

THE CITATION FOR THE CONFERMENT OF THE PAUL HARRISON AWARD OF 1994 ON

DR. ANNAMMA SAMUEL

Dr. Annamma Samuel joined the Christian Medical College Vellore in 1950. After graduation she worked in Schell Eye Hospital for a year and joined the Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Madras Medical College. Her interest in Ophthalmic work especially in rural areas took her to Kotagiri Medical Fellowship. After years of work there she went for specialised training to start an outreach eye programme for the poorer sections of the society in the Nilgiris. The result was in the birth of Emmanuel Eye clinic, Coonnoor in 1970 and the formation of Emmanuel Bline relief Society in 1982.

Her work was concentrated initially in and around Coonnoor. With aid from Operation Eye sight Universal, she started in 1985 another Rural Eye Hospital in Mettupalayam which has now expanded to a 110 bed hospital. Her work extends to 3 underserved districts in Tamilnadu and looks at preventive and curative aspects of eye diseases as well as education and training for the people. A training programme for Ophthalmic technologists was started in this hospital in 1991. She further extended her work in 1984 to Gudalur, a tribal area and in 1992 a satellite eye hospital was established there.

By nature Dr. Annamma is an unassuming and a very shy person. But when it comes to fighting for the cause of the needy, especially the tribals, she is transformed into a dynamite. No hurdle is too difficult for her to cross. Her motto is to use one's talents to help those in need. She has received many honours from various organisations but she had always shunned any publicity.

From her student days Dr. Annamma's life had been a reflection of the enriching power of Christian discipleship. Many a young life was touched by her dedication to the Master.

In recognition of her challenging demonstration of a steadfast concern for the poor and provision of specialised health care in backward areas of Tamilnadu and for enthusing the younger generations to carry on the torch of Christian Medical Service the Paul Harrison Award for 1994 is presented to Dr. Annamma Samuel.

Vellore
October, 17, 1994.