

## **CMC signs MOU with Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Trust**

On Wednesday, the 30th of August 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the CMC Vellore Association and the Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Trust (KMF). The 50-bedded hospital, started in 1937, had approached CMC for help in sustaining the healthcare services it provides in the Nilgiris.

Director Dr Sunil T Chandy, expressing his happiness, mentioned the strategic location of the hospital on the hilltop and likened it to a lamp on a hill. Referring to Psalm 121, he thanked God for the provision of willing people and His watchful eyes, as CMC will look at ways of managing the hospital and developing it to a self-sufficient stage.



Director Designate Dr J V Peter said that the heart of Christian healthcare is mission and CMC is contributing by training people and sending them out into the field. Mentioning charity as the soul of Christian healthcare and compassionate care to patients, its mind, Dr Peter expressed his eagerness to carry forward the work that has been started and to help revive medical services in the region. "What has been dreamt of and sown, has to be watered," he said. At the public gathering held, members of the local populace expressed their happiness and appreciation of CMC for reaching out to help the region.

KMF Hospital has both general services as well as a Department of Ophthalmology. CMC will continue to explore ways for developing other services based on the needs of the area. At present, paediatrician Dr Reny Joseph, ophthalmologist Dr Smitha Jasper and optometrist Ms Susan Joseph, from CMC Vellore, have joined the hospital.



The thirtieth of August was also the birth anniversary of Dr Pauline Jeffrey, author of Aunt Ida's biography, and one of the founders of KMF Hospital and henceforth, the day will be observed as its Founders Day. Dr George Kurian (Retd. Prof of Gastroenterology, CMC Vellore), who had served as a KMF Trustee and knew Dr Jeffrey personally, spoke a few words about her on the occasion. Others representing CMC included Dr Pramila Lee, Dr Sukria Nayak, Dr Winsley Rose, Dr Achamma Chandy, Mr Roby Priya Sundarsingh, Dr Smitha Jasper, Dr W Sam David and Ms Bency Vinitha Chhatra.

Council Secretary Dr Thomas Samuel Ram signed on behalf of CMC while for the KMF Trust, its President Dr George Jayaprakash (Batch of '67, CMC Vellore) and Secretary Mr Rickyraj Johnstone were the signatories.



It was a joyous moment for CMC as mission is at the heart of its ministry, and as it constantly engages with its network of mission hospitals to both ensure that the ones who are doing well stay relevant and to revive those who are struggling. Those interested to know more about KMF Hospital and its work may contact the Missions Department in the Directorate Extension.