

PAUL HARRISON AWARD 1996

Dr. Douglas Ernest Henry graduated from Christian Medical College, Vellore in 1958. He joined the Christian Hospital, Dhamtari and spent the next two years there. He was the first to document the prevalence of rhinosporidiosis which, till then, had not been recognized as a major cause of nasal polyps in Madhya Pradesh.

He was invited to join the Leprosy Mission in 1960, and posted to the Chandkuri Leprosy Hospital and Homes in Baitalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. This was one of the more remote and underserved areas of the country at that time. He became Medical Superintendent three years later, continuing in that position, until his retirement in 1993.

Dr. Henry trained under Dr. Paul Brand, Dr. Ernest Fritschi and Dr. A. J. Selvapandian and established the work of leprosy reconstructive surgery at Chandkuri Hospital.

He obtained the Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene of London in 1968, and returned to take up leprosy control work. This programme was supported by the Government of India, and covered a population of about 10,000,000, in and around Baitalpur. After further training at Wardha and Chinglepet, Dr. Henry and his team, brought down the incidence of leprosy from 11 per 1000 population in 1960, to less than 1 per 1000 in 1986.

As Regional Secretary of the Leprosy Mission for Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, Dr. Henry helped to further the cause of leprosy work in these states. He was assisted in his work by his wife, who is a graduate in Sociology. After retirement Dr. and Mrs. Henry, along with their son and daughter-in-law, continue to serve the people at Bilaspur, in Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. Douglas Henry has demonstrated the highest qualities of Christian love, caring and compassion, in the healing ministry of Christ. For his selfless service in the field of leprosy, in a remote and needy area of the country, Christian Medical College, Vellore, is proud to honour him with the Paul Harrison Award, 1996 for Distinguished Service in a Rural Area.

Vellore

7th October 1996

Director

Principal