



InTouch

The newsletter of the
Palliative Care Department
Emmanuel Hospital Association

Striving to Serve – Stretching to Love



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Madhipura Christian Hospital, Palliative Care Service



Madhipura Christian Hospital's Palliative Care Team is currently caring for 25 patients in villages close to the hospital. Nurses Celestina and Neelam completed the IAPC Basic course and Nurses Nothaniel, Goma and Anupa did the June course. They are a well-organized, caring and proactive team with great support from the leadership. A new motorbike has been purchased in the absence of a dedicated vehicle for home visits.

The team recently discovered Mrs Sugawati with paraplegia. She lay in the dirt on the floor of her mud hut for 3 years, through every season, even though her son and his family lived in the same hut using beds and other furniture. She had not been lifted nor her position changed for 4 months. Her family threw food close by that she was expected to grab and feed herself. She had lost a great deal of weight, had skin eruptions and had long ago lost all hope.

The team carried her outside to a secluded area and gently bathed her with warm water, rubbing away the layers of dirt with wet cotton so as not to further injure her skin. Team members spent time with her family members, urging them give her a bed, bathe her regularly and keep her company during meal times. Change might be slow but the palliative team will continue to model care.

Palliative Care Core Group

Considering the expansion that is taking place in palliative care services at EHA hospitals, a Core Group was formed for information sharing and as a think tank for future direction. At the first meeting on May 29th each hospital currently running a palliative service shared their work, both successes and challenges. The need for fundraising, opportunities for nurses to receive higher

training, mentoring of teams, having a research agenda and providing staff support was emphasised and will be taken forward.

Evaluation of Palliative Care Services

EMMS International commissioned Dr Dan Munday (Associate Clinical Professor Palliative Medicine, Warwick Medical School, UK) and Dr Erna Haraldsdottir (Director of Education & Research, St Columba's Hospice, UK) to evaluate the palliative care services at 5 EHA hospitals – Lalitpur, Fatehpur, Utraula, Chhatarpur and Dapegaon. Assisted by Mrs Manju Manak (MSW and translator), the 3-week evaluation gave valuable insight into the progress of each service and suggestions for future direction. An article that came out of this evaluation can be found on the e-hospice website: [Innovative model for palliative care emerging in rural North India](#)

Basic Course, Indian Association of Palliative Care

The third course was held at HBM Hospital, Lalitpur from June 8-12 and was attended by 13 nurses and 1 doctor from 6 EHA units. The contact classes were followed by a case reflection and the final examination held on August 5th. So far, 5 doctors and 35 nurses have done this training.

Glimpses of Hope



Chhatarpur School Awareness



Dapegaon: Ramchandra



Fatehpur: Raghu Raj

Let us not be surprised when we have to face difficulties. When the wind blows hard on a tree, the roots stretch and grow the stronger. Let it be so with us. Amy Carmichael

Praise and Prayer

Praise God for:

- The encouragement from the very positive EMMS palliative evaluation at 5 hospitals.
- Dr Jerine Liankimi (Tezpur) starting the Cardiff, Wales diploma in palliative medicine, having obtained the Commonwealth scholarship.
- Each palliative team member who extend themselves to alleviate suffering.

Pray for:

- New palliative services planned at Lakhnadon and Chinchipada Christian Hospitals.
- The pilot study on palliative care as a poverty reduction tool being conducted at Fatehpur, Lalitpur and Utraula.
- Funding proposals being developed for different palliative services.
- Encouragement and staff development initiatives for the palliative team members.
- The opportunity to network with Government officials and like-minded NGOs.

This newsletter is for EHA units, our partners & supporters to stay informed about PC in EHA. We welcome comments/ suggestions.
Write to: ann@eha-health.org and check out annthyle.blogspot.com (Feed One Another)
Emmanuel Hospital Association. 808/92 Nehru Place New Delhi 110019 Phone: 011-30882008