



Newsletter

Helping Hands for Hospitals



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2024, Helping Hands for Hospitals (HHH) has been blessed with numerous impactful activities. We take this opportunity to wish you and your family a joyful and blessed Christmas, as well as a Happy New Year!

We deeply appreciate the unwavering support you have extended to HHH, including the special donations that have brought blessings to many underprivileged hospitals.



Surgical Camp in Madhepura, Bihar

On February 12, 2024, our team landed in Madhepura Christian Hospital, located in one of the least developed districts in Bihar—a state that faces immense challenges. Dr. John Oommen, a renowned plastic surgeon and HHH board member, joined us to lead the ENT Plastic Surgery camp. A highlight of this trip was the inauguration of a newly purchased microscope, made possible through the generosity of HHH donors. This valuable equipment has been a game-changer for the hospital.

MOMENTS FROM MADHEPURA

- Microscope inauguration
- Surgery in progress

Dr. Arpit Mathew, Dr. Amy Mathew, Dr. Ashish Abraham, Dr. Naila Ashish, and the dedicated team of doctors played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the camp. With divine guidance, a demanding schedule of complex cases was tackled with remarkable outcomes in this rural setting.

One particularly moving story was that of a young woman with an ossifying fibroma of the maxilla. The surgery was a resounding success, restoring not just her health but her dignity. Her acceptance back into her community is a testament to the transformative power of compassionate care. She has now become a messenger of love, bringing more patients to the hospital, where they too can experience the message of hope and healing.

Additionally, a series of ENT surgeries were successfully completed during this visit.



RENU: A CENTER FOR EMPOWERMENT

The hospital's "Renu" center continues to empower women and provide palliative care, shining as a witness to the Lord's love in Madhepura. Dr. Renu John, a graduate of CMC Vellore and currently practicing in Australia, is the inspiring force behind the women empowerment initiative in Madhepura.

Jordan Medical Camp: Dr. Benjamin's Reflections

February 16, 2024

Dr. Benjamin joined the Jordan Medical Camp, serving among refugees in collaboration with the Medical Mission Group from Calvary Chapel Old Bridge, NJ. This group visits Jordan refugee camps annually, addressing the significant medical and social needs of refugees from Syria, Iran, and Iraq. The plight of these refugees is heart-wrenching. With few options, many seek shelter in camps in Jordan, other Middle Eastern countries, and Europe. The living conditions in these camps are dire, and the refugees face immense challenges, requiring urgent medical, physical, and social care.



Visits and Celebrations

March 18, 2024

Dr. John Oommen, Annamma John, and Nidhi John visited New Jersey, making a meaningful trip to Virginia. On their journey, they connected with Dr. Zac Koshy and met the 95-year-old O.C. Oommen in Delaware, sharing moments of warmth and fellowship.



March 22, 2024

The group traveled to Minneapolis, MN, to celebrate the life of Mrs. Lucy Carmen, a cherished long-time staff member and friend from CMC Vellore. Dr. Carmen and her family hold a special place in the hearts of the CMC Vellore community, their legacy continuing to inspire alumni and staff alike.

March 24, 2024

Dr. Shejoy Joshua, Consultant Neurosurgeon, and Dr. Jyothi P. Joshua, Consultant ENT Surgeon from Cochin, India, joined us in New Jersey and stayed with us. Their visit was a source of great encouragement and a true blessing.



Highlights from April and May 2024

Visit to Massena, St. Lawrence County, NY April 14, 2024

A memorable trip to the home church of Rev. Garry Van Kennen and Rev. Judith Van Kennen was a unique highlight this year. The warm reception and hospitality extended by the members of the church in Massena were deeply appreciated by the HHH board. The journey to Massena was an adventure in itself, with Ms. Jessie Dickenson, Ms. Tissy Achamma George, and Benjamin George accompanying the road trip of approximately seven hours. The visit was further enriched by the presence of Rev. Peter Cook, President of the New York Council of Churches.



April 19, 2024 Consultation in San Francisco

A consultation meeting was held in San Francisco to plan and organize the upcoming annual conference of HHH.

May 1-3, 2024 CMDA National Conference Ridgecrest, Asheville, NC

The Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMDA) National Conference, hosted at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, NC, was a remarkable event. This large gathering drew participants from across the United States, garnering attention from the medical community nationwide.

The conference was a time of inspiration and connection, with opportunities to meet new friends and engage with medical and spiritual leaders. The sessions were both edifying and uplifting, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.




May 5, 2024: Home Group in Charlotte, SC

The HHH home group gathering on May 5, 2024, was graciously hosted by Ms. Jessie Dickenson at her home in Charlotte, SC. The event was well-attended, with several friends and family coming together to hear testimonies from Helping Hands. It was a truly uplifting time of fellowship.

A heartfelt thanks to Mrs Maggie Alexander and Mrs Jessie Dickenson for the delicious dishes and to Mr Bob Dickenson for the thoughtful arrangements. We also remember with gratitude the invaluable contributions and fellowship of Mr Alexander and Mrs Maggie Alexander, which have greatly supported the smooth functioning of HHH.



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SUMMER UPDATES FROM HHH

- July 20, 2024: East Brunswick Home Group Gathering
- August 7-14, 2024 - Medical Camp at Bishop John Memorial Hospital, Anantnag, Kashmir



The HHH team participated in a medical camp at Bishop John Memorial Hospital, which has been serving the community for over 100 years in Anantnag, Kashmir. Despite being a region affected by unrest and terrorism, the hospital continues to provide much-needed care under the dedicated leadership of Dr. K. Sarah, who has served as the Medical Superintendent for the past 30 years.



July 20, 2024 East Brunswick Home Group Gathering

The HHH Home Group meeting was graciously hosted by Dr. Abraham Thomas and Dr. Ruby Abraham at their residence in East Brunswick, NJ. The gathering, which included Dr. Mathew George from Community of Grace International and several family members, was an inspiring awareness event highlighting the mission and vision of HHH.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ruby Abraham for organizing this wonderful evening and for the delicious meal provided. The warmth and hospitality of the hosts added a special touch to the event.

August 7-14, 2024 Medical Camp at Bishop John Memorial Hospital, Kashmir

The five-day medical camp reached several villages, thanks to the collaboration of the hospital staff, military doctors, and local teams. The HHH team included:

- Dr John Oommen
- Dr Annamma John
- Dr Sam Jebanth, Dental Surgeon
- Dr Benjamin George
- Mrs. Molly Peter, Pharmacist
- Mr Kevin Thomas

This camp was a testament to the collective effort of all involved, addressing the pressing medical needs of the community and bringing hope to the region. Compassion and service transcends boundaries!

AUGUST 17, 2024

A DAY IN WARANGAL AND TARIGAPOLA

The team visited the Church of Gigantic Dimension in Karunapuram, Warangal, Telangana. This remarkable spiritual work, led by Rev. Dr. Paulson Sangala and Rev. Dr. Jaya Prakash Gopu, left a lasting impression.

Later in the day, an ENT medical camp was conducted at Mary Louise Slater Memorial Hospital in Tarigapola, Jangaon, Hyderabad. Working alongside Dr. Ryan and his dedicated team was an encouraging and collaborative experience. The shared learning and mutual encouragement were highlights of the visit.

UPDATES FROM BETHANY MEDICAL CENTER ON AUGUST 18, 2024

A visit to Bethany Medical Center in Coimbatore was a deeply moving experience. Time spent with Shabu Augustine, a paraplegic patient under HHH's care, was inspiring. Despite the challenges he faces, Shabu's resilience is remarkable.

His bedsores have healed completely, and his back remains free from new sores. However, complications persist with his suprapubic catheter, which is causing recurrent infections. He continues to rely on a colostomy bag for bowel management. Shabu's survival, following a C3-C4 fracture sustained in a fall from a tree, is nothing short of a miracle. His vibrant personality shines as a testament to his indomitable spirit, despite the adversity he has endured.



Back at Bethany Medical Center, a laparotomy was performed to successfully remove a massive 4 kg ovarian tumor. The surgery was a significant achievement, bringing relief and hope to the patient.

PERSONAL MILESTONES AND FAMILY MOMENTS- DR BENJAMIN

August 30, 2024

A special visit to Mrs. Pachamma Abraham, my mother's sister, marked a joyful moment. At 95 years old, she remains healthy despite a past battle with lymphoma. We praise God for her incredible life and for the love and care she gave us as children. The day also included a rewarding trip to Mavelikara, a picturesque town in Kerala, where we celebrated my mother's brother's 90th birthday.



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August 31, 2024

The month ended on a serene note with a family boat trip through the stunning backwaters of Alleppey, Kerala. The beauty of the scenery and the joy of family togetherness made this an unforgettable experience.



HHH Annual Conference: Innovation Symposium at UC Berkeley September 13–15, 2024



The annual Helping Hands for Hospitals (HHH) conference was held on the vibrant UC Berkeley campus, focusing on innovative strategies for revitalizing struggling medical units, particularly in rural India and other developing regions. The event attracted a diverse group of attendees, including healthcare professionals, donors, and mission workers, who engaged in meaningful discussions over the three days.

Keynote Highlights

The conference commenced with an inspiring keynote address by Rev. Dr. George Chavanikkamannil, who spoke on the theme, "The Harvest is Plentiful; Laborers are Few." He emphasized the pressing need to equip mission fields with adequate healthcare professionals, highlighting India's 4,693 ethnic groups, many of whom have yet to experience the healing power of the Gospel. His call to action resonated deeply with attendees.

Rev. Dr. Ravi Jayakaran of Medical Ambassadors International expanded on this theme with his talk, "Healing Lives and Transforming Communities Holistically," reinforcing the importance of integrated approaches to health and community development.

Day Two Highlights – September 14

Dr. Abraham Thomas, President of HHH, welcomed the delegates with opening remarks, expressing gratitude for the continuous support from donors and the dedication of HHH volunteers.

Notable Sessions and Speakers:

- Dr. Rajkumar Songa: Explored the reasons for the failure of mission hospitals and the transformative potential of open innovation in turning these facilities into self-sufficient entities.
- Dr. Latha Paul, Dr. Mike Soderling, and Dr. Sampath Kumar (IAS): Shared insights on reviving sick hospitals and lessons learned from innovative approaches.
- Dr. Pramod Haque: Presented on navigating stress in a rapidly changing and uncertain (VUCA) world.
- Dr. William Bieber, Don Rumbaugh, and Dr. Paul Immanuel: Contributed to discussions on implementing sustainable solutions.



[LINK TO THE VIDEO SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE](#)

BERKELEY CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024 SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS



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The award ceremony during the Annual Banquet honored Dr. Arpit Mathew and Dr. Amy Mathew for their selfless work in rural India, particularly in Madhepura. The banquet, held in Berkeley, featured Dr. Eapen as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the critical role of Christian missions in India's healthcare landscape.

The conference also welcomed prominent speakers, including Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi ("Your Secret Calling"), Dr. Rabi Maharaj, Hugh Ross (President, Reason to Believe), and Helen Maddumalle.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Mrs. Feba Philip, HHH Administrator in India, and Mr. Linu Zachariah, Chief Operating Officer, for traveling to San Francisco to attend and contribute to the conference's success.

Impact and Reflections

The conference underscored the importance of innovation and collaboration in restoring mission hospitals and improving healthcare delivery in underserved areas. The discussions and strategies shared during the sessions inspired renewed energy and commitment among participants, ensuring the continuation of HHH's vital work.



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ANNUAL BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The Annual Banquet and Dinner were held in Berkeley, with Dr. Eapen serving as the Chief Guest. He delivered an inspiring address, emphasizing the pivotal role of Christian missions in strengthening India's healthcare delivery system. A highlight of the evening was the recognition of Dr. Arpit Mathew and Dr. Amy Mathew, who were honored with an award for their unwavering dedication and selfless service in rural India. Their contributions exemplify the mission and vision of HHH.

The emphasis on innovative programs to revitalize mission hospitals, as discussed throughout the conference, was widely appreciated by all attendees. The banquet concluded with renewed hope and commitment to advancing healthcare in underserved regions.



MISSION ENGAGEMENT AT CMC VELLORE: SHILOH PROGRAM

A three-day SHilOH program at CMC Vellore, Tamil Nadu, brought together mission hospital staff, the CMC Director, faculty, and various agencies. The event emphasized the urgent need to inspire and equip students for mission fields, highlighting the dire necessity of healthcare professionals in underserved areas.

Helping Hands for Hospitals was represented by Dr. Benjamin, Ms. Feba Philip, and Mr. Linu Zachariah, who actively participated in the meetings and discussions. This collaborative effort reinforced the shared commitment to addressing critical needs in mission healthcare.

05 MAY 2025



VISIT TO FLOOD-AFFECTED VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH

A visit to Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, revealed the heartbreaking impact of devastating floods, with severe loss of lives and properties. The scenes of destruction underscored the urgent need for relief and restoration in the region.

Ms. Jeevitha and Pastor Mrs. Annie Joseph facilitated the visit to the affected areas, offering a firsthand glimpse into the challenges faced by the local community. As part of the outreach, a visit to a dental clinic was organized, where a new generator, gifted through Dr. Chgarupathi, was inaugurated, bringing much-needed support to the clinic's operations.

This visit reinforced the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of disaster-stricken communities.



Medical Camp and Relief Visit
Flood-Affected Wayanad, Kerala



The Harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few

The medical camp in Wayanad, Kerala, brought relief to a region devastated by catastrophic floods, which claimed around 500 lives and obliterated an entire village. The heart-wrenching scenes of destruction highlighted the dire need for medical and humanitarian aid.

Dr. Muralidhar, along with members of the Intercollegiate Fellowship, organized the medical camp in several flood-affected villages. Dr. Benjamin also participated, offering critical medical care. The camp significantly benefited a large number of villagers, providing much-needed support during a time of immense suffering.



MISSION HOSPITAL VISITS:
OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2024

The following mission hospital visits were successfully completed during October and November 2024, emphasizing the dedication to supporting underserved communities:

- Lucknow TLM Hospital, Ayodhya
- Fatehpur Hospital
- Kachwa Mission Hospital
- Madhepura
- Sundarbans Medical Camp



LEADING WITH
INNOVATION,
DELIVERING EXCELLENCE.

Each visit served as an opportunity to strengthen healthcare services, provide support to the local teams, and deliver critical medical care to those in need. These engagements reaffirm HHH's commitment to reviving and sustaining mission hospitals in rural and underprivileged regions.

PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

A visit to Honolulu brought precious moments spent with family, including time with my daughter and grandchildren, offering a cherished break from routine.

Upon returning to New York, work resumed at the hospital, alongside regular commitments with the Helping Hands for Hospitals team. Weekly Thursday meetings continued, where updates and needs from partner hospitals were shared, fostering ongoing collaboration and prayerful support.

BUILDING THE FUTURE
TOGETHER

Additionally, the second Saturday of each month saw continued discussions on current topics and critical issues, ensuring the focus remained on addressing the challenges faced by mission hospitals and healthcare initiatives

