

TRIALS AND TRIUMPH IN THE LORD`S VINEYARD

-The Story of VELEMEGNA

Foreward	3
PREFACE	4
THE HISTORY OF VELEMEGNA	9
MEETING THE LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST	9
LIFE IN MEDICAL COLLEGE	9
MEDICAL MISSIONARY CALLING	10
MEETING HIS LIFE PARTNER	10
CALL TO COME TO BIDAR	11
VENTURING OUT IN FAITH	12
UNUSUAL CASES AND MIRACLES	19
Their “Charminar” ¹	23
ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND BENCHMARKS	28
New Developments & Challenges	29
CONCLUSION	30

Forward

Golden Jubilee year, 1968-2018, of 'VELEMEGNA' Society.

Our mother, Dr Susheela Salins, wrote a large part of this this account of her life and work at Velemegna in Bidar, India, many years ago. We, her four children, have made every effort to retain her story as she recounted it. When necessary, we have changed the number of years to which she originally referred to more accurately reflect the passage of time between her writing and today. Her accounts are kept in the present tense whenever possible, but here again, the passage of time has necessitated some tense changes. It is our hope that those who read her story will feel her presence with us now as much as it was felt by those she cared for and loved when she was at work in our world.

Fiftyyears is a very long time to capture in a short book. We hope that what you read and see in this book will challenge and inspire you. The journey begun all those years ago has at its core revealed God's Faithfulness to His faithful. May His name be glorified. Many thanks to all members of Dr. Salins' family for contributing towards the book.

I thank Robert and Ramesh Aelay, my secretaries, and for helping me complete this special edition.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, friends, 'VELEMEGNA' staff and evangelists for their support and prayers, and for believing in me.

Dr.Sybil Evangeline Salins,2018.

Serina Ruth Salins - Stephen

Swarthick Ebenezer Salins

Sundeep Michael Salins

PREFACE

I count it a privilege and blessing to have been asked to write a preface to this heartwarming, life-changing book on the life, legacy and love of Dr. A.C.Salins and Dr.Sushila.R.Salins. To His beloved children, Sybil, Serina, Swarthick and Sundeep, “ thank you for sharing the precious lives of your father and mother to us. Sybil, thank you for writing this book. The Lord has helped you write a truly inspiring book giving glory to God and so skillfully bringing out the important and beautiful aspects of your parent's lives.”

As one reads through this book i am reminded of these words of Jesus in John2:24.“ Except for a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it will abide alone. But if it dies it will bear much fruit.“ We see how this verse was fleshed out in real life and exemplified by this precious couple.

Samuel Zwemer wrote:

There is no gain but a loss,
You cannot save but by a cross;
The corn of wheat to multiply
Must fall into the ground an die.
Whenever you ripe fields behold,
Waving to God their sheaves of gold,
Be sure some corn of wheat has died,
Some soul there has been crucified—
Someone has wrestled, wept, and prayed,
And fought hell’s legions undismayed.

May we, as we read his story lived under the shadow of the cross, not be content just to write or read his epitaph, but to go on to follow his example. As a result of this life and this book may many others also fall into the ground and die and see abundant fruit for God’s glory.

BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE MAN IN WHOM THERE IS NO GUILF

We remember Dr. Christy with his open and transparent face. Like Nathanael in John chapter-1, Jesus must have been so pleased with him and would have said over him, “ Behold a true believer in whom is no guile “. This is such a rare character trait these days and so refreshing to encounter. And as Jesus said to Nathanael, “ You shall see greater things than these “, Christy saw greater things than he ever dreamed. And yet, may we trust that greater things are yet to come in the ministries and mission that he and his dear wife, Suzy and their children have embarked upon.

HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS

As is so beautifully brought out in the book we saw and now read about this blessed couplewho weretruly poor in spirit. And as Jesus promised, the kingdom

of God was given to him. Rev Stanley Jones, who was a Methodist Missionary in India for nearly 50 years once wrote that the Lord gave him a word during his quiet hour. “ YOU ARE MINE! LIFE IS YOURS! “. So Christy consecrated himself to His Master and enjoyed LIFE in all its abundance. He was full of joy and enthusiasm. His cup was full and overflowing. Naturally, he loved song and music as it could express his overflowing heart.

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

These were the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16. “ I am not ashamed of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first, but also to the Greek. “

How refreshing it was to see in their lives and read in this book of their passion. It may sound foolish to the world, but it is the only way for mankind to deal with sin. Jesus Christ saves from sin and the Salins’ unashamedly and passionately continued in this mission. May many catch this flame and fire even as we read this book. Christy was free of giving his life for trivial things. As the poem says,
“ We grovel among trifles
And our spirits fret and toss,
When above us looms the vision
Of the Christ upon the cross. “

WILL THE WORLD CRY MAD? SUCH MADNESS BE MY JOY!

The Salins’ had a pioneering instinct and at times must have appeared to have been “ mad “, by colleagues and friends and others. It is interesting to read in his biography how some people from the village said, “ He is mad! “ This is the good kind of “madness”. Amy Carmichael who also was in the same mold as them and other pioneers includes a poem in one of her books. I don’t know the author. The words aptly describe this dear saint of God.

“ Lord give me this year a burning zeal,
For souls immortal; make me plead for such,
With earnestness intense, love strong as death
And faith God-given. Will the world cry mad!
I would be mad. Such madness is my joy.
For thrice it blesses – First my own cold heart
Then glorifies my God and straightly plucks,
My sin-stained brother /sister from the jaws of death.
I used to love the way he told me, “ Arul, you know, where I have my clinic and what I will call it? -Rahab’s Cottage! On the wall of an iniquitous, yet needy city that God loves “.

Oh, for the birth of such pioneering spirits as a result of this one life and this book. For God never called us to comfort and leisure and ease. Christy and Suzy seem

to have lived with eternity's values in view. "For we have one short hour before sunset to win the victories for God. But we have all eternity to celebrate them". Can we follow in Jesus and their footsteps?!

GOD'S CHOSEN FAST – MINISTERING TO THE POOR

We are humbled to read of the passion and love of Dr. Salins and his dear wife in ministering to the poorest of the poor. And as we read the book of so many personal stories we are able to see that they ministered to the poor in a way that lifted them. It was that they gave their soul to the soul of the poor as in Isaiah 58. Such ministry does not humiliate the poor but lifts them up. The personal stories in this book are fascinating to read.

"If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness and your darkness shall be as the noonday"- Isaiah 58:10.

And the prophetic promise in Isaiah 58:12 of a ministry with historical impact was seen and we trust will be seen in the ongoing ministry in Bidar and other places.

"Those from among you (Christy and his dear wife and others) shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations, and you shall be called the repairer of the breach and the Restorer of streets to dwell in."

A stanza of a poem by Amy Carmichael comes to mind.

"Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire;
Let me not sink to be a clod.
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God!

I close this preface with a prayer and a wish that God will take this little volume into His hands and bless and use it for His glory. May God cause a stirring in the hearts of many to rise up in the strength of the Lord and do exploits for God?

Like Abraham and Sarah, the Salins still lives in their legacy, their prayers and through this precious volume may many descendants arise in the ripe harvest fields of India and the world. Pilgrim worshippers through whom the blessing of salvation and shalom will flow to those in darkness and despair.

Like what happened to the dead man when he was thrown into the tomb containing Elijah's bones, may LIFE be renewed as we read this volume.

May this book cause a stirring; a Holy Spirit breathed stirring;

Like the stirring caused by Naomi and Ruth as they entered Bethlehem in Ruth

chapter 1;

Like the stirring caused by the fourleprosy patients as they reported the availability of food in 2 Kings chapter 7;

Like the stirring caused in Lydia's heart in Acts chapter 16;

Like the stirring caused on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 and in Haggai chapter 1;

May God abundantly bless this book as it goes forth to touch the lives of many.

"Lord we thank you for the lives and ministry of Dr.A.C Salins and His beloved wife, Suzy".

Dr.Arul Anketell,

HCF,

Sri Lanka /South Asia (2018)

ABBREVIATIONS:

- **OPD:** Out Patient Department
- **HCF:** Hospital Christian Fellowship
- **CMC:** Christian Medical College
- **EU :** Evangelical Union
- **EGF:** Evangelical Graduate Fellowship
- **LEF:** Layman`s evangelical Fellowship
- **WHO:** World Health Organisation
- **MBBS:** Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
- **OM:** Operation Mobilization
- **CSI:** Church of South India
- **VHAI :** Voluntary Health Association of India
- **ICCO:**International Cocoa Organization (Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation)
- **NABH:** National Accreditation Board for Hospitals
- **SIMAVI:**Support in Medical Affairs for Indigenes
- **ADRA:**Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- **Seva Bharath** – Mission India
- **TN:** Tamil Nadu
- **ANM:** Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
- **CBM:** Christoffel Blenden Mission
- **RGUHS:** Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science
- **DBCS:** District Blindness Control Society
- **NABH:** National Accreditation for Board for Hospitals.
- **AHI:** Asian Health Institute, Japan.

THE HISTORY OF VELEMEGNA

Meeting the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Anselm Christopher Salins was born on 10th June 1936 and brought up in a Christian family in Mangalore, Karnataka, South India. His father was a lighthouse keeper and mother a homemaker. He loved the Lord and was active in church activities. A talented singer, he sang solo as well as in the church choir. He also loved teaching and preaching the Word of God, the Holy Bible. But his great passion in youth was for cricket. Had he pursued this, he would certainly have become a national player, for he had already reached 'Ranji Trophy' level. But when he was seventeen, he met with an accident while hunting and had to have a bullet removed from his right thigh. In the hospital, he thanked God for sparing his life. There, one Mr. Peter Iqbal (a Muslim convert), introduced him to Jesus in a new way, effectively turning him "from Cricket to Christ."

Shushila Ruhani Pauliah was born on 1st of June, 1939 in Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu, South India, in a strong Christian community. Her father was a tea estate manager in Sri Lanka and mother a homemaker, before they eventually moved to India. At the age of seventeen, she gave her heart to Jesus at a revival meeting conducted by the Layman's Evangelical Fellowship.

Life in Medical College

Christy (as he was commonly known) entered Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, in 1957. From the beginning, he was active in evangelical work, a proactive Evangelical Union (EU) member – prompt in attending Chapel services and motivating students to get involved in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Being an A-class cricketer, he was made the captain of the college team and won many laurels for the college. His teammates used to drag him out of prayer meetings to come and play cricket.

Christy's great enthusiasm, zeal and love for the Lord and for evangelism caused many students and staff to call him a "religious pimp." This did not deter him from being an effective witness; and every Sunday, after church, he would go to the men's prison for ministry. Notorious criminals had a change of heart listening to Christy's witness. He drew close to all kinds of people and spent much of his spare time praying and witnessing to patients in the hospital. During his third year of medical school, Christy wanted to quit his studies and devote himself full time to Christian ministry. Many – including the well-known

neurosurgeon, the [late] Dr. Nambudari Paad – discouraged him from this course of action. “Many more people go to the hospital than to church, so you can do more ministry as a medical missionary”, was his wise advice. Therefore, Christy continued his medical studies and was both encouraged and inspired by reading biographies of Hudson Taylor (a medical missionary to China) and C. T. Stud (a test cricketer).

Suzy (as she was commonly called), joined CMC, Vellore, in 1958, led a quieter determined Christian life in college, attending meetings and being involved in the EU too.

Medical Missionary Calling

When Christy was in medical school, eighty-four year old Dr. Ida Scudder (founder of Christian Medical College, Vellore) would go around in a wheelchair, holding hands with students and telling them, “I love India, go serve rural India.” Thus they were both challenged and began to think about equipping themselves to go to the neediest part of rural India, on completing their medical studies.

Meeting His Life Partner

During Christy’s first year at MBBS, evangelist Mr. Lawri introduced Christy to Suzy. But he did not really notice her until he was in his final year of MBBS. During that year, they had many opportunities to attend spiritual conferences arranged by Laymen Evangelical Fellowship, Madras (now known as Chennai). In December 1963, there was a local evangelical fellowship in CMC. The meeting was to bid farewell to outgoing students. At that time, one boy from the men’s side and one girl from the women’s side were selected to share their testimony. The pair happened to be Christy and Suzy who spoke of how they had accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal saviour at the Laymen Evangelical Fellowship. As Christy listened to Sushila’s testimony, he made up his mind that she would be his life partner. Later, they had many opportunities to discuss this matter in college/hospital, and Christy told Suzie about his missionary calling.

At first, he thought of going to places like Nepal or Bhutan. Suzie also expressed a desire to serve the Lord in remote places, where medical facilities were sparse. They expressed this desire to their parents, who were delighted and blessed them in this decision. The wedding took place on the 28th of December, 1964, at CSI Church, Nagercoil.

Plans to minister in Nepal / Bhutan – where leprosy was rampant – took the newlyweds to SLRs (Leprosy training centre), Karigiri (near Vellore), Tamil Nadu. A description of karigiri / leprosy Very soon, however, they realized that if they trained themselves in leprosy alone, they would soon forget their practice of general medicine. So they rejoined CMC, Vellore, as senior house surgeons in

various clinical departments. This helped them get more knowledge to do general practice, including surgery.

Call to come to Bidar

After completing their training at CMC, they attended an Evangelical Graduates Fellowship (EGF) conference at Kothagiri, Tamil Nadu. The main theme of the conference was: “Where are the modern Daniels, who will witness for the Lord in the remotest and most difficult of places?” This was the challenge the young couple took, as their personal calling.

They applied to the Methodist Mission and asked to be sent to a needy area. They were told to go to Bidar, Karnataka State, South India, a place neither of them had heard of before. Bidar is in the northern most district of Karnataka state. A border town with very poor infrastructure and rural economy. Although is boasted a 13th century Persian fort and an airforce fighter training base the surrounding villages, main town formed a very underdeveloped and impoverished economy, nowhere on any development strategy or government help.. After much prayer, they expressed their willingness to go to Bidar. At that same time, another doctor who had worked in Bidar told them, “You can go anywhere in the world, but not Bidar. I left Bidar with a loaded gun.” They were puzzled at the time of hearing this, but Dr. Indira Perry – an ophthalmologist from CMC, encouraged them to go with the words “Since you are Kannada-speaking (the language of Karnataka), you must go to Bidar, for it is a very needy place.”

So, prayerfully, and despite warnings, they made up their minds to go to Bidar, and arrived in 1966. Suzie was expecting their first child and was happy with the warm welcome they received from the Methodist Mission Hospital and the huge church there. Very soon, they got involved in hospital activities, evangelical work, holding prayer meetings with students and visiting villages. This made them very popular with the local people, however, resulted in ill feeling and professional jealousy among some of their doctor colleagues at the hospital. The problem escalated to an unbearable level. Mr. Zac Poonen – at one of the spiritual meetings he conducted in Bidar – emphasized “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers,” Suzy and Christy decided to leave the hospital. With only one month’s salary upon their departure, the couple trusted completely in the Lord to guide them ahead, and meet all their needs. His prayerful mother, (Late) Mrs. Tarabai Salins, made the first donation of thirty rupees and blessed their venture!!!

Venturing Out in Faith

Suzy and Christy stepped out in faith, with the blessings and support of genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, baby Sybil, Christy's mother and three helpers. Twenty Operation Mobilization (OM) workers helped them establish a hospital in a rented building within the old city walls, of Bidar.

They were advised to generate wide publicity for their new clinic on their opening day. However, Christy decided to kneel down and pray instead. To their surprise, on completing their prayer, forty patients were already waiting to be seen in their new clinic. Mr. Bhakt Singh, the founder of Hebron Ministry, gave Drs. Salins a blank cheque to help establish the hospital during these initial days.

Christy's first major operation was the amputation of the hand of a fourteen-year-old boy, who had been electrocuted. He was with the patient day and night until he got better. He gave similar care to many other patients, full of compassion, selfless care and devotion.

Dr. Salins, who loved acronyms named the hospital **VELEMEGNA** Society, Bidar, which stands for:

Village
Evangelical
Leprosy
Eradication
Medical
Education
Good
News
Association

Christy's first love was evangelism. He spent most of his spare time preaching the Gospel, visiting people and praying for them. He established the "HOREB" house of worship in Bidar. Soon, Christy was invited to various villages of Bidar district to preach the Gospel, where he witnessed extreme poverty, starvation and sickness. He thought there was no point preaching the word of God to such people who were physically so drained out, and as a result, got involved in community development programmes.

1972/3: In this period the rent accommodation was suddenly taken away from them and a new abundant site, sandwiched between a mosque and a graveyard was acquired in the old city not far from the original site. The new the hospital and residence was completed with the limited budget and scope to expand. Recruitment of new staff and purchase of equipment mounted the financial burden, therefore, work had to be doubled-up to meet all the needs.

In **1975-77**, Christy in his usual selflessness, full of faith, undeterred, positive, taking high risks, was busy organizing community development activities, such as sericulture, horticulture, poultry, farming, candle making. The interested students from were sent for training, as laboratory technician, at Oddanchathram, TN, South India, who came back to serve at the hospital. There was a co-believer, an officer from the Air Force (as the elementary flying school of the Indian Air Force is based in Bidar), who supported their work and was encouraged himself as he and his family grew in the Faith.

In **1978-80**, on return of the trained staff, the facilities in the hospital expanded. However, the financial burdens also increased. Miraculously, God provided for all their needs. At a national conference, Pune, Christy, shared the all the activities with the attendees, after which, Dr. Helen Gideon – one of the leading World Health Organization (WHO) consultants in community development, met him and said, “I would like to visit your programme.” So, in a month’s time, three eminent VHAI [Volunteer Health Association of India] officials, along with Dr. H. Gideon, visited Bidar and spent four days there. They went through all the accounts, work, and the potentialities. In conclusion, they said, “By all means, carry on the programmes, do not stop. They will get support for this organization.” So they continued to pray for all our needs. One day they received a cheque of Rs.1,50,000/- as interim grant to carry on the work from WHO. Praise the Lord! God answers prayers and does mighty things. So they went to the bank and surprised the manager by presenting him with the cheque!

Soon trained students based themselves in Kadwad village, and using bicycles as transport they travelled around doing a health survey of the villages and providing health education and treating minor ailments. The blind, the leprosy patients those with tuberculosis, the malnourished children, the pregnant women, and other diseases were detected in the survey. Village health workers were then identified in three villages. Soon the work was spreading in another three surrounding villages. The team of VHAI workers suggested, to build a rural hospital in Baridabad village, which would serve the surrounding thirty-nine villages. It would be a shining star for the whole community. At the same time, land was purchased in the surrounding villages, ten acres of land in Baridabad, six acres in Chatnalli, and three acres in Kadwad for agricultural development work and a hospital. Jawar, sugar cane, maize, and grass for fodder were cultivated.

Next, they ventured into the Family-to-Family programme, sponsored by World Vision. Three hundred village children were selected and given mental, physical and spiritual nurturing for a period of seventeen years (1980 - 1997). Many children benefitted from this program, and today some are pastors, teachers, technicians, and ANM nurses. Others have small businesses. Many villages had

bore wells dug to provide water. Bhudera and Chatnalli villages received running water in certain areas by installation of taps and pipe. Zinc sheets were put on many houses to provide roofing. Loans were given to small businesses and a women's micro-credit scheme was introduced in 4-5 villages. Farmers were given seeds and fertilizers for agricultural development. Village development committees and youth clubs were also formed.

The Christoffel Blenden Mission(CBM) came forward to support the eye work in this area. A small budget of Rs.6000/- a month was granted. Survey of old blind people was done, and with the help of a government doctor, eye operations for cataracts were performed. The organization `Eficor` donated an ambulance for village work. At the same time, Dr. Cookook of New Apostolic, from Germany, donated a Land-Rover ambulance for transporting patients. So the work slowly increased. The gospel was preached to villages, however, extreme poverty was evident, with many people starving and hungry, and so socio-economic schemes, such as sericulture, horticulture, and agriculture programmes were implemented. At this time, through the bank, buffaloes were granted to three villages – Kadwad, Thanda and Bowgi – 20 each. ICCO Netherlands came forward to start a dairy farm at a village at Baridabad with twenty milch animals on a co-operative basis. Velemegna surprised the management of this co-operative milk programme with free cows and twenty farmers benefited from the project.

A silk reeling unit was purchased by the Society, and they would reel silk through training production units and sell it.

World Vision also came forward to sponsor three hundred poor children in the family-to-family programme in seven to eight villages. Education, nutrition, recreation, medical treatment and spiritual nurture were provided by the volunteers.

In **1980**, the prevalence of leprosy in Bidar District was 7-8/ 1000. Velemegna sent four volunteers to be trained as paramedical workers in various places for six months. After training, these people surveyed 50,000 people for leprosy detection. School health for early detection of this disease was performed, and they were put on multi-drug therapy. Soon, four more paramedical workers were trained and the government of Karnataka was requested for allotment of land for leprosy work.

In **1982**, the Paul Harrison award for meritorious service done in the rural areas by CMC alumnus was given to both Dr. A. C. Salins and Dr. (Mrs.) S. Salins by the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore. The president of the society suggested Christy go for a short training course in acupuncture in the AHI centre, Japan. AHI Japan sponsored his travel and stay in Japan. So – just like the opening batsman, as he had always been – Christy went out of the country first. He had a wonderful time in Japan. The institute he visited even offered him an acupuncture

machine to use on patients in India.

Christy and Suzy were a complementing pair – he organizing and being deeply involved in community development work and Suzy doing supportive administrative and curative work in the Base Hospital and attending a few conferences.

Soon, Suzy was motivated to do post-graduate studies abroad. Dr. Daleep Mukarji of World Vision called to suggest a course at the London School of Tropical Medicine–MSc course in Community Health in Developing Countries. SIMAVI– Holland and the American Leprosy Mission agreed to sponsor her studies.

In **1983**, the sixty-three ostracized leprosy families, who were living in the slums of Bidar, were asked to move to Chatnalli, Navjeevan, New Life Centre, 20km, from Bidar. The District Commissioner and other government officials had bulldozed the houses belonging to the leprosy patients to make way for a new fire station. Christy who had been badgering the local health officials to do something about leprosy affected beggars inhabiting the town was suddenly asked by the local authorities to move all the inhabitants overnight by lorry to Chatnalli. With 151 leprosy sufferers now living under one roof, in a hall thirty feet by ten feet, with no windows, and of course no income, the Society was left to provide for them all. Christy visited various local merchants to ask for donations and eventually was forced to take a loan from the bank in his own name in order to feed them. They were given lodging, food, clothing and medical treatment and spiritual nurture. Slowly, the government gave them low cost houses. Horticulture, agriculture, piggery and poultry were also done to generate self help programme. The centre was named Navjeevan Leprosy Centre, and Velemegna Society has been supporting them with food, clothing, schooling and spiritual nurture ever since.

In **1984**, ICCO Netherlands helped set up a dairy farm, and a 30- bedded rural hospital with staff quarters in ten acres of land the society owned at Baridabad. The ten acres of agricultural land was tilled and produced various cash crops. Wheat, rice, jawar and sugarcane were grown to feed the sixty-three leprosy families. ADRA Canada helped in this project. SIMAVI Netherlands helped in the water projects and with vehicles.

In **1985**, Christy received a scholarship from British Council to study Community Eye Health at Moorfield Eye Hospital, London. After his return from London, his enthusiasm was boosted. Every day, he conducted 15-20 operations in all the surrounding villages within a radius of fifty to one hundred kilometres from Bidar. In 1986, 5,500 cataract operations had been performed by Christy.

Many young and old people received their sight back, after being blind for five to ten years. An example of the joy he brings is shown in the story of a child who was born with congenital cataract (blind from birth). This child's sight was restored after an operation when the child was five years old, and he was able to see his parents for the first time. A blind and crippled leprosy patient was carried to the hospital where they were able to cure his blindness and his leprosy.

In **1989**, Christy had an attack of typhoid fever and was housebound for three weeks. Because of the many, various activities, and increased enthusiasm to carry on the extensive eye work, general work and helping leprosy and handicapped, his body was not able to cope with his racing mind. He always wanted to do more for the Lord.

In **1989**, their elder daughter, Sybil, finished her MBBS at CMC at Ludhiana, Punjab and served in the rural hospital, Baridabad, for one and a half years. All kind of patients were treated. She had to leave the hospital in 1991 to do her post-graduation in CMC Ludhiana in Ophthalmology.

In **1992**, Christy developed severe jaundice; he was taken to Hyderabad and later referred to CMC Vellore. He has diagnosed gallstones with peri-ampullary cancer. Christy had to undergo a major Whipple's operation on October 16th, lasting twelve hours. Their second daughter, Dr. Serina, gave one pint of her blood to her father. With much hesitation, Dr. Banerjee Jesudason and the team performed a successfully major surgery. Praise God! Within two weeks, he had recovered and returned to Bidar, 25 kg lighter in weight. Christy's strength was reduced considerably, and he developed vertigo. He was a tumour free, for a record-breaking, nine years, during which time he served the Lord with increased fervour.

Although he was weak during his illness, he was determined to pull people from hell-ward to heavenward. He used to say that God kept him alive to play his second innings! Like Hezekiah, in the Bible, his life was given an extension. Straight after Whipple's surgery, he went to Latur, Osmanabad to help after the devastating earthquake in 1992. He travelled daily one hundred kilometres and saw between one hundred and one hundred-fifty patients each day for over a month.

The **1990's** were one of the toughest periods in the life of the society. Ill health, lack of funds, pressure from government and an uncertain future left the society on its knees. Help was sought from various organization and discussions were had to take over the running of the society with a grim picture.

In **2001**, Christy was diagnosed with cancer of the remaining part of his pancreas. It was inoperable. He was treated at CMC, Vellore, and once again he survived longer than expected. He suffered much pain and weakness and used to say that he still had a lot to do and wanted to live a little longer, for the Lord's service. Towards the end of his life, he kept saying, "It is better to hit out or get out." He never stopped serving the Lord in whatever way he could. He would say, "A soldier should die with his boots on." And "Hai tho bhi Hallelujah! Nahi tho bhi Hallelujah!"¹ In 2001, he started a Bible school with the help of "Seva Bharath" and trained ten pastors.

Meanwhile, Suzy was also diagnosed with ovarian cancer, in the same year and they both endured their treatment bravely without letting their faith waver. On the 20th of July, 2002, Christy was called home to meet his Master. In September 2003 Suzy was also called home. There must have been great jubilation and welcome in heaven on the arrival of these precious saints! The town wept and the attendance of their funeral from all castes, creeds and wealth backgrounds was a testimony to their lives serving all in need. They have left behind a great legacy, which needs to be carried on till the day of the Lord. Truly, they were modern Daniels. In keeping with their motto – "spend and be spent for Jesus" – they finally laid down their lives in service of Christ. There was no "parking place" for their spiritual drive to serve the Lord, and God gave them an early rest for all their hard work. Young,

Dr.Sybil, had to take up the mantle, although reluctantly, as she felt she was not cut-out for missions work, however, got challenged, witnessing the desperate situation, while she was nursing and treating them. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24, and many other verses from the Bible, encouraged her, in spite of all her personal struggles. Close family and friends supported her in all ways.

¹"Hai tho bhi...Hallelujah -Nahi hai tho bhi Hallelujah" – Say Hallelujah (Praise God) "whether you have it all" or "do not have anything".

2002 - 2018

In the year 2002, Dr.Sybil, returned to Bidar from training at Moorefield Eye Hospital, London, began to take over the surgical side of the hospital. On the death of their parents the four children, reformed and began to restructure the finance of the society, although nothing was kept for their personal inheritance. Everything was in the Society's name. People found this very unusual but were alarmed to see the children giving back their time, money and energy to be committed to this noble cause, out of no compulsion or obligation. Similarly many friends, families the and well wishers, came forward to pitch-in. Above all,

Almighty God sustained, as always.

The key objective was financial sustainability as years of dependence on foreign funding and being helpless at the receiving end of funders strategies, the society began to strip back the various activities being carried out, focusing on the medical work having built a tremendous reputation and practical presence in the community. CBM invested in the hospital infrastructure, friends from Mercy Ship International helped train and structure the staff, and new freshly trained staff stepped up to the challenge of providing excellence in healthcare regardless of economic background.

This emphasis on quality of care and service enshrined the ethos of the founders to help the helpless and care for the needy. As India has grown economically the presence of this society has meant people 'left behind' in the economic growth are not forgotten. The human wealth and good will generated by the founders has meant that the reputation of the hospital was built on and under the exceptional medical hand of Dr Sybil, the society is now in this foreseeable position to expand, engage and provide a platform to serve the least and the lost of modern India.

Unusual cases and miracles

1970

One lady with a huge abdomen told us she had been pregnant for two years. Upon examination, they discovered that she had, in fact, a ten-pound tumour. They operated after giving three pints of blood and she went home in perfect health.

A man with a popliteal fossa/tumour aneurysm (usually resulting in amputation) came to us for surgery. Though it was a bloody operation, he pulled through and went home walking.

A boy called Ratnappa from the village Kamtana got his arm caught in the sugar cane crusher. When he used the other hand to pull the trapped limb free, it was also pulled in. To save his life, they had to amputate both arms from the elbow. His wife continued to care for him. Such accidents are very common during the sugar season. Once, the manager of the sugar factory took a knife and, during the churning process used for it accidentally touched the belt. The knife was thrown out of the machine, punching three workers, who were got cured after major operations.

1971

During an outbreak of cholera in the town, Susy was sitting in the OPD at about 5:30pm with four patients with the disease in the ward. I told the nurse to issue the cholera vaccine to all the staff. She gave the injection to me in the arm. I remember the poke but immediately had a reeling sensation and fainted. The syringe was contaminated with penicillin, which I am allergic to. Christy was away from the hospital, supervising the new construction site. When the nurse panicked and gave me an anti-allergic injection, I was only semi-conscious. Something was telling Christy to return to the hospital, and he came just in time to start an intravenous drip for me, pushing in emergency drugs. Our two young daughters were on their knees praying at home, and within half an hour I had recovered. For many months, Susy suffered psychic attacks as well as fear of injections.

1978

An abdominal pregnancy. Shanta came to us with a history of repeated intestinal obstruction along with pregnancy. When they examined her, the whole abdominal wall was very thin and they could hold of the baby's limbs. They had to do an emergency operation and found that the baby was not in the uterus but it was inside a sack attached to the intestine. This is called an Ectopic pregnancy, where the baby is formed in a tube which is attached to the abdomen. Both mother

and child went home well, but after four months, unfortunately, the child died of gastroenteritis (due to poor water supply).

1979

Satyamma: This five-year-old child came to us with tuberculosis of the spine. Due to the severe deformity of her back, she had to crawl on all four limbs. They started treatment and soon she was able to stand on both legs; and within a period of five years, she could walk straight. Although some deformity remains, she was able, in 1992, at the age of 19, to begin as a nursing aid doing skilled work in the rural hospital.

•One day, a very timid lady (the wife of a government officer) came to Susy and said “I am allergic to many injections. Please do not give me any anaesthesia, as I am allergic to ether.” This was a very rare condition, and I assured her that they would give her nothing harmful and that she would have no reason to worry about the operation. The next morning, the operation was arranged, and I was operating on her under local anesthetic. She did not cooperate during surgery and kept moving. I asked my husband to give just a few drops ether to calm her. Lo and behold, her heart and respiration stopped! They cried to the Lord for help. I threw down my glove and ran for the emergency drug. After thirty seconds, she took a deep breath. From that, I learned to listen to my patients.

•One of the prosperous villages, which Christy visited for medical service and Gospel preaching, threatened his life if he ever returned to the village. They demanded that he take his Gospel preaching to his Christian community. But later, God led the villagers to take a woman patient, bleeding dangerously, to Christy’s hospital, after they had failed to get any medical help from either the government hospital or Methodist hospital. Christy could not get them to donate blood, so – after carefully checking that the types were compatible – he unselfishly gave his own blood to save the woman’s life. Without that, she would soon have died. When the woman lived, the villagers invited Christy to preach the Gospel and treat their sick ones.

1981

•Vita and Maruti: These two orphan brothers were affected with full-blown lepromatous leprosy. They were brought to us by a preacher for treatment. They started giving food, lodging and medical care, and five years later, they were completely cured. One became a driver, and Vita, a mason, helped with our construction work.

1985

•Dasarat was a rich landlord who developed leprosy and blindness (cataract). He was treated for tropic ulcers on his feet and was operated on for cataracts. He was very happy that his sight was restored and that he could manage his farm once more.

1988

•One of my staff was manager of the World Vision project. When his wife came to me with labor pains, Susy was left along with the paramedical workers. Soon her labour became complicated, and 7:30 p.m., I had to use forceps to deliver a 10 lb baby. I had just finished the stitching the wound when the patient suddenly went into shock and fainted. I tried to find a vein to start an intravenous drip, but I could not find a single vein. Her blood pressure was failing, and there was no way of resuscitating. I just gave her an intramuscular injection to try to raise her blood pressure and told the male nurse to look after her for a few hours so that I could get some food and rest. At midnight, I woke and asked, “What happened to the patient” I was thoroughly exhausted and someone said to me, “Don’t worry – sleep.” Later, I realized that this was the Lord and went off to sleep again. I had sound sleep until 5:30 a.m., when I was awakened by the Muslim prayer, in our neighbourhood. Now, wide awake, I ran down to the patient and saw the male nurse smiling. The woman’s blood pressure was up, and she was fine. I thanked the Lord for his miraculous cure of the patient. Both the patient and I were taken care of.

1989

•Kantha: This pretty young girl came to us after having been raped; she wanted us to abort her baby. They refused, but admitted her, delivered her baby and gave it to the orphanage. Kantha was later kidnapped by another leprosy beggar, who attempted to sell her to a brothel for Rs. 5000/-. Eventually, she was saved by a Christian paramedical worker who married her – a happy ending.

1990

•Needle in the Abdomen. At 3:00 a.m., I was called to attend a first delivery patient who had an obstructed labour. They had to do a caesarean operation. Usually, at 5 a.m., the power is cut off every day, so I told the nurses to be quick with the preparation for the operation. Surgery started. I removed the baby and began stitching the inside layer – uterus. One layer stitching was over, and as I was about to start the second layer, the lights went off at 5 a.m. To my surprise, I couldn’t find the needle and they could not start the generator because there was no fuel. The only source of light was a torch. I said, “The needle must be on the floor, let’s look for it later.” Christy – who was giving anaesthesia – said, “Watch

out, it may have fallen inside.” I thought this was unlikely and finished stitching the second layer with another needle. In the middle of the third layer, suddenly fear caught hold of me and I silently prayed, “Lord please save this patient, let not the needle be inside the abdomen”. I finished praying, opened my eyes, looked down, and to my amazement there was the needle. I couldn’t believe how God came to help just at the right moment. They all sang the song “Lead kindly light amidst the darkling gloom,” and thanked the Lord. They finished the operation and the patient went home fully healed.

1991

•Shantu was only ten years old when he was attacked by viral encephalitis; as a result, he lost his sight, and both legs were left deformed. He crawled on all four limbs. He came to Bidar to attend a faith healing meeting, desperately seeking help and disappointed that his blindness and lameness were not cured. At that time, someone led him to Dr. A.C. Salins, and he came to Base Hospital. After being operated on for cataracts in both eyes, he regained his sight. He was so thankful to the doctor and to God that he dedicated the rest of his life to God’s service. With a repaired harmonium given to him by the doctor and a lovely singing voice, he used his talents to spread the gospel. His friend would take him by cycle from place-to-place to sing to the people.

Their “Charminar”¹

Dr. & Mrs. Salins had four children, who were their pillars (minars). They desired many children so that each would serve God in different parts of the world. Right from their childhood, they were taught them to serve the Lord and others, to be givers rather than grabbers.

Sybil is the current director of Velemegna, an ophthalmologist (CMC, Ludhiana, Punjab, India) with two children: Vineet, a medical student (Guyana, South America) and Khushi.

Serina is a Professor of Anaesthesia, married to Edwin Stephen, Professor and Head of Department of Vascular Surgery, both serving at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, with their children, Tanya and Chris.

Swarthick, (PhD St. Hospital Administration, Andrew’s University, Scotland), working with the homeless in Scotland with his wife, Ranjana, and their three children: Ruhani, Raboni and Adoni .

Sundeeep, (Architect, Dundee University, Scotland), also lives in Scotland, with his wife, Sarah and their children, Antony and Rebecca, Alex, Mathew, Madeline and Malcolm.

Dr. Sybil Evangeline Salins

My Mum told me that when I was born, my dad was a very happy man. They both named me Evangeline and dedicated me to the Lord, saying, ‘The firstborn belongs to the Lord.’ My earliest memories of my dad are ones of awe. I used to be so proud of dad because he was so popular, especially when he sang and preached so well. His patients loved and ‘worshiped’ him. He was very much a people’s man, so selfless and humble. For him, others came first and family second. It was mum who looked after us and tried to fill in the ‘gap of dad.’ We children sometimes resented the fact that he spent his time, money and energy on others. And yet, whenever we mentioned to people that we were Dr. Salins’ children, we were always told how great our dad was. People would always praise him. He instilled the fear of God and Bible knowledge in us from the time when we were very young. In my teens, I used to rebel against him. I had many arguments and questioned his faith. As I grew older, I realized that we were blessed with the best of everything – be it education, schools and colleges, holidays, food, clothing.

I became an ophthalmologist, because of him. We never lacked anything, as God provided for all our needs because of dad’s giving nature. I slowly began to have the same vision to continue his work. He waited for an eye doctor to help him with

¹-Four pillars

the eye work for nearly twenty-five years. When no one came, he himself learned to do eye surgery. I learned so many things from him, especially how to deal with patients. He used to talk a lot with them and also touch and pray for them while treating them. Most of them would get healed only by this!

When he was very ill, we wanted to close down the institution. But I took a firm decision to fulfil our father's dreams, despite severe opposition from my family. I felt happy that my dad died in my arms, for it seemed clear that he was handing over the mantle to me to continue his dreams. By the grace of God, have two children and continuing the ministry in Bidar.

Dr. Serina Ruth Salins-Stephen

I missed the typical father's love and care, as daddy was always busy in the ministry, either evangelical or medical. I used to get upset about this. Yet, today I am very happy and proud to be his daughter. He taught me and showed me the way of the Lord. He was extremely selfless and always did things for others rather than for himself or his family. His zeal for evangelism was exceptional. Nobody can deny that! He was an excellent singer, whose voice and songs still ring in my mind. Even in difficult times of sickness, financial struggles or opposition, he praised the Lord and witnessed for Him. Many misused his goodness and took undue advantage of him, cheating him of his hard-earned resources, but he never hesitated to do his part, sharing the Gospel with people and gave Bibles, tracts and left it to God to judge them accordingly. While travelling by train or bus, his briefcase was so heavy because he carried so many Bibles. I used to feel embarrassed to travel with him when some people made fun of him, saying, "Yeh tho Pagal Hai"¹ ! Yet, many who made fun of him later asked his forgiveness when they themselves, came to know the Lord as their own personal saviour. This was the extent of his love for souls and evangelism. Although, might seem extreme, but when the focus and expectations are on God, it brings lot of factors into the right perspective. As expected, God is faithful, in due time fulfilling His eternal purposes.

I am known as the 'chip of the old block,' but if I can do and be even one-tenth of him, I will be blessed. I vowed at his grave that, by God's grace, I would continue his vision. What I am today, I owe it to the strong positive influences of my parents, supporting and participating in the mission work in India.

¹- 'He is mad'

Dr. Swarthick Ebenezer Salins

It has been many years since we have had to cope with the loss of my parents. Though they are not physically with us, the life they led and the adventures that they had are enough to inspire their presence with us. Growing up as a child, I could not help but notice that I was the child of very special people. These came to me through instances such as being recognized in a large crowd or the very mention of their name being sufficient to get a warm welcome or the best hospitality from a wide range of people. Their sphere of good works affected all segments of society, not only the Christian community. Having an outspoken, zealous Christian faith, they believed that only preaching the Gospel of Christ was not enough to reach out to many lost souls. Love in action – the humility of Jesus – should be seen in every action that we take, and always radiate His presence in such a way that all will know about Christ. Perhaps a fitting verse to describe their humility is Philippians 2:3: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”

To appreciate their humility, unselfish ambitions and working unreservedly for others was not the easiest concept for me to understand as a child or a young person. But as I grew up and responsibilities were entrusted to me, I understood it in its entirety. Of course, our parents were not a perfect – none of us are – but their constant love for Jesus and perseverance of Christ’s ways are the most cherished memories of them that I have. Their outspoken acknowledgment of Christ could be embarrassing at times, as it did not stop whilst traveling in a bus or train, or in conversations with family, friends or foes. Being completely dependent on divine intervention inspired and enabled them to lead as pioneers and be a useful resource to those in need. Conventional knowledge would have restrained my parents – with the passion to be outspoken for Christ – from venturing into unfriendly environments where the Gospel message is not tolerated and those who propagate it are repulsed. Though logically not possible to work in such environments, my parents’ Christ-inspired humility enabled them to practice and associate with all sections of society. I could illustrate examples where many a “foe” had tried to stop their work or silence them.

The last year of my father’s life was quite complex, as cancer had a vice-like grip on him. On one hand, he saw the potential of reaching out to those in need, and on the other, he was frustrated by the amount of time he had to waste even to achieve the little that he could. What he considered his failures are actually viewed in my eyes as great service in God’s work, as the penetration and acceptance that he could achieve through the services he had done to society. Maybe there were not numerous conversions, but the multitude that interacted with him knew he was a man with a distinction, and it is up to them to discover and accept what brought about this distinction. In all this, my daring mother,

graciously, gathered all his original works, be it family or professional or evangelical, to bring order and discipline so that it could be sustained, in spite of her own constraints, to benefit as many as possible. They were unique, we the family and the people of Bidar are fortunate for the great investment they made in us. Surely, it's not in vain, and will bear fruit in due season. That's the assuring faith we have, which will not put us to shame. In their last days, they kept persuading everyone to accept the way of the Lord, and the corollary of which will bring about all the good that is destined for their lives. Dad's last words to me were, "keep praying and carry on praying." I am proud to be his son, for his life has inspired me to carry on the legacy that he handed over. I know, in God's time, all things are possible. My prayer is that, like my father, I must be steadfast in Christ, who will lead me throughout the days of my life. Today, I work at the Perthshire city council as manager. My wife and I have three children and are active in the ministry through the church at Perth, Scotland.

Mr. Sundeep Michael Salins

Everyones childhood is unique and I think it took me a long time to reaslised just what a priviledge it was to grow up in the middle of Velemegna. We lived above the hospital and we saw everything written here first hand. Giving our clothes to poor strangers, feeding endless guests at our dining table, moving rooms to give our beds to visitors and watching mum and dad take turns to sleep in the outer room for the night emergencies that were inevitable and to give the other rest. This was our normal. It served us well.

What I remember most is that they were both not 'serioous' people. We laughed, a lot, we ate great food, always. Music, sport and song filled our lives. There was no line between the sacred and the secular; this was Kingdom space. A light in a dark world, joy in a broken humanity.

I would say that I only truly began to know theamas I became an adult and began to understand the choices theyhad made – choices that I myself have come across. My own searchfor purpose, place and direction in life was vastly aided by the realization that these same choices would have been presented to my parentsyears earlier. They were passionate more than pragmatic, caring more than cunning, driven more than directed, and all this meant that a lot of the visions theyhad have been left unrealized. But I have come to understand that it is in these very failings that we children can take the work further.

Our failing would be to repeat the mistakes made earlier, and I think that the work started by my parents, and continued by us children, will be even more effective, due to the various dead-ends reached by our parents. Their mission was to help those who were without help. It forms a part of my pride for my parents ability to see beyond the façade of our human condition and try to ascertain the state of our souls to reveal true value. . It was at their funerals that I realized how

much of an impact their lives had on the people with whom they served. In the crowd at the funeral were Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists...the rich, the poor, leprosy sufferers, those cured, and countless more. It was here that I realized that they knew that this couple were parents to many more than me and my siblings.! They had sheltered, protected, led, provided for, and comforted these people as they had done the same for us, but in a different way. There is an irony here: you may say that the closest “kin” to them did not receive their parenting as the destitutes they helped. Oh no, I would say that our proximity to him revealed what it takes to help someone with whom you have no obligation. And this is what I carry with me: the realization that it is possible to see beyond self and make your world your family. Within this lies no sacrifice, since the family created through love and care can have more human value than mere bloodlines can generate. Today, I am an architect and also the part owner of Blend café(a coffee shop that aims to look after the blind and lepers of the modern world).We all carried on the core values we grew up and into a new context.

ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND BENCHMARKS

1. Establishing the Base Hospital with 50 beds. Catering to general, maternity, paediatrics, eye and leprosy work.
2. Urban family planning, immunization, oral rehydration, nutrition, vitamin A supplement.
3. Establishing the Navjeevan New Life Centre at Chatnalli, 20 km from Bidar, taking care of 53 leprosy families with low-cost houses, and agriculture development.
4. Water development with tube well, submersible pump, overhead tank, horticulture development.
5. Nursery School, night school for adults, supplying food, clothing, medicine and spiritual nurture to inmates.
6. Spiritual developments
7. Establishing a rural hospital of 30 beds in Baridabad, 21 km, from Bidar, catering to general and maternity work.
8. Community development in 50,000 population including environmental education and sanitation installation.
9. Training various village level health workers and evangelists.
10. Comprehensive ophthalmic care in 200 villages around Bidar. Thousands have received sight.
11. Disability awareness, development and empowerment.
12. Socio-economic development to various families in villages.
13. Two hundred poor children in villages receive education, clothing, recreation and spiritual nurture through World Vision of India.
14. Ten acres in Baridabad, and six in Chatnalli, dedicated to agriculture development to grow food for leprosy patients.
15. Opening "Roohi School of Nursing" for forty students.
16. In 1982, the late Dr. and Dr. Mrs. A.C. Salins were awarded the prestigious Paul Harrison award by Christian Medical College, Vellore. This award is given to the CMC alumni who serve and work for the upliftment of rural India and the underprivileged.
17. Dr. A. C. Salins received the Vishesha Sewa award from the Catholic Church, Bidar posthumously in 2003.
18. Dr. Sybil was awarded a citation by the Bidar Zillah Parishad for the record number of surgeries done by any doctor in Bidar in 2002.
19. Velemegna Society was awarded the DBCS (District Blindness Control Society) Award for the best NGO in 2006.
20. Dr. Sybil received the Republic day award for her work in the area of health by the district administration in 2006.
21. Dr. Sybil received the Vishesha Sewa award from the Catholic Church in Bidar in 2006.
22. Dr. Sybil received the "Innovative entrepreneur" award from IMA (Indian Missions association) in 2013.
23. Velemegna was awarded the SN Shah award by Vision 2020 for Equity: to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children for the year 2015.
24. Dr. Sybil received the WOMEN'S ACHIEVER AWARD from Suvarna News Channel on 22nd April, 2017.

New Developments & Challenges

Since the time Dr.Sybil has taken over as Director, there have been tremendous breakthrough in the ministry-

- Streamlining of finances
- Getting all the paperwork as per government norms
- Eye work brought up to international standards
- NABH accreditation in progress
- BSc Optometry course
- Upgrade of all hospital services
- 2002 – 2017 > 35, 000 Eye Surgeries have been performed.
- 2008 – Started the Navjeevan Children Home for the children from NJLC (Presently 22 children)
- 2009 –50 brand new houses for the residents of NJLC with the help of TLM India and Friends of Velemegna.
- 2011– State of the art Eye Operating rooms.
- 2014–Dr.S.Salins College of Optometry which is affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science (RGUHS),Bangalore.
- 2016–Construction of 4 community centres (in Gulbarga & Bidar) Gaudhanhalli, Maroor, Jaknal & Kodampur.
- 2014-17-Establishment of 3- Vision Centres in Aurad, Manna-E-Khelli & Hallikhed (B)

VELEMEGNA has simply been a signpost and tribute to people and organisations to seek the good in humanity, to help the poor amongst us, endure hardship to shield the weak and live out love in its richest form serving others. Let us seek God's guidance, lift up the cross and march on, being effective soldiers of the Lord. Let us be His sharp instruments, and be ready and willing to serve Him for the extension of his soon coming kingdom.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 27:2-3 promises: “A vineyard of red wine, I the Lord keep it. I will water it every moment lest any hurt it. I will keep it night and day”. This work was started by the Lord, and He will see it to its fruition. The Salins family and the people of Bidar are so fortunate to have had the sacrificial lives of Christy and Suzy invested in them.

The question still persists: “Where are the modern Daniels?” The harvest is plenty, but the labourers are few to take up new challenges. In putting together this book the board was not keen to just glorify a past heritage but to, more importantly, challenge a new generation to truly serve a nation by starting in their own community. This journey has not been about quick wins and flashes successes, it has been about a longer endurance to keep living into one's values and beliefs. To recognize that we find the best in us when we serve the least able. VELEMEGNA has simply been a signpost and tribute to people and organisations to seek the good in humanity, to help the poor amongst us, endure hardship, to shield the weak and live out love in its richest form serving others. Let us seek God's guidance, lift up the cross and march on, being effective soldiers of the Lord. God is the ultimate judge and rewarder of His children. Never give-up, as the best is yet to come! Let us be His sharp instruments, and be ready and willing to serve Him for the extension of His Kingdom.

.