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(Good Tidings)

February 2000

To the Friends of Menno-Clinic, India

My Recent Trip to India

By Olga Yarlagadda.

All our children couldn't be home on Christmas Day, 1999, so Christmas was celebrated the day after at the Yarlagadda residence. Our son, Vamsi, and daughter in law, Camen, came from Providence. Pratima, our older daughter, and her fiancé, Brad (she is engaged to get married in September) showed up from Indianapolis. Our younger daughter Sravana is still living at home. They were all going to spend a week with us. However, that was the day I had to leave to go to India. It was the same day that the television was repeatedly flashing the pictures of an Indian Airline's passenger that was murdered by the hijackers in Afghanistan. It was very difficult for me to leave my kids and go during Christmas time. But, we have made a commitment to serve the Lord and we will do so smilingly.

Every time I go to India, I initiate paperwork to obtain permits of different kinds. Among other things, we needed to establish a Trust in India, get a foreign exchange permit, and a building permit. There is so much bureaucracy that it takes 2 to 3 years just to get a phone to the site. The paperwork sat where it was as soon as I left India. What I needed was someone from India that understands and works the system to finish up what I had started. That was my biggest achievement this time--I have retained the services of Mr. Nekkalapudi Narasimham. He was in charge of building a couple of eye-clinics in Hyderabad and has the experience to get the job done. Nrasimham is my cousin. I have known him all his life and trust him. He will assist me in getting the paperwork done and see to it that the building is done on time. Establishing a Trust generally takes several years, however, with the help of Narasimham and some other friends, we got it done in a few days.

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Contributions can be sent to:
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mennoclinicindia.mennonite.net

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What's New

By Ben Hunsberger

Menno-Clinic, India is more than a project and a quarterly newsletter, it is an expression of a promise made many years ago by a young man. This Hindu youth didn't realize that the fulfillment of this promise would kindle as a response to the calling of Christ. Now Doc, Olga, and Emma Mennonite Church are working at making this promise come true.

As Menno-Clinic, India progresses we face the continual challenge of keeping you, our friends and supporters, up-to-date and in-touch. That's been the function of this Newsletter. However, quarterly newsletters can only go so far.

We are excited to announce our new web site:

mennoclinicindia.mennonite.net

We feel that this new medium will allow us to better keep you informed of what's going on with the Menno-Clinic, India project.

By now many of you are probably wondering how the opening paragraph could possibly be a lead into announcing a web site. How many of you remember the story briefly presented above? How many can't remember some of the details of the stories told in the past? Have you misplaced your newsletters and wished you could look them up again? With the web site you can do this.

I realize not everyone has access to this technology, but for those that do, we hope you will find it useful. We also hope to reach more people and invite them to share in the vision of providing medical services to the people of Chiluvuru.

A Word from the Board

By John C. Murray

One wall of my office at Hesston Mennonite Church in Hesston, Kansas, where I now serve as pastor, contains four pictures. One picture is a crowded street scene from Delhi. A second is a picture of me holding two young boys in the Missionaries of Charity Orphanage in Calcutta. The third is a picture of a large group of school children standing outside a small school in the village of Chiluvuru. The fourth is a picture of Gorgipa, a paralytic from the village of Chiluvuru. Gorgipa changed my life by inviting me to pray for him when I was about to simply pass him by while I was walking through the village streets.

These pictures remind me daily of the vision of Menno-Clinic, India. They remind me of the need, both physical and spiritual, in the tiny rural village of 10,000 people. They remind of the compassionate concern of Doc and Olga Yarlagadda for the poor. They remind me how my participation in the development of Menno-Clinic, India has inspired me and transformed my view of mission and ministry. They remind me of my ongoing commitment and desire to participate in this simple, but significant ministry in the name of Jesus.

While our move to Kansas from Indiana has necessitated my stepping down as chair of the board of Menno-Clinic, India, I am grateful to remain a board member and participate through long distance communication. The good news is that in the midst of the information age with telephone, email, fax and overnight mail, "long distance" hasn't felt very distant. On a recent trip back to Indiana, I was able to be present at one of the Board meetings. It felt great to be back with the group. But it also felt as though I had never left.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to work with the development of this project. I trust that my transition to Hesston, Kansas from Emma, Indiana is simply one of the things God had in mind for building a larger support group for this project. I invite everyone who reads this newsletter to join me daily in praying for the work of helping this clinic become a reality and even more for the people of Chiluvuru, India who this clinic will serve.

My Recent Trip to India

Continued from page 1

Things are beginning to move now. Several checks-and-balances were put in place to ensure that funds would be spent appropriately. All money spent will need authorization and will be reported to the board. We are committed to the proper stewardship of the funds that were given to us in good faith.

We have two parcels of land in Chiluvuru; one is my old home-site, and the other is a 1-1/2 acre site that we bought with clinic funds. After consulting with several architects,

engineers, and hydrologists, we have decided to build the clinic at the old site. Equally important in arriving at this decision were the requests by the villagers to build at the old site because of its proximity to the village. An architectural drawing of the building has been presented to the Menno-Clinic, India Board. Plans are to develop the other property into a citrus farm and the income generated will go to the clinic. Property value always increases in India and this property has appreciated in value already.

There has been some confusion over whether we are building a hospital or a clinic. This confusion comes from the cultural differences. What you call a "clinic" here is called a small "hospital" in India. The one we are building is strictly an outpatient clinic by our standards. Where the Lord takes us from there, we do not know. A typical clinic in India is a two or three story building. The first floor serves as a clinic and the top floor serves as a residence for the doctor's family. In our case, the first floor will house the outpatient clinic and the second floor will serve as residence for the missionaries and doctors that travel from the United States. It may also serve as living quarters for the local doctor. Service and having a presence at the clinic are two major steps in building a successful mission project. Somebody has to be present at the clinic all the time. It is necessary for us to provide proper accommodations to these people when they are in India.

I am personally thankful for all your prayers during my trip to India. It's very difficult to get things done in third world countries. But, we are working hard. We are still hopeful that most of the building, if not all of it, will be in place by the end of the year. Please continue to pray for us.



Financial Corner

Menno-Clinic, India Fund January, 2000

Cash	\$133,621.28
Land	<u>11,900.00</u>
Total Assets	145,521.28

Receipts 9/1/99-1/31/00

Donations	20,180.96
Interest	<u>2,355.24</u>
Total Receipts	22,536.20
Expenses	<u>2,225.00</u>
Net Receipts	20,311.20