

souvenir

DAMIEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE



NIRMALA LEPROSY HOSPITAL

Celebrates



Silver Jubilee

1969

1994

SOUVENIR

**DAMIEN SOCIAL
WELFARE CENTRE**

NIRMALA LEPROSY HOSPITAL

Celebrates

25 years

1969 - 1994

This Souvenir is dedicated to the loving memory of
Fr. Michael Kavanagh, S.J.
the founder and the first Director of
DAMIEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE



THE MAN WHOSE DREAM CAME TRUE

He Joined the Lord on 1-4-1993

*"You have gone home, your work moves on apace,
Opening up for us hope, light and heavenly grace."*

Given below is the extract of his last letter written from
the infirmary at Philadelphia, U.S.A.

February 4, 1993

Dear Fr. Vijay,

Now I am 83 years old and I look back on the glorious days in India with great gratitude. It was a tremendous privilege to be able to serve the people of India in the Parishes, but it was an even higher gift, that I had the opportunity to serve the poorest of the poor, the leprosy patients in Jamshedpur, and later in Dhanbad. I pray for all of you who are carrying on that work and I offer all my sufferings of these last years for all of you.

Again, congratulations and prayers for all of you, as you celebrate 25 years service to leprosy patients from the Nirmala Hospital, Govindpur.

My prayers are with you.

Fr. Michael Kavanagh, S.J.



We remember with deep gratitude the Late Cardinal L.T. Picachy, SJ the first Bishop of Jamshedpur, and the first Patron of DAMIEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE, on whose invitation the young Congregation of the Samaritan Sisters found its way to the rich apostolic service of DSWC in Dhanbad.



We also remember with deep gratitude the Late Rt. Rev. Msgr. Paul Chittilapilly who, took this as a challenge, and with a willing response to this invitation, initiated his Samaritan Sisters into this dedicated mission.

FATHER DAMIEN DE VEUSTER



THE LIFE AND SPIRIT OF VENERABLE FR. DAMIEN

Born Joseph de Veuster, in Tremelo, Belgium, on January 3, 1840, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, at Louvain, Belgium. Brother Damien was ordained at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, Honolulu, on May 21, 1864.

In 1873, Fr. Damien volunteered to go to Molokai, to work among the victims of Hansen's disease, who were exiled there. After 11 years of heroic service here, Fr. Damien himself contracted this disease, and succumbed to it on April 15, 1889. In May, 1956, his mortal remains were returned to St. Joseph's Church, Louvain.

Pope Paul VI declared Fr. Damien, venerable on July 7, 1977 and on May 15, 1994, Pope John Paul II ^{has} will declare him, Blessed. His feast date is fixed for May 10 each year.

Fr. Damien's life and death among these affected people has been much admired throughout the world. Gandhiji commented "The political and journalistic world can boast of very few heroes, who compare with Fr. Damien of Molokai". During his life-time, some people were inspired to share his work. Today, his spirit continues to animate countless others, who quietly serve those, whom the world is still inclined to brush aside. There are a great number of institutions named after Fr. Damien, engaged in this noble work. One such is the Damien Social Welfare Centre.

DSWC is engaged in work for the leprosy patients in all its aspects: Survey, Health Education in Leprosy, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Welfare (inclusive of the leprosy patients permanently disabled, and the formal education along with vocational training of their children).

The spirit of Fr. Damien is not concerned only with the physical ravages of Hansen's disease. To quote Gandhiji again "Leprosy work is not merely medical relief; it is transforming frustration in life into joy of dedication, and personal ambition into selfless service". Fr. Damien's spirit lives and burns on, bringing a ray of hope and meaning, into the lives of those marginalised and easily neglected by society. (May the national aim of eliminating leprosy by 2000 A.D. be a reality in our midst.)

Verily, may the 89,218 patients whose hearts are touched and cheered by the unsung heroes of DSWC, themselves sing the praises of the Lord for ever, for their beautiful work.

कुष्ठ निवारण में कार्यरत बिहार की स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएँ।

१. संघाल पहाड़िया सेवा मंडल, देवघर
२. डेमियन सामाजिक कल्याण केन्द्र, धनबाद
३. भारत सेवाश्रम संघ, जमशेदपुर
४. नवजीवन निकेतन, घाटशिला, सिंहभूम
५. स्वामी विवेकानंद सेवा ट्रस्ट, जमशेदपुर
६. नव जाग्रत मानव समाज, जमशेदपुर
७. क्लेभर सोशल वेलफेयर, सराईकेला, सिंहभूम
८. कुष्ठ सेवा समिति, कपसिया, कौवा कोल, नवादा
९. राजेन्द्र कुष्ठ आश्रम, मैरवा, सिवान
१०. गाँधी कुष्ठ नियंत्रण प्रतिष्ठान अखिलासपुर, भभुआ
११. डेमियन फाउन्डेशन, रुद्रपुरा, डिहरी, रोहतास
१२. बनवासी सेवा संघ, अधौरा, रोहतास
१३. बाम इंडिया, बजीरगंज, गया
१४. नव कुष्ठ आश्रम, भागलपुर
१५. धरमपुर कम्युनिटी सेन्टर, साईबगंज
१६. लेप्रोसी मिसन अस्पताल, मुजफ्फरपुर
१७. सालडोहा लेप्रोसी अस्पताल, दुमका
१८. डोरी माता स्मार्टन सेवा केन्द्र, जराँडी, गिरिडीह
१९. लिटल फ्लावर, रक्सौल, पूर्वी चम्पारण
२०. ठट इन्स्टिट्यूट ट्रस्ट, बोधगया, गया

स्वयंसेवी कुष्ठ अस्पताल

१. कुष्ठ अस्पताल, मधुपुर
२. संघाल पहाड़िया सेवा मंडल
३. कुष्ठ पुनर्वास इकाई, जमशेदपुर
४. निर्मला कुष्ठ अस्पताल, गोविन्दपुर, धनबाद
५. मिशन अस्पताल, मुजफ्फरपुर
६. राजेन्द्र कुष्ठ अस्पताल, मैरवा, सिवान
७. गाँधी कुष्ठ निवारण प्रतिष्ठान, अखिलासपुर, भभुआ, रोहतास
८. डेमियन फाउन्डेशन, रुद्रपुरा, डिहरी, रोहतास
९. बनवासी सेवा केन्द्र, अधौरा, रोहतास
१०. लिटल फ्लावर, सुन्दरपुर, रक्सौल, पूर्वी चम्पारण

भारत के उप-राष्ट्रपति के विशेष कार्य अधिकारी
नई दिल्ली

OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY
TO THE VICE - PRESIDENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110011

January 10, 1994

Dear Fr. Bhat,

Please refer to your letter No. DIR/1270 dated the 16th November, 1993 inviting the Hon'ble Vice President of India to be the Chief Guest at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur, under the aegis of Damien Social Welfare Centre, Dhanbad, on the 9th April, 1994.

The Vice-President thanks you for your kind invitation but sincerely regrets his inability to accept as he is already committed to other engagements on that day which cannot be changed.

The Vice-President extends his best wishes for the success of the Celebrations.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(N. BALACHANDRAN)

Fr. Vijay A. Bhat,
Director,
Damien Social Welfare Centre,
P.O. Box 47, Dhanbad-826 001



राजभवन, पटना
RAJ BHAVAN, PATNA
800022

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Nirmala Leprosy Hospital Dhanbad, run under the aegis of Damien Social Welfare Centre, Dhanbad, will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee on April 9, 1994.

It is a matter of satisfaction that for the last 25 years, the hospital has been rendering human services to the leprosy patients. These are the services parallel to none.

I send my good wishes for the success of the function.

(A. R. KIDWAI)



MAKE US worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger.

GIVE THEM, through our hands., this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy.



Message

Feb. '94

Dear friends,

This brings you my prayers and best wishes. I am glad to know about all the good you have been doing for the leprosy patients. May you be always the instruments of God's own love and compassion to them as you serve them.

GOD BLESS YOU

M. Teresa mc

मुख्य मंत्री
बिहार



पटना

संदेश

यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि निर्मला अस्पताल, गोविन्दपुर ने कुष्ठ रोग के रोगियों की सेवा के २५ वर्ष पूरे कर लिये हैं।

मेरी शुभ-कामना है कि यह संस्थान कुष्ठ रोग से पीड़ितों की सेवा में पूर्व की भाँति लगी रहे और लोगों के मानवीय संवेदनशीलता के प्रचार एवं प्रसार में सहायक हो सके।

लालू प्रसाद ।

निर्देशक,

डेमियन समाज कल्याण केन्द्र,

धनबाद।

सुधा श्रीवास्तव
मंत्री
स्वास्थ्य विभाग
पत्रांक

बिहार सरकार
पटना
२२६२१६ (का०)
दूरभाष : २८७६६१ (आ)
२८२६४४

दिनांक.....

संदेश

यह जानकर काफी प्रसन्नता हुई कि डेमियन शोसल वेलफेयर सेन्टर, धनबाद का निर्मला कुष्ठ अस्पताल अपनी सिल्वर जुविली मनाने जा रहा है। डेमियन शोसल वेलफेयर सेन्टर, धनबाद का कार्य काफी सराहनीय रहा है तथा समाज के गरीब व्यक्तियों को चिकित्सा सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने में यह अहम भूमिका निभा रहा है।

डेमियन शोसल वेलफेयर सेन्टर के सभी सदस्यों को मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ तथा सिल्वर जुविली का कार्य सफलीभूत हो, इसकी मैं कामना करती हूँ।

। सुधा श्रीवास्तव ।

२३.२.९४

प्रो० नलिनी रंजन सिंह
मंत्री
भवन निर्माण (आवास) विभाग
बिहार

दूरभाष : (आ०) २२७७७९
२२८५०४
(का०) २२७८४७
१४, छज्जूबाग, पटना

प्रिय श्री भट्ट,

मुझे यह जानकर बड़ी खुशी हुई कि आपकी संस्था " डेमियन शोसल वेलफेयर सेन्टर " अपनी "रजत जयन्ती" मना रहा है। मैं आपकी इस संस्था के बारे में पहले से ही जानता रहा हूँ और आपके प्रयासों का प्रशंसक भी रहा हूँ। कुष्ठ जैसे रोग के निदान की दिशा में और विशेषतया इस बीमारी से संबंधित वैज्ञानिक जानकारी जनसमुदाय के बीच ले जाने का काम आप करते रहे हैं। आपका संबंध मुख्यतः समाज के वैसे तबके के साथ जुड़ा रहा है जो मौजूदा व्यवस्था में इसके इलाज के लिये आर्थिक रूप से सक्षम नहीं है। निश्चय ही यह बड़ा काम है, नेक काम है।

मैं हृदय से आपकी संस्था और आपके प्रयासों के लिये शुभकामना करता हूँ और यह भी कामना करता हूँ कि आपका प्रयास आदर्श बनें, इसका अनुकरण किया जाय।

साधन्यवाद एवं सशुभकामनायें ।

श्री विजय भट्ट,
निर्देशक, डी.एस.डब्ल्यू.सी.
धनवाद ।

आपका,

नलिनी रंजन सिंह



DAHW

DEUTSCHES AUSSATZIGEN - HILFSWERK e.V
German Leprosy Relief Association
Association Allemande d'aide aux Lèpreux
Dominikanerplatz 4, Würzburg
Telefon : 0931/507 84
Telex : 68583 dahw d
Telefax : 0931/51358

MESSAGE

For the Silver Jubilee of Nirmala Hospital I send you personally, and in the name of the German Leprosy Relief Association our most cordial greetings and wishes.

With gratitude and deep respect, we look at the successful work done with such great commitment by the medical and non-medical staff of this hospital for the well-being of the patients.

The German Leprosy Relief Association and a great number of donors in Germany could also contribute considerably to the success of this hospital during the past 25 years.

Meanwhile leprosy has become a curable disease. The consistent and regular treatment of the patients has proved to be successful, as the number of 25,592 cured patients, who were released from treatment by this centre shows. I think this is most probably the greatest gift compensating you for all your work and endeavours. For the donors also, it is gratifying to see that their financial help has resulted in such a success.

The German Leprosy Relief Association appreciates very much the fact that the Damien Social Welfare Centre considers leprosy as a whole and helps the patients to be rehabilitated physically and socially. According to this spirit, we want to keep up our common work for the welfare of the patients.

God bless you all.

We are grateful for this fruitful cooperation beyond frontiers and countries.

With gratitude I remember my visits to Dhanbad and my encounters with the present Director, Fr. Vijay Bhat, with Fr. Kavanagh and especially Fr. Hunt, and the doctors and nurses, who used to work in Dhanbad and those who are working there now. My thanks also to Mr. William Gershon, the former head of our Regional Secretariat for India, who is now working in our headquarters, and to Dr. Chaudhury, the Medical Adviser, both of whom showed great commitment to Dhanbad at all times.

All the best for your Silver Jubilee function, and for the future.

Würzburg, 14th February 1994

DEUTSCHES AUSSATZIGEN-HILFSWERK e.V.

Sd/-

Hermann Kober

SHANKAR PRASAD

આયુક્ત

ઝાંઝરી છોટાનાગપુર પ્રમંડલ

હજારીબાગ



Message

I am happy to learn that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur run under the aegis of Damien Social Welfare Centre, will be completing 25 years of service in April 9, 1994.

I had an occasion to visit a school with vocational training at Gomoh last July and was impressed by the work. Leprosy is a curable disease. I wish your Organisation all success for the Silver Jubilee celebrations and I am sure that the organisation shall continue to work with the same dedication for the eradication of leprosy.

Sd/-

(Shankar Prasad)

राज्य परिवहन आयुक्त
बिहार सरकार, पटना
STATE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER
Government of Bihar
PATNA.

☎ 232449 (O) : 238383 (R)

Shri R. S. Sharma, I. A. S.



Date : 22.02.1994

Dear Fr. Bhat,

It was a pleasure to learn that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital is celebrating its Silver Jubilee.

I must congratulate you on the good work the hospital has been doing all these years in helping the needy people of Dhanbad. The Hospital has grown over the years, both in terms of size as also the service. I still remember my association with the Centre, when I was last posted at Dhanbad.

I wish all success to the celebrations, and congratulate you and your colleagues on this occasion.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/-

(R. S. Sharma)

To,

Fr. Vijay Bhat,
Damien Social Welfare Centre,
Dhanbad.

Vyas Ji, I.A.S.

*Labour Commissioner
Bihar, Patna*

Labour Commissioner, Bihar
Labour, Employment & Training Deptt.
Vikas Bhawan, Patna 800 001
Tel : (O) 223855
(R) 281707



D.O. Letter No. 61/Patna, dated, the 22nd Feb. 1994.

Dear Father Bhat,

I am writing this letter to felicitate Nirmala Hospital on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

I have fresh memories of my visits to your hospital during my tenure at Dhanbad. You are indeed doing a very noble work, for the poor and needy people of Dhanbad.

I wish all success and happiness for the Jubilee celebrations on 9th April, 1994.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,
Sd/-
(VYASJI)

To,
Fr. Vijay A. Bhat,
Director,
Damien Social Welfare Centre,
Dhanbad.

J. B. TUBID, IAS.,
Managing Director
Bihar State Textbook Publishing
Corporation Ltd., Patna
(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)

Pathya Pustak Bhawan
Budh Marg
Patna - 800001

Dated : 09.03.1994

M E S S A G E

Dear Fr. Bhat,

I am very happy to note that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital is celebrating its Silver Jubilee on April 9, 1994.

I vividly remember my visits to Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, when I was posted in Dhanbad.

The hospital is indeed doing yeoman service for the poor and down-trodden of Dhanbad district.

I congratulate you, your staff and the Samaritan Sisters for the dedicated service you are doing for the past 25 years.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(J. B. Tubid) I. A. S

Fr. Vijay A. Bhat
Director,
Damien Social Welfare Centre,
Dhanbad.



MESSAGE

The NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAMME is progressing fast towards its goal, as it has brought down the prevalence rate of our country from 5.83 to 2.5 per thousand. Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) remains the sheet anchor of this 20-point National Programme. Government and Voluntary Organisations are working together and have to pool their resources.

DAMIEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE, Dhanbad, is in the real nature of a Voluntary Organisation, and is working very efficiently under this programme. The indoor services of 165 beds are well maintained and well managed. The hospital named NIRMALA LEPROSY HOSPITAL, Govindpur, is rendering different types of services to leprosy patients, including reconstructive surgery. I am in a position to say that it is one of the best Leprosy Hospitals in our State, Thanks to its Director, Fr. Vijay A. Bhat, whose devoted and sustained activities and enthusiasm have brought this institution up to this level. Thanks also to the Samaritan Sisters who are serving humanity in this hospital.

I wish all success to this hospital and may its SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS on April 9, 1994 be a great success.

Patna,

14th February 1994.

Sd/ -

Dr. Ajit Singh,
State Leprosy Officer,
Bihar, Patna.

Sudhir Kumar

I. A. S.

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE

&

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

DHANBAD

D. O. No. 421 /DC



Date : 12.02.1994

Dear Fr. Vijay,

I am happy to learn that you will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur, on April 9, 1994.

On my visit to your hospital, the other day, I was greatly impressed by the multiple services rendered to the patients and their children.

It is gratifying to note that over the last 25 years 89,218 admissions were done, 1,43,437 smears were taken in this hospital.

I wish all success to the Jubilee Celebrations of the hospital and offer congratulations to you, the Sisters, your officers and the staff.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sudhir Kumar)

Fr. Vijay A. Bhat,

Director,

Damien Social Welfare Centre,

DHANBAD

Rajbala Verma, I.A.S.

District Magistrate & Collector

Gaya

Phone : 20751, 20008 (Resi)

21818, 20005 (Off.)

GAYA

Date : 09.02.94

To,

FR. VIJAY A. BHAT
DIRECTOR
DAMIEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE
GANDHI BHAVAN, P. B. NO. 47
DHANBAD 826001, BIHAR

Dear Fr. Vijay,

I am happy to learn from your letter no. DIR / 1281 dated November 11, 1993, that NIRMALA LEPROSY HOSPITAL completes 25 years of its service in the field of Leprosy on April 9, 1994.

I still have fresh memories of my visit to you and to your place at Govindpur, with my husband, Jyoti and my son, Tanuj, when I was in Dhanbad. I have a great appreciation for your work, particularly, the multiple services offered for the poorest of the poor, the leprosy patients of Dhanbad, and for the patients from the different parts of the State, who come to your place for treatment.

I wish all success for the jubilee celebrations and for your work of leprosy eradication.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Rajbala Verma)
District Magistrate,
Gaya.

K. P. RAMAIYAH

I.A.S.

Collector & District Magistrate

MADHEPURA

Phone : 2001 / 2002 (O)
2121 (R)



To Fr. Vijay A. Bhat
Director,
Damien Social Welfare Centre
Dhanbad.

Dear Fr. Vijay,

I am happy to learn that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur, will celebrate its Silver Jubilee on April 9, 1994.

I was acquainted with this hospital through my contacts with you, during my tenure as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Sadar) and later as the Deputy Development Commissioner at Dhanbad.

I appreciate the work being done and congratulate you and your team on this occasion of the Jubilee year of the hospital.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Sd/-

(K. P. Ramaiyah)

Dr. A. K. MUKHERJEE

MS. D. Phill (Oxford); FAMS

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES

TELE NO. : 301 84 38 (O)

301 90 63

65 59 30 (R)

स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशालय

निर्माण भवन

नई दिल्ली - ११० ०११

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES

NIRMAN BHAVAN

NEW DELHI - 110011

Dated : 08.02.1994

M E S S A G E

I am glad to know that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur, Dhanbad, run under the banner of Damien Social Welfare Centre, Dhanbad, will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee on the 9th April, 1994.

This Institute has been running a commendable service for the indoor and out door leprosy patients through its well-equipped 165 bed hospital. The Damien Welfare Centre, Dhanbad has also been running excellent field control programme in the district, to the needy and affected persons. It also provides training to the health workers in various aspects of leprosy.

I send my best wishes to the staff and patients of Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur, Dhanbad on this occasion.

Sd/-

(A. K. MUKHERJEE)

INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY UNION

Prof. M. F. Lechat
President, ILU

Dr. S. D. Gokhale
Chairman, ILU

INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY UNION
Bharat Scout Grounds Building
* Gurutrayi *
1779 - 1784, SADASHIV PETH,
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IW/GEN. C/08397/93

DATE : 06.01.1994

To,
Fr. Vijay A. Bhat
Director / Secretary
Damian Social Welfare Centre
P. O. Box 47, DHANBAD : 826 001
BIHAR



Dear Fr. Bhat,

MESSAGE

I am very much impressed by the excellent work being done by the Nirmala Leprosy Hospital for the last 25 years in the field of leprosy eradication.

I wish all success to Nirmala Leprosy Hospital in its work for the elimination of Leprosy.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(DR. S. D. GOKHALE)

Chairman

Vice Presidents	:	Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka), Mrs. M. Gruner (Germany), Mr. Jean Loisel (Canada)
	:	Dr. S. Talhari (Brazil), Dr. Ephraim Magagula (Swaziland)
Secretaries	:	Mr. Dato Lawrence (Malaysia), Mr. S. P. Tare (India)
Hon. Secretary & Executive Director	:	Mr. R. H. Belavadi (India)
Executive Committee	:	Dr. Turkan Saylan (Turkey), Dr. Joon Lew (Korea), Dr. Abdulla Suleiman Al Awad (Sudan), Dr. J. M. Mehta (India)

Telephone Central/Exchange : 791.21.11
Direct : 791 26 83

Fr Vijay A. Bhat
Director/Secretary
Damien Social Welfare Centre
P.O. Box 47
Dhanbad 826 001
Bihar

In reply please refer to : LEP
Priere de rappeler la reference :

23 November 1993

Dear Fr Bhat,

Thank you for your letter of 8 November and for informing us of the good work being done by the Damien Social Welfare Centre.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the hospital, I wish your Centre all success in its leprosy work.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Dr S.K. Noordeen
Chief Medical Officer, Leprosy
Unit, Division of Control of
Tropical Diseases

CHAIRMAN : Dr. M. S. GORE

DIRECTOR : S. P. TARE

Gandhi Memorial leprosy Foundation



P. O. HINDINAGAR, WARDHA 442103 Maharashtra, India

Phone : Office - 2627, Director (Resi) - 2127

Gram : LEPROCURE, FAX NO. 0091 - 7152 - 2111

MESSAGE

I am glad to know of the Silver Jubilee of Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur, which will be observed on 9th April.

Twenty five years is time enough to make an impact on the size and the complexity of the local leprosy problem. It is evident that the dedicated services rendered by your motivated staff have indeed made an impact. That, in itself, is gratifying.

Leprosy work is at the cross-roads; it seems that we are nearer our goal but it is also evident that the attainment of the goal is going to elude us for quite some time. In this situation, there is a need for renewing our faith and determination to get rid of this problem by continued alert, research and hard work. The Damien Social Welfare Centre, I hope, has the necessary expertise and infrastructure to carry on the fight to the end.

My best wishes to Father Vijay Bhat and his good team.

S. P. TARE

WARDHA

NOV. 24, 1993

गणेश चन्द्र मृग

अध्यक्ष-सह-प्रबन्ध निदेशक

G C MRIG

Chairman-cum-Managing Director



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KOYLA BHAWAN, KOYLA NAGAR

धनबाद - ८२६००५

DHANBAD - 826005

26 NOV 1993

MESSAGE

I am very happy to note that "Nirmala Leprosy Hospital", Govindpur, which runs under the banner of Damien Social Welfare Centre, Dhanbad will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee function on 9th April 1994.

This is indeed a remarkable achievement on the part of Damien Social Welfare Centre. Apart from rendering social services among the down-trodden people of the society, Nirmala Leprosy Hospital is specially engaged in serving a large number of leprosy patients living in and around Dhanbad District.

I send my best wishes to the organisers and wish the function all success.

G.C. MRIG

CHAIRMAN/MG.DIRECTOR

Gram : KOKINGKOL
EPABX-832314
832315, 832030
4085, 3030, 3032

Regd. Office : Koyla Bhawan
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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JAMSHEDPUR

(Districts of East & West Singhbhum, Dhanbad & Purulia)

Bishop's House, Golmuri

JAMSHEDPUR - 831003

Ph : (0657) - 24465

GRAM : BISHOPHOUS, GOLMURI

JAMSHEDPUR

Date : 10.03.94

*The President / Director,
DSWC,
Dhanbad - 826 001*

Dear Dr. P.K. Dutta / Fr. Vijay,

I am very happy to know that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur, is concluding its Silver Jubilee Celebrations on April 9, 1994 and plans to bring out a souvenir on this occasion.

From the days of Fr. Mike Kavanagh and the first batch of Samaritan Sisters, to the present day, a lot of good has been done to the socially neglected and destitute leprosy patients by the Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur. Over the last 25 years 89,218 were admitted to the hospital; 18,567 received physiotherapy; 1,96,002 lab tests were done and 7,299 medically rehabilitated.

To improve its services and to offer still better facilities to the leprosy patients the modernization of the hospital has been planned and I am sure with the latest drugs and equipment for the management of leprosy we will be able to eliminate this disease by the turn of the century.

May the years ahead be even more challenging and fruitful and may Almighty God bless all who are involved in such a noble work to humanity.

With every good wish and blessing,

Devotedly,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Joe. Rodericks, S.J.

C H F ARUNDAY VICE PROVINCIAL HOUSE

TILKAMANJI

P.O. & DIST. BHAGALPUR - 812 001

PH : 21829

BIHAR - INDIA



Date :

To,
The Director
Damien Social Welfare Centre
Gandhi Bhawan, Polytechnic Road
Post Box No. 47, Dhanbad 826 001, Bihar

Dear Fr. V.A.Bhat,

It is an occasion of great joy and rejoicing that the Nirmala Leprosy Hospital is celebrating its SILVER JUBILEE.

I personally rejoice on this occasion as I was one of the pioneers to start this hospital, where I served about 4-1/2 years. I am extremely happy to notice the growth of this hospital in serving the downtrodden people of the society; the leprosy patients.

I wish and pray that the dear Lord may shower His choicest blessings on this hospital and on all those who are instrumental for the growth of this hospital. May it grow from vigour to vigour and like the seed in the gospel grow more and more, so that many more can receive solace from your service.

With prayerful regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely in O.L.

Sr. Mary Luka CHF
Provincial Superior

Samaritan Regional House

Muri P.O., Ranchi Dt.



Message

I am very happy to learn that the Nirmala Leprosy Hospital is celebrating the 25th year of its noble and fruitful service to the suffering downtrodden section of society — the leprosy patients.

The Congregation of the Samaritan Sisters has for its special object service to the poor, specially the leprosy patients. Hence my heart leaps with joy when I reach out to Nirmala Hospital with my thoughts and prayers. I have also offered my little mite to Nirmala Hospital in its beginning stages, I am also proud of the fact that the Samaritan Sisters are still continuing their service at Nirmala. I congratulate the director, Fr. Vijay Bhat, and the staff of the hospital for extending their loving service to a huge number of patients, and thus sharing in the healing ministry of Jesus. May He, the Divine Physician, reward you with His eternal blessings and help you to continue the selfless and sacred work that you are doing.

Sd/-

Sr. Joan of the Crucified S.S.
Regional Superior.



*Message to Nirmala Leprosy Hospital
on the Occasion of its Silver Jubilee*

We are told that when Bernadette, to whom Our Lady appeared in Lourdes, lay dying, she exclaimed, "See, how simple it is! All you need is to love." It is the day-to-day living out of this simple belief that makes NIRMALA LEPROSY HOSPITAL great.

The greatness of a Hospital is not measured merely by the amount of service it provides, but more by the spirit with which it reaches out to its patients and offers them comfort and health.

Not that the extent of the services provided by NIRMALA LEPROSY HOSPITAL is a mean one: over the 25 years it has been in service, it has reached out to more than eighty lakhs of patients, provided physiotherapy to some eighteen thousand of them, and conducted some one hundred and fifty thousand smear tests: all these applaud the dedicated members of the hospital for this enviable record of their services.

The spirit of service that the Hospital has generated, a spirit of universal love that reaches to all in need and with no discrimination offers relief and health-care, will continue to remain a shining example to all involved in healthcare, in the state of Bihar as well as in the whole country.

I thank you for this opportunity to join your many friends in offering you my congratulations, and wishing you many more years of pioneering and love-filled service to the people.

God bless you !

Sd/-

FR. JOE KALATHIL, S.J.

**HAZARIBAGH PROVINCE.
SOCIETY OF JESUS**



LOYOLA CENTRE
P.O.BOX 6, HAZARIBAGH
BIHAR 825 301 INDIA
Phone : (06546) 2641



Dear Father Bhat,

16.01.94

Greetings.

May I offer my congratulations to all the members of DSWC on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. It is heartening to see that DSWC has kept up its service to the most wounded brothers and sisters of our society in the spirit of Jesus who touched them, healed them and made them experience their true dignity of being the children of God. May the celebrations inspire many more to come forward for the service of the poor and the marginalized of our country and stand up for their human rights.

With every good wish and prayer,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Edward Mudavassery, SJ
Provincial,
Hazaribagh Province

Dumka - Raiganj Province of The Society of Jesus

Provincial's Office

Jisu Jaher - Dumka - Bihar 814101

25th Jan. 1994



25th Jan. 1994

Dear Fr. Bhat,

It is an immense joy to know that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital has completed 25 years of service to the leprosy patients in and around Dhanbad District. This is the time to thank the Lord for His continual support and blessings to this Centre.

Our Dumka-Raiganj Province has been in touch with the Nirmala Leprosy Hospital for the past ten years. Our Novices have been going there for their hospital experiment, to give a helping hand in the care for the thousands of leprosy patients in this Centre. The work is very well organised and these Novices of ours even get a training course before dealing with these patients.

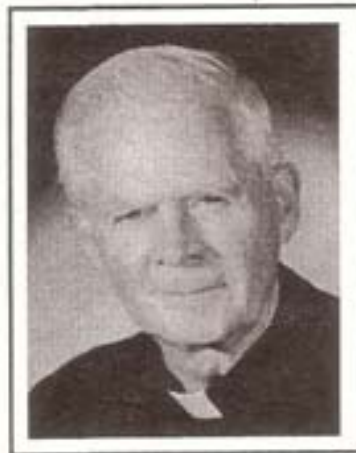
The work this Centre is doing, and the extension of their work, reaching out to lakhs of leprosy patients, is an outstanding living witness of love and service. May the Lord continue to bless the co-workers, the Fathers, and the Sisters who are rendering their selfless service to the patients in this hospital.

Fr. Anjelus Kujur, S. J.
Jesuit Provincial
Dumka-Raiganj Province

Saint Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

1625 East Twelfth Street

Winston Salem, North Carolina 27101-1721



*Nirmala Leprosy Hospital
G. T. Road, Govindpur*

I send congratulations and prayerful best wishes to the Samaritan Sisters and Staff of Nirmala Leprosy Hospital on the joyful occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

I arrived in Dhanbad District in February, 1969 to be the superior of DeNobili School in Digwadih. My first visit to Nirmala was shortly after. It was for the dedication of the front clinic section. After the ceremony I followed Fr. Mike Kavanagh, two Sisters and a few DSWC members to the back of the clinic building where quietly, and I think secretly, the cornerstone was blessed for the building which would house the two wards. Little did I realize at that moment that I would one day be living at Nirmala as a member of the staff of DSWC. Before the year was out I was much involved in DSWC and was appointed Director.

On this occasion, my mind is flooded with so many happy thoughts and memories of Nirmala. To have been associated with Nirmala — the Sisters, the staff, the patients, the work which was so beautifully and nobly carried on at the hospital, the clinic work which reached out to every part of Dhanbad District to touch the lives of thousands of people — to have been associated with Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, was the highest honor and proudest privilege of my life.

Today I give thanks to God for Nirmala Leprosy Hospital and those who made it possible - Fr. Kavanagh, the Samaritan Sisters, German Leprosy Relief Association and Holy Childhood Association of Germany, the founding members of DSWC, the first employees, the people of the neighboring villages who helped to construct the buildings and shape the grounds. I give thanks to God for all those who served Nirmala through the years, and those who continue its work today - the Sisters, Doctors, technical staff, ward attendants, drivers, maintenance staff and grounds staff. God bless each one.

Finally, I give thanks to God for the patients who came to us, who put their trust in us, and co-operated so that very many were healed, and cured, through the loving services of Nirmala Leprosy Hospital.

I pray that God continues to bless all those involved at Nirmala and that the work will continue to be performed successfully with the traditional spirit of love and dedication. Let us all rejoice and be glad this day.

L. J. Hunt, S.J.

*J. Homer Butler
Foundation*

POST OFFICE BOX 1841
OLD CHELSEA STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011
(305) 726-9768 / (212) 242-7340
FAX NO.: (305) 726-9769

REFERENCE NO.:

Reverend Vijay A. Bhat
Director
Damien Social Welfare Centre
P.O.Box 47
Dhanbad, 826 001
Bihar, India

February 10, 1994

Dear Father Bhat,

We send greetings and congratulations to you, and all who are connected with the Damien Social Welfare Centre, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of your hospital. We shall be with you in spirit, I only wish it could be in reality.

During these 25 grace-filled years, only the good Lord knows how many of His poor leprosy patients have been helped and their sufferings alleviated by the ministrations that they have received from you and the members of your staff. We shall beg, especially on April 9th, that the Lord will bless all of you for this great charity. We know your good deeds will never be forgotten and will be rewarded in His own proper time. May that reward come to all of you in great measure.

We, on our part derive no little consolation from the thought that we too have had a small share in your program for the Lord's sick. We thank God we have had this share.

In the name of all the Directors of the J. Homer Butler Foundation we offer you our best wishes and prayers for many more full years of service to the Lord's sick, as we congratulate you on the wonderful ones you have had in the past.

Sincerely in our Lord,

Rev. Joseph J. Walter, S. J.

ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE NIRMALA

ensemble contre la lepre

Pascal Kerckhove
16 bis rue Delezenne
59000 Lille-France

Date : 10.02.94

Dear Vijay,

I thank you for inviting me to the celebration of the jubilee of the hospital. I regret that I shall not be able to attend them. I wish I could be with you on that very special day. But be sure that my thoughts and my prayers will be with you.

I wish you, the sisters and all the staff at the hospital, every success for the next 25 years. Knowing you and the DSWC was the best thing which happened to me. You are doing a wonderful job, considering every aspect of leprosy, not only curing but also informing, educating and rehabilitating. Once again congratulations to you all and best wishes for the future.

Yours,

Pascal

Dr. P K Dutta

PAST PRESIDENT

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ROTARY CLUB DHANBAD

PRESIDENT

DAMIEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE
HINDU MISSION ORPHANAGE
PRANJIBAN ACADEMY, DHANBAD
LINDSAY CLUB, DHANBAD

MEMBER : MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA
BIHAR COUNCIL MEDICAL REGISTRATION

RECIPIENT : B. C. ROY MEMORIAL AWARD

PHONE : 2059
GANDHI ROAD
DHANBAD 826 001

DATE : 07-03-1994

Rev. Fr. Vijay A Bhat
Director
Damien Social Welfare Centre
Gandhi Bhawan
Polytechnic Road
Dhanbad



Dear Fr. Bhat,

I am glad to know that Nirmala Leprosy Hospital at Govindpur, will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee on the 9th April, 1994.

The dedicated and determined efforts of Fr. Michael Kavanagh, S.J., led to the establishment of the Nirmala Hospital at Govindpur in 1964 in a small way. The name of the institution coined, indicates the feminine form, the Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

Twentyfive years have rolled by. The small organisation initially started by a few Catholic missionaries is now developed into a multidimensional institution, a prized possession in the district of Dhanbad. The institution is rendering relentless service to the people irrespective of caste, creed and religion, and looking after the promotive, curative and rehabilitative aspect in eradicating this disease from the area.

I have been closely associated with the organisation since Fr. Larry Hunt S.J. was the Director. I am sure this institution will achieve its objectives under your dynamic and indefatigable leadership and it will reach to further heights.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Dr. P. K. Dutta)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I am privileged to be at this desk when Nirmala Leprosy Hospital completes 25 years of its service to the neediest of the needy - the leprosy inpatients.

I have been residing in its sprawling, serene campus for about 10 years now. I have fond memories of my association with it and working for it, with the doctors, sisters and staff, as a team. Our efforts to offer qualitative services, to make the hospital grow and expand, to develop its wasteland and to make its environment friendly, have yielded rich dividends.



In this Jubilee Year, I salute Nirmala — The Mother of Jesus, the patroness of the Hospital — for she has truly been a mother to the numerous hapless victims of leprosy, who come, not only with this disease, its complications, such as ulcers, simple and chronic, deformities, and neuritis in different grades, reactions and relapse, but also general ailments and psychologically negative feelings.

I thank God whole-heartedly for His bountiful blessings on Nirmala : for its pioneers : the late Fr. Michael Kavanagh; the Samaritan Sisters, Dr. (Sr.) Luka, the founding members of DSWC and the workers of Nirmala, who in varied trying situations and circumstances, nurtured and facilitated its healthy growth, for those who served Nirmala with devotion, year after year, and do it even today, the unknown and unsung heroes, shorn of glamour and glory, namely THE SAMARITAN SISTERS, DOCTORS, DRESSERS, ANMS, WARD-ASSISTANTS, SMEAR-TECHNICIANS, PHYSIO-TECHNICIANS, MECHANICAL STAFF, ELECTRICAL STAFF, DRIVERS AND ALL THOSE WHO OFFERED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO THE HOSPITAL.

I thank God for the patients admitted into the hospital — patient, cheerful and loving, despite pain, sufferings and the psychological trauma, and the patients who came to attend the triweekly clinics in the OPD, from all over the state. They have trusted us and co-operated with us in our medical services to them.

In this Jubilee Year, I acknowledge with gratitude, the visits and subsequent lavish appreciation poured on Nirmala by the great and the small, the powerful and the powerless, in Dhanbad for being qualitative, beautiful, serene and eco-friendly — another SHANTI NIKETAN. It has made all of us here in the campus feel happy, and has boosted up our spirit.

I acknowledge gratefully the help and support in every way, given to us for, and in the name of Nirmala, by the people of Dhanbad, the BCCL, the Eastern Railway, Dhanbad., the Eastern Railway Women's Organisation, Dhanbad, the District Administration, the Carmel Schools, De Nobili Schools, St. Anthony's School, Loyola School, Taldanga, VHAI, New Delhi, BVHA and BAVA, Patna and finally by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Leprosy Division), The Govt. of Bihar, through its State Leprosy Officer and the Funding Agencies, big and small, particularly, the GLRA, faithfully over the years, year after year.

With the advent of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) and the modern methods of leprosy eradication, there has already been a big count-down in leprosy from about 4.4. million cases to 3 million cases in our country today, not to speak of the discovery and the development over the last five years of the short-term therapy of the new anti-leprosy drugs; Ofloxacin; Pefloxacin; Sparfloxacin; Minocycline and Clarithromycin and the current research efforts in vaccine and the new therapy with the complex combination (rifampicin + Co-trimoxazole + isoniazid) for the treatment of leprosy. Nevertheless, leprosy still, is a major health problem.

Hence, 25 years of service in the field of leprosy should not make us complacent; rather we continue to work with renewed zeal, devotion and commitment.

Lastly, my prayer in this Jubilee Year is :

- that the vertical leprosy work gradually becomes horizontal - part and parcel of general health work, by creating, as a first step, greater awareness in leprosy, through intensive health education to the public, and by training in leprosy of opinion moulders in the society, such as, general physicians, Govt. Medical personnel, Govt. trainee-nurses etc....

- that we do not wish Nirmala's Silver to turn into Gold, but Nirmala offers in another decade, more general health-care to the people in the villages around the hospital, reserving only one ward for leprosy or offers more of its services to the patients suffering from tuberculosis, the incidence of which is much higher than leprosy in the district of Dhanbad. I mean, Nirmala Leprosy Hospital will give way to Nirmala hospital for Community Health.

May God continue to shower His blessings on Nirmala, its patients, and on all those who are involved in carrying out its multiple services, in the golden years to come.

FR. VIJAY A. BHAT

Director

HEALTH POLICY OF THE CHURCH IN INDIA

GUIDELINES

Preamble

The Catholic Church has been rendering immense service to the people of our country in the field of health. Large numbers of dedicated people, whether religious, priests or lay persons are involved in this humane endeavour. Many health care facilities have been established throughout the country. That it is a felt need is shown by the enormous growth and development of the number and activities of these institutions. We have about 3000 such health care facilities, mostly small, mostly rural. They have played and are playing a significant role in the care of the sick, prevention of illness and, to some extent, rehabilitation.

The situation of health of the people is unacceptable and calls for quantitative and qualitative changes. The objective of the Healing Ministry of the Church has to be to respond to all those who are in need of healing, bringing about health, healing and wholeness. We have to transform our health care services so that they are more and more sensitive to the needs and committed to serve the poor. We have to go beyond the confines of an institutions, if we are to help the total person and the community in attaining and maintaining health.

The guidelines proposed here are given in the hope that they will help all the people of the church involved in the Healing Ministry to reflect on the policies of :

- what is being done by them (the present),
- what should be done (the future),
- whether there is need for new directions, and
- how one should go about it (the process).

It is also hoped that these guidelines will be useful for all others engaged in improving the health of the people of the country.

Why should we serve?

The Christian involvement in the Healing Ministry comes from the example of Christ. "He (Christ) went about healing every disease and every infirmity" - Mathew 4:23. When asked by the disciples of John, Jesus answered 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear and the dead are raised up and the poor have the good news preached to them' - Mathew 11:4,5. We have a mandate from Christ, the Great Physician to participate in the Healing Ministry: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and cast out demons" - Mathew 10:3. This mandate is to proclaim the "Good News" that God loves every human

being unconditionally, from the moment of conception. Every Human life created in the image and likeness of God is to be considered as of inestimable value and dignity, even when it is disrupted by illness, injury of disability.

Christians consider the human being as a marvellous work of Divine Creation, to be the very image of God. The human person is a body living with spiritual life open to share in the eternal life of God. The Christian health workers co-operate with God, helping the people to live a fuller life.

Whom should we serve?

Jesus healed all who sought his help. He often went out of the way to reach those who needed His help. Jesus has told us how to make our options. "In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me" Mathew: 25:40.

India's health policy

Our efforts must supplement the efforts made by other agencies and particularly the Government. It is the duty of the Government to provide health care as per the Directive Principles of the Constitution. The Government health care efforts are by far the largest. It is therefore necessary to be aware of India's Health Policy. If our policies of health care are to bear greater fruit, we must fall in line with the Government's policy, wherever that is good and possible and try to change that policy if unacceptable.

India's health policy (1982) says: "The constitution of India..... aims at the elimination of poverty, ignorance and ill health and directs the state to regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties, securing the health and strength of the workers, men and women, specially ensuring that children are given opportunities and facilities to development in healthy manner".

Vast numbers of our people are denied health and access to health care services. There is urgent need for more distributive justice in health care. The thrust of our efforts has to be more and more in Community Health, creating awareness by the people and enabling them to attain and maintain health.

We are in a unique position to be pace setters. We should try innovative measures. If they succeed, Government and other agencies can adopt or adapt them.

Courtesy :

Health Policy of the
Church of India

C B C I

Commission for Health Care Apostolate.

January 1992

SILVER BELLS RING OUT ! !

Nirmala, who are you?



Sr. Celine, S.S.
Administrator

The word 'NIRMAL' is a Hindi word meaning "pure", "clean". Here the feminine form 'Nirmala' applies to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. This immaculate Mother is the Patron Saint of the Leprosy Hospital. Today we salute our Mother on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Nirmala Hospital.

BIRTH HISTORY OF NIRMALA LEPROSY HOSPITAL

Leprosy patients of Dhanbad district, shunned by their family, driven away from markets and wells, were seen cowering under the cool of the trees outside the towns and villages, beyond human habitation.



Friends & Well Wishers at the start
of the hospital

1964 saw FR. MICHAEL KAVANAGH, S. J., responding to these crying needs. He was the Parish Priest at St. Anthony's Church, and he initiated a small welfare programme for these patients. It began with the distribution of food grains donated by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). But there were mighty issues at stake i.e. the acute leprosy problem prevalent in the society itself.

1965 Medical care was needed. Dr. A. K. Mukherjee volunteered his services and DSWC's mobile clinics began to function.

1966 saw Rev. E. Sadiq of the Anglican Church handing over the old cemetery at Baramasia, Dhanbad, for clinic work. Within 6 months, patients from 130 adjacent villages were regularly coming in. 118 crippled patients were given accommodation in Baramasia Mercy Post (B. M. P.)

1967 BISHOP L. T. Picachy, S. J. Bishop of Jamshedpur, sent out invitations to several religious congregations but the response was quite a negative one. It was the congregation of the Samaritan Sisters, who, true to their name, responded to the need of these distressed. SRS. MAGDALEN, CLAUDIA, JOSEPHINE AND JOAN, joined by DR. (SR.) LUKA of the Holy Family Congregation started services in a



humble two-ward- hospital.

Patients in growing numbers came flocking into Nirmala Leprosy Hospital (NLH), but there was a mightier job that demanded attention. It was the fact that several others afflicted by the disease, preferred to hide and remain unrecognised when, what was needed most was immediate medication. The sisters who went in search of these needy desperate ones in hiding, were sometimes chased by dogs, and even the doors were closed against them. Fear of ostracism by society can take a variety of forms. The language also proved a severe handicap to communication. However, the highly motivated Samaritan Sisters found a way out of this problem. Supported by the CRS, they began distributing milk powder, oil and clothes, and the timid victims of the disease were easily located for treatment. NLH began to accommodate the patients who were seriously ill.

1967 Caritas International and Oxfam supplied Jeeps which began to run 25 mobile clinics and serve 3300 patients. GLRA sanctioned grants for equipment as well as for staff quarters at NLH.

1968 Nirmala Hostel opened at Govindpur with 35 girls. Grant was provided by the Holy Childhood Association through Fr. Koppleberg of West Germany.

NIRMALA, THE STAR OF DSWC

Dr. S. Mukherjee, an eye-specialist joined the Centre on a voluntary part- time basis. 1970 saw Fr. Larry Hunt, S. J. replace Fr. Mike Kavanagh, who left for the States. A grant from Oxfam made it possible to care for the patients with suitable footwear. It also saw to 6 staff quarters, 1 heavy duty machine and 4 sewing machines.



Fr. Paul Chittilapilly named the convent 'Nirmala Ashram' as his sisters were engaged in the mighty work of providing physical, emotional and spiritual purification to people who were in dire need. Nirmala, the Virgin Mother of Jesus was to be their Patroness.

1980 To conduct leprosy work in a scientific manner, DSWC in collaboration with GLRA, started a 6 month-long training programme at Govindpur, for Para Medical Workers (PMWs).

1983 Fr. L.J. Hunt left for the States and Fr. John Prabhu, S J. took up the Directorship of DSWC with Fr. Vijay A. Bhat as Deputy Director, and the works of DSWC and Govindpur, flourished.

The hospital started conducting outreach programmes to the marginalized in the villages around it. One such was Mother-and-Child-Health-Care through CRS ; also Immunization : Polio, DPT, Tetanus-Toxide in collaboration with the Govt. of Bihar at the district level.

Leprosy patients who have none to care for them, nor any means of livelihood were provided with

complete welfare and medical care at NLH and all services were free.

1986 Fr. John Prabhu, S.J. returned to Jamshedpur due to ill health, and Fr. Vijay A. Bhat took up the post of Director at DSWC.

CONCERNED, RESOURCEFUL NIRMALA

NLH, a loving mother, true to her name, watches over her weak and needy children. Leprosy victims, 165, are rendered physical, medical, spiritual, social, educational and financial support. They are rehabilitated to live normal lives.

As per the Govt. of India's Regimen, all patients are given Multi-Drug-Therapy (MDT), a short - term therapy which ensures a complete cure.

The multi-faceted activity at Nirmala embraces the education of the children of leprosy patients, orphans and others from economically backward families, as these may not have an acceptance in society. The hostel-cum-school is run, and today has 210 girls.

The aged ones too are cared for, the burnt-out cases of leprosy. They are provided with shelter, clothes, food, medicines, as also spiritual assistance. They do not have everything, as the world would term it, but they are so contented with what they receive, that the visitors to the hospital notice it, and are edified by it.

Family quarters are a necessity for the staff. Fr. Vijay Bhat saw to it that these were provided and so the staff (most of them rehabilitated patients) are able to lead normal lives and set up families.

NIRMALA - WARM, HOSPITABLE AND LOVING

NLH has been drawing over the years, people from every walk of life, as a warm and hospitable find themselves enlightened



PHYSIOTHERAPY ACTIVITIES

Year	Exercises Given	Post Operative Care	P.O.P. Applied	Splints Applied	Infrared Rays Given	Wax Bath	Ulcer Dressings	M.C.R.Chappals Supplied	Eye Care	Care for Planter Ulcers	Total
1985	932	29	88	196	23	186	802	1114	106	182	3658
1986	802	184	142	192	-	194	773	1298	53	123	3781
1987	398	52	175	182	65	398	1500	1468	118	500	4856
1988	1318	102	175	297	61	288	900	1351	139	380	5011
1989	462	204	74	192	27	167	851	1475	143	266	3861
1990	401	43	90	133	44	184	2843	1229	135	223	5325
1991	372	176	300	42	63	306	876	1199	73	143	3550
1992	854	38	321	71	71	330	863	2260	72	133	3358
1993	1170	206	116	289	82	468	758	1793	28	136	5046

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

Year	Skin Smears	Urine Analysis	Stool Exams	Sputum Exams	Haemoglobin Tests	T.L.C.	D.L.C.	M.P. & M.F.	E.S.R.	Blood Sugar	Other Blood Tests	Other Tests	Total Tests
1985	10227	211	109	59	111	-	-	-	221	220	105	-	11263
1986	12114	589	213	72	379	388	388	6	278	249	455	25	15156
1987	7840	488	201	66	382	372	372	8	271	170	422	21	10613
1988	9311	833	176	71	268	312	312	-	268	210	413	18	12192
1989	7861	804	157	28	565	380	383	-	222	129	240	131	10900
1990	7368	767	136	55	395	322	320	-	323	160	138	133	10117
1991	8546	730	89	47	392	277	277	10	264	111	145	6	10894
1992	7249	3114	805	63	1415	1161	1161	52	995	202	307	115	10639
1993	6637	4078	1066	54	1459	1246	1246	60	1156	210	163	130	17505

**NUMBER OF PATIENTS UNDER TREATMENT
FROM PROJECT AREA (P.A.)**

Year	Total Patients at Beginning of Year	Patients Added During the Year	Patients Discharged during the year as				Balance at end of the Year
			Cured	Died	Others	Total	
1985	14738	2332	2415	144	1258	3817	13253
1986	13253	2195	3003	117	1507	4627	10821
1987	10821	2096	2068	75	1585	3728	9189
1988	9189	1378	2427	58	1200	3685	6882
1989	6882	1308	3924	46	1282	5252	2938
1990	2938	1308	1242	17	360	1619	2627
1991	2627	1593	973	20	379	1372	2848
1992	2848	1533	1291	25	450	1766	2615
1993	2615	1493	1291	18	674	1983	2125

**NUMBER OF PATIENTS UNDER TREATMENT FROM
OUT-PROJECT AREA (O.P.A.)**

Year	Patients at Beginning of the Year	Patients Added During the Year	Patients Discharged During the Year				Balance Patients at end of Year
			Cured	Died	Other	Total	
1985	7142	1394	378	28	290	696	7840
1986	7840	1394	859	-	1979	2838	6396
1987	6396	1456	567	-	571	1138	6714
1988	6714	1300	336	-	517	853	7161
1989	7161	432	893	1	321	1215	6378
1990	6378	445	567	1	550	1118	5705
1991	5705	768	391	2	41	434	6039
1992	6039	950	307	1	237	545	6444
1993	6444	647	708	-	2982	3690	3401

**GERMAN LEPROSY RELIEF ASSOCIATION PARA MEDICAL
WORKERS TRAINING CENTRE AT NIRMALA HOSPITAL**

Year	No. of seats sanctioned by Government	Duration of Training	Certificate of Merit Awarded
1980	30	6 Months	15
1981	30	- do -	29
1982	30	- do -	16
1983	30	- do -	28
1984	30	- do -	12
1985	30	- do -	14
1986	30	- do -	20
1987	30	- do -	23
1988	30	4 Months	20
1989	30	- do -	17
1990	30	- do -	19
1991	30	- do -	26
1992	30	- do -	10
1993	30	- do -	16

NIRMALA GIRLS' HOSTEL

Year	No. of Girls	In Vocational Training
1985	227	31
1986	207	27
1987	167	15
1988	165	8
1989	188	3
1990	161	6
1991	181	5
1992	214	5
1993	193	6

DIARY - NIRMALA HOSPITAL

1967

In July, a full-time leprosy programme was started with the Samaritan Sisters and a Sister doctor, Sr. Luka of the Holy Family congregation from Trichur, Kerala.

1968

Nirmala Hostel for girls was started. A large part of land was acquired at Govindpur with the financial help of the Holy Childhood Association through Fr. Koppleberg of West Germany.

1969

Inauguration of Nirmala Leprosy Hospital. Dr. S. Mukherjee, Eye Specialist, joined us as a part — time as well as on a voluntary basis.

1970

Blessing and Inauguration of the Convent and staff quarters at Nirmala.

1974

GLRA provided facilities for a Lepromatous ward.

1977

Facilities for extra beds were provided by enclosing the hospital verandah.

1979

Surgical Unit was established. GLRA depute, Dr. Derek Lobo, took charge.

1980

The leprosy work in the training centre sponsored by GLRA was inaugurated. With private donation a new 20-bed-ward was completed.

1981

GLRA Surgical ward of 30-beds and facilities for the training centre were inaugurated and blessed by Mr. R.N. Sharma, Chairman, Coal India Ltd and Fr. McFarland, S.J., respectively. Miss Waltraud Craft and Mr. O. Poeschmann of GLRA were present on the occasion.

1983

Two doctors' quarters were completed.

1984

The William Ferron Training Centre for Nirmala Girls' Hostel was completed with the help from the Kenny family, Ohio, USA. A new Erma Calorimeter was provided for the laboratory.

1985

Better use of Nirmala cultivable land was made by cultivating rice and vegetables. Wasteland was developed by planting nearly 1800 commercial/fuel saplings of 25 different varieties.

The old cow-shed was converted into a farm go-down.

The scrap go-down was converted into a carpentry shed.

A new cow-shed was built.

1986

A State conference of Voluntary Organisations was held at Nirmala — November 20.

Shri O. P. Lala, State Minister for Mines and Geology, Govt. of Bihar was the Chief Guest at the Nirmala Hostel sports in February.

A new generator room was built for the hospital, to facilitate regular power supply to the laboratory, the Operation Theatre and the X-ray department. A long-felt need of a Mortuary was met. A new oven and a coal pit were constructed.

Installation of tube-wells - one for the hospital and the other for the hostel — were seen to.

2200 timber, fuel, fodder wood saplings of different varieties were planted.

1987

A multi-purpose hall for the hostel girls was built with the help of Mr. Bill O'Hara and Mr. Tim Brennan, Friends of Leprosy Victims, Baltimore, USA.

1989

Silver Jubilee of DSWC. Shri Jaganath Pahadia, Governor of Bihar, inaugurated the function. Sri. P. R. Sinha, CMD, BCCL was the Guest of Honour. Mr. O. Poeschmann was the Chief Guest.

8 staff quarters consisting of one bed-room with kitchen, toilet and front verandah were constructed.

One well, 50'x15' diameter was dug.

In 6 staff quarters, front verandahs were covered and toilets were provided.

Safety tanks were provided for the above toilets.

Overhead water tank 4' X 4' 6" was constructed for the staff quarters.

A pump house was constructed and one 7.5 HP pump-set was installed.

1990

An OPD Block with all facilities was built with the help of Mrs. Maria Thys, SOS/PG, Belgium. It was inaugurated on December 8 by Shri A. P. Pandey, Director (Personnel), BCCL.

1991

Construction of 2 Leprosy Homes for the Disabled (VIPs). One was inaugurated by Shri Ravindranath, ADRM, E. Railway, Dhanbad, and the other by Mrs. Gerda Geens, a well-wisher of DSWC. These were blessed by Rt. Rev. Dr. J. R. Rodericks, S.J., Bishop of Jamshedpur, on December 7.

14 rickshaws were distributed to leprosy patients and their dependents. Mrs. Pandey, Secretary, Eastern Railway Women's Organisation, (ERWO), Dhanbad, presided.

A first lens-implantation (intra-ocular) was done on a patient named Shiva Nayak, aged 60, (from Assisi Bhavan, Ramgarh) who was blind for more than 25 years.

1992

Ophthalmic microscope was provided.

Muscle stimulator provided to the Physiotherapy department.

Dismantled an old leaking T. B. ward roof, and wall up to lintel level and constructed a new one for T.B. Patients with the help of Mrs. Maria Thys, Belgium.

Construction of a corridor (50' long) from main hospital to the Surgical Ward, with the help of Mrs. Juliana Nagler, C/o Fr. Ubelmesser, S. J., Germany,

Six ceiling fans were provided in the ward, with the help of Mrs. Juliana Nagler, C/o Fr. Ubelmesser, S.J., Germany.

Six hospital beds and 60 bed-side lockers were added, by the help of Comite d'Aide a la Luttee contre la Lepre (C.A.L.L.), C/o Fr. Joel Massip, France.

2 exhaust fans were provided in the Operation Theatre.

A 4" dia PVC suction pump and foot valve for river side pump, were fixed.

A barbed wire fencing was fixed in the Eastern side wall of the hospital.

A 1300' X 4' X 3' trench was dug around the field attached to the girls' hostel and a barbed wire fencing (9 rows) was fixed into cement poles.

1993

300' barbed wire fencing (9 rows) was fixed into cement poles in front of the hospital.

THREE JUBILEE MEMORIALS OF Nirmala Leprosy Hospital were inaugurated by Shri. Vyasji, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, on May 8. The Honourable Union Minister of State for Labour, Shri. P. A. Sangma, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Rt. Rev. Dr. J.R. Rodericks, S.J., Bishop of Jamshedpur, blessed the Memorials.

1. A Female and Children's ward was built with the help of the Parishioners of Moorenbrunn through Fr. Joe Übelmesser, S.J., of Nuremburg, Germany.

2. Two Staff Sick Rooms built with the help of GLRA.

3. An Audio-Visual Hall for training in leprosy, built with the help of Mr. & Mrs. Mario E. Marialuisa Siccardi, Genova, Italy, through Fr. Giuseppe Bellucci, Milano, Italy.

6 cycle-rickshaws were given to patients and their dependents for self-help.

- ☐ Construction of a house for the night-guards in the field adjoining NLH was seen to.
- ☐ Construction of Nirmala Girls' Hostel (6025 sft plinth area) at DBH, Gomoh, with aid from MISEREOR, Germany.
- ☐ Construction of metalled tar-road at Nirmala. Construction of cemented road at Nirmala. Construction of cement road on BFS base at Nirmala. (Adjoining road of surgical & Male Reaction Ward) 151 Rft X 6'.
- ☐ Construction of RCC Ramp and fixing of railing on both sides (Passage from hospital corridor to OPD).
- ☐ Construction of a toilet attached to guest room at Nirmala.
- ☐ Construction of RCC court-yard in front of OPD.
- ☐ Construction of a flag-hoisting-platform at Nirmala Girls' Hostel sports ground.
- Construction of tube-well-platform at Nirmala - 6 Nos.
- ☐ Construction of tube-well-platform at Nirmala Girls' Hostel - one.
- ☐ Construction of tube-well-platform at staff quarters courtyard at Nirmala - one.

- ☐ Construction of septic tank 20' x 8' c 10' deep at Nirmala Girls' Hostel.
- ☐ Construction of male-reaction-ward completed upto roof level.

Assets Provided

- 22 Nylon tape knitted and M.S. tube frame beds provided to Nirmala.
- 30 Aluminium bed-side lockers provided to Nirmala.
- 2 wooden English-type-beds provided to Nirmala Girls' Hostel.
- 20, 40'' ceiling fans provided to Nirmala Girls' Hostel.
- 20, 48'' ceiling fans provided to Female and Children's ward at Nirmala.
- 8 sets of desks and benches provided to Nirmala Girls' Hostel.
- 2, 3' x 2.5' tables provided to Nirmala Girls' Hostel.
- 3 stools provided to Nirmala Girls' Hostel.
- A Black & White TV set provided to Nirmala Girls' Hosttel.
- Purchase of a Maruti Ambulance Van.
- 6 tube-wells installed at Nirmala.
- A small generator provided to Nirmala Girls' Hostel.

Healed To Praise



*I stumbled forth, in a blur of despair
A spot had been located on my arm
There was no sensation, what then the harm ?
You are a victim. Hansen's disease, you bear.*

*Shame, fear, anger, rage burned in me
Strange to say, physical pain the least,
I would very much prefer to be a beast,
For then the jungle my accepted home would be.*

*My home - I was compelled to move from there
Market, shops, transport were to me denied
Neither market nor temple, no water - tap for you ! they cried
Your load of misery, shunned, alone, you bear*

*What led me to Nirmala ? What destiny ? Which star ?
MDT, Dressing, Food, above all concern and care
To live, to laugh, to love, with others to dare
The hope that wells up, nothing can mar.*

*Ten were those who approached the Lord.
Their skin was healed, they raised a shout,
Only one in gratitude, the healer searched out
Grant me thy praise, O Lord, to spread abroad.*

Sr. M. Aquinas, A. C.



GLRA LEPROSY WORKERS' TRAINING COURSE

I. PARAMEDICAL WORKERS' COURSE

DSWC in collaboration with GLRA started a six month long Paramedical Workers' course in 1980 for the training of candidates both from the State Government and from the Non-Governmental Organisations. The six-month-duration was reduced to four months in 1988. A total number of 284 candidates have successfully passed this course.

II. ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES IN LEPROSY

- A. From 1985 onwards, DSWC started Orientation Courses in Leprosy for the Jesuit Novices and members of various religious congregations, both men and women. A total number of 190 religious have been offered this course.
- B. From 1989 onwards, DSWC started Crash Orientation programmes in Leprosy for various groups to create awareness among the opinion-moulders of society such as, Bihar Govt. doctors, BCCL doctors and Para-Medical staff, Railway doctors, doctors of various Industrial Establishments, both private and public, Govt. nurses, members of Bihar Voluntary Health Association and to School teachers of Govt. schools. A total of 241 underwent this training.

III. IN - SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

We live in a dynamic society and change is inevitable, in order to survive the onslaught of this highly competitive world. The Centre has, therefore, put emphasis on improvement in quality of its Human Resources, by conducting from 1988 onwards In-Service Training Programmes, for different categories of staff, such as Dressers, Ward-Assistants, Drivers, Teaching Staff and Officers, and by introducing the Individual-Annual-Performance-Review.

FR. VIJAY A. BHAT

EVENTS TO REMEMBER IN THE HISTORY OF NIRMALA

1967	A Full-time Leprosy Programme Starts
1969	Inauguration of Nirmala Leprosy hospital - April 7
1981	Inauguration of the Surgical Ward - July 18
1985	Orientation courses in leprosy start for opinion moulders in society.
1986	Nirmala Girls start staging folk dances on requests from S. E. Rly. ADRA, E.Rly, Dhanbad, District Administration, State Tourism Dept. - Jan 26
1986	Shri. O.P.Lala, Minister of State for Mines and Geology, Govt. Of Bihar, Chief Guest at Nirmala Hostel Sports - Feb.
1986	Bihar State Conference of Voluntary Organisations doing Leprosy Work. Nov. - 20
1987	A Multi-purpose Hall is built for the Nirmala Girls
1988	Human Resources Development Programmes start
1989	Inauguration of the Silver Jubilee of DSWC - Nov.11
1990	An OPD block is inaugurated - Dec. 8
1991	Nirmala Girls grab the rolling shield in a tableau on Communal Harmony - Republic Day.
1991	The first successful lens-implantation on a patient blind for 25 years, by Dr. S. Mukherjee
1991	Blessing and Inauguration of Leprosy Homes for the disabled - our VIPS - Dec. 7
1993	Jubilee Memorials are blessed and inaugurated - May 8
	1. An additional female and children's ward
	2. Two sick-rooms for the staff
	3. An Audio-Visual Hall for Training in Leprosy

An Historical Event in the History of Nirmala

A Walk by Hostels, Schools and People
from all walks of life to educate the people about Leprosy



HOSPITAL SERVICES



The day begins with prayer, at Nirmala.



Physiotherapy Therapeutic Exercises being given to the patients.



Laboratory Services.



Sr. Jouita and the Staff at the dressings.



*Dr. P. N. Gutgutia at
Reconstructive Surgery.*

*Dr. S. Mukherjee, Eye Specialist,
assisted by Dr. Ghatak and the staff.
The ophthalmic microscope is being
used for the first time.*



*Dr. S. K. Karan, General Surgeon,
at Surgery.*

Life in the Ward.





Mr K C Indwar conducts Health Education for the patients at the OPD.

Clinical Check-up of patients, by Dr. A S. Ghuman, Dr. H. S. Nandy, assisted by the Staff.



Multi-drugs being distributed, free of cost, to the patients.

Patients are provided with protective footwear, to prevent ulcers.





The Staff seeing to the medical records.

*People carrying a double burden :
Leprosy and Tuberculosis.*



"Nirmala and medication did this for me in 4 days."



"Nirmala is Baby-Friendly"



Remarkable improvement : May 1992 to May 1993.