



Summer 2006 Update

Today's World

Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, founder of [Aravind Eye Hospital](#), passed away this July 7. For everyone lucky enough to have met Dr. V, he was an extraordinary individual in every way, who did what so many of us dream about – he changed the world. As important, he made the world a better place just by being in it, just by walking through it in a way filled with dignity and respect for everyone he met.

I once asked Dr. V how he thought about God. He told me that for him, God existed in the place where all beings are interconnected. He was able to fuse the power of an unsentimental approach to treating poor people with the moral imagination to see people, really see them, and listen to their needs and dreams. In this way, I think he saw godliness and beauty in all people and all things.

His model for delivering eyecare – a combination of a just-in-time approach to eye surgery and a sliding scale pricing model with an excellent team of some of the most dedicated and caring doctors and staff – produced a world-class group of hospitals that currently serve more than one million people annually. Aravind restores sight to more than a quarter million people each year by performing life-altering cataract surgery. Dr. Venkataswamy lived a rare life and influenced many he met and millions he never knew. His life's legacy will continue through Aravind, an extraordinary institution managed by a truly unique family. Our hearts and prayers go out to the entire Aravind family, whom we are so proud to know.

We look forward to working with you to create the kind of world that we envision, and that Dr. V. embodied. As always, please visit our [website](#) or let us know if you have questions. And please help us to grow the community of people committed to solving the problems of global poverty by [forwarding this update to a friend](#).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacqueline Novogratz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jacqueline Novogratz