

Capstone Ministries

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A great loss and hope for the future.

This week India lost a saint. Her story begins over a century ago when a young woman, a recent graduate of Women's Medical College in Philadelphia-the world's first women's medical college, was called by God to serve the medical needs of the poor of India. Her name was Mary Baer, MD.

She came to India in 1895 and was led to establish a church and medical clinic in Chirala, a village on the east coast of India. In 1909 a hospital was built to accommodate the growing medical needs of the community. Dr Baer retired in 1933 following decades of dedicated service. She lived her last years in India and passed away in 1942 at age 78. The hospital continued to serve the needy and over the subsequent decades multiple attempts were made to keep the hospital and its mission active. However, by the 1970's the hospital closed its doors and the grounds were taken over by squatters.

Fortunately, the story does not end there. A baby was born in the hospital four years after Dr. Baer retired. Her name was Lalitha. Her future husband, Fred Chikkala, was born in the same hospital a few years earlier. With modest means they were able to overcome many obstacles. Lalitha became a pediatrician in Atlanta and Fred a PhD researcher at Emory Medical Center.

In 2003 their lives took a dramatic change. They were called by God to return to the place of their birth and reopen the long-neglected hospital. They poured their personnel resources into refurbishing the hospital with an up to date ICU, a surgical suite, a birthing center, and a soon to be opened nursing school. (Capstone has helped with that effort both financially and in providing medical support and CBI teaching.) Dr Chikkala worked tirelessly in the hospital and the many medical camps in the surrounding area serving the needy.

It was at one of those camps last week that she developed chest pain and a few days later passed away following a cardiac procedure. She was 82 years old. Like Dr Baer, she left an inspiring legacy of devotion for the needy in her love for Christ.



The future:

~God is always faithful in giving us hope for the future. In the vision are four young orphan girls that Capstone is helping to put through a Christian nursing school. They are halfway into the three-year program and are doing well.

~ Capstone Bible Institute (CBI) now has 38 mentors teaching 690 pastors, evangelists, and teachers the core curriculum of OT and NT surveys, intensive Biblical discipleship and the Great Doctrines of scripture. There is a short introductory course on how to study scripture and a concluding study on pastoring and preaching. We will be adding 25 pastors from war torn Sri Lanka soon. (Dr. Chikkala was a graduate of CBI.)



Urgent needs:

1. Funds to support half of the four nurses' tuition/expenses of \$1500 per student per year. \$3000-(matching funds will be provided from other sources.)
2. Support for the nursing school at Baer Christian Hospital and the purchase of an ultrasound.
3. A washing machine for 11 orphan children in Home of Hope, Hyderabad costing \$400.
4. Christmas gifts and a meal out for the orphans- \$300.
5. Funds for translation of CBI material to the Boro tribal language (our seventh language group). Over 200 Boro pastors have no access to Biblical teaching and want to enroll in CBI- \$1200.

(Capstone Ministries' minimal overhead expenses are paid by board members therefore 100% of donated funds are given directly to the ministry)

May God bless you this holiday season.