

# FOCUS



## FOCUS ON

# EHA Dental Services

Dear Friend,

We have not written much about EHA dental services over the years. Yet robust oral health is key to the overall wellness of the body. Studies have shown links between gum disease and inflammation to heart disease and even cancer. Oral healthcare services are desperately needed by many patients at EHA's hospitals.

**It will not surprise you to learn that poor villagers in North India are not well informed on how to care for their teeth and gums.** Nor do they have easy access to dental checkups like we have in the US. So if they have a problem in their mouth, it often festers for a long time before they go to the effort of seeing a dentist. As with most health conditions, the longer you wait, the more extensive the treatment gets.

**Another huge issue in India is the endemic use of chewing tobacco.** It is simply part of the culture, and even women and children take part. The knowledge of the horrors of oral cancer just isn't widespread. For all these reasons, EHA dentists and dental assistants are a busy lot!

We hope you will find the information and stories in this issue informative and moving. EHA is working toward having oral health services in each of their hospitals, and expanding the services they offer. **May I ask that if you are moved by what you read, that you consider a donation toward EHA dentistry?** Any gift toward EHA dental services will change lives in a mighty way.

In Christ,

Robb Hansen  
Executive Director, EHA USA

## DENTAL SERVICES & STAFF

- **13 of EHA's 19 hospitals** offer dental services
- **18 general dentists plus 3 specialist doctors** work in these units
- **17 dental assistants and technicians** serve alongside the dentists
- Approximately **20,000 dental patients** were seen in 2025

# Dental Departments Flourishing

The longest-serving dental department in EHA began in 1993 at Duncan Hospital, but quite a few units got their start in the last five years. The newest program is at Chinchpada Christian Hospital, which cared for 296 patients in the last year, while Duncan treated 9,716 people. EHA is working to build up their dental services across the board, with 13 of their 19 hospitals offering oral healthcare, and is also expanding the services that are offered and the equipment that is used at each unit.

Many departments take their services into the community, offering dental camps for those who cannot travel to the hospital. Madhipura Christian Hospital has gone one step further by outfitting a van for dental work. **Education on good oral hygiene practices, as well as awareness of oral cancer and the dangers of chewing tobacco and crushed betel nuts, are the heart of community outreach, particularly with schoolchildren.**



*Dental Camp Van*

**Duncan Hospital offers a biannual cleft lip and palate camp along with the organization Love Without Reason.** At the November 2025 camp, 150 patients were screened and 70 received life-changing surgery. Duncan Hospital dentists also offer hands-on training to students from the Christian Dental College in Ludhiana as well as those pursuing a certificate course in general dentistry from the Christian Medical College in Vellore.

Kachhwa Christian Hospital is the home of Dr. Honeysh George, a head and neck oncology doctor and reconstructive surgeon. He has begun a new oncology initiative called RIHAYI (“deliverance”) which stands for Regional Initiative for Head and Neck Cancer Awareness, Yield, and Integrated Care. His desire is to raise awareness about oral cancer and provide screening for early detection, along with the early intervention of low-cost surgeries combined with comprehensive rehabilitation. **In the last year, they completed 2,500 outpatient visits and almost 80 surgeries.**

Each year, the EHA dental staff have gathered for a conference at which they receive further training, worship together, share their struggles, and simply enjoy each other’s company. This refreshing time is a highlight for all.



*Dental Student Training*



*Dental Staff Conference*

# Regaining Her Smile and Her Confidence

Aisha had struggled her whole life. As a child, she developed a large bony tumor in her mouth that caused about a fourth of her teeth to project forward out of her mouth. **It was hard for her to speak, to eat, and to feel comfortable in her own skin.** Her face was disfigured and her skin stretched uncomfortably.

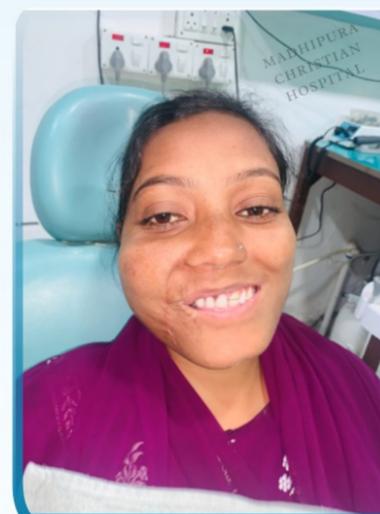
Not surprisingly, Aisha was picked on by the other children because she looked different. Suffering from rejection, she had nowhere to turn. It wasn't until she was 22

that someone referred her to Madhipura Christian Hospital. The doctors and dentists there diagnosed her with a benign osseous tumor and successfully removed it, along with the unsupported teeth.

Next, the dentists created a prosthesis for Aisha, restoring not only her beautiful smile but also her confidence. Aisha's future is bright as she looks forward to opportunities now open to her. **The difference that EHA doctors and dentists have made in her life is immeasurable.**



Before



After

## 2025 ORAL HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS



- Palliative care initiative begun by most of the dentists and dental units (oral cancer is rampant, so some oral health services tie in to caring for cancer patients)
- Head and neck oncology surgery services begun at Kachhwa Christian Hospital
- Dental implant services initiated at Madhipura Christian Hospital and Broadwell Christian Hospital, in addition to those offered at Kachhwa and Duncan
- Donated dental chair installed, restarting dental work at Chinchpada Christian Hospital
- Radio VisioGraphy X-ray machine installed, upgrading dental services at Chhatarpur Christian Hospital

# Urgent Needs!

- EHA needs more dentists and dental assistants to join their hospitals so they can care for more patients and open more units
- EHA needs funding to buy additional dental equipment
- EHA wants to offer effective community education about healthy oral hygiene, the dangers of chewing tobacco, and the devastation of oral cancer

## DENTISTRY PRIVILEGED TO SERVE VIDEOS

If you scan these QR codes with your phone camera, you'll meet three EHA dentists and learn how they serve the poor every day! You'll find these one-minute videos inspiring and encouraging.



Sharon  
James



Emmanuel  
Inbaraj



Anu  
Mathew

# Thank you FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As you have read in this newsletter, EHA dental services are touching the lives of many patients. Far more than just providing checkups and fillings, EHA dentists offer comprehensive treatment for oral cancer patients. And EHA's dentists offer training to dental students, raising up the next generation. We are so grateful for the financial support you provide to EHA to make these efforts possible.

**Scan the QR code to support EHA's oral healthcare services.**



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