

EMMANUEL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION CANADA

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Beyond Nihilism to "Transformation through Caring"

Nihilism, cynicism and skepticism are real, if disturbing, features of our times. We question the motives of those who serve, suspecting vested interests or a "hidden agenda". Being a Christian should change all that. Not necessarily - we seem to have imbibed the spirit of the age and unconsciously import this viewpoint into our way of thinking. Speaking specifically about mission in India, I detect an air of fatalism. Though there is much that is wrong in India, approaching mission with a cynical outlook is a formula for failure.

EHA with over 52 units/projects gives me reason for hope. EHA boldly proclaims its vision as "a fellowship for transformation through caring". The spiritual dimension, combining proclamation and good works is at the heart of its mission. How does EHA carry out its vision?

Its base is the provision of expert patient care. To this was added, a variety of health and development projects. Recently, EHA has launched a number of initiatives not normally seen in health-based organizations, targeting pressing needs long neglected by society.

- Christian Schools for the poor
- Advocating for the powerless
- Preventing trafficking of poor village women and children. (*see story about Tezpur overleaf*)
- Mental health - much neglected in India
- Palliative Care - in rural India
- Mainstreaming disability
- Training within a culture of care
- Pioneering health insurance for the poor
- A Bioethics center - the first of its kind



But a bland listing of programs fails to capture the intensity and commitment that makes EHA what it is - a movement at the cutting edge. Here is a snapshot of some of the players:

- A couple pioneering in the malaria infested Raj Mahal hills
- A pediatric surgeon remaining at his remote hospital post after suffering a heart attack.
- An obstetrician on call 24/7 for ten years
- A clinical psychologist dedicated to special needs kids in the Shivalik hills.
- A couple leaving the lovely Himalayan foothills for a snake infested interior in hot and humid mid India
- A group of doctors ensconced in a Marxist hot bed
- A team of specialists striving together in Bihar "the graveyard of missions".
- A pharmacist going beyond his trade to establishing a children's center and spawning a host of related projects. (*See Anugrah and Tezpur overleaf*)
- A London based neurologist working in the "Snake bite" hospital, threatened and beaten but continuing to serve the poor with medicine, development, schools, vocational training and church planting....

and I have not exhausted the list.

They face physical, cultural and professional isolation, are separated from their children and are exposed to illnesses like malaria. They are persecuted and have been slapped with spurious lawsuits. They manage on a meager stipend, poor equipment and basic housing. But they never complain. If you ask them "why?" they will say they are "**just doing their job**".

Meeting such people replaces cynicism with hope. But, there is more to this story than projects and people. There is an invisible Force behind all of this - Almighty God Himself. The Scriptures tell us that the earth is the Lord's, that every nation on earth will adore him, that the "earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea." Hence we do not despise the "day of small things" and while some may trust in horses (brute strength) and others in chariots (man-made schemes) we rely on the Lord our God - for those who trust in him will do valiantly. **In fact the mission has already been accomplished** - on a remote hillside in Palestine, eerily described as "the place of skulls" where our dear Lord was crucified. By his sacrificial death and his glorious resurrection Christ has forever overcome sin and death and hell.

Even as those EHA servants follow in his train we are called to do the same.

Anugrah - a blessing



Jassowala Learning Centre

Anugrah is a 13 year old boy with special needs. He has cerebral palsy and passes his days in a wheelchair. I spent a memorable evening with him in the home of the Kumars. He was a lot of fun - mischievous, inquisitive and funny. But best of all is to see him at worship. As he sings to Jesus, his hands and his eyes move slowly heavenward. But they soon drift down since he does not have the strength to keep them up - and then he lifts them up again. God sees and God hears- "even the least of these...."

Anugrah means blessing - and to be with him is to literally experience a blessing. But his significance goes beyond possessing a beautiful name - he is the inspiration for a trend setting program in Herbertpur for handicapped children. His father, Robert, a pharmacist, could not find a suitable program for kids like him in the area and so started his own naming it "Anugrah". It began as a simple program for handicapped children and has now mushroomed to include a vocational training program for young adults, A Community College, an orthotics workshop, learning centers in villages, a "friends of Anugrah" program involving school children and an attempt to mainstream disability - all very innovative for India, especially in a rural setting. Now other units are following Anugrah's lead. (See *Tezpur*)

EHA Canada has been supporting the programs of Anugrah for some years. Our main focus now is to support the Learning Centers in the villages. Jubin Verghese who takes much of her inspiration from Jean Vanier was recently supported in a training program from Queen's University in Kingston. Here is a story she sent us:

Dilnawaz, 15-year-old boy with Hunter's disease is from Saharanpur, 3 hours from here. He has been coming to our center for the past two years. His parents came to know about his disability in his late childhood and did not find any special center for advice. They heard about us and sent him to live with his uncle in Herberpur so he could be enrolled in our program. Our staff started teaching him

prevocational skills like money concept, time concept, following commands, stepwise performance etc. He went on to learn vocational skills like field work, cleaning, mechanics, etc., The parents wanted to continue his learning in the center this year also. But Dilnawaz's heart wasn't here and he wanted to be back with his family. Recently, occupational therapists went to his home to do vocational evaluation and, to their surprise, he was at his best at home. He was able to drive tractors and was actively involved in taking care of his cattle - feeding them and taking them out regularly. He loves being involved in the activities of home and calls himself the 'master of the house'. We have had the privilege to be part of his life for the last couple of years and we hope that the changes that have happened in his life will help him become more independent and confident. Today he is able to decide for himself what is best for him and promised us that he will continue to work in his own house and does not want to work anywhere else. His picture of driving the tractor is amazing. Dilnawaz has **become a role model to most of our children proving that each child has a purpose.**



Tezpur Baptist Hospital and disabled children and human trafficking

The early intervention and resource centre for children with disabilities at Tezpur is doing well .We praise God for the resources he has provided. Children are coming from 200 - 300 kilometers. Pray as we go into the community and start advocacy and livelihood programs for persons with disabilities and their parents.

Community based rehabilitation program at Udalguri: 108 children with disabilities are enrolled in the program. 5 were sent for skill training to Shillong. 10 Disabled peoples clubs were formed for advocacy. A parents' association has been registered.

Please pray for land and buildings for the program.

The Team at Arunachal spent two days at a Buddhist monastery teaching the Lamas about health and take Christ's presence into these closed areas

The program for prevention of child trafficking and abuse: we were able to rescue an eight year old terribly abused by her owners with the help of the local CWC and police. The churches (all denominations) are responding with enthusiasm and are willing to stand up and do something.

Christian Medical College, Vellore, honors Dr. Anil and Shalini Cherian of EHA

CMC's College **Motto Award** recognizes and celebrates an alumnus whose life and work has exemplified the motto of the Christian Medical College Vellore, 'not to be served but to serve'. With determination, selflessness and courage, they have pursued their calling and for their exceptional contribution and service to the marginalized of our country, the seventh *College Motto Award* was presented to **Drs. Shalini and Anil Ninan Cherian**, both from the class of 1983.

The citation reads in part, "...They dared to follow their dreams and stayed with mission hospitals, predominantly the EHA hospitals at Uttraula and Chattarpur..... with unwavering optimism and faith, they (in Martin Luther's words) '*dared to take the first step before they could see the whole staircase*'. At tremendous personal cost and sacrifice, they have contributed generously with their time, wisdom and support. We have seen them raise the bar of clinical care, network across disciplines, within the country and beyond in an effort to pursue the cause of equality of health, health accessibility and empowerment of the community towards betterment of health. For their life of faith and commitment, effectively translated to one of service in the spirit of our alma mater, the CMC Alumni Association is proud to present the *College Motto Award 2012* to Drs. Shalini and Anil Cherian."
-excerpted from CMC News

Dr. Shalini in the Maternity out patient clinic,
Chattarpur Hospital



"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right.... Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential."

— Kofi Annan



You are invited to a special event to be held in Saskatoon on Sept 23rd at 6.30 PM at Erindale Alliance Church, 310 Perehudoff Cres. Doctors Anil and Shalini Cherian will be our special guests and will present an update on their work with EHA.

"He was moved with compassion."—Matthew 9:36.

It is said of Christ Jesus several times in the New Testament. The original word is a very remarkable one. It is not found in classic Greek. It is not found in the Septuagint. The fact is, it was a word coined by the evangelists themselves. They did not find one in the whole Greek language that suited their purpose, and therefore they had to make one. It is expressive of the deepest emotion; a striving of the bowels—a yearning of the innermost nature with pity.

I suppose that when our Saviour looked upon certain sights, those who watched him closely perceived that his internal agitation was very great, his emotions were very deep, and then his face betrayed it, his eyes gushed like fountains with tears, and you saw that his big heart was ready to burst with pity for the sorrow upon which his eyes were gazing. He was moved with compassion. His whole nature was agitated with commiseration for the sufferers before him...

C.H. Spurgeon



Nurse Karen Chan, from Saskatoon, visits India

I couldn't hold back the tears as I watched a surgical operation being performed at the **Herbertpur Christian Hospital**. It was a novel experience. The team, as is their habit, prayed over a mother and her unborn child. They take the time to remember that the fate of these poor, forgotten children of God is in the hands of God. They believe, not so much in their training and skills as in power of God to heal.

EHA is the only indigenous mission organization I have worked with. Indians led all of the five hospitals/projects I served in. My time with them has reshaped me both as a nurse and as a child of God. Watching the staff serve sacrificially, joyfully and selflessly helped to deepen my faith.

The love and faith I experienced in the depths of India's **villages** touched me deeply. I witnessed the dedication of the staff to children with special needs. I appreciated the beauty of the children and their mothers. They believed that God would help them through extreme struggles - struggles that we in the western world would never understand.

At CIHSR (Christian Institute of Health Sciences and Research) in **Nagaland**, along with Dr. Ninan, I had an opportunity to teach the medical staff. I also taught Pediatric Skills at the Nursing College. The students eagerly participated in discussions and volunteered to go through examples on the chalkboard. .

God was with me all the way and I saw God in action all the time. In the quiet moments I heard God say, "Be still and trust me". In the ER I prayed, "Please Lord spare this child's life, only You can heal her". When making new friends, I heard of their difficult lives. When saying goodbye to these same friends, I cried and prayed again "Lord give them strength and the resources to continue Your work." The beautiful people of India and my own experiences there have blessed and enriched my life. I can only hope that in some way, in some small interaction with someone I too was a blessing.

Karen was, until recently, working as a Pediatric ICU nurse. She has a heart for missions and was with the Ninans and Tamara Adams in India in 2011. She is now in London, U.K., doing a course in Tropical Medicine.

Tamara, Ninans and Karen



help for the hurting, hope for the poor...

PRAYER CORNER

1. Short term trip to India- Dr. Mathew Koshy from BC, Dr. Susan Samuel from Alberta and the Ninans, Oct 25th to Nov 24th. Pray for fruitful ministry, health and safety in travel.
2. EHA's new initiatives in human trafficking, mental health and palliative care.
3. EHA leadership in India and Canada to maintain the vision and retain a compassion for the poor and needy.
4. Fulfillment of the Great Commission and for Revival of the church in India

EHA Canada is a registered Canadian Charity (Business number: 89783 7829 RR0001) We invite your partnership in prayer and giving. Tax receipts for donations in 2012 will be mailed out in January 2013.

Short term and long term opportunities to serve in India are available. Visit our website www.eha-health.org for details.

We welcome opportunities to share our vision and our stories. Please contact us if you wish to have someone speak to your church/small group.

EHA Canada is very grateful to all those who pray and support us faithfully with their donations.