

## Missions Department dedicated

On May 15, 2017, the Missions Department was dedicated in the presence of the Director, Principal, Associate Directors, Council's Advisory Committee members and a few others. Over the last 10 years, the Missions Office has shown significant growth in its services and at the last Council, in January, it was upgraded as a department under the Directorate. The growth of the Missions Office to a department is significant in the present scenario, where CMC Vellore is focusing on reviving, rebuilding and restoring mission hospitals across the country.

Associate Director of Missions Dr. Sukria Nayak, welcomed the gathering. The dedication began with a prayer by Chaplain Mani Bhushan Das followed by a Scripture reading.

Director Dr. Sunil Thomas Chandy, addressing the gathering, said that the focus of CMC is to uplift and support the mission hospital network in every way



possible, and that keeping the mission hospitals alive is “crucial and symbiotic”. In a nation where good health care is scarce, the Christian mission hospitals play a central role in administering the best possible care to the poor and marginalized. In the light of this, the department needs to be further developed and strengthened in its initiatives for better healthcare delivery through its network, he said. He also thanked FOV UK for supporting the post of Mission's Network Consultant.

Dr. Nayak emphasised the role of the department in impacting healthcare of the country through mission hospitals. With various requests coming from mission hospitals, CMC is exploring ways of supporting and handholding them, he said.

He also mentioned that, currently, CMC is involved with six hospitals, and has undertaken various projects with them.

The first Co-ordinator, Dr. Regi Thomas, recalled that the Mission's Office was set up with a vision to develop it into a department in ten years' time, and that God has honoured the vision. The Council's Advisory Committee for Mission Hospitals consisting of Dr. Ajit Singh, Dr. Solomon Chellaiah and Dr. Sunil Gokavi expressed their happiness in seeing the establishment of the Missions



Department. The huge role that CMC has played in the past in addressing many health issues can now be carried out through the department for a wider impact.

Missions Network Consultant Dr. Sam David, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the various leaders who had, over the years, moulded the Missions Office. He re-emphasised the department's commitment to serve the marginalised and underprivileged through the network of hospitals. This, however, cannot be done in isolation without the support and encouragement of those here at CMC, he said.

Although the Office has moved on to become a department, it will continue to function under the Directorate. The department now has an active team consisting of Dr. Sukria Nayak, Dr. Winsley Rose (Deputy Director), Dr. Tony Abraham Thomas (Co-ordinator), Dr. W. Sam David (Missions Network Consultant) and Ms. Bency Vinitha Chhatria (Administrative Assistant). Special thanks to Ms. Chellammal for her constant help.

The Principal, Dr. Anna B. Pulimood read the Franciscan benediction, a challenging prayer giving us hope in times of hopelessness.



*“I wish for you discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep in your heart.*

*May you be blessed with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer, so that you will reach out your hands to comfort them and change their pain into joy.*

*And may you have the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things others tell you cannot be done.”*