

Friends of Jagadhri

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FIFTY-SECOND NEWSLETTER – November 2013

Fulness of Life in Jagadhri

Global Mission Coordinator the Rev. Phil King visited India in October for a meeting of overseas partners with the Church of North India. He also visited Jagadhri to catch up on developments there.

MY SECOND VISIT this year to Jagadhri, India, was a valuable time of learning for me, and of relationship building with our mission partners at the Christian Hospital and School of Nursing. This partnership extends back well over a hundred years and continues to be faithfully supported by many people in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. This visit enabled me to get to know the staff a little better, to meet our sponsored nursing students, and to appreciate the value of the work being achieved there. The School of Nursing offers a highly regarded Nursing Diploma that allows the graduates to get good jobs all over India, or even overseas.

At its peak the school hosts 240 students, who complete a three and a half year course. This is taught within a caring environment that is an impressive Christian witness in a community that is largely non-Christian and in some cases antagonistic to Christian values. At least half of the nursing students are from Hindu families, but they come to the school for their career training because it has such a good reputation. The centre's motto is from John 10:10, "I have come that they

might have life, and have it to the full." Supporters from the PCANZ sponsor four students, three of whom I had the pleasure of meeting while I was there. They are very grateful for the opportunity to get a good career education which would otherwise not be possible for them.

I was privileged to be welcomed as a special guest to the first year welcoming ceremony, an enjoyable evening of dancing and entertainment. Indian dancing is spectacular, so vibrant and colourful; it is a delight to witness it. It is such an amazing contrast to the conditions often encountered elsewhere in this land of contrasts.

After church in Jagadhri on Sunday morning, one of our sponsored students, Sonika Samuel, approached me and thanked me for our sponsorship of her fees, without which her parents could not afford to send her to the school. I assured her that while I was the visible presence of her sponsorship, there were many more people in New Zealand who contributed to it. I felt extremely humbled to be representing the loyal, faithful work of so many members from the PCANZ, who have helped to contribute to the lives of the Christian community in India. Meeting individuals like Sonika and seeing the difference it is making in their lives, convince me of the worth of maintaining this proud tradition of partnership with Christian Hospital and the School of Nursing.



Dancing at the welcoming ceremony for first year nursing students

Life in Jagadhri (Continued)

More news gathered during Rev Phil King's visit

School of Nursing

The new academic year has begun and our sponsored students are doing well.

- The new flats that were built for doctors and nurses with Friends of Jagadhri funds now house several students, with some flats still to be completed. About 20 will be housed there once completed. They are very nice flats and great living spaces for the more senior students and interns.
- An extra grant that I sent from Global Mission in June for teaching resources has been used to buy models for their obstetrics class, modern equipment that they are really pleased with, and which could also be used for the degree course if it eventuates. I was encouraged to see the obvious satisfaction of the staff at having good quality resources.
- Permission to grant status for a higher level College of Nursing degree course has not been granted yet and won't be until a new building is erected, as it needs to be in a separate building to the Diploma course. Plans were drawn up some time ago but significant funds are needed for this, and discussions have taken place at Synod level re possible funding. We will keep you informed as more information comes to light about this possible new development.

Christian Hospital News

The hospital has recently been recognised by the Government as being suitable for treating "BPL" (Below the Poverty Line)



Second year student Sonika Samuel with Phil King outside the Jagadhri Church

David Frederick Kibblewhite 1939 – 2013

We give thanks for the life of the Rev David Kibblewhite, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather, excellent teacher and caring friend who died at Opotiki on 26 July 2013 after a brief illness.

David and his wife Sally were supported by the Overseas Missions Committee on the staff of Woodstock School at Mussoorie, North India from 1975 to 1979.

David made a very significant contribution as Academic Principal and Sally was a respected English teacher.

We offer our loving sympathy to Sally and all the extended family.

patients, a government-funded initiative which will see more patients coming in to the hospital for treatment, and which will increase income as the Government pays for this. Although not huge the income will be an improvement on the current patient intake and income. It also sits well with the mission ethos of the hospital but it is too early to comment on the impact.

They are also considering the idea of developing specialist facilities to diversify and meet changing needs. But it will need to be a case of adding one at a time. Dr Cecil Harrison is planning to begin a fellowship in palliative care this year. This is one example. But they could develop other specialist care by bringing in consultants from elsewhere. There are no firm plans for anything along these lines at this stage.

The lab is working well and earning good income. The contract for testing blood samples from Railway Hospital was recently renewed and this is a major earner for them. Funds from Friends of Jagadhri have been crucial in improving the service and efficiency of the lab, and the staff are very grateful for this support.



Somervell Parish Supports New Project

Somervell Parish in Auckland has formed a partnership with a Church of North India Secondary School in Pathankoth in North East India. This hostel project will assist poor Christian students whose parents cannot support them for higher education and training. The girls will attend Avalon School and then will be assisted into professional training such as nursing or teaching.

Each Diocese of the CNI is being challenged to establish such projects.

Thanks for Your Donations 2013

Thank you very much for your very generous continuing support. Recently we have sent \$11,800 to Christian Hospital to purchase further equipment for the laboratory which is functioning very well and is a good source of income.

We have also contributed \$2000 towards the travel of the Rev Phil King to enable him to attend the CNI Partners Meeting in October and visit Christian Hospital again.

We are about to send approximately \$4,400 towards half fee scholarships for two first year nursing students (Nisha Sillu and Priyanka John) and two second year students (Poonam Rani and Sonika Samuel). These young women are very grateful for our help.

Dr Cecil Harrison and all the staff of Christian Hospital and the Nursing School thank you most sincerely for your prayerful remembrance and financial support.

Please note that all donations should be remitted through Global Mission, PCANZ, PO Box 9049, Wellington 6141. Your receipts will enable you to claim a tax rebate. Friends of Jagadhri will continue to disburse the funds.

Is Your Address Correct?

If your address is still incomplete or wrong or you know of someone who would like to receive a newsletter please write to Doreen Riddell, 50/4 Admiral Cres, Hamilton 3210 and include the incorrect label along with your correct address. Thank you for your help and your patience.

Prayer Circle

We invite all readers to join a prayer circle every morning for the people of Jagadhri and Yamunanagar. Please pray especially for the Bishop of Delhi Diocese, the Rt Rev Sunil Kumar Singh, and all at St Thomas School. Pray also for Drs Cecil and Nayana Harrison and all the staff at Christian Hospital, and the ministers at Jagadhri and Yamunanagar in all their varied responsibilities.

Publishers

This, the fifty second newsletter of Friends of Jagadhri, is published by Margaret Bear, Heather Laxon, Richard Lawrence, Alan Leadley, Peter Mirams, Doreen Riddell, Elaine Riddell and June Welten.