



IN TOUCH

A Bulletin of the Schieffelin Institute of Health - Research and Leprosy Centre, Karigiri

January
to
March 2016

Volume: XXXI
Issue No. 6



From the Director's Desk



Greetings to all "In touch" readers.

I am happy to write "Director's Desk" for the first quarter of 2016. The highlight of this quarter was the "Graduation Day" held on 26th February 2016. Sixty one students from Nursing and various disciplines of Allied Health Sciences graduated.

An increase of 12 % among OP statistics from 2014 reflects that patients continue to seek out this institution for care. The institution is particular that its services are affordable, have quality and are offered with compassion.

A review of the Strategic Plan 2015-19 shows that all nine strategic objectives have been implemented and have shown progress. Research, Training and Rehabilitation components of the plan are also marching on.

God has wonderfully met the needs of the institution both personnel and financial. I request you to continue to support us through your prayers.

Dr. Mannam Ebenezer
Director

Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony 2016 was held on 26th February in the Training Unit Auditorium. Dr.Selvarajan, Dean of Government Vellore Medical College, Adukamparai was the Chief Guest on the occasion. A total of 61 students graduated which included 15 in nursing, 15 in allied health diploma and 31 allied health degree. Four DNB (Derm) candidates were awarded in absentia. The event started with the jasmine chain procession. The faculty and graduates walked through the Jasmine Chain. After the opening prayer by Rev. Devadoss, Dr. Shirley, Deputy Director welcomed the gathering. Dr. Mannam Ebenezer, Director in his address to the graduates charged them to be honest in their work and provide high



quality care to the patients. The graduate diploma and degree certificates were presented by the Director.



Special medals and awards were given to students who stood first in each of the courses. These awards were presented by the Chief Guest. Ms. Priyanka R was the recipient of Dr. Kasturi Sundar Rao

award given to overall best outgoing student in the DGNM course. Mr. Nandha Kumar.V was the recipient of the Dr.Job Prize given to the overall best outgoing student in the DMLT course.

In his graduation address, Dr.Selvarajan asked the graduates to be good listeners to the patients and provide excellent and affordable care to all patients. Ms.Priyanka R responded on behalf of the nursing graduates and Ms. Monisha S responded on behalf of the other Allied health courses. Mr.David Prakash, Principal, College of Health Sciences proposed vote of thanks.

M. David Prakash Kumar,
Principal.

Republic Day Celebration

The 67th Republic Day celebration was held on 26th January 2016 in the play ground at 8. 00 am. Mr. Prince Solomon, Project Manager welcomed the Chief Guest, Mr. A. J. Samraj, Director, staff and students. The program started with prayer by Dr.Sandeep followed by a song. Mrs. Nancy and Mrs. Nesity Vari read Bible portions in Tamil and English respectively. The Director hoisted the National flag after inspecting a guard of honour by the security staff. Mr. Prince Solomon introduced the Chief Guest. Mr. A. J. Samraj, Administrative Manager gave a brief history of Indian constitution and encouraged the younger generation to build the future of the nation and bring reformation in the country.

Director in his remarks reminded the gathering to be dutiful towards the nation. Vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Prince followed by prayer and benediction by Rev.T.Devadoss.



As part of Republic Day celebrations sports activities were conducted by Mr. Rajesh, Administrative Assistant for staff and students

Mr. Prince Solomon

Disability Project activities

The staff members from Physiotherapy department along with the Social worker of our hospital attended the “**Disability Certificate Issuing Camp**” organized by the District Disability Rehabilitation office (DDRO) at the District Collectorate premises on 2nd February 2016. At the camp, leprosy affected and differently abled beneficiaries identified through community projects were given disability certificates. The team also extended its technical support at this camp.

On 5th Feb. 2016 a **Screening Campaign** for the Income Generation Program (IGP) was conducted in our



hospital. About 12 beneficiaries both differently abled and leprosy affected attended this camp. Orientation was given to these beneficiaries on **Mushroom Cultivation** as an IGP. The participants showed keen interest in Mushroom cultivation as an income generating project. These participants later attended a 3 day follow up workshop on Mushroom cultivation from 10th to 12th February 2016 in our hospital.

Mr. Sathish Kumar Paul
Project coordinator

Glaucoma week

Glaucoma week this year was observed from 6th to 12th March 2016 in our hospital. A glaucoma awareness program was conducted by the department of Ophthalmology on the 9th of March, in the main O.P.D area.

The program started with an opening prayer by Rev. Devadoss. The gathering was welcomed by Ms. Mini Christina. The Optometry students performed a skit and a song which beautifully brought out the importance of glaucoma screening among the audience. Mr. Munirajilu from Community Health Department, gave an elaborate talk which made the facts about this silent thief of sight (glaucoma) clear to the public. An educational video was displayed that gave a detailed overview of the causes, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma. In her final remarks, the Head of Ophthalmology, Dr. Shirley



Chacko urged the public to make use of the facilities available in the department and get their eyes screened for glaucoma. The program closed with prayer by Rev. Devadoss.

Dr. Priya Thomas
Dept. of Ophthalmology

Medical camp for mentally challenged at Vaniyambadi

SIHR&LC, along with the Vellore District Pudu Vazhvu Thittam, organized a medical

camp for the mentally challenged patients on 23rd January 2016 at Vattara Magaimai training centre, Indhira Nagar, Vaniyambadi., Vellore district. The camp was inaugurated by Mrs. Shanthi, ADPM, Pudhu Vazhvu Project Vellore District. Clinical and counseling support were provided by Dr.Sandeep, Psychiatrist and Mrs. Yuvarani, Social Worker from the institution.



A total of 28 patients with mental illness, 7 patients with mental retardation and 2 general patients received treatment on that day. Mr. Muniraj, Community Training Officer, Karigiri organized the programme with the help of the Pudu Vazhvu Project field staff.

Mr. Muniraj
Community Training Officer

Dental Camp

A free dental screening camp, fourth in series so far - was held in C.S.I Ashram School Vellore on 23rd January 2016 as requested by the school authorities. Dr. Shirley Chacko, Deputy Director coordinated the camp. A total of 125 people including school children & staff were screened in this camp. Free oral hygiene samples were given to those in need. Oral hygiene instructions and brushing techniques were shown to all the children. Children who needed dental treatment were referred to Karigiri hospital for further management. Dr. Evelin, Dentist, Mrs. Nimmi, Dental Assistant and two Medical Record students from Karigiri were the resource persons. We look forward to conduct more such camps in the future to bring about more smiles among the public.

Dr. Evelin, Dentist

Community Based Intervention Programme



Community based interventions for the differently abled and leprosy affected patients were started in Laximpuram, 66 Puthur villages and IGL colony. In continuation to the screening done through the CBM and ALM projects, the beneficiaries identified were given physical therapy and other adaptive aids through these Community Based Programs. The village leaders allocated rooms in their respective areas to carry out these interventions



. The Physiotherapy staff of S.I.H.R & L.C Karigiri would be visiting Laximipuram, IGL Colony and 66 Puthur every Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to conduct follow up programs. Beneficiaries were also identified from these villages for various income generation initiatives.

This initiative is developed by our institution by partnering with the village leaders to benefit the differently abled and the leprosy affected patients in the community.

M. Sathish Kumar Paul

Workshop on mushroom cultivation

A three day workshop on mushroom cultivation was organised at the Shanthi Gramam from the 10th – 12th of February 2016 for eight differently abled beneficiaries identified through the CBM project. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Sundaramoorthy an entrepreneur and Director of Sun Magic Foods.

On the 1st day of the workshop the participants were given an orientation on the different ways of cultivating mushrooms. The participants were given special



training on the simple techniques used in cultivating Oyster mushrooms.

On the 2nd day, the participants were taken to a mushroom cultivation farm in Anaicut, Vellore district and were given practical demonstration in setting up small scale mushroom farms. The participants were thrilled to know about the yield the mushrooms cultivation gives through very little effort. They tried cooking different mushroom delicacies at the farm.



On the 3rd day the participants were involved in the practical training in making “mushroom beds” using the mushroom kits provided to them. The motivated participants thanked the hospital for organizing the workshop. The participants were each given mushroom kits to be tried at home.

The participants would be followed up and further advised on setting up a mushroom cultivation unit in their place. We would like to specially thank

Ms. Yuvarani and Mr. Dinesh from Physiotherapy department for all the effort in organizing this workshop.

M. Sathish Kumar Paul
Coordinator of the Project

Diabetic Foot Care course

The Annual Diabetic foot care course was organized by the Training Department on 15th and 16th January 2016. Eight participants from various parts of the country and from Sri Lanka benefited from the two day course. The sessions were conducted by faculty from Karigiri and from Tameside General, Hospital, UK.

The training included lectures and demonstrations on various aspects of care of the Diabetic foot. The participants felt that the training was very useful for them since it had a lot of hands on practice. They felt that they could implement the practical aspects in their regular routine care of diabetic patients in their hospitals. The participants were also impressed with the care



provided to all patients in Karigiri, especially those affected by Leprosy.

M. David Prakash Kumar
Course Organizer

Orientation for Government workers in Leprosy



An orientation and training programme was held for government school health programme staff on 17th and 19th February 2016. On 17th, the staff of Vellore district participated in the training and on 19th, the staff of Tiruvannamalai district participated. The training program included sessions by the staff of Dermatology, Orthopedics, Physiotherapy, and Community Health departments of the institution. Fifty people benefited from each of these training sessions.

International women's Day Celebrations

In association with the International women's day observed world-wide on 8th March 2016, the women's fellowship of Karigiri conducted a special service on 12th March 2016 in the Auditorium.

After welcome address was given by Mrs. Shantha Arumugam the opening prayer was offered by Dr. Evangelynn. A special song in English was sung by the Karigiri women choir.

Mrs. Valsa Augustine spoke on the value of women. She spoke on the need for self worth and being useful as God's instruments in God's hand. She spoke about the Israelite spies in Canaan who de valued themselves saying "we seem like grasshoppers in their sight and in our



own sight "...while Caleb said that it is a land flowing with milk and honey.

She drew parallels from the story of the small boy with five loaves and two fish. However insignificant he was in a crowd of 5000, his small lunch packet brought a huge miracle of feeding the multitude when he was open to let God use it. In the same way the colt Jesus used was an insignificant animal but it was used for a glorious journey when the owner let Jesus use it. The message focused on **what we do with what we have and on being useful in God's hand knowing that God values each one of us.**

This was followed by a special song in Tamil by the choir. Dr. Preethi gave the audience a brief overview of the committed life and dedicated work of Mrs. Evelyn Brand, fondly

known as Granny Brand and exhorted the women folk to draw inspiration from her life.



The Director in his response greeted all the women gathered and appreciated the vital role they play in their

families, at work and in the community at large.

Dr. Shirley offered the closing prayer bringing out various qualities that a godly woman should have quoting the exemplary women from the Bible. The devotion closed with benediction by Rev. Devadoss. The women's fellowship hopes to continue their prayerful work in the future also, with God's guidance and believers' well wishes.

Sunday School children retreat

St. Luke's Chapel Children's Retreat was held on 24th January 2016 at Navajeevan Centre, Sevoor. Hundred children, fifteen teachers and few volunteers participated in this Program. This was conducted by Scripture Union. Children from Navajeevan campus also attended the programme. The Retreat started with opening prayer by Mrs. Rita Devadoss. The theme for this years' Retreat was "Here is a boy" John 6:1-9.

Mr. Sudhakar and the team members taught the action songs. The children learnt about the small boy who gave five loaves and two small fish liberally when nothing was available to eat. Children were asked, when mother sends something special to eat, that too in that remote area where there are no shops to buy anything, how many can do like this small boy? Children replied that it is difficult to do so. Finally they were taught that when one receives Jesus Christ in the heart as their personal Saviour, he will have this kind of attitude. They were given time to think and take decision on this choice.

Afternoon session started with puppet show, which was enjoyed by all. The team members demonstrated a story through which children learnt that only through hard work and happiness, success will be achieved. The retreat came to a close with prayer by Dr. Preethi.

We thank our Director, Rev Devadoss and the Chapel Committee members for enabling our children to attend this retreat.

Mrs. Rachel Charles
Coordinator, VBS Retreat

Real life situation of leprosy – My experience



During my 10 day visit, I was able to familiarize with all different aspects of Leprosy management. I saw the different clinical presentations of Leprosy with their complications (reactions,...) in the OPD/ Dermatology consultations with Dr. Ilse Horo and Dr. Evangelynn. I was able to see the broad spectrum of activities in physiotherapy and prevention of impairments in the

service of Mr. Sathish. This was combined with a discussion on the surgical aspects in Leprosy with Dr. Partheebarajan who showed me the management of complications and mutilations in some patients. During the ward round of hospitalized patients, I was able to see some of the Leprosy complications: ulcers, claw hand correction and leprosy reactions. With Dr. Shirley, the Ophthalmologist, Mrs. Valsa and I visited Shantigrammam, a Leprosy community with several older Leprosy patients. I was shown the different eye complications secondary to M. leprae and could see how physical and psychological needs are taken care of for these people. In the lab, I witnessed pathological and molecular diagnosis of leprosy and had an in depth discussion with Dr. Lakshmi and Dr. Sundeep. With Dr. Sundeep I had an interesting discussion on the ongoing Leprosy research in SIH-RLC.

Psychological and social aspects regarding Leprosy were seen with Mrs. Valsa and Mr. Udayasurian

respectively. It was interesting to see that so many issues are related to the disease.

My visit to Karigiri SIH-RLC certainly allowed me to complement my theoretical knowledge about leprosy with a lot of practical experience. I was able to collect a lot of real-life stories and educational material which will certainly serve the students of the Tropical Medicine course in ITM.

I would like to thank all the people of the Karigiri SIH-RLC for the time provided me to show me all different aspects regarding Leprosy. Special thanks to Mr. David Prakash for organizing my stay and schedule and assisting me where necessary. I would also like to thank Dr. Mannam Ebenezer for the nice cooperation which made this visit possible and successful.

Steven Van Den Broucke
from ITM Antwerp, Belgium to
SIH-RLC Karigiri From 5th to
15th January 2016

My long road to Karigiri

Travel has long been a passion of mine, and India was always on my (extensive) list of places I wish to see, so when Mr. Ken Gibson gave a talk about Karigiri Hospital to one of the churches in our town my interest was immediately caught. I have some friends who live in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, who had long been pressing me to pay them a visit and, as a retired Sunday School teacher, I also have an interest in children's projects, particularly in India where I

sponsor a little boy who attends a school run by Operation Mobilization. So then, the scene was set, and I had not one but three good reasons to visit India besides the obvious one of wanting to see something of the life of this very large, very colourful and very exciting country!



The first two weeks of my trip was spent in the northern part of the country, experiencing the well

Well known tourist sites such as Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Varanasi, and I then travelled south to Coimbatore to visit my friends, where I stayed for 5 days enjoying the comparative quietness after the frantic bustle of the northern cities. After a brief stop-over in Chennai and a few days relaxing in Pondichery, I was collect by John and driven to Karigiri. It was very exciting as we approached the area, to recognise the very distinctive hill from the photos Ken Gibson had shown us, and a real thrill to arrive at that beautiful place and be greeted warmly and a real thrill to arrive at that beautiful place and be greeted warmly by Mrs. Daya, who immediately took charge of showing me my room and finding out what food I liked to eat!

The next three days were spent getting to know the wonderful people who work at Karigiri, and being over-awed at the incredible work that they do. I was given a compre-

hensive tour of all the facilities, and was particularly interested to see the new OPD which many people from my town had helped to raise funding for. The MCR production facility was also amazing, the ingenuity of the different types of footwear which are produced to help return pain-free mobility to those who have suffered leprosy, was quite astonishing. Karigiri is truly one of the most inspirational places I have ever visited, and the sense of God's blessing and purpose is palpable.

My stay had a great social side also – I was entertained to dinner each evening by different members of the medical team who kindly invited me into their homes to share their food and friendship, and was also taken for a visit to CMC Vellore to see 'where it all started'. On the last day Mrs. Valsa took me to visit Shantigrammam and I was overwhelmed by the difference it has made to the lives of those who live there and

how, despite their obvious physical difficulties, they are full of joy and thankfulness for God's blessing and the home they love.

My three days at Karigiri were over all too quickly, and I was off on my next stop which was to visit an OM school in Kanchipuram, but I will always carry with me warm and happy memories of Karigiri, its amazing work and the truly wonderful and God-inspired people there who show such dedication to the relief of suffering. I would like to express sincere thanks to Dr. Mannam and his lovely wife and family, to Mrs. Gladys, Mr. Sathish and Dr. Ilsi, Mrs. Valsa, Mrs. Daya, Anita and not least to John, who drove me everywhere so cheerfully and safely.

**Ms. Patricia Feldwick
Ireland.**

Farewell functions

Mr. Devaraj:

Mr. R. Devaraj, Senior Electrical Wireman, Department of Electrical retired on 31st January 2016 after 30 years and 11 months of fruitful service. A farewell function was held on Saturday the 6th February 2016 at 8.30 am. in the Auditorium soon after the corporate worship. Mr. A. J. Samraj, welcomed the gathering.

After garlanding, Mr. Pugazhendi gave a felicitation address. He said that Mr. Devaraj is a man of few words and a very soft spoken person. He is a skilled and hard

worker who equipped himself as a full pledged Electrician while he was in service. He remembered the occasions when Mr. Devaraj was willing to work extra hours when duty demanded.

The Director in his remarks thanked Mr. Devaraj for his faithful service to the institution for almost 31 years. He



appreciated his sincerity and dedication to work and commended his helping nature to the campus staff in their need. Director wished him God's blessings during his retired life.

Farewell functions....



Mr. R. Soundararajan:

A function was arranged in the Auditorium on 5th March 2016 to bid farewell to Mr. R. Soundararajan, Lab. Technician Grade-I, who retired from service on 29th February 2016 after 35 years 8 months of service at Karigiri.

Mr. A.J. Samraj, Administrative Manager welcomed Mr. Soundararajan, his family and the gathering.

Mr. Manohar Johnson garlanded him. Mrs. Shantha Arumugam in her felicitations said that Mr. Soundarajan had been a sincere, hard working and committed Histopath & Lab. Technician. He

was a skillful and knowledgeable person in the area of his work and trained many technicians during his tenure of service. Mrs. Esther Rita in her felicitations mentioned about his organizing capabilities. A function organized in the department had impact of his presence. She also indicated about his expertise in teaching the students in his area of work and also said how the students enjoyed his ethics classes.

The Director in his remarks appreciated Mr. Soundararajan for his contributions to the department as well as to the activities of the institution. He also acknowledged his expertise in the field of his work and hoped that he will utilize it even after retirement. He thanked God for his services and wished him well as he retires from service.

Mr. Soundararajan in his response recalled the days when he was deeply involved in the activities of the institution; especially the religious and social activities. He also recollected the memories of working with great scientists like Dr. C.K. Job and Dr. C.J.G. Chacko. He thanked the Director and the Administration.

The farewell function closed with a word of prayer and blessing by Rev. T. Devadoss

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