



Jeevodaya Hospice

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Sr. Lilly Maria F.C.C., Chairman and President

From the Editors Desk

The pandemic of Coronavirus has brought home to us the mortality of our lives. Though in India, fear is yet to paralyse the nation, the rapidity of its contagion poses the warning that this may just be the lull before the storm. We all have to die sooner or later and now may be the time to take stock of our lives.

It is said that once a sage told his disciples that it is enough to repent and live righteously just one day before death to reach heaven. This was good news but a disciple asked how we would know when we are going to die. The sage replied, "You can't. So live everyday as if you are going to die on the morrow."

The promise of Easter is that there is life after death,

the risen Christ is God's infinite love made visible. Let us trust in God and move on with meaningful lives. Precautions need to be taken, attention given to the advisory bulletins in circulation. Let us heed them and at the same time let us pray fervently that God may heal the ones who are sick and shield the ones who are not.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Jeevodaya family for their love and affection which was evident in the beautiful way the Golden Jubilee celebration was organised for both Sr. Therese Martin and myself. Let us pray that this Easter brings love, hope and peace to all mankind.

Sr. Lalitha Teresa
Editor

A Day to Remember...

The fifteenth of February, 2020, was a special day, indeed, for all at Jeevodaya. Jeevodaya was celebrating a special moment in the life of one who, not only was instrumental in founding the Institution, but, has been a pillar of strength, sustaining Jeevodaya to this very day and still striving to take it to greater heights. Yes. We are talking about our own Sr. Lalitha Teresa who had completed 50 golden years of a spiritual

life from the year she joined the FCC congregation, Alvernia Province in Kerala as a young nun in 1970. With a Masters degree in Zoology she served as Principal of Sacred Heart College in Kerala before she set out on her mission to establish an Institution for the destitute and abandoned cancer patients to be named Jeevodaya, in the year 1990. For the last thirty years she has been living and breathing Jeevodaya





and we pray to God that her service to God and Jeevodaya should continue for many, many more years. Sr. Therese Martin, former administrator of Jeevodaya, a good friend and batch mate of Sr. Lalitha is also celebrating her golden jubilee year Jeevodaya family congratulates her heartily and wishes her God speed. Sr. Martin currently heads Ashirwad Bhavan, the rural project of Jeevodaya.

The organisers Sr. Sneha and other sisters, Dr. Manjula and Dr. Ponni decided that the day would

not only be special but also would be different every single member of Jeevodaya along with their family and friends would partake in the celebrations. The function started with the star of the day, Sr. Lalitha being escorted into the auditorium by the organisers. (Sr. Martin could not join due to health reasons). A soulful rendering of the prayer song and the Golden Jubilee song by Sr. Reena, Sr. Minnie Jees and others left the audience spellbound. Following tradition, Sr. Lalitha was presented a shawl (ponnadai) and

memento by Drs. Manjula and Ponni. A special gift from Dr. Ponni was the bible compressed into an one inch book for both sisters.

Felicitations followed Drs. Manjula, Ponni, Pacifica, Jabbar, Bala followed by Ramachandrudu, Xavier, Valli and Shanthamma, all spoke. The only common denominator being that they all spoke from their heart, dwelling on all the beautiful ways that Sr. Lalitha had touched their lives. While responding to the felicitations, Sr. Lalitha had surprise gifts which she distributed to every single family.

After this, the whole arena was transformed into a place of joy, fun and laughter - true to our unofficial motto 'Nothing official about it!'

The program was kickstarted by Mr. Giridhar, who dedicated the famous MGR song 'Thayillamal naan illai' to Sr. Lalitha; which got everybody especially the patients clapping rapturously. Musical chairs set the tone, with everyone screaming and cheering. Sisters enthusiastically took part in a lemon and

spoon race. The duck walk got all the children jumping around. The audience was divided into four groups and competitions such as building the tallest structure with a pack of playing cards, separating the jumbled up coloured pebbles and such like got the groups into a frenzy. The highlight, however, was the one scheduled for just men! They were given a saree each to drape in under five minutes! What fun it was to see them struggle! Most had no inkling of what to do with the saree it was no wonder that each created a new fashion! A special mention should be made of Sr. Christet who along with other sisters enthusiastically arranged for the games and Ms. Sheela Sreekumar who acted as Master of ceremonies.

On this happy note everyone adjourned to the dining hall for a sumptuous high tea cum dinner; the food was excellent and quite a variety was served thanks to Sr. Sneha and her team. Indeed it was an evening to remember and will remain etched in the minds of all those who were present that day.

Udaya Mahadevan Memorial Oration

In honour of Dr. Udaya Mahadevan, a founder member and the first social work consultant of Jeevodaya, who left for heavenly abode last

year, it was decided to hold an oration in her memory every year. The first in the series was held on the fifth of February, 2020, at Jeevodaya.



Dr. Muralidhar M. Phil, PhD (PSW), former Professor and head of the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bangalore and President of Indian Society of Psychiatric Social work, delivered the first oration. The topic was 'Social work, Society and Social Transformation'. It was only fitting that Dr. Muralidhar delivered the oration, for, not only

was he a reputed social worker but he was also a close friend of Dr. Udaya and knew her personally. The meeting was well attended by faculty and students of many social work schools in Chennai. Sr. Lalitha Teresa, Secretary Jeevodaya, did the honours by presenting him with a shawl and memento.



Mammogram Camp



On 29th February 2020 in cooperation with Thenmozhi Memorial Trust Jeevodaya organised a Mammogram Camp at Jeevodaya Campus which was attended by 101 ladies from the local area and glad to say that none of them was recorded with any problem. This is the third camp Jeevodaya jointly organises with Thenmozhi Trust, two at Ashirvad Bhavan – a rural extension of Jeevodaya at Nemallur Panchayat near Sathyavedu.

Thenmozhi Memorial Trust was instituted in memory of Mrs Thenmozhi Arokiamary , a victim of Pancreatic cancer, in 2014 by her son Mr. Arun. Mr. Arun and a group of his dedicated youth friends are doing wonderful service in the field of Cancer Care. They used to visit Jeevodaya frequently and in special occasions like Rose day, Christmas, Pongal etc, make our happy by arranging cultural programs and distribute useful articles to them.



29th February program was a great success as the Dr. K Shantha Breast Cancer Foundation team spent two full days in the campus and screened 101 women and cleared their doubts related to Breast Cancer. We hope to organise more camps in different villages with the help of Thenmozhi Memorila Trust in future.




Scan this QR code on your Smart Phone to view the Jeevodaya Anthem on YouTube

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