

CITATION FOR THE PAUL HARRISON AWARD, 1988

Doctor Stephen Hansdak was a student of the Christian Medical College for his undergraduate and postgraduate medical training. By his unswerving fidelity to its motto, he has remained a true son and heir of his alma mater.

Stephen was born in a tribal community in the Santal Parganas which he first served as a village school teacher. After graduation from Vellore in 1961, he returned there to work in the hospital of the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Village of Mohulpahari in the district of Dumka in Bihar. Because of the incessant need for surgical services in his isolated hospital, Hansdak returned to CMC for training towards the degree of Master of Surgery which he received in 1968.

For about a quarter century, Dr. Hansdak has served in Mohulpahari as a truly multicompetent physician the first and last resource for medical care in this isolated area. Under his able leadership, the bed strength of this small hospital grew to 130 and a school of nursing was added. Community Health services now reach out from Mohulpahari to a population of about 10,000. For many years, Dr. Hansdak has been the moving spirit behind the activities of both the Christian Medical Association and the Voluntary Health Association in the state of Bihar.

From his student days, Hansdak's life has been a demonstration of the enriching power of Christian discipleship. An active member of his church, he has served for long on its Synod and as the convener of its Medical Committee.

In recognition of a lifetime of faithful, devoted and effective service in the spirit of Christ to his own needy people in a remote rural part of our country, the Paul Harrison Award of 1988 is presented to Dr. Stephen Hansdak.