

Friends of Jagadhri

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FIFTY-FOURTH NEWSLETTER – November 2014

Doreen Riddell Honoured

It was a great occasion at the General Assembly in October when Doreen Riddell was honoured for her life-long service to mission in India. Since returning after serving there for 34 years, Doreen has chaired the Friends of Jagadhri, retiring from this position only this year. Global Mission Co-ordinator Phil King felt that the Assembly was an opportune time to formally recognise Doreen's service in India, and chairing the Friends all these years. After a short video clip detailing Doreen's role as principal at St. Thomas school, newly installed PCANZ Moderator the Rev. Andrew Norton congratulated Doreen and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Doreen said to Andrew, "The students I taught at St. Thomas still write to me after all these years." The audience then rose and gave Doreen a standing ovation as she returned to her seat. This was a fitting tribute to Doreen whose mission service for the people of India has had such a deep and lasting impact on so many lives.

• **PHOTO (right), taken at the General Assembly is of the Rev Doreen Riddell with Moderator Rev Andrew Norton.**



Sponsored Students at the School of Nursing



Five School of Nursing Students who are sponsored by Global Mission..

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◀PCANZ Global Mission will continue to sponsor students at the Christian Hospital School of Nursing for many years to come, thanks to the Doreen Riddell Scholarship Fund. Global Mission Coordinator Phil King recently visited the School of Nursing and met five of the six sponsored students. He extended his support to each of them on behalf of the PCANZ, and presented each student with a small gift. During Phil's visit, an evening ceremony was held welcoming the first year students. Third year sponsored students Sonika Samuel and Poonam Rani will graduate in March. The two new first year sponsored students are Jyoti Masih and Shivani (no surname supplied), both of whom are former students of St. Thomas' school. The Christian students are a great witness to their non-Christian classmates, some of whom turn to Christ during the course of their studies. All students are taught within a caring environment by dedicated Christian staff, who are excellent role models to these students.

Going Global to India 2015

Global Mission and Presbyterian Youth Ministries are planning a mission trip to India in November next year. The aim of this trip is to educate young adults from the PCANZ about our mission history in India; and to encourage them to serve - whether that be overseas or within New Zealand. Phil King says that he hopes those who participate will be inspired by the people they meet and the stories they hear; and that they will feel a sense of call to make a positive difference in the world, for the sake of the gospel. The programme will include visits to Jagadhri, Ludhiana and Chandigarh, as well as Pathankot and Palampur if time allows.

Christian Medical College Ludhiana

In preparation for next year's Going Global, Phil King visited CMC Ludhiana in October. He was warmly welcomed by the Director, Dr. Abraham Thomas, and the Fellowship Team which offers pastoral care to staff and students in the college and hospital. The members of the Fellowship Team were excited to hear about the proposed visit and are looking forward to it already. Phil was invited to join with the team as they made their morning rounds, praying with the relatives of patients in the hospital. Phil says "It was a privilege to be welcomed so warmly into the community at CMC. The participants on next year's programme will be impressed by the witness of this fantastic Christian facility offering quality medical training and healthcare; and will be inspired to learn that PCANZ missionaries have made a significant contribution to it." The obstetrics block at CMC hospital bears the name of PCANZ missionary Beryl Howie.

Supporting Education at CNI School Hostels

Phil also visited Pathankot (Northern Punjab) and Palampur (Himachal Pradesh), where two Church of North India schools offer scholarships for children from low-income families. Avalon Girls School in Pathankot is supported by Somervell Church in Remuera; Phil King is still looking for another group to sponsor students at the boys' hostel at St. Paul's in Palampur. Partial scholarships of 1500 rupees (about \$35 dollars) per month will help to secure life-changing education for students who are either orphaned or whose parents cannot afford a quality education.

If your church, a group within your church, or you as an individual would like to respond to this, please contact Phil King, phil@presbyterian.org.nz.

Missionaries Fondly Remembered at Christ Church, Chandigarh

Phil also visited Christ Church in Chandigarh for a Sunday morning service. There he was met by several members who shared stories of how they and their parents had been helped and encouraged by PCANZ missionaries who had served there and in nearby Kharar. The Rev. Doug Riddle was the minister there from 1959 to 1965. One elderly parishioner who is now in his 90's, recalled how he cycled 25 kilometres to church every Sunday – and still attends regularly now (although no longer by bike).



Phil King with Baba Justine and Shorila Paul (nee Chandler) at Christ Church Chandigarh.

Donations for supporting mission at Christian Hospital and School of Nursing are still being received and will be used for the purpose designated.

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