

PAUL HARRISON AWARD 2006

The Paul Harrison Award for the year 2006 is being awarded to Dr. Valentine Patrick-Macaden and Dr. Susanna Macaden for their contributions to the field of leprosy at level of the community over a period of 46 years, Drs. Valentine and Susanna Macaden belong to the Batch of 1955. Following their graduation from CMC both of them worked in Schefflein Leprosy Research and Training Institute, Karigiri for a period of four years. Under the guidance of Dr. Job, Drs. Valentine and Susanna became involved in setting up a community based leprosy control programme in Gudiyatham, training paramedical workers, doing house to house surveys to detect cases and organizing rehabilitation and income generation for disabled people. They were married in their last year in Karigiri and then went on to join Emmaus Switzerland, a leprosy relief organization.

They were sent by Emmaus Switzerland to St. Joseph's Leprosy home in Mangalore, a care home where leprosy patients spent the rest of their lives. During their 5 year stint they changed the home into a hospital, providing outpatient and in-patient care, setting up a community control programme and a rehabilitation unit. He narrates how they involved local panchayat leaders in setting up community screening. Patients learnt new vocational skills and were able to return to their homes. Teachers who were earlier sending children with leprosy away from the school started putting pills into the same childrens' mouths. All these led to a shift in community perceptions regarding leprosy, a realization that leprosy patients were not infectious and could be productive members of society. At the end of 5 years they were able to leave an independently running leprosy centre and control programme,

They moved to Hubli in Dharwar District in 1970 where leprosy was an endemic and the nearest treatment was not available in Mangalore. They set up a 60 bed hospital, with 20 beds dedicated to leprosy. During the next three and a half decades they were involved in, leprosy treatment, reconstructive surgery, setting up a rehabilitation unit and training of paramedical workers. Their community based leprosy treatment programme covered a population of 8 lakhs in Hubli and Bellary. Through multi-drug treatment they were able to reduce the leprosy prevalence from 13/1 000 to 0.7/1000. The rehabilitation training unit provides training to patients in paper work, textile printing, and carpentry.

As a result of their efforts leprosy has ceased to be a problem at the level of the community and they were able to wind down their control programme. While implementing the programme, they found that the reason why some patients were not compliant to the treatment was that they did not believe in its effectiveness. Based on this research they started asking every patient about their opinion regarding treatment. They allowed patients who were not keen to take treatment to be followed

up at home for disease progression. This emphasizes the importance that was given to patient perspective in their programme. Dr. Valentine's expertise in leprosy management and implementing control programmes has been sought after nationally and internationally.

Drs. Valentine and Susanna have been involved in setting up clinical services, community treatment programmes and rehabilitation centres for leprosy and training of paramedical staff in Karigiri, Mangalore and Hubli. Their work has resulted in treatment and cure of countless patients, reduction in burden of disease at the community level, surgical correction of deformities and rehabilitation of disabled patients. They have been able to address the problem of stigma by involving the community in these activities.

Their work exemplifies the motto of our institution and spirit of Aunt Ida "not to be ministered unto, but to minister".

The faculties wish to cite their work as an outstanding example for our students and graduates to follow. In honour of their work, the Christian Medical College bestows on Dr. Valentine Patrick Macaden and Dr. Susanna Macaden the Paul Harrison award for 2006.

DIRECTOR
Vellore
27.11.2006