

PAUL HARRISON AWARD - 2001

Born into a home where service to others in need was given high priority, Hari O Bulchand's decision to choose Medicine as a career came as no surprise. He joined Christian Medical College, Vellore in 1956. Apart from facilitating the transformation into a doctor, life in Vellore also nurtured his natural talents as an orator, actor and a leader. He motivated and encouraged others and has always been remembered as a role model to his juniors. He was the General Secretary of the Men's Hostel union and editor of students association. After passing out from CMC, his deep rooted sense of patriotism compelled him to take up the Short Services Commission in the Indian Armed forces, in response to the Chinese aggression.

After leaving the army he decided to spend the rest of his life serving one of the most needy groups of people in a disadvantaged area-the leprosy affected individuals of Bombay slums. Most of his work was with the German Leprosy Relief Association. Urban leprosy has always been a challenging area of health care. Here, social dislocation and stigma associated with leprosy is compounded by complex dynamics of a slum environment. In moments of frustration and depression he used to write long letters to his teachers at Vellore. It required great courage and perseverance to face such odds.

Dr. Hari O. Bulchand Succeeded in carrying out an effective leprosy programme in Bombay slum. His empathy and caring concern were the strong forces that ensured this success. Even after retirement, Dr. Bulchand continues to work for people affected with leprosy.

Dr. Bulchand has visited Vellore frequently. These visits were mainly to spend time mediating near Dr. Ida Scudder's grave. In the ultimate analysis she was probably the main source of all his inspiration and commitment. His eloquence and organizational skills were never channelized to his own betterment.

Dr. Hari O. Bulchand through his lifetime work among leprosy affected people in one of the most difficult areas, has live up to the motto of his alma mater – '*not to be ministered unto but to minister*'. The Christian Medical College is proud to bestow the Paul Harrison Award for the year 2001 to one of its illustrious alumni – Dr. Hari O. Bulchand.

Director

Principal

Vellore

8 October 2001