

THE CITATION FOR THE CONFERMENT OF THE PAUL HARRISON AWARD OF 1992 ON DR. SARALA ELISHA

SARALA ELISHA JOINED THE MBBS COURSE AT THE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, VELLORE IN 1946. SHE WAS A MODEL STUDENT, DILIGENT IN HER STUDIES, ENTHUSIASTIC IN GAMES AND INCREASINGLY COMMITTED TO A CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE. AFTER HOUSE SURGEONCY IN VELLORE, SHE JOINED THE STAFF OF THE KUGLER HOSPITAL IN GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH, WHICH SHE SERVED WITH SINGLE MINDED DEVOTION AND COMMITMENT FOR OVER 35 YEARS, TILL HER RETIREMENT IN 1989. SHE HAD AN APTITUDE FOR OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY WHICH WAS FURTHER DEVELOPED AT THE J.J. HOSPITAL, BOMBAY FROM WHERE SHE TOOK HER DIPLOMA IN THE SUBJECT.

IT WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF SARALA THAT SHE CONCENTRATED ON FACING THE MANY NEEDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE KUGLER HOSPITAL, WITHOUT SEEKING PERSONAL GAINS. CHOOSING TO REMAIN SINGLE, SHE CHANNIELED ALL HER LOVE AND DEVOTION TO THE FULFILMENT OF HER CHRISTIAN CALLING. HER ENTHUSIASM AND PERSONAL CHARM WON MANY FRIENDS FOR THE HOSPITAL AND ATTRACTED ASSISTANCE FROM A VARIETY OF CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. SHE BECAME THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT IN 1967 AND CONTINUED TO OFFER ABLE LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDST OF MANY HARDSHIPS. FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF DR. SCUDDER'S ROADSIDE CLINICS IN VELLORE, SARALA MOVED OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY AROUND GUNTUR AND INITIATED DIVERSE PROJECTS IN CHILD CARE, RELIEF OF BLINDNESS, POLIO REHABILITATION, FAMILY WELFARE AND SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMMES. SHE ALSO BECAME INVOLVED IN DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS IN COASTAL ANDHRA PRADESH WHICH IS AN AREA PRONE TO DEVASTATING CYCLONES. THIS READINESS TO MEET NEEDS WHEREVER SHE FOUND THEM ONCE TOOK HER TO THE JUNGLES OF SABAH IN EAST MALAYSIA.

ALONG WITH HER PROFESSIONAL WORK, SHE WAS INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN LEADERSHIP OF CHRISTIAN EVANGELISTIC AND SERVICE ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE EVANGELICAL UNION OF STUDENTS, WORLD VISION INDIA AND THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF INDIA. FOLLOWING HER RETIREMENT, SHE NOW DEVOTES HER MATURE YEARS TO EVANGELISM AND THE PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

BY HER ABLE STEADFAST AND LIFE-LONG SERVICE IN CHRISTIAN MEDICAL WORK IN A NEEDY AREA AND BY HER LEADERSHIP IN THE PRACTICE, PROFESSION AND PROPAGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, DR. SARALA ELISHA HAS UPHELD THE IDEALS AND OBJECTIVES OF HER ALMA MATER. THE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE IS PROUD TO CONFER THE 'PAUL HARRISON AWARD' OF 1992 ON THIS EXEMPLARY DAUGHTER AND WORTHY HEIR OF THE VELLORE HERITAGE.

VELLORE
OCTOBER 12, 1992.

DR. BOOSHANAM V. MOSES
PRINCIPAL