



Mennonite Mission Health Association (MMHA)

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Press Release

“I came away this time more appreciative of the strength of the India Church and Conference than ever before. They are proud to be Christians, to be Mennonite Brethren and Anabaptist in spite of opposition from various quarters. God has done marvelous things in the Church in Andhra Pradesh and I for one expect to see more.”

So concluded the report to the Mennonite Mission Health Association (MMHA) by veteran missionary medical worker Dr David Wiebe of Kearney, Nebraska. He was participating in the Health Care Professional Visits Program of the MMHA and Mennonite Brethren Medical Centre of Jadcherla, India from February 10 to March 13, 2006. In addition to participating in patient consults, Dr Wiebe, as vice-President of MMHA, was evaluating further possibilities of collaboration with the health care ministries of the Mennonite Brethren Conference of India.

Dr Wiebe observed “huge changes in India and particularly in Andhra (province) and more so in Hyderabad (nearby city). There is a great deal of construction all the way to Jadcherla, with a new divided highway...cell phones are everywhere (it’s said even the beggars have them.)”

“The disparity between rich and poor is more striking but the abject poverty seen in the past is not apparent. The rising middle class certainly is apparent. Disparity in health care is obvious. I saw patients who had had very successful knee replacements; but I also saw a three-year-old child with a 90-degree deformity from a fractured femur, which had occurred six months earlier.”

The planned Medical School associated with the Mennonite Brethren Medical Centre is both exciting and breathtaking. Dr Wiebe found general support for the concept of having a Medical School at Jadcherla but also recognizes the tremendous investments involved.

Dr PB Arnold, Medical Superintendent for Jadcherla and Moderator of the Mennonite Brethren Conference of India, has indicated three areas of potential collaboration with MMHA

1. Recent medical journals and text books
2. Visiting consultants from North America

The Mennonite Mission Health Association (<http://www.mennonitemha.org/>) was created to assist in the funding, development and ongoing operational support of health care facilities and organizations in the under serviced regions of the developing world. Its purpose includes:

1. Raising of funds for both capital development and operational support of qualifying institutions and organizations
2. Provision of management and health care consulting services to the chosen projects
3. Supporting the projects with itinerant development, management and health care professional human resources on an as needed basis

MMHA – Glen Miller

Serving God by providing resources and services to Mennonite health care facilities in low resource countries