



## **PAUL HARRISON AWARD 2007**

Keith Kalyan Ingty joined CMC in 1964 after having been brought up in Assam and Meghalaya. While in college, he maintained a high academic standard and was a skilled hockey, cricket and football player. He is remembered for being a quiet thoughtful person with a delightful sense of humour. He was sensitive and kind to the extent of helping juniors by spending nights in the ward at the bedside of their relatives as a medical student.

He completed internship in 1971 and spent 2 months in the refugee camps along the Meghalaya-Assam border helping ailing Bangladeshi refugees. He returned to Vellore and worked in the department of Anatomy and had a short stint in Anaesthesia. The loss of his mother shortly thereafter led to his return to the North-East where he joined Tura Christian Hospital, Meghalaya.

Feeling the need to specialize, he returned to CMC and worked in the departments of radiology and hand surgery. He completed Diploma in Orthopaedics between 1976 and 1978 and then worked one more year in hand surgery undergoing specialist training to manage patients with Hansen's disease.

After his training, he began working for the CNI in a highly troubled area in Assam. He started his phenomenal contribution to the work of medical mission for the next 26 years working at both St. Luke's hospital in Tinsukhia and in Chabua at the hospital he was born in. His various talents enabled him to function as a multicompetent doctor. In the practice of orthopaedics, he helped set up the first workshop in the state for orthopaedic appliances at Chabua. He performed heroic emergency surgeries in remote locations with very basic equipment. In a number of cases, patients were brought back to the hospital after stabilization, with many of them recovering well who would otherwise have died. His ingenuity was also seen in the starting of a community ophthalmology programme in which large numbers of patients were operated on with the help of highly trained nurses. He is also adept in handling obstetric and emergency surgical cases and has also performed endoscopies.

His attention to detail and quality were notable even as young doctor. His innovativeness was apparent as a postgraduate student when juniors in mission hospitals saw him improvise with the use of autoclaved carpentry drills for orthopaedic surgeries. He has used locally devised blood pressure apparatuses when the need arose.

He is an excellent teacher and mentor, training young medical doctors, nurses and other health personnel, imparting medical and surgical skills and rejoicing in their success when they became independent professionally. His teaching has occurred in ward rounds and the operation theatre but equally at the roadside and villages. He is always eager to give of his rich knowledge. He has built teams and has always led from the front. He is impartial in his dealings in the militant hit areas without making too much of it.

More than clinical skills, his life teaches the importance of service. His example and teaching have inspired a generation of local doctors regardless of faith and learning background to work and serve in mission hospitals. Many young doctors who have witnessed his selfless caring have sacrificed lucrative opportunities in the private sector to emulate his example of living the CMC motto of “Not to be ministered unto but to minister”.

He is deeply involved in community outreach and even past the age of 60, travels by bumpy roads, boat and foot carrying medical supplies to remote and terrorist affected areas in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and other North Eastern states. Newer areas of outreach that he has started include community based rehabilitation for the disabled that began with the rehabilitation of a young man paralyzed from the waist down and a boy with extensive contracture of the hand. Both these patients were found in a remote area during a mobile clinic. Currently, he and his team have started 27 programmes to provide health care for children with World Vision and Oil India.

In the land owned by the hospital, he has started fish farming, vermiculture, teak plantations and other agricultural programmes both to increase the hospital income and to train villagers in agricultural programmes.

He has faced personal risk and selflessly taken on the burden of responsibility for medical mishaps to protect younger doctors to the extent of being arrested and jailed. He bears such treatment with great dignity feels no ill will towards his captors as he understands the gross injustices that they have themselves faced. He knows when to fight for principles and when to back down if the legal battles would take time away from his work. When politicians were trying to take over the property of St. Luke’s Chabua, he personally fought to resist this though his peers were unsupportive.

Dr. Ingty is a great inspiration and guide in the most difficult of situations with his exemplary calm and the utter conviction that all things work for good. He is persevering and always faces problems with what he is able to do.

In his modest unassuming way, he has quietly served in this corner of India without looking for recognition and acknowledgement of his work. His passion and zeal are for serving the unreachable residing in the most backward and militant hit areas and has many times risked his own life to make life a little better for the less fortunate. He has given selflessly and by his own personal motivation has kept the hospitals going in an area troubled by constant strikes, political turbulence and civil unrest.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the medical mission and life long service to the needs of the underserved society in the North East, Christian Medical College is proud to bestow the Paul Harrison award for the year 2007 to Dr. Keith Kalyan Ingty.

**Director**

**Principal**

**26.11.2007**

