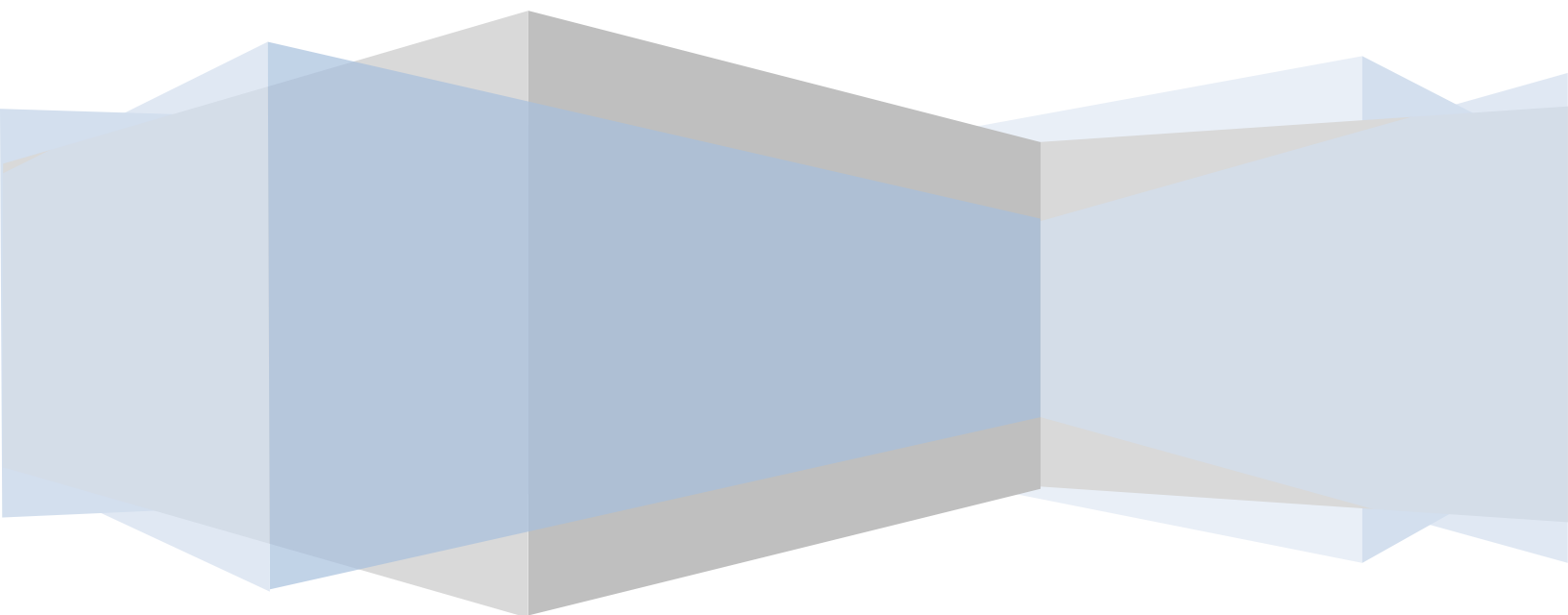


**Humanizing Health Care, “Caring for
The Whole Person”**

**Reflection Report for
Global Ministries in
Mungeli and Tilda, India**

Rev. Antoinette Kemp – January 2011



Christian Hospital Mungeli



After a visit to Mungeli, India in 2010 as a lead chaplain for a People-to-People Pilgrimage with a group of graduated students from the University of Georgia, I was transformed forever. My experience in Mungeli at both the hospital and school drew my attention to caring for people holistically. When I returned to the states I began working on the concept of integrating spiritual care with medical care as a part of a multi-disciplinary care plan to attend to the whole person.

On January 9, 2011 I, a chaplain with a vision and my colleague Dr. Emmanuel Lartey a well known professor of pastoral care and theology from Candler School of Theology, Emory University embarked on a new adventure in mission to share our knowledge about caring for people holistically. It was the result of a great deal of conversation and many, many emails that began with a dialogue between myself, (Toni Kemp) an ordained minister in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and the Director of Christian Hospital Mungeli, Dr. Anil Henry our Global Ministries missionary.

The conversation's focus was around exploring the possibility of bringing workshops on delivering compassionate care through sessions addressing "Humanizing Healthcare", *Caring for the Whole Person* to the medical staff and school teachers at Christian Hospital Mungeli. Dr. Henry later expanded the idea to include offering the workshop training to Evangelical Hospital and Nursing School in Tilda. Both hospitals are located in Chhattisgarh, North India and are part of the 'Eastern Regional Board of Health Services, CNI. After initiating a proposal for a short-term mission project to Global Ministries, I began developing the concept and drawing up an outline for the curriculum. The grant was awarded to assist in my travel and with the help of my colleague the course outline was completed and we began planning our trip to India.

Day 1 – 9: Myself and Dr. Lartey along with Dr. Anil Henry set out immediately upon our arrival to discuss how to implement and schedule the planned session workshops. The workshops outline entitled “*Humanizing Healthcare, Caring for the Whole Person*” consisted of eight sessions planned to be implemented over an eight to ten day period. Three sessions per day were offered to include all hospital staff and school teachers. The sessions were as follows: 7:45-9:00 am for the teachers at the Rambo English School, 10:00-11:00 am for the hospital night shift staff and 6:00-7:00 pm for the hospital day shift staff.

At the Rambo English School, the curriculum was reduced to five sessions and modified to address the particular contextual needs for the teachers as providers of education and care for the whole person/student.



Teachers, Rambo English School during a workshop session

The school teachers really got involved with the sessions and with the help of the School Principal, (Avinash Prasad) who assisted us at each session we were able to achieve our collected goal of creating a working document for the vision and mission of the school. Each teacher was given an assignment to work on writing their hopes and dreams for achieving in their individual classrooms. After bringing together their finished work, we comprised a collected unified mission statement for the school to use as their working draft.

Rambo English School – Draft Mission Statement:

Our mission is to mould young minds today for a better tomorrow and a brighter future, through excellence in education, practices of discipline and encouraged creativity, in a faithful, loving and clean environment.

Core Values: ***Leadership** - Set a positive example in all we do ***Honesty** - Be truthful always
***Integrity** - Strive to do our very best ***Diligence** - To work hard and learn ***Respect** - Self and others
***Peace** - Maintain a peaceful attitude



Evening Workshop Session with staff and Drs., Terry and Anil Henry



Staff, Christian Hospital Mungeli during a workshop session

The hospital staff showed out in great numbers full of thoughts and curiosity, eager to hear more on how to make the most of what they do best in caring for others. Each evening the Chapel was transformed into a classroom, with video sessions and small group discussions where we shared our ideas and understandings of being the beloved community of care for the whole person. We had fun with some competition and group participation incentives such as popcorn and American chocolates....Yum! All in all, the group worked hard to develop their own understandings of multidisciplinary care in their context to help them create a working document for a mission statement.



Christian Hospital, Mungeli – Draft Mission Statement: The whole community of Christian Hospital, Mungeli is committed to providing holistic healthcare through excellent services, quality care and respectful treatment in which the spirituality of each person is honoured.

Core Values: > Care, > Respect, > Humanity, > Honesty, > Service, > Cooperation

The hospital is planning to continue the work established with the materials and curriculum we provided. Key staff persons who were involved in the workshop sessions will be designated to lead and conduct the follow up work.

All of this intense work...., but not without a little fun! On the seventh day we all took off for a proper Mungeli picnic at the National Park and Dam. We headed out late Sunday morning on a crowded school bus filled with sounds of laughter and songs as Dr. Anil navigated our bus through the villages and what was clearly for him familiar terrain. Finally we arrived and the festivities began. As we ascended up the narrow pathway to our picnic area we effortlessly made room for the cattle that were making their way down the path at the same time.

The picnic just as last year was truly one of the many highlights of the journey. There is nothing more moving than the sights and sounds that consumed my soul as I looked out over the vastness of the river dam while the sun kissed our skin as we women sat on the blanketed ground chopping vegetables, peeling potatoes and cleaning rice in preparation for the men who were in charge of the cooking, while we were looking on and waiting for them to work their miracle in creating the most delightful meal ever. I watched the children and many adults take to their life jackets and with pure excitement and some fear mount the water rafts as they set out for an adventure to journey out onto the river. I witnessed the brave and beautiful ones who shivered on the rocks from their water chilled bodies that had been immersed in the river like a new baptism as they took lessons on how to swim. Later we all gathered around in a circle, singing songs of joy and thanksgiving as we prepared for our meal together. I offered a prayer of blessings and reflection on God's goodness and provisions.



Mungeli Men preparing the picnic meal



Women gathered by the River

Day 10 –13: Our day began early with chapel service at CHM, hospital rounds with Dr. Henry, breakfast and a quick packing for a three day stay in Tilda to provide a condensed version of similar workshop sessions held in Mungeli. Off to Tilda.....

Evangelical Hospital and Nursing School, Tilda



Students and Staff are standing in front of the new nursing school dormitory financially supported by Global Ministries, USA.

We arrived in Tilda where we were warmly greeted by Dr. Satyajit Jiwanmall, Hospital and Nursing School Director and Miliind Gude, Hospital and Nursing School Administrator. Evangelical Hospital, Tilda a Global Ministries Partner was established in the early 1900's and was once served for four years by both Dr. V. Henry, Sr. and Nancy Henry.



Plaque for honoring Global Ministries' USA support of the new nursing school student dormitory built



Evangelical Church of North India

Upon our arrival we immediately headed for a nearby community clinic as myself and Dr. Lartey tagged along for a tour during a State medical inspection and afterwards we sat with the hospital administrator and planned the implementation for the next three days workshop sessions. The sessions were provided predominately for the School of Nursing, hospital Physicians and some Staff. Again three sessions each day provided the forum for a slightly modified version of the Mungeli sessions to address the uniqueness of the Nursing School needs and their 72 students. Each morning began with Chapel Service a break for tea or breakfast before our first session which began at 8:30 am and concluded at 9:30 am. Two, one hour sessions followed at 11:30 am, and another at 3:30 pm. Sessions were conducted with the help of a language translator to facilitate ease and comfort in communications. This medical context worked on small group discussions regarding holistic health care and developing a critical understanding for the interconnected and interdependent nature of every hospital employee.

On our second day in Tilda we had an amazing experience when we had an opportunity to explore the surrounding community. We visited the small surrounding “Khadi” Village, a Community Development Cooperative, modeled after the message and philosophy of Gandhi. Khadi cotton is one of the village’s primary market productions which, is a prime sustainable resource for the center, oil, printing and the production of ready mix sustainable food for the mal-nourished and school children are also among the center’s products. This is a glimpse of Social Justice in action.



Women making the ready mix food at the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan Center

Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan is not a mere marketing outlet for Khadi and Village Industries products but a landmark of the city radiating the message of **Mahatma Gandhi**.



*One of many **Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan** Centers in India*

The objective of this organization is to work for a non-violent, non-exploitative social order as envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi. Towards attaining their objectives of relieving the rural

people from their existing poverty, Khadi & Village Industries sales is being stepped up steadily to provide employment to the rural masses.

Our third and final day in Tilda was not without a festive occasion. After closing our final session in the morning we gathered for farewell hugs, pictures and contact exchanges with students and staff, but not without one additional birthday celebration before we departed.

It was in all of the Indian grand style and befitting the joy and honor of a beautiful one year old daughter. Now off to Mungeli....

Return to CH – Mungeli, Our return was a fairly quick and bumpy ride back where we made one more session to finalize the workshops and bring our mission to a close. The last session was in slim attendance as everyone scurried to complete their work and prepare for the big night's celebration party. Everyone gathered at the Henry home where you know there's going to be lots of food and fun. As always the Henry family and all the staff will not let you leave Mungeli without a proper send off, and that includes karaoke with Anil.... We had a grand time and an evening to remember, breaking bread together and sharing conversation, laughter, fun and hugs....all ending with goodbye's for now. This was truly an amazing time.

Outcomes and Evaluations:

One testimony given by a Mungeli Nurse, said that they were grateful for all they learned and for giving them something new to think about in how to provide care with a deeper sense of compassion and attention to the whole person, how to care for themselves and others. The way Jesus calls us to care for the world. (*Paraphrased*)

This work done in India is the foundational beginning of my future doctoral research and work. It has been expressed by our partners as a very helpful and much needed training tool for the community. Both Christian Hospital Mungeli and Evangelical Hospital and Nursing School desire to continue the work which has been started and we all pray that God will see it to completion.

Discussions with the Physician Directors of both hospital locations, led to the expressed interest for possible project collaboration with US Universities and Seminaries in developing contextual education and/or internships for students engaged in and/or interested in international and intercultural contextualized chaplaincy training. By using each of the medical facilities' vision, coupled with the ongoing developing work and curriculum of Rev. Toni Kemp's Humanizing Healthcare, "*Caring for the whole Person*" A partnership such as this would benefit our global partners to a large extent by providing their hospitals with additional short-term, long-term help while developing students in their medical and ministry disciplines as well as building strong sustainable relationships across the United States and abroad. Students from the United States will in turn enrich their journeys of faith while gaining a significant intercultural emerging experience, fully preparing them for global ministry today.

Dr. Emmanuel Lartey, Professor of Candler School of Theology a co-teacher/co-developer with Rev. Kemp has express an interest in sharing the vision with Candler in hope for bringing a

collaborative partnership effort together to consider a proposal for establishing both hospital locations as an international base for training chaplains. The concept has the potential for establishing a deeper relationship with a wider community in the exchange and building of resources.