



Jeevodaya Hospice

1/272, Kamaraj Road, Mathur, Manali P.O., Chennai - 600 068. Tel. : 2555 5565 / 9671
Whatsapp : 63818 27638 Email : jeevodayahospice@gmail.com
Website : www.jeevodaya.in

Vol. XXV - Issue 3, Jan - Feb - Mar 2024
A quarterly New Bulletin
RNI: TNENG/2000/1198



For Private Circulation - Re. 1.00

Sr. Lilly Maria F.C.C., Chairman and President

From the Editors Desk

Editorial

"God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" – Corinthians 10:13. The above is not easy to accept and can be a subject of heated debate. Life for many is a saga of hardship and suffering. All of us have been deeply troubled at some point in life. And yet so many rise above the tragedies that enter their lives to become a source of fulfilment.

I recently read an inspiring post of a single mother Sarita who despite enormous challenges was determined to make ends meet. After trying various odd jobs, she began to sell rajma-chawal. She soon attracted many customers and was able to make a living. The story does not stop

there. She not only educated her own daughter but fed and taught the many poor children who lived in that area. She is only one of the many ordinary men and women who do extraordinary acts of love and compassion. If only, we could stop worrying, and start living and loving.

The death of Christ is a story of man's cruelty to man. It's a story of great suffering. But it is also a story of infinite unfathomable love. Trusting in that love, let us pray for resilience and courage. Let us never lose hope. May we witness redemption of man as an individual and humanity as a whole.

Sr. Lalitha Teresa
Editor

" I complained that I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet" - Confucius

Dr. K. GANAPATHY
1968 Batch, Madras Medical College

A few years ago along with my better half and my classmates from the 1968 batch of Madras Medical college we saw the fantabulous work being done at Jeevodaya - South India's First Hospice. Considering that it was my classmate Manjula who was spearheading this initiative along with the late Dr. Snehalatha this was not altogether surprising. The assistance rendered by Sister Lalitha Teresa and her incredible devoted, dedicated team had to be seen to be believed. As a neurosurgeon in active practice in a public, trust and corporate hospital from 1975 to 2015 death was my constant companion. At a guestimate I would personally have certified at least 2500 deaths. However to see scores of individuals , all of whom knew that they would very soon be leaving the world, being looked after as family members was incredible. Long before the Supreme Court of India ruled that the " Right to Die with Dignity" is a fundamental Right Jeevodaya had actually been implementing it. For the last few years I have been stressing that the Quality of Death is as important if not even more important than the Quality of Life
(chromeextension://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://koscs.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/12/Krishnan-Ganapathy-1.pdf) It was reassuring to see this in action.

It was at this time that I learnt that Jeevodaya was embarking on an additional project a Geriatric Hospice at Nemallur, in the Gummidipoondi Taluk, Thiruvallur District. Unlike End of Life management for cancer patients this geriatric care centre would cater to seniors requiring assistance in Daily Life. With increasing longevity and nuclear families becoming the norm economically challenged elders desperately need physical and mental support. We first saw the institution when it was being constructed. A few weeks ago we visited the institution again. Located in a suburban / rural area the ambience and the wide open spaces itself was most refreshing. It was gratifying to see the institution future ready.

I was initially disappointed to see only a few beds occupied. I am fully aware that Rome was not built in a day. After all Confucius had remarked “A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step” . The Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) with its strength of more than 7000 members wants to serve the poor, the sick and the needy. Alas however laudable be this desire FCC requires assistance in every way not just monetary donations. In the New Testament (Matthew 26:41), Jesus tells his disciples: “Watch and pray, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” A modern equivalent is I would if I could, but I can't.

The nuns of FCC also have a limit to what they can do . They are already far exceeding this limit ! We, the readers of this newsletter can help in many, many ways. Informing the truly deserving and needy by word of mouth about the facilities available will take a long time. Today messages go viral in the Social media . We are a privileged lot. The least we can do is to help those who have made major sacrifices help them achieve their goal . If I had been much younger and was staying in Madras I would have happily spent 1 month in a year living in the geriatric hospice trying to at least share my knowledge and help those less fortunate than us. From a purely selfish point of view it would be a great experience for a young doctor and would also look good in his CV as a volunteer.

Our prayers that the FCC and Jeevodaya continues to grow in strength. When one has no axe to grind we can be sure that soon the Geriatric Hospice will overtake its predecessor in its contribution to society

Dr. Manjula Krishnaswamy, Medical Director, Jeevodaya writes.....

Dr. K. Ganapathy is a close friend and batch mate from Madras Medical College. He is a well known Neurosurgeon from Chennai and is a pioneer in the field of Tele medicine. He has been associated with Jeevodaya for long as a well wisher and benefactor.

Author at Jeevodaya Cancer Hospice



Author at Jeevodaya Geriatric Hospice



X'mas celebration at Pappankandigai Village, Nemallur



X'mas & Pongal celebration at Jeevodaya Cancer Hospice, Mathur



X'mas & Pongal celebration at Jeevodaya Geriatric Hospice, Nemallur





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Published by Sr. Lalitha Teresa, on behalf of Jeevodaya Public Charitable Trust from Jeevodaya Hospice,
 Editor Sr. Lalitha Teresa, 1/272, Kamaraj Road, Mathur, Manali P.O., Chennai - 600 068.
 Printed by : J.A.E. Diaz, at Pio Printers Pvt. Ltd., 83, East Mada Church Road, Royapuram, Chennai - 600 013. Ph.: 2590 4242