

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES AT TLM NAINI HOSPITAL

There are various spiritual activities being organized in the campus for the spiritual development of staff and their families as well as for the patients who are admitted for long term treatment & care.

Chapel activities:

- **Daily morning devotion:** The Hospital work starts with devotions in the chapel and all staff with some in-patients gather in the hospital chapel. This is for a brief 15-20 minutes as a Godly start to the day, which is led by different staff, visitors, trainees or electives.
- **Sunday Church Service:** Local community people & staff with their families are very keen in attending the church service. Professors/teachers from the Allahabad Bible Seminary come every Sunday to share the word of God with spiritual testimonies. Young students of the Bible Seminary lead the choir enthusiastically during the praise and worship session. TLM Naini chapel has become a blessing for several non Christian patients & families who have experienced God's holy presence and love in their lives.
- **Every 2nd Sunday a holy communion** service is conducted by Rev. D J Fellows; a very senior pastor of the Church of North India.

Sunday school for Children: Sunday school is organized every Sunday for the children of staff staying in the campus. There are about 40 staff children who attend the Sunday school. Many children from non-Christian families also participate in the Sunday school service along with their friends. This has opened a new door to preach the GOSPEL among God's most loved ones. This was started about 10 years ago and a few of our committed staff and spouses regularly offer their services as the Sunday school teacher. The children also go for a picnic to a nearby area with the teachers once a year. Funding for these activities are from the Sunday chapel collections.

Youth fellowship: A new initiative has been taken to mainstream the lives of young staff and children by arranging a Youth Fellowship with Bible study, sharing of testimonies and prayers once a week. This is done in the Chapel on Fridays with a small group of staff and children and facilitated by a senior TLM staff.

Weekly Bible study: Some of the staff have personal Bible group study and prayers in their homes conducted by staff or outside preachers.

VBS: Every year staff children (Sunday school) attend the 'Vacational Bible School' conducted through Scripture Union (Bangalore) and held at the Allahabad Bible Seminary. This is a week-long program and about 25 children from TLM Naini attend.

Convention: This is conducted in the month of February as 'Spiritual Life Convention' every evening for 1 week at the Allahabad Bible Seminary. Arrangements are made to transport the staff from the hospital to attend this convention.

Staff Spiritual Retreat: Every year a retreat is organized for the staff to help in our spiritual growth & nurture. Usually it is held in the month of October as weather conditions are pleasant during this time. Alternate years this is held out-station so that staff can be away from the work environment, concentrate on spiritual growth and discussions and see a new place. The last retreat was at a Catholic centre in Agra. Many staff had not seen the Taj Mahal either and this was an opportunity for sight-seeing and appreciated by the staff. This is usually thematic and an outside preacher facilitates the group discussions and presentations in a day-long interactive session. Themes such as “Christian witness at the workplace; Stewardship; Knowing God/Abiding in Him; Christ & Society” are debated.

Leprosy Sunday: on the occasion of leprosy Sunday, hospital staff visit different churches of Allahabad to share the vision, mission and generate leprosy awareness. This also motivates the Christian community for their prayer support, local fund raising & active participation for the cause. Most staff also share the word of God in the churches. This year 13 churches were covered and encouraging responses were received from the congregations.

Monthly Bible Quiz: With much concern for staff spiritual welfare, The Leprosy Mission started a monthly bible quiz. This activity is followed in every TLM centre, programmes, projects etc. This activity has created an opportunity for the staff to read the word of God and apply the knowledge at the work-place and to glorify His name. Through this many individuals have been blessed and patients have been able to witness and appreciate the ‘Christian’ work of staff.

CMAI Healing Ministry: In February the Christian Medical Association of India with the Catholic Health Association of India hold a “Healing Ministry week” in all Churches of India. TLM Naini participated in this at the All Saints Cathedral-Allahabad, Chapel of Brotherly Love in the Allahabad Agricultural University etc.

TAFTEE course: 14 staff of TLM Naini took up the 2 year Certificate level course and have graduated from The Association For Theological Education by Extension.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES:

New Testament & tracks distribution: the focus of our ministry is “holistic care” to every individual who is visiting TLM Naini for treatment. Almost all of the patients visiting OPD belong to other faiths. This is an opportunity to share the gospel with them and improve their knowledge. We do this by a voluntary approach and have accessible Christian reading material in Hindi for the waiting patients. Every day more than 50 New Testaments & gospel tracks are taken by the OPD patients. These are supplied through our contacts with Gideon’s, Bible Seminary etc.

Ward Patients: For Ward patients we sometimes show Video films on Health and Christian teaching in our hospital O.P.D. after hours. Some in-patients come voluntarily to watch and listen. Students from the Bible seminaries come to interact with the admitted patients and extend their prayer support for a early recovery and acceptance into their communities. Some of our ward patients also attend the Sunday Chapel service with personal prayer requests.

EASTER:

During the period of lent TLM Naini staff have **cottage prayer meetings** in their campus quarters. This is usually more often than once a week with staff or outside preachers delivering the message and about 50 residential staff participating. We observe **Palm Sunday** service in the morning and evening services for the rest of the week till Maundy Thursday in the Hospital Chapel. We observe **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service**, and on **Good Friday** the three hours noon service in the chapel open for all staff, neighbouring community members and ward patients. They also attend the **Easter Sunday Dawn service** and the **Easter Sunday church services**. For the Passion week evening services we invite guest speakers from the Allahabad Bible Seminary.

CHRISTMAS

During the festive season, the **wards, OPD and Chapel are decorated** for the month, with very "Christmassy" streamers, tinsel and cribs.

Special Christmas sports are held on a week-end for patients and staff with various individual and group games. Most of the patients and staff take part in the day long program. Other individual games are continued for the month, depending on available time from the busy OPD schedule. Prizes are distributed later in the week.

Christmas Tree function with gifts for the Snehalya patients, Sunday school children and prize winners of the Christmas Games. The nativity play and other special presentations are made by the Sunday School children for the staff and most in-patients in the OPD hall. A surprise Santa Claus is also part of the festivities to distribute gifts and join in the festivities.

Carol singing is done on a door to door pattern in the campus quarters, followed by visits to staff homes in Naini and Allahabad city. Several non-Christian staff also ask for the carolers to visit their homes.

Christmas Dinner with patients and staff is held during the season. Food is cooked by the staff for all the in-patients, staff with families and well-wishers of the institution as special guests – about 400 people. TLM Naini provides a wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with those who are partners (like churches, local donors, well wishers etc) and retired staff, staff families etc. From 2010 interactive games have been added to make the Christmas dinner more entertaining and attractive. Also, to keep the patients, staff and children occupied while the food is being cooked ! Many staff and their children participated in the games and enjoyed the fellowship.

Christmas Service is conducted by teachers from the Bible Seminary with some staff. The Chapel is overflowing in spite of the extra seating arrangement. **A candle-light service** is held the previous evening around the hospital chapel for the staff and children.

A contributory lunch is organized by the staff among themselves and the preachers and guests are specially invited. This is soon after the Christmas church service and gives us the opportunity to have a time of fellowship and celebration. Most of the campus staff are from other parts of the country and many of them have to stay on during the Christmas season to look after the hospital activities.

Church services are also held at mid-night on 31st December and again on New Year's day.