



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

DUNCAN HOSPITAL -RAXAUL

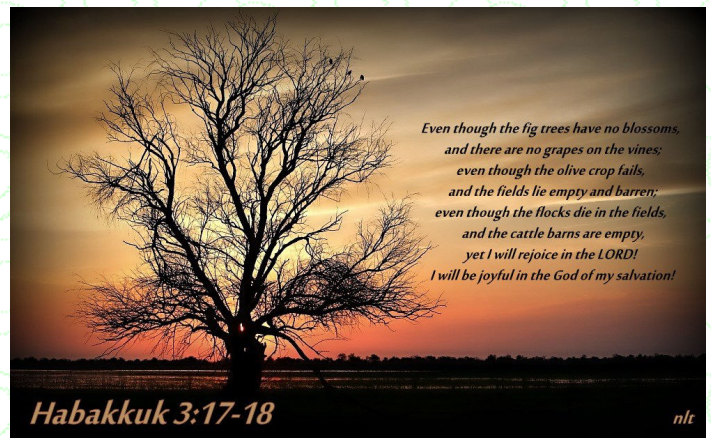
An Inspite of Faith...

Sometime back I heard a young lad testifying in church. Young as he was, under twenties, he spoke deep truths. He was probably the youngest at home since he spoke of an older brother. The others at home followed a different faith but he had put his trust in Jesus. Not an easy thing .But he did not elaborate on any of this. He testified about going out of his small town to take a test that would get him into the army. His parents wanted him to go to the temple to take some blessed articles that would ensure he got the coveted job. An insurance against bad luck. Naturally he didn't want to have any truck with those kind of notions.

As testimonies go , the congregation was expecting to hear that he had landed the plum job and been vindicated for his faith. But that wasn't how it went. He returned home without a job to face the ire and taunts of his family. Was he disappointed? I am sure he was. Did he lose heart? No. To me, he worked out Habakkuk 3: 17 in his young life . His unspoken challenge to us that evening was to trust God inspite of.....

I am certain this boy experienced the peace that evades human logic because it comes from our Father in heaven.

When praise is the last thing that comes naturally to us and we choose to worship Him anyway, we've had the privilege of offering a genuine sacrifice of praise. Eph. 6:16 speaks of the shield of faith. This is our protection when Satan tempts us to disbelieve God and throw in the towel. We are not called to have faith in our faith. We are to have faith in God and never doubt Him. Then we can say along with Habakkuk : Even if my life isn't going the way I had envisioned it I will still trust that He has His sight on me ; this will be my hope and anchor in the storms of life.



Mrs. Pinky Mohapatra

SPOT LIGHT ON ASISH PROJECT, A Blessing for Vulnerable Families

Mary Ellen

Child labour ... the common sight of young children working instead of attending school.

Bonded labour ... families dragged into generations of labour to pay off an unending debt.

Human trafficking ... men, women and children bought and sold through fraud, force or coercion.

These were the issues that captured the attention of staff in Duncan's community development department a few years ago. The problems seemed overwhelming, but the drive to bring justice was even stronger.

As a result, the ASISH Project started at Duncan Hospital in 2014. The name stands for "Action against Social Injustice and promoting Social Harmony". The word "*Asish*" also means "blessing" in the Hindi language

The project works with the most vulnerable families identified in Raxaul and Adapur blocks and takes a community-based approach to address the problems of modern-day slavery, namely child labour, bonded labour and human trafficking.



At the foundation to their work, Community Freedom Groups have been formed to develop community-level prevention of trafficking. These groups aim to promote increased awareness about the issues, to educate people about the risks and to ensure safer migration of workers. These Freedom Groups include women's groups, adolescent boys and girls groups, and children's groups.

Non-formal education (NFE) centers have been developed to reach children who are currently not attending school, including child labourers, drop-outs and those who have never attended school. Through NFE centers, children are taught basic literacy and numeracy skills and are motivated to return to school. After one year in the program, the children are supported to re-enroll in their local school. Asish project's connection with the School Management Committees will monitor the educational progress of these children.

The project has identified the most vulnerable families in their target area and has initiated Income Generation Programs (IGP) to improve the economic condition of these families. IGP strategies include providing seed funds to start a small business and offering training in employable vocational skills. With an improved economic condition, family members are less likely to be lured into trafficking.

The project team includes 15 people, working in various capacities to bring hope to the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Please **pray** for the ASISH team:

For wisdom and courage in the spiritual battle underlying these issues

For fruitful and effective relationships with community members and government officials

For the families who are vulnerable and at risk of being affected by trafficking

For the safety of the staff as they travel daily to the surrounding communities

Family Focus

Drs Vinod and Annie

I said a loud 'NO' in my heart when I heard the then EHA director saying "Vinod! you are going back to Duncan again" for our plan at that time was to continue in CMC Vellore for my MD paediatrics and Annie to pursue her post graduation. It took few days for us to realize and understand that it was more important to do what God wants us to do than what we want to do for ourselves.

Coming back to Duncan was like coming home again. All through my D.ch training, I used to ask myself how I can manage if the child I was treating at CMC Vellore, would come to Duncan.

We were blessed with Liza when I was doing my 1st year of Dch course at Vellore. By the time we started our journey back to Duncan, Annie was 6months pregnant with Jamy. Though our parents were not against us to work in Duncan but certainly were not happy. I truly appreciate Annie for convincing them to release us to come to Duncan together. I thank God always, for a godly wife in my life. Contrary to our expectations Jamy demanded a caesarean section to join into our family. I sincerely thank my friends and colleagues who helped us at that time.

Work had been great for the last two years. There were some failures, which I could have avoided if I were a bit more careful and there were also lives, I saved which I never thought would survive. In all my ups and downs, God has been there through out.

I not only grew up as a professional but also as a person in my ability to let go off offences and to accept people in whatever forms they come. I'm still learning the art of it.

We are moving to Vellore for next few years to pursue higher studies. Our future plan is to influence medical students in teaching hospitals. The need of our country is Christians to rise and influence every sect of our nation. We would appreciate your prayers for us. Duncan will always has a special place in our lives.



MOVEMENTS

New recruitments

As Junior medical officers

Dr Pheby Dr Repent
Dr Anju Dr Sumith
Dr Achsah



We pray that the period of service of the new recruits will be a blessing to many here at Duncan.

Thanksgiving

1. Praise God for all the resources for the past financial year.
2. For all the staff who have joined us.

Prayer requests

1. Pray for the team in Duncan hospital as well as community team for good health and protection.
2. For the staff children- new academic year
3. For the newly joined junior medical officers
4. For bridging the gap with few consultants in the next couple of months

