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Special article

“Anesthesiologists are like Maestro”: a tribute to a Canadian well-wisher *Bishwas Pradhan*

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He got me by surprise some 14 years back when he came to teach our group of MD Anesthesiology residents some important practical topics in anesthesia, not only because he had so in depth information of everything but also because he stood four inches taller than me. It came as a warning to my six feet height, which was never threatened in Nepalese context. He was Clinical Associate Professor Dr Charles Leslie MacAdams from Foothills Hospital, Calgary, Canada, popularly known as "Charlie" among his friends and families.

Passion drives people's lives, be it fame, money or something else. His passion for teaching anesthesia beyond borders and trekking around the world made his life shine like a diamond. There are very few people who would live and die for their passion. He was one of them. He lost his life peacefully during his trekking trip to Everest Base Camp, North Col from Tibet on May 11, 2016. A few days before leaving for the trekking trip, he had delivered lectures in different hospitals of Kathmandu, Nepal. This was the perfect picture of living and dying for your passion, your aim and your dream. During several trips to Nepal, he was very much engaged in Continuing Medical Education activities in various hospitals of Kathmandu,

Nepal and trekking to various peaks. Mount Everest base camp trekking was his ultimate target. He ascended the base camp and on his way back slept very contently in the evening; never to wake up the following morning.

There are exceptionally few people who would live in the heart of everyone they know, every words and action praising him or her. Charlie, again, was the best example. Be it his students, who he always treated like friends or his contemporaries in Canada or Nepal or team members in the Operation Theater; he was always considered a rose without thorns. My kids were also very fond of him and always looked forward to his visit to Nepal and talk to him personally. It's quite unusual; really has to be someone gifted to have a personality like that.

He has been extending his support to an orthopedic hospital in Nepal through Sir Edmund Hillary foundation, Canada, and also to an earthquake-damaged school in Solukhumbu through the same channel. He responded instantly, financing tents to an earthquake hit area, on the request of a Nepali friend, whose hotel was like a second home to him, away from Canada. He also helped me with my subspecialty training in Cardiothoracic anesthesia in his

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Charlie at Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada

hospital. During my fellowship, I came to know about his special interest in blood transfusion protocol development in his hospital and other milestone research in the field of anesthesiology. The knowledge I gained provided sufficient confidence to run a cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia unit in my institute. Also, I could initiate new services like trans-esophageal echocardiography for the first time in this institute improving patient management significantly. His philanthropy also extended to other countries like Haiti. He was the kind of a person who had the habit of devoting his time and energy to others selflessly.

I will always cherish my time with him during learning sessions in Operation Theater, my hiking and biking trips to Canadian nature, where I developed the habit of being

intimate with nature. A Fishing trip in the Pacific and multiple bear sights during hiking in Canadian woods, which was extraordinary for him too, were one of the most memorable events during our time together outside the hospital.

“Anesthesiologists are like “Maestro”, Bishwas. We all have a very important role in playing perfect orchestra in Operation Theater. We have to balance everyone’s role and make them play it perfectly”. I guess his noble words apply to all in our field.

Before leaving for his last trek, we had a very memorable evening at my house. Over dinner, we talked about his future trips, his retirement plans and future of cardiac anesthesia in Nepal. He talked to my kids about

their future plans. I told him “Charlie, there are many peaks to conquer and you have to come to Nepal several times”. He laughed out loud; which is still echoing in my ears.

I know he is being missed terribly by his family and friends back in Canada, as equally as by his dear friends in Nepal. On behalf of all the friends in Nepal, I would like to extend deepest condolences to his family in Canada and wish that his soul would rest in peace. The vacuum created by his absence will remain so forever.

I wish I could be confident that he had gained his lifetime achievement with his trekking hobby, but more than that I wish I would be able to remind him that there are still “few more peaks” to conquer.