

The College Motto award 2016

Dr Philip Finny & Dr. Leejia Mathew

Philip Finny entered the portals of CMC in 1990, a young 17 year old, whose love for Christ and missions was evident from day one. He comes from a family where love for the Lord and service to others are held foremost. In CMC, he was always among the toppers in his class, winning several academic prizes including the Jacob Memorial Award for the best MD student. Philip always stood up for Truth, was unashamed of the Christian faith and values he cherished and kept his personal witness throughout his student days. His dream was to serve in a remote area where medical facilities are rudimentary or non-existent. And, as is obvious, that did not remain a dream...

After completing his MBBS in 1996, Philip served for 2 years with Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) at Satbarwa (Orharkhand) and at Makunda (Assam). Here he gained first-hand experience of working in rural and tribal parts of North and North-East India. In 1999, he married Dr. Leejia, who shared his vision and passion for missions. Dr. Leejia completed her MBBS from the JJM Medical College, Davangere.

After his M.D in General Medicine at CMC Vellore, Philip was increasingly convinced of his call to serve in North Indian Mission hospitals. He and Leejia moved to Oddanchatram for a year to gain professional and practical mission experience. Here they were involved in training young doctors, which confirmed their calling to serve in North India and be available as a Christian mentor for young medical professionals working in the mission hospitals there. Philip further equipped himself by undergoing higher specialty training in Endocrinology, while Leejia completed her post graduation in Anaesthesia in CMC Vellore during the period 2003-2006.

They worked in the EHA Hospital in Makunda, Assam for a year, before moving to the Duncan Hospital, Raxaul, where they have been based since 2008. Though a qualified endocrinologist, Philip has served mostly as a General Physician working to meet the needs of people in remote parts of Assam and Bihar. In Philip's own words, *"My greatest satisfaction has been to nurture and mentor visiting medical students from the Government medical colleges in Bihar and junior doctors in EHA who get posted at Duncan Hospital, Raxaul. Pouring out our lives to build others professionally and spiritually has brought me immense satisfaction..."* Philip also conducts clinical teaching programs across all the 20 EHA hospitals by organizing CMEs. He is involved in promoting medical missionary enterprise among the Christian medical students in Bihar, Jharkhand and Nepal.

Philip is actively involved in clinical and epidemiological research on common medical problems in Raxaul with a view to advise Government health policy changes and to educate general public through media. He has served as the Deputy Medical Director at the Duncan Hospital for over 4 years and has worked hard to improve laboratory quality standards in the EHA mission hospital network. He also completed a Masters in Organizational Leadership and Management which has helped hone his leadership skills. He has written 5 articles in the "Voice" magazine of EMFI to disseminate the joys and challenges of working in mission hospitals.

Leejia is almost always the only trained anaesthetist for the busy secondary hospital that has over 6,500 deliveries a year. Following a PG Diploma in Palliative Medicine from Cardiff, Leejia is now establishing a Palliative Care Service in North Bihar. She is involved in teaching and training nurse anaesthetists from EHA and other Mission Hospitals, as well as government doctors doing the PG Diploma in Family Medicine Course from the Department of Distance Education, CMC, Vellore. Interacting with these doctors, many of whom are from the public sector, has been particularly gratifying for her. Leejia's work extends beyond anaesthesia and the operating room as she helps in the Medical OPD on a regular basis.

Philip says, *"We are grateful to God for our family and also to all our friends and teachers at CMC Vellore for being such a great support in all our endeavours so far. Our excellent training at Vellore prepared us greatly to serve in Bihar and Assam"*. Their choice of career and place of work reflect their desire to serve the under privileged. Despite constraints they have kept their vision clear and focused just like their Master to whom they have totally surrendered and yielded.

Philip and Leejia's life are an example of *'being'* what God intended them to be in addition to *'doing'* and upholding Aunt Ida's vision and the College motto, *"Not to be ministered unto but to minister"*. The CMC Alumni Association is proud to present the College Motto Award 2016 to Drs. Philip Finny and Leejia Mathew.