Mother Teresa and Calcutta: My Inspirations

I’m freshly back from an intellectual feast in India, bursting with excitement about what I saw and did. Evidence of the sacred, the intelligent and the profound abound in Calcutta … and one very visible leader is found in more than one place.

In this mecca of richness, I found evidence of Mother Teresa everywhere.

Here are some photos I took of just a few of them.



This statue is in downtown Calcutta, nestled in a little garden in the road median.



Windows with memorabilia of Mother Teresa near the Mother House.

What adds to my existing interest in Mother Teresa, because of all that she represents, is that I learned years ago that she used homeopathy. She counted on it as part of her mission in working with the poor. This makes sense given the ubiquitous evidence of both her mission and homeopathy's. More people practice homeopathy in India than in any other country in the world. India, a democracy of 1.2 billion people, has great respect for homeopathy. There are no less than 320,000 registered homeopaths in the country, with numerous homeopathic hospitals, clinics and schools.

And why not? Mahatma Gandhi was quoted as saying, "Homeopathy cures a greater percentage of cases than any other method of treatment. Homeopathy is the latest and refined method of treating patients economically and non-violently."

Indeed, Mother Teresa was aware of its cost-effectiveness and efficacy, so it was a natural fit for her mission.

As early as 1950, Mother Teresa opened a homeopathic dispensary to serve the poor in Calcutta. Eventually, her

Missionaries of Charity expanded their homeopathic outreach to include four dispensaries.

I can’t help but be inspired as I go about my work as a homeopath and educator, having a connection with her via our Catholic heritage as well as our choice of medicine.

Mother Teresa cared so much about helping the poor that she studied homeopathy herself with Dr. Jai Chand, an Indian homeopathic physician, and directed the sisters to do the same.

Although she didn’t consider herself a homeopathic practitioner and left the treatment of those with chronic illnesses to homeopathic doctors, she educated herself enough to be able to prescribe for acute illnesses. She and the Sisters of Charity were there to serve, and homeopathy helped them do just that … inexpensively, effectively and with pure hearts.



My first impression upon entering the courtyard within the sacred walls of the Sisters of Charity at the Mother House where Mother lived and worked and is entombed. Simple, pure and beautiful. Not unlike other Catholic monasteries throughout the world. While

here, I met with two of the Sisters of Charity in hopes of learning which remedies were Mother Teresa's favorites, but that answer remains a mystery. I took this photo while waiting to meet them.

I imagine that Mother likely used a good amount of *Arsenicum album* and *Hypericum* for bone and dental infections. I also envision that she employed *Arnica montana* and *Bellis* for soft tissue injuries, and of course, our beloved *Ignatia* for emotional loss. Particularly the needs of orphans might likely include daily doses of *Ignatia* to aid them in their loss.



The directive to remove shoes and maintain sacred silence before entering the room where Mother is entombed.







“Love Seeks to Serve,” spelled out in the Indian

custom of using fresh flowers to form words and patterns. This is Mother Teresa’s grave inside the simple room at the Mother House.

The hand of this sacred woman touched millions of suffering in Calcutta, touched the hearts of billions across the globe and dispensed the world’s most gentle and efficacious medicine. Nowhere is this more evident than in the great city of Calcutta. These connections make my heart sing.

Allow me to offer you these parting words of the Mother:

