

### **Alumni Award citation for the year 2024:**

In the small village of Kallukootam, Nagercoil, Kaniyakumari district, in the year 1952, was born this quiet, diligent and hardworking gentleman, Mr Albert. His father was a compounder and mother a home maker.

After his schooling, Mr.Albert went on to get trained in typewriting and shorthand and stood first in the district competitive examinations for English typewriting. This prepared him to support his family financially. At the young age of 21, he travelled to Madras looking for a government job. He got a job as a typist cum clerk at a block making company called Cherians Process. After 3 years there, he underwent training as a Clerical Cadre Apprentice under the National Apprenticeship Programme in the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India for a year. He worked for a year more there and gained experience in all the sections of this company.

A strong believer in God and in the power of prayer, he prayed earnestly and specifically for a job 100 miles away from Madras and a salary of Rs.300 a month. The prayer was answered when he noticed an advertisement in the Hindu Newspaper – vacancy for stenographers at CMC Vellore. With no second thoughts, he applied immediately and he was selected for the job for a salary of Rs 314 per month confirming that this was the will of God in his life. He was welcomed into the institution by the then Additional General Superintendent Mr. H.D. Moses, father of Dr Prabhakar Moses.

Thus, in March 1978, he began his career as a junior stenographer. His job offer was for 3 months which stretched from March 1978 to October 2012, 36 long years, before he retired as Senior Secretary. His work as the Secretary of the Alumni Office, working along with countless alumni and staff in the institution was exemplary. He worked tirelessly with help from Drs. Sara and Suranjan Bhattacharji to type in the first alumni directory. This was hard work - many long nights going on to early mornings, spent typing out these lists.

His term in the Alumni office taught him many lessons including discipline, punctuality, event management and much more. His time in the office made him grow into the man he became, gave purpose to life and became the strong foundation on which his family grew and was blessed. He also enjoyed all the interactions with numerous alumni with a warm and welcoming smile, a few words of enquiry and then moving on to do whatever the alumnus requested him to do. He was awarded the best Secretary award of the year 2011 by the Rotary Club of Vellore South.

He was supported by his strong and faithful wife, Mrs. Beulah who joined the kitchens of the Big Bungalow and Alumni House and made countless meals for Alumni and others. She continues to do so even after the official retirement age. He is blessed with 2 children, Mr. Daniel Beno, his elder son, working as a Senior Demonstrator in the Department of Pathology, CMC and his younger son, Mr. Abhishek, working as Scientist at Novo Nordisk in Bangalore.

At the end of his term in 2012, he was requested to continue for 2 more years till we could train someone to take on this humongous task onto their shoulders. Following his retirement from the Alumni Office in 2014, he continued to work for 8 more years

in the campus. He continues to support his children and grandchildren and his wife, in every way he can.

In recognition of his dedicated service to the institution especially to the Alumni Office, the Alumni Association of the Christian Medical College, Vellore is proud to honour Mr. E. Albert with the Alumni Award for the year 2024.