A Time for Celebration

THE Very Rev Pamela Tankersley, Coordinator for Global Mission, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, recently visited Jagadhri to join in celebrations at Christian Hospital. Pamela writes:

It was with great joy that a group of New Zealanders travelled to India in November, 2011, to celebrate 100 years of mission partnership at the Christian Hospital in Jagadhri. The Hospital was founded here in November 1911, by Dr William and Mrs Edith Porteous and their five other colleagues, all missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. The group had finally decided on Jagadhri as a suitable place after almost 2 years in a nearby smaller town.

Six grandchildren of pioneer Dr W J Porteous with Drs Cecil and Nayana Harrison at Christian Hospital.

There were 14 Kiwis present at the celebration - 6 Porteous grandchildren and 4 of their partners; Sharon, daughter of Dr George and Nerolei Chisholm and her husband Marc; Ryhan Prasad, representing Friends of Jagadhri; and myself representing the PCANZ.

We were really warmly welcomed, with beautiful dancing and feasting, with worship and grand tours, talking with staff and nursing students about the glorious past and their hopes for the future. We heard the story of Dr William and Mrs Edith Porteous from their grandchildren and marvelled at how it had all grown.

What a difference we Kiwis have been able to make in the name of Christ! With the Bishop of Delhi we opened and dedicated the refurbished private ward of the hospital and the new flats contributed by Friends of Jagadhri, and shared their concerns that the hospital is struggling to find the right category of medical staff to attract sustainable patient numbers.

We were delighted to see the health of the Nursing School which is graduating 60 diploma nurses each year, providing training and employment for young women.

We heard how the Christian faith of this place determines its significant ethos to differentiate it from other local hospitals in a competitive market. We were assured by all that at Christian Hospital under the leadership of Drs Cecil and Nayana Harrison they provide compassionate care for their patients as well as medical services. The staff at the hospital is like one big family and care for each other with Christian love.

We also visited St Thomas School and were thrilled to see what good heart it is in. There has been a change at the helm with the retirement of Mrs Kamla Singh and the appointment of the new Principal, Mr Rodrick Lal. The school is being run very efficiently in conjunction with other educational institutions of the Diocese of Delhi.

This is a very fine school and New Zealand friends can be very proud that our support over so many years has resulted in high achievement in examinations, well-taught, caring and courteous young people, and wonderful ▶
A Time for Celebration (Cont.)

facilities. Thanks to NZ scholarships many disadvantaged children have been able to participate in this excellent school. We opened three new computer rooms and the new library which has top-of-the-line hardware and programmes. The school has nearly 3000 on the roll and eight new classrooms are being built.

We discussed Global Mission’s future involvement with the Bishop and the Diocesan Education Board representatives and we all agreed that the purpose of the mission partnership between St Thomas School and the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand has been fulfilled. Together we give thanks to God for our long relationship and the huge contribution which we have been able to make to bless so many children.

However, the relationship of the school with Friends of Jagadhri may well continue in prayer, in funding of disadvantaged children and in selected projects. Global Mission will discuss with the Mission Department of the Synod of the Church of North India where our partnership might make a difference for other children and for young people. We will be looking for a new generation of NZ Presbyterians to join with those who have been such faithful supporters over the past years to support such a project.

Thanks to the generosity of the Harrison family, Ryhan and I were delighted to complete our trip to India with a visit to Agra to see the spectacular Taj Mahal. Wonderful!

We left for home, feeling blessed by the many new friends and strengthened relationships, and confident that we can continue to encourage and support this mission partnership to help create a sustainable future that brings Glory to God.

Good News from Christian Hospital

THE Haematology Analyser donated by Friends of Jagadhri in November 2011 is being very well used as Christian Hospital has been fortunate to win a contract with the nearby Railway Hospital for all their laboratory investigations. With the analyser, blood tests can be done very quickly and efficiently to the joy of the lab technicians and Dr Nayana Harrison.

A proposal for the Vice-Principal of the Nursing School to come to New Zealand for a short time for further experience is under discussion with Global Mission.

The possibility of Friends of Jagadhri offering scholarships for needy nursing students is being explored. Total fees for the three and a half years course are approximately $10,000.

Light and Love

A few copies of the book Light and Love – One Hundred Years in North India, published in 2008 to mark the centennial of our work in North India, are still available. This attractive A4 sized coffee table book is a most interesting pictorial account of the missionary work of the PCANZ in the Punjab in NW India. Buy one for your coffee table or to give as a gift or for your church library.

Available for the special price of $15.00 including postage from Doreen Riddell, House 50, 4 Admiral Cres, Hamilton 3210. All proceeds to FOJ funds.

Thanks for Your Donations

Thank you for your very generous continuing support. In the past ten months from 1 April 2011 to 21 January 2012 we have received $5863.60 for Christian Hospital, $6381.19 for St Thomas School and $11603.44 for General Funds.

At present we are holding these funds until we hear further from the school and hospital.

Both Dr Cecil Harrison and Mr Rodrick R Lal thank you most sincerely for your prayerful remembrance and financial support.

Please note that all donations should now 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.

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, Mr Rodrick R Lal, the newly appointed Principal of St Thomas School, Dr A D Lyall, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mr S M Chauhan, Manager. Pray also for Drs Cecil and Nayana Harrison at Christian Hospital, the Rev George Lazar at Jagadhri and the Rev Victor Samuel at Yamunanagar in all their varied responsibilities.

Is Your Address Correct?

In the process of updating our mailing list a little information may have been lost. If your address is incomplete or wrong 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.

A group of St Thomas School boys wave goodbye to their visitors.