

The College Motto Award 2007

Dr. KATUMALLA SHOBA NAVEEN

The College Motto Award, instituted by the class of 1949, aims to recognize and acclaim each year the member of the silver jubilee (or 25th year) reunion batch whose life and work, in the opinion of his/her classmates, has best exemplified CMC's motto, "not to be served but to serve". In this second year since its foundation, this award is presented to Dr. Katumalla Shoba Naveen of the class of 1982.

After graduation in Medicine and further specialization in Ophthalmology at the Christian Medical College, Shoba set out to establish a charitable private eye hospital in a rural region in partnership with the service organization Operation Eyesight Universal. In the resultant Siloam Eye Hospital, Madanapalle, established in 1999, Shoba employed local people without higher education and trained them as vision technicians, ophthalmic nurses and multipurpose workers. Sustaining itself through this "low cost effective care" approach, the hospital has expanded into community eye care and still later into rehabilitation of the visually disabled. Offering community programmes for every village in selected mandals, they conduct door to door screenings, in partnership with local panchayat heads, teachers, public health workers and NGOs.

Modeling itself on the Biblical pool of Siloam the Siloam, Eye Hospital has developed into a State-of-the-art comprehensive secondary level eye centre, delivering more than half of the ophthalmic care in a wide rural region around Madanapalle. Almost 40% of their patients live below the poverty line and they receive free care, while the rest subsidise their care. All receive the same high quality of care indicated by good visual acuity in 96% of the postoperative patients.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh recognized her services through a substantial grant to the hospital in 2003. In 2006, Shoba received the Ben Gullison Award for leadership skills and rural commitment. Shoba's record of perseverance and innovation in the cause of eye sight holds the promise of a lifetime of dedicated service.

In recognition of her contributions in the field of eye care in a needy part of India, upholding the motto of her alma mater, the Christian Medical College, Vellore, is proud to present the College Motto Award for the year 2007 to

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Awarded at the Annual Alumni Reunion in Vellore on the 11th of August 2007.