

Greetings to my sponsoring churches from India!

I spent much of January working on ELNEC India - the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium - finishing the preparations of last month and doing the actual classes. We presented ELNEC India twice in January - once in Vellore and once in Delhi - to train nurses so they will be able to go on and teach palliative/hospice care to other nurses in the future. I had to put together and edit manuals and CDs for the nurses to use and take with them and arrange for the faculty to get here. The faculty included four nurses (all ELNEC trainers), three chaplains (that includes me and I am also a nurse) and a palliative care physician with a background in pediatrics. Four of these people are from the US, two from India, and me - from the US but living in India. They all donated their time and expertise - only their transportation and room and board were covered by ELNEC India. We were able to do this training thanks to generous funding from IAHPC (International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care) and support from ELNEC, City of Hope, the Palliative Care Unit at Christian Medical College in Vellore, and St. Stephen's Hospital in Delhi. Getting the faculty here went well other than a couple of suitcases going astray and the airline being reluctant to deliver the recovered baggage as promised because it was Pongal, a South Indian holiday, but I was firm and that problem was soon sorted out. They were happy and so was I as they were bring some things for me! This was the first trip to India for the faculty members from the US, so everything was very new to them ELNEC India was attended by 24 nurses in Vellore and 30 nurses in Delhi and three doctors joined us for the training sessions. The ELNEC curriculum and resources gave the participants rich material for their own education and practice as well as providing them with materials for going on to teach others. In the course of the three-day training, participants were involved in learning experiences that would give them ideas for the future use of the training materials. The learning modules included Nursing Care, Communication, Pain Management, Symptom Management. Cultural and Spiritual Considerations, Loss Grief and Bereavement, Ethical and legal Issues, and Final Hours, and Teaching Techniques. We also offered a two-hour session in pediatric and geriatric palliative nursing. It was a lot to fit into three days!

Participants included nurses who are already working in palliative care, nurses interested in palliative nursing, senior nursing staff, and masters-level nursing students who are the future nursing instructors in India. Students came from at least eight different States within India. There are a growing number of well-trained

palliative care physicians in India, but there have been few opportunities for nurses to learn more about palliative care. ELNEC India has offered them this new, valuable opportunity, and we hope to continue this training program using mostly Indian faculty with some support from outside India.

While we were in Delhi, I took the visiting faculty to see the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra and it was amazing! Impressive enough to make it worth the nine hour car trip! In Vellore I took them to visit Mother Teresa's orphanage and showed them the beautiful campus of the Christian Medical College.

All in all, ELNEC India went very well. The faculty was interesting and informative and the students were interested and engaged in the learning process. These students will go back to their hospitals and nursing schools and teach more nurses about palliative care and train more nurses to teach even more nurses. This is also how the Gospel's good news is spread! Each of us learns about God's amazing grace and then, I hope, we all share that good news with others in deeds and in words. Please keep these people who work with patients who are at the ends of their lives in your prayers and keep me there too. I need those prayers so much.