

Obituary

DR. MANALIL GEEVERGIS JOHN



Fondly called MG, Dr. John was a self-made man, working his way in life to become an Obstetrician & Gynaecologist. He had a sterling career and contributed much time to devote to "service above self", touching the lives of many. He was born in Kerala, India on 19 October 1929.

His working life started after obtaining his first degree, Bachelor of Science, from the Madras Christian College. He was first both in his division as well as in the University. He returned to Singapore to fill the shortage of science teachers by teaching at the St. Andrew's Secondary School. The mind was restless and, after only a two year stint there, MG went on to obtain his M.B., B.S. in 1962 from the Madras Medical College.

His desire to become an "O&G" specialist was not unexpectantly fulfilled by 1969 when he obtained his Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (London). He left Kandang Kerbau Hospital for private practice in 1971 and was fondly loved by the staff of Mt. Alvernia Hospital in particular. He has seen countless anxious and sick women through childbirth or surgery and I have heard only the kindest of words to describe his care, concern and dedication to working always in the interest of the patient. Naturally, many became good friends.

He was conferred a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine (Singapore) in 1978 and of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1982.

MG also distinguished himself as a tireless social worker. His main love was in the Rotary movement where he rose to the highest office of Governor in the District and could possibly have become a Rotary International Director if not for his untimely demise on 29 April 2002. He was also Chairman of the Singapore Children's Society from 1968 to 1971, Member of the Singapore Liquors Licensing Board and Member of the Salvation Army Advisory Council, amongst many other responsibilities. In the 1996 National Day Awards, the President bestowed upon him the Public Service Medal.

MG leaves behind a lovely wife, Alice, who was always by his side and saw through thick and thin with him. They have 3 wonderful children, two boys and a girl. Their elder son, Dr. Suresh John, is also an Obstetrician & Gynaecologist.

I have not the slightest doubt that all of us, who knew MG, miss MG - a scholar, a social worker and, above all, a good friend.

Dr. Alex K H Ooi