



# Friends of Ludhiana

Christian Medical College (CMC) Ludhiana  
Punjab, North India

## PRAYER TOPICS

October 2013

### Prayer Topics – October

#### Week 40 : 30<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October

The **DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE** teaches medical and dental undergraduates and post-graduates. Alongside general medicine, there exist speciality services such as gastro-enterology, nephrology, haematology and oncology. Multi-specialty **MEDICAL CAMPS** are held in villages where curative treatment is offered and there is the opportunity to offer preventive treatment advice alongside health education. An HIV/AIDS counselling and treatment service has also been established.



The **ENDOCRINOLOGY & DIABETES UNIT** in the department is responsible for treating a wide range of hormonal disturbances such as hyper- and hypothyroidism and pituitary gland problems. Diabetes is a common problem for old and young alike and an endocrinology and diabetes clinic addresses the issues including education to patients and their families, regular testing and podiatry services with footwear prescription.

#### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *the running of multispecialty medical camps*
- *daily clinics for diabetes sufferers including one for children*

#### PRAY FOR

- *the strengthening of teaching techniques to undergraduates*
- *more senior staff in the department*
- *continuing opportunities to provide basic medical care to the poor and needy*
- *the greater acceptance of advice on health care issues*
- *the development of HIV/AIDS counselling services*

'Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it, I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.'

Jeremiah 33 v.6

#### Week 41 : 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October

The **DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY** offers a wide range of treatments as well as conducting ante-natal, well-baby, and family planning clinics in urban outreach areas. Delivery of babies within the community is undertaken by the **DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE**. Parts of the department have recently undergone a major upgrade to provide improved facilities to meet the increasing needs of child-bearing women, a crucial area for the hospital as originally identified by the founder, Dame (Dr.) Edith Brown. The department has recently introduced a new 'package' of healthcare which, for a fixed price, CMC will assist women with a normal, uncomplicated delivery including all drugs, medication and disposables, and the care of a mother and her baby for three days following the delivery.

The Department also offers a weekly clinic for women suffering from menopause related problems and is able to conduct bone densitometry tests to gauge the risk of bone loss and osteoporosis. The introduction of laparoscopic techniques has reduced the length of hospital stay and recovery time for women needing surgical procedures.

### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *new staffing in the department*
- *the start of laparoscopic procedures in Gynaecology*
- *a concern for maternal and child health through the domiciliary midwifery service in urban areas*

### PRAY FOR

- *further upgrading of facilities for obstetric care in the hospital*
- *delivery of patient care and increased utilisation of services*
- *for each woman and her family to consider themselves 'honoured guests' through the care they receive*

A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. John 16 v.21

### Week 42 : 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October

The **DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY** has given excellent care for over 50 years and now includes subspecialty units. The renovated



outpatient clinic offers a child friendly paediatric clinic as part of a Child Eye Care Project with ORBIS International, a mission to alleviate avoidable childhood blindness. The department is recognised for its training programmes, regularly evaluated and upgraded to international standards. The **MOBILE EYE SERVICES** serves people in rural Punjab and three neighbouring states. Screening camps are held; examinations are conducted and medicines or spectacles dispensed, where appropriate, free of charge to the poor. Each camp has an opportunity for preventive treatment advice and health education and there is also an ongoing school screening programme. Patients requiring surgery for

conditions such as cataracts and needing intraocular lens implantation are brought to CMC, where enhanced visual acuity is seen in over 90% of post-operative patients.



### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *the provision of state of the art equipment for specialised services*
- *the training of skilled doctors and staff for the new units*
- *collaboration with groups including Christoffel Blindenmission*
- *the success of the eye camps for over 30 years*

### PRAY FOR

- *continued opportunities to create public awareness of and provide basic ophthalmic care to the poor and needy*
- *patients requiring surgery travelling from the camps to the hospital*

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ... "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam." So the man went and washed and came home seeing. John 9 v.1, 7

### Week 43 : 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October

The **DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDICS** is equipped to handle a wide range of orthopaedic problems and conducts both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. It is among the largest of the surgical units at CMC and caters to patients from across North India. The well trained staff handle conditions from basic and complicated trauma to specialist treatments such as joint replacement, arthroscopic surgery and surgery of spine. It has a separate children's clinic and wants to establish other sub specialties in the future. As part of the outreach programme regular camps are held in and around Punjab and the department has also been contributed significantly in CMC's

teams after recent national disasters such as earthquakes.



The **PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT** has existed for over 50 years and it is well equipped with modern facilities and essential equipment and provides physiotherapy services in all fields of specialisation – including medical, surgical, paediatric, neurological, orthopaedic and burns. Training given includes a compulsory internship, and CMC also offers a clinical internship programme for physiotherapy students of other colleges in and around Punjab.

#### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *the increased services delivered, e.g. arthroscopic surgery, and the opening of a paediatric orthopaedic unit*

#### PRAY FOR

- *patience and sensitivity for physiotherapy staff and helpers*
- *the training of doctors to start arthroplasty and shoulder surgery*
- *continuing opportunities for the Orthopaedic Department in research and conference participation*

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees!  
Hebrews 12 v.12

**Week 44 : 28<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

The **DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS** offers a variety of clinics and immunisation programmes through the outpatient department and the Paediatric Ward is often full to overflowing with children with infectious and non-infectious diseases, with respiratory infections and with those requiring surgery. The

neonatology unit is involved with the care of new-borns including those born pre-term and those with jaundice. The ward also has a dedicated ICU which is normally at 100% occupancy.

#### PRAISE GOD FOR

- *the paediatric ward shifting to a better location*
- *the routinely high bed occupancy in the Paediatric wards*

#### PRAY FOR

- *parents of sick children as they see the love of God in action in their times of special anxiety*

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.  
Mark 10 v.15

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.

## New Chaplain



Rev. Alex Peter has been appointed Chaplain at CMC Ludhiana. A video introducing himself can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/HSr85l8SdQ8>; please pray for him in his new responsibilities and for all the staff of the Fellowship Department in their work with patients, their relatives, staff and students.





## Stories of those recently helped through the Good Samaritan Fund

Chinddo lives around 20kms from Ludhiana. Aged 40, she was admitted to CMC for five weeks of radiotherapy to treat cancer of her right breast. She is very poor and her husband is the only working member of the family. They had managed to raise Rs.5,000 (around 20% of the cost of the treatment) after selling household objects, such as ornaments and a bullock cart, but her husband earns only Rs.6,000 a month and struggles to afford even 2-3 meals a day for them.



Darshan Lal, 48, is a vegetable seller from Ludhiana, the only earning member of his family, and lives in rented accommodation with his wife, two daughters and son. He was admitted to CMC

with right sided weakness and an inability to speak. An MRI scan showed left MCA territory infarct and he was started on anticoagulants. He stayed in hospital when his condition improved and he was discharged after four days. His hospital bill came to just over Rs.30,000 (equivalent to three months of his salary) and he had borrowed money from his three brothers to pay around two thirds of his bill.

Hamad is married with one child, a son in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and lives in Sangrur district of Punjab. He is 32 years old and works seven days a week in a rice mill, earning up to Rs.6,000 per month. He was seen by CMC's Department of Neurology as he had an episode of GTCS on admission and it



was thought that he was a multiple substance abuser suffering from drug withdrawal seizures and aspiration pneumonia. He was treated conservatively with anti-epileptics and antibiotics and discharged in a stable condition, but the cost of his treatment was equivalent to around a year of his salary and the family were borrowing from relatives and from the owner of the mill to pay around half of this.

Diksha was brought to CMC by her mother, a widow living on a pension of Rs.3,000 a month, from a village around 175kms from Ludhiana in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Diksha, aged 16 years old, had previously been treated for high grade osteosarcoma of the right knee with post neo adjuvant chemotherapy after above knee amputation. She was now suffering a recurrence (lung metastasis), so a biopsy was performed and histopathology reports awaited. The cost of these new investigations was about five times her mother's monthly pension.

Joshua, nearly eight years old and the son of a pastor and housewife with a younger sister, was admitted to CMC with abdominal pain and fever; a blood culture was taken



which was positive for Salmonella typhi. He was diagnosed with enteric fever and pancytopenia and began IV antibiotics, later changed on the fifth day due to persisting fever. He is now better and was discharged after 15 days. His father earns just Rs.3,000 a month so the family were borrowing money, although only sufficient to cover a fraction of the bill.

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