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Vandavasi Hospital

Questions

What can you see in this picture? Who is in the picture? What are they doing?

Where do you think the picture might be found?

Do you know any stories about Jesus as a healer? (Recommended are Mark chapter 1 verses 29-31, Mark chapter 5 verses 21-24, 35-43)

Who do you think might be helped by seeing this picture?

Background

This picture is found in the reception area of a small hospital in a small town. It is a hospital run by the church for poor women, specialising in maternity care. There is just one doctor and a team of nurses. The doctor, together with a nurse, also goes out in the late afternoons to remote villages, each village being visited about once a month. You can see the village clinic in photograph 24. This is part of the church's service to the poor.

The painting shows that Jesus cares for the suffering woman and is there with the Christian doctor and nurses watching over her. This big painting is one of the first things the women will see when they enter the hospital and it is meant to comfort them. Although this is a Christian hospital in fact most of the poor patients will be Hindus—they may not recognize Jesus but perhaps they will recognize the care and love in the painting.

The local pastor acts as the administrator and fundraiser for the hospital. Whenever pastors have something like a church hospital or church school in one of their parishes they are always in charge of it, as well as having all their other jobs to do of course!



