many challenges particularly in the first weeks. The Medical College has a system of 'foster families' where students have a faculty member as his/her foster parent for support. The colleges have a rich tradition of combining academic with extracurricular activities. The students are frequently involved in sports, drama, music and literary activities.

**EXAMS** for many medical, dental, nursing and paramedical students take place in July.

A student centre, the LN Rao Students Centre, has recently been renovated to provide air conditioned facilities for the students including a cafeteria. It also provides guest accommodation to relatives of students and other visitors.



#### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *the sense of community which exists in the colleges*
- *the help and support of hostel wardens*
- *faculty members who act as 'family' to the students*
- *students who have stood highly in University examinations*

#### PRAY FOR

- *students settling into new surroundings and new routines*
- *cordial relationships between staff and new students*
- *students sitting exams*
- *facilities for continuing the in-service education programme*
- *adequate hostel facilities for all students to aid study*
- *the linking with Bible study groups and church fellowships*

God sets the lonely in families.

Psalms 68 v.6

#### Week 31 : 29<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August

CMC welcomes many **VISITORS** who contribute to the life and work of the hospital and colleges. Other government officials come to inspect the hospital and colleges which maintains CMC's accreditation. When in Ludhiana, they need somewhere to stay and they are accommodated in guest accommodation on the hospital campus.



The **BARBARA EGGLESTON GUEST HOUSE** and **LN RAO STUDENTS CENTRE** in particular offer comfortable facilities, managed by a dedicated team of staff, which cater to the needs of all visitors including the relatives of students.

#### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *all visitors to CMC who share in the life and*

*work of the institution*

- *dedicated guest facilities on the CMC campus*

#### PRAY FOR

- *staff who look after the needs of visitors when at CMC*
- *the continued smooth running of guest accommodation, particularly at busy times*

Practice hospitality.

Rom. 12 v.13

Pray for Dr. Abraham Thomas and the administrative team for wisdom to further develop the work of CMC – its pioneering treatments, its care for the poor, its training of doctors, nurses and dentists for the rural hospitals of India - so that it remains a beacon for Christ's grace in the Punjab.

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