

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Dr. Naveen Thomas belongs to the MBBS batch of 1982. Following internship, Dr. Naveen worked in the Bangalore Baptist Hospital (BBH) from 1988 to 1990 as part of his service obligation. BBH was then a 177-bed hospital. He came back to CMC Vellore for his training, first in General Surgery (1990-93) and later for Paediatric Surgery (1996-98). In the intervening period, he worked both in the BBH and the Christian Fellowship Hospital, Oddanchatram. From 1999, Dr. Naveen has devoted his time, skill and service to the BBH. He was the first full time Paediatric Surgeon in the hospital, but necessity has demanded that he continue to do General Surgery as well.

Dr. Naveen is passionate about teaching- passing on to his students the art and science of Surgery. He has been involved in the highly successful DNB Surgery programme of the BBH- students from this programme have won gold medals in the National Board Examination. While on a sabbatical to Australia, he was a Fellow in Paediatric Transplantation at Westmead Hospital and a Clinical Associate Lecturer at the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney. He was awarded the '*Lorimer Award*' for excellence in teaching in the surgical speciality for the year 2010.

Apart from his busy clinical schedule, he has held several administrative posts in the BBH, including Chief of Medical Staff and Deputy Director. He was the Director of the BBH from 2014 to 2021, working tirelessly with his team in pursuit of the Hospital's vision of '*healing and wholeness in the spirit of Christ*'. The Hospital is today a 340- bed super speciality and was the first mission hospital in the country to be accredited with the NABH and NABL. Dr. Naveen himself is a Principal Assessor with the NABH. The DNB program, offered in many specialities, has been awarded the '*Excellence in Teaching Award*' by the National Board of Examinations. In the last few years, the BBH has won a host of national awards for quality and health care excellence. The recent areas of growth at the BBH include a successful Bone Marrow Transplantation programme, Kidney and Liver transplantation.

A Bible verse that has stayed with him through these years of dedicated service has been one that an elderly nurse scribbled on a card in 1990: '*Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am Thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness*' (Isaiah 41:10) He draws inspiration from his father, who '*walked the talk*', from his sister, Dr. Usha Jacob, the first dental surgeon in BBH, and Dr. Verghese Philip, a surgeon from coastal Karnataka. These mentors, and his own faith and strength have sustained him over the years. Dr. Naveen humbly states that he has received much, much more than what he has been enabled to give. He looks back with immense gratitude and looks forward with trust and hope.

For this dedication to his calling and wider Christian commitment, Christian Medical College is proud to honour Dr. Naveen Thomas with the Meritorious Service Award for the year 2022

