

FEED ORISSA

A report by Dr. Christina Joseph, Tanjore

The Surgery Camp in Bargarh was a great blessing to us, participants. Dr. Manoharan, one of the surgeons in the team rightly said, “It doesn’t seem to be a surgical camp. People flock like flies on a sweet meat.” When we expected that 50 patients would get operated in five days (January 21 to 25), the number swelled to 94! There was much to be anxious about, because we did not want to send back the poor and deserving people disappointed. Most of them had been living for years (some as long as 20 years) knowing that they needed a surgery but could not afford one. Some of them had already spent all they could with no avail and waited for some miracle to happen. This surgical camp turned out to be a miracle for such people.

Sanjay, 11 had a congenital problem that his right leg was full of wart like thing that would bleed. He is a student of our slum tuition centre for whose healing we had been praying. We thought of taking Sanjay to Tamilnadu for surgery. But it was God’s plan that Sanjay would be operated here in Orissa. It was warm to see the kid smiling all the way to the theatre knowing that his suffering for the past 11 years would soon come to an end. Sanjay got operated and is in great spirits now.



Poor parents of a 10 year old girl said with tears that they were asked to pay Rs. 1 lakh for a complicated surgery of their daughter in a famous medical college Hospital. She was passing urine and motion through the same passage. But it so happened that the child got operated freely. The relief on the parents’ face made us think, how caring God is!

Health Workers had gone to the surrounding villages to select and mobilize cases for surgery. The team on the floor took over— Dr.Gnanamani an expert Anaesthetist did the job of four people, calm, in control, monitoring three tables at a time, giving G.A., spinals and caudal blocks.

The young theater nurses—Sheeba, Shyla, Suja and Amudha, deeply committed to Missions, were never tired, but cheerful, enthusiastic, efficient, assisting all cases expertly. The Surgical team headed by Dr. Manohar, Dr. Selvadoss, Dr. Joseph Victor and Dr. Prabakar tackled the enormous number of cases, operating almost non-stop — a real Surgery Blitz, from 9:30 am to 11 pm, taking breaks in between, in turn, for snacks, endless cups of tea and tasty meals.

All patients were operated on—Hysterec-tomies, Thyroidectomies, Mastectomy, Hernio-raphy, Anorectal anomaly, Hypospadius, Skin graft for burns contracture, cleft lip and Elephantiasis. Orissa appeared endemic for Hydrocele — large, bilateral, all expertly operated by Dr. Manohar. I think he set a record. A whooping 94 cases were operated in 5 days.

Mr. Mahesh from Tanjore was the young Theater Assistant. He was indispensable, found anywhere and everywhere at the same time, responding to any and every call for help. He is a non-Christian, but so challenged by his first exposure to a Surgical Camp, has begged to be included in all subsequent Camps. I was also able to do my part—doing a few Spinals, monitoring patients, screening a few cases by Ultrasound, making myself useful in several ways.



Dr. Selvadoss a known cardiac patient was actively operating cases from 9 am to 11 pm. Dr. Manohar was a challenge to us—who at the age of 68 with medical problems of his own—he has undergone bypass surgery twice—had the stamina of a 30 year old, operating almost non stop, motivating the rest of us. His wife Patricia with her medical problems—knee replacement—was helping with registration of patients. They have already signed up for the next Camp at Orissa in Nov 2008, promising to come with two more surgeons, their son an Ophthalmologist and DGO daughter-in-law and three nurses. Now that's what I call commitment.

We also appreciate the ceaseless efforts of Dr. Sashya Jayaharan, Mr. Pushparaj and Medivision people in the Missionary Medical Ministry. The kind cooperation of the sisters at Catholic Mission Hospital, Bargarh is commendable.

After this camp, we find tremendous response in the field. Our evangelists are welcomed, and children come in hundreds to the slum tuition centers. Many who were benefited are poor believers. We also heard people talking among themselves that only Christian people who love Christ could do freely those operations that would cost thousands of rupees. Praise the Lord!

The patients were so very grateful. But when we left, I was not happy. Of course we had done a Marathon number of cases. But it was a small



Before surgery

drop in the vast ocean of medical need at Orissa. I am told that if we operate only Hydroceles for an entire month, there will still be plenty more left.

I thought of the hundreds of Christian Doctors in the Southern States of India, working in well developed cities, towns, and even villages where there are even 10 doctors on every street, giving good Medical care to patients who have the money power also to choose a doctor. Why this disparity in our country?

The need is enormous. Surgeons who are interested in taking part in Surgical camps at Mission fields, please contact Mr. Pushparaj of Medivision (Mobile: 09443558858).

Address for Correspondence and Contributions:

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Money Orders, Cheques, Bank Drafts to be sent in favour of BLESSING YOUTH MISSION, VELLORE.

Any relief material may be sent by TCI Lorry service to **BARGARH**, Orissa and the waybill to—Mr. P. Thomas Livingstone, Asish Sebasadan, DAM Colony, Bargarh 768028. Mobile: 093373-11560. <feed_orissa@yahoo.com> f



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