



(From left) Yong, Dr Lee, Kum, Petrina, Dr Guneratnam, Goh and Chua at the official launch of the dialysis centre.



(From left) Dr Guneratnam, Goh, and Kum chatting with dialysis patient Sun Tong Sang, 75, at the centre.

# New dialysis centre reaches out to poor

Foundation and church team up to ensure low-income kidney failure patients get subsidised treatment

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NKF-CALVARY Dialysis Centre in Cheras is now officially opening its doors to low-income patients suffering from end-stage kidney failure.

Providing subsidised dialysis treat-

ment, the centre aims to reduce the financial burden of communities around the neighborhood by offering them an affordable alternative.

The centre at Taman Taynton, which opened in early May, is equipped with 12 machines that can cater up to 72 patients.

Patients who qualify based on National Kidney Foundation (NKF) guidelines are entitled to the treatment for a monthly fee of RM700 compared to the average monthly fee of RM3,000 at private centres.

Speaking at the centre's official launch, NKF Malaysia chief executive

officer Chua Hong Wee said they were doing everything possible to meet the needs of dialysis patients in the country.

Also present at the launch were NKF Malaysia representative Dr Lee Wan Tin, Calvary Church missions director Pastor Yong Chee Weng and missions pastor Pastor Yong Chee Weng, Calvary Church senior pastors Rev Tan Sri Dr Prince Guneratnam and Puan Sri Petrina Guneratnam.

"The number is only growing by the day. There are more than 6,000 new patients every year.

"At present, NKF is subsidising 1,600 patients at 28 centres nationwide.

"The manpower and operational cost of subsidised dialysis treatment and health screening amount to approximately RM30mil a year," he added.

Since its opening, the Cheras centre has been providing dialysis treatment to 34 patients.

To reduce the risk of cross infection, non-hepatitis and hepatitis-positive patients are not allowed to share the same dialy-

sis machines. As a result of that, there is a treatment site shortage which NKF is trying to counter.

NKF-Calvary, therefore, specifically caters to hepatitis-positive dialysis patients.

In recognising the contribution of Calvary Church Kuala Lumpur, NKF vice-chairman Goh Seng Chuan said, "Calvary Church has never failed to support NKF.

"Social commitment has been an ongoing aspect that Calvary Church puts emphasis on. Their help in raising necessary funds has turned the vision of this new centre into reality.

"It will now benefit poor kidney failure patients in Cheras and the surrounding areas. It is indeed commendable and I must congratulate them for generously giving back to society.

"With the church's continuous support, we hope to reach out to the larger community and continue to save lives," Goh said.

To admit a patient, call NKF's Welfare Department at 03-7954 9048.