



Paul Harrison Award 1990

The Paul Harrison Award of the Christian Medical College is presented to alumni for significant, steadfast and selfless service in the broad field of health, in situations of need or neglect. This year Dr. Ajit Ronald Gurbachan Singh joins this honoured company.

Dr. Ajit Ronald Gurbachan Singh joined the CMC, Vellore for his under graduate training in 1963. As a young man of varied talents he was very popular among his peers and taking part in curricular and extra-curricular activities, from the beginning he exhibited his leadership qualities.

Born in a well known respected Christian family and son of a Bishop Ajit served his sponsorship obligation in Khariar Evangelical Hospital and joined as staff in 1971. Khariar, in Kalahandi District of Orissa State is one of the most rural and backward areas in India. Working in that isolated mission hospital he felt the need to have more surgical services in the Hospital and joined CMC Ludhiana in 1974 and qualified for the Degree of Master of Surgery in 1978. He returned to Khariar in the same year and since then is working there as the Medical Superintendent and Additional Director.

When he joined Khariar Evangelical Hospital nearly two decades ago it had only about 45 beds serving a population of per capita income of Rs.2/- per day: the closest town being 28 miles away with the road unusable six months in a year. Commanding respect and co-operation from his colleagues he raised the Hospital bed strength to 180: more than 2500 operations are done per annum including in the specialities of Urology, Thoracic, Paediatric & Orthopaedic surgeries. He started community health work, Immunisation, anti-Tuberculosis campaign, MCH clinics and health education which have spread to more than half a dozen villages. He attracts medical students and young trainees, Indian and Foreign who learn techniques adaptable to rural areas. The Hospital has attracted national recognition and is a referral centre for patients from neighbouring districts and states. He spends most of his vacations visiting larger teaching centres to update his knowledge and gain experience in new specialties. His main philosophy is to provide the best of treatment for the poorest of the poor in their own locality.

A leader of the Church of North India involved in Church activities and the healing ministry, he was also a board member of the Christian Medical Association of India. He serves also as a member of the Council and Executive of the CMC Vellore Association. Through his life he translates his faith and motto of his Hospital "Heal the sick and say the kingdom of God has come close to you".

In recognition of a youthful, devoted, faithful and effective service in the spirit of Christ among the poorest of the poor in a very backward rural area of our country, the coveted Paul Harrison Award of 1990 is awarded to **DR. AJIT RONALD GURBACHAN SINGH.**

Sd: Booshanam Moses
PRINCIPAL

Sd: B M Pulimood
DIRECTOR