



OUR VISION

Christ's transforming presence in healthcare and the nation through Christ-centered medical professionals

FAR & NEAR

FIRST QUARTER
2016



Chairman's Letter

Healing | 'hi:.lɪŋ|

(an alternate meaning)

Several months ago my wife, Nirmala, was diagnosed with cancer. Unbelief at the diagnosis was brief, as we rushed through surgery and then chemotherapy. As the diagnosis sank in, many bewildering questions came up. Through the disquiet of all the unanswered questions, we had glimpses of true reality. They were, in fact, anchors that we could hold on to - anchors that do not answer all the questions but give us much needed nourishment and hope.

A key anchor is the goodness of God. The God of the Bible is a good and loving God. His intentions are always good. Trevor Francis wrote about this beautifully:

'O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!

Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love'

Since He is always good and we are now faced with cancer, there must be something meaningful and significant to what we are going through. Despite the narrative being murky at this moment, we hold on to the ultimate reality of the goodness of a loving God. What can possibly go wrong when one is enveloped and fenced in by the unimaginable goodness of God?

Another anchor is the realisation that, may be, God is trying to convey an important message. A preoccupied life is no good to receive a new vision and a new direction. Cancer or any illness is a powerful way to get one's attention. When we look at the journey of the Israelites through the book of Exodus, we see that they experience a newer understanding of God at each point of great difficulty. Getting our attention is important if we are to experience newness in life and newness in our understanding of God.

Seen in this light, our response can only be one of total obedience. Jesus' call to his potential disciples is very short and clear - 'Follow me'. His last words to Peter (in John 21) is repeated twice - 'You follow me'. Even in the Old Testament, the only criteria to please God seems to be obedience and not the extent or the magnitude of the sacrifice done. Abraham is counted righteous because of his willingness to obey. Saul is rejected because he refused to obey despite making a spectacular sacrifice. The Prophet Samuel's words are stinging: Has the Lord great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? (1Sam 15:22 NKJV). So whether he allows sickness or whether he asks us to do something unusual, obedience is what is expected.

Could the meaning of healing be much more expansive than the meaning that we normally attribute, that is, a cure from disease? Could it mean that we are meant to look at this incident of illness in the light of eternity and in the presence of a loving God? Could the meaning of healing be that He wants to take hold of us more completely so that through the newness that He infuses into our lives, we go forth and live more completely - more like Him?

Varghese Philip & Nirmala
vphilip123@gmail.com

Lindley Marquis: Coordinator - Karnataka

Lindley visited fellowships in Mysore, Davengere, Hoskote and Bangalore and dealt with topics like rapture and inductive study of the Bible. In one of the fellowship groups he has begun studying from Genesis in a systematic manner. He also spent time with some students individually, giving them guidance and encouragement. He mobilised people for the Karnataka State Conference in March at Bangalore. He leaves the services of EMFI to move on to serve with another organisation from April 2016. His absence will leave a lacuna and we will miss him.

Linu Zachariah: Field Partner - Tamil Nadu

Linu visited the fellowships in Trichy, Salem, Sivagangai, Madurai, Tanjore, Theni, Tiruvaroor and Coimbatore. He has been encouraging the students in their walk with the Lord and helped organise a one day retreat at Sivagangai. The students who attended were much blessed by it as many of their doubts and queries were answered.

Malcolm Johnson: Field Partner - Telengana

Malcolm and Uma have moved residence in Hyderabad and some of the students visited them to spend time with them for fellowship and guidance. They continue to visit and be involved with the fellowship at Adilabad where they began their work. This is what Malcolm writes, "Our relationship with this fellowship is deeply rooted and it was like homecoming for us." They helped the fellowship in organising the pre-Christmas program. Malcolm could also help out in the logistics for the Saline Process - Training of Trainers program at Hyderabad. They visited the fellowship groups at Srikakulam and Vishakapatnam.

Michael Sundersingh: Coordinator - Pastoral Care

Michael and Grace visited and worked along with some of the leaders of MUT and EHA. They also helped the fellowships in Delhi organise their Christmas programmes. Michael had the opportunity to minister on some occasions in his church. They continue to minister to young doctors in finding life partners.

Pratik Sindhu: Coordinator - Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh

Pratik visited fellowships in Bhopal, Bilaspur and Raipur. A large number of students attended the Christmas program at Bhopal. The annual conference was held in December and the students who attended were challenged by Dr. Chering who was the resource person. She shared her life's journey. In many places Pratik visited he could encourage and individually interact with some of the doctors.

Solomon Raju: Field Partner - Andhra Pradesh

Solomon visited Vijayawada, Anantapur and Ongole in the past months. He could engage with the students and was involved in helping the fellowship students organise their Christmas programs. He met some of the senior doctors and traveled with them to some of the fellowships and exhorted the students.

Malsawmlianna Darlong: Field Partner - West Bengal

Malsawma spent time with many students individually helping them to study the Word. In some places he was instrumental in connecting the juniors with the senior students. Though his wife Martha was sick during Christmas, they were able to visit their neighbours and share the Good news. He could also encourage some of the senior boys to begin fellowship groups in their colleges by visiting them regularly. He visited fellowships in Burdwan, Bankura and Manikata. When a young doctor couple from Andhra Pradesh visited Kolkotta and expressed their desire to visit some fellowship, Malwasma connected them to a local fellowship and the students were blessed by seeing the commitment.

DevaKumar Coordinator - Training

In the month of November the city of Chennai experienced Floods. This is what Deva writes, "The end of November had unusual rains & December arrived drenched. Little did the city of Chennai & many districts around know what was in store. Relentless rains, breaching of lakes, tanks and both the major rivers that run through the city the Cooum & Adyar dangerously overflowing their banks...culminated into a full blown flood. It was a catastrophe that reached epic proportions & many lives were lost, homes washed away, the livelihood of many families also swept away in the flood waters." But God in His mercy helped EMFI conduct 3 major programs. Two Palliative care programs which had resource people like Dr Martin Leiper, Dr Stephen Hutchinson, Dr Daniel Munday & Dr Joseph Dominic and one on 'How to handle Emotional & Mental health' by Dr KG Kurvilla, Dr Prasanna & Dr Jameela Koshy...all successfully done during the end of November amazingly in between the showers! Other than this Deva along with Michael and KT Paul have been involved in finalizing bible study material for medical students. They met together at Raxaul in March for 4 days for brainstorming and compiling of some 40 odd studies. Dr Santosh Mathew facilitated the process.

Chandy Issac: Associate Staff - Bangalore

We are happy to welcome Chandy into the family of EMFI. He has joined as the Associate staff for Bangalore. Lindley has helped him make contacts with students and doctors in Bangalore and Chandy has been able to meet them on a regular basis. He has been mobilizing students to attend the State Conference in March. He could attend the staff conference at Hyderabad in January and get acquainted with all the staff. This is what he writes about his experience at the Staff meet, "My wife, Molly and I were truly blessed to be part of the Staff Conference at Hyderabad in January, 2016. It was a wonderful introduction to the All-India team and the ongoing work as well as to understand the way forward with respect to the Strategic Plans for 2016- 2020. The messages from God's Word were both encouraging and challenging, and I returned to Bangalore with a clear calling to AWAKE & ARISE. Is. 52:1, 2."

George Suchiang: Field Partner - North East India

The newly wed George is slowly finding his footing back into the work in the North East India. He has been able to visit a few colleges and start the topical bible studies that he used to conduct for students. At Guwahati he was able to speak on the topic 'LOVE' on the Valentinesday gathering. In another college he engaged the students on the topic of courage.

KT Paul: Coordinator - North India

KT has recovered from his knee surgery now and is travelling as usual. He writes, "Thank you all very much for upholding me during my troubled times with the knee injury and surgery. I was worried, got tired and frustrated but God had things in control and worked out beautifully in His time. Praise be to God. He is faithful." KT could be part of the pre-Christmas celebration at Raxaul and spend time with many of the young doctors. He visited Meerut, Delhi, Herbertpur, Allahabad and Lucknow and has been stressing the importance of spiritual growth and maturity in these fellowships. He visited Jhansi, Lalitpur, Kanpur and Kurja and discussed on topics like peer pressure and being sensitive to the Lord.



GROUND REALITIES

WHEN THE TYRE HITS THE ROAD

We were married in 1991 and after working in private hospitals for a couple of years, we moved to Nilambur, in the northern part of Kerala where we started a 15 bedded hospital. By God's grace, we have been able to conduct an ethical practice here.

More importantly, we have been involved in the ministry among medical students in Kerala for several years. Just as Paul says in 1 Timothy 1:12 "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service", God has graciously allowed us to have a small part in this work. The fellowship among medical students in Kerala, called the Christian Medical Fellowship, was started as a small prayer fellowship in Trivandrum Medical College under the leadership of Dr Kuruvilla Varkey, Dr N J Mani, Dr P K David, and a few others in 1959 while they were medical students. Now each student group is looked after by graduates at the local level; they also help to organize regional and annual conferences. We have been coordinating the various activities of CMF in Kerala for the last 20 years. At present there are 30 medical colleges in Kerala, but we do not have fellowships in all of them due to lack of graduate support.

College years are a very crucial period when students are exposed to various influences and are in the process of forming their own world views. Away from the shelter of home and church, many are led astray and tend to think and act just like the rest of the world. We visit various student groups; attend their weekly meetings, and conferences. We have opportunities to teach God's word, make friends and encourage them. We invite them to our home and maintain regular contact. All this gives us an opportunity to be a part of their lives and to give godly advice when they are faced with crucial decisions. There are also times of discouragement, when we feel that many people are not keen on walking in God's ways and that there is no lasting impact in many lives.

However, it is always thrilling to see lives surrendered to God and the lasting friendships we form with many that are more precious than any earthly treasure. Having our own clinic has given us the flexibility to travel and visit various medical colleges. We are also actively involved in our church and are part of a church planting ministry in the northern part of Kerala. Pray for us that we will remain faithful to God's call in our lives.

Drs Thomas & Grace George

Anugraha Hospital
Chandakkunnu
Nilambur 679 342
Kerala



Family News

Births

Drs. Sheena & Gnanaraj (Robertsganj) were blessed with a baby boy Ivan on 4th Jan 2016

Drs. Anita Shirley and Elanthendral (CMC, Vellore) were blessed with a baby boy

Jeshuran Daniel on 13th Jan 2016

Dr. Easwara Moorthy & Ashwini (Asha Kiran Hospital, Orissa) were blessed with a baby

girl Joanna on 14th Feb 2016.

Wedding Bells

Dr. Divya (CMC Vellore) wed Mr Rousseau on 23rd Dec 2015

George Suchiang (EMFI staff for North East India) wed Dafa Jones Shulai on 22nd Jan 2016



Drs Thomas & Grace George family



George weds Dafa

NEW LIFE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROJECT, HYDERABAD



Suicide is becoming a major public health problem in India. According to the WHO 2014 statistics, India has highest number of suicides. As many as 1,34,799 Indians committed suicide in 2013, according to NCRB report. Our newly formed Telangana state has a high suicide rate in India. The distinctiveness of Indian suicides is that educated, working young people of 15-29 years kill themselves at a higher rate compared to other age groups. This is more so in South India.

'New Life' is a project under the aegis of a NGO called, 'Visual Word Media.' We are a team, consisting of psychiatrists, psychologists, bible counselors, public health professionals and student volunteers, who feel called to provide a Christian response to this societal crisis. Our mission is to Reach, Rescue and Restore the hurting by building faith, instilling hope, sharing love and presenting another opportunity to live meaningfully and purposefully based on Proverbs 24:11 - "*Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.*"

Our plan is to conduct *awareness programs* in colleges, youth groups and churches; starting a *24x7 telephonic helpline* for crisis intervention and counseling; running a '*NewLife psychological health clinic*' for psychiatric help, personal counseling and follow up; setting up a '*NewLife internet blog*' about hope, meaning of life and coping with stress, for the internet users to read and reflect upon; and *Supporting 'Survivors of suicide loss'* i.e., those who have lost their loved ones to suicide.

We need experienced seniors to guide us in our work and human resources for conducting awareness programs and taking crisis phone calls. We want to work within a network of Christian medical and non-medical professionals who can contribute to this work. We need constant and strong prayer support because we see this as a rescue mission within a spiritual battlefield. Kindly pray for the team and partner with us.

**Dr. Starlin Vijay Mythri and the NewLife team
Hyderabad**



Role play on tele-counseling



Counselling training programme

EMFI & CMAI
Jointly Hosting
The South Asian Christian
Doctors, Dentists & Medical students
Conference (ICMDA)

DATE: 27TH - 30TH OCTOBER 2016
VENUE: KOLHATA

REGISTER EARLY

Registrations are restricted to 250 delegates only due to limitations at the venue.
(You may send a mail to emfiennialconf@gmail.com)

ETHICAL DILEMMAS

I am an intern in a private medical college. As part of my posting in Medicine and Surgery, I am required to create case records of fictitious patients with their names, history and findings. I am quite uncomfortable but find it difficult to refuse my chief, afraid of the consequences. Please advise.
-S.B., Tamil Nadu.

You are in a tough situation while studying in a private college where writing fictitious case sheets have become a "normal" practice. The answer to the question, "Is it right to do so?" is simple and clear: it is wrong. But the difficulty one faces is the fear of the consequences of saying this to the superiors that you are not willing to write such case sheets. On the other hand as people who believe in Jesus and His gospel we do not have another option than "speaking the truth in love." The Gospel must and will change and affect all aspects of our life.

Tell the superiors why your faith does not allow you to do such false things. Do not do this in any arrogant way as if we, Christians know it all and are hence superior to others. But knowing fully well that as Christians we have received this knowledge as a gift of God's grace do this speaking with prayer, in "humble boldness" as we see in the lives of the early followers of Jesus facing fierce persecution. Also let it be done willing to face the consequences by His grace.

Dr Kuruvilla Varkey

Christian Fellowship Hospital
Oddanchatram, Tamil Nadu.

This is a column that addresses the dilemmas that Christian medicos face in relating their faith to their professional practice. Readers are requested to send their questions to emfipublications@gmail.com and senior Christian doctors will give you biblical guidelines to address your issues and concerns.



PRAISE GOD FOR

- The young doctors who attended the Training of Trainers workshop for the International Saline Process at Hyderabad (14th - 16th January).
- For the many young doctor couples who attended the Parenting seminar (12th - 14th February) at SU Corner stone, Chennai and the Marriage enrichment seminar (19th - 21st February).
- The Kingdom of God Facilitators workshop that took place at Bangalore (13th - 14th February) and the Kingdom of God Seminar at Ongole (21st February).
- The students who attended the one day retreat on basic biblical doctrines called DOWNLOAD at Chennai on 6th March.
- The 70 odd doctors & students who attended the Karnataka State conference at Bangalore Baptist Hospital (18th - 20th March).
- The 17 students from Andhra Pradesh who attended the Institute of Medical Mission course at Asha Kiran Hospital, Orissa (14th - 19th March).
- The Tamil Nadu state conference called 'Pachalur Camp' to be held from 25th to 27th of March.



PRAY FOR

- The EMFI Executive Committee meeting that is to be held on 16th of April at Bangalore Baptist

MISSION TRIP BY STANLEY MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

Mission trip: May 2015

My friends Sam, Cheran, Hanson and I visited GEMS Hospital, Sikkaria, Bihar and spent 3 days on campus. On the first day, we visited GEMS health centre, Cuba hills, Rothas District. That evening we had a discussion on what mission is about? We thank the missionary, Mr Martin and his family in Cuba hills, who welcomed us. The next day we went for OP rounds in the hospital with Dr Sam and Dr Stanley. In the evening Mr Augustine Jebakumar spoke to us personally and encouraged us. That night, we had a fellowship dinner and a time of singing and prayer at Dr Stanley's home. On the third day, we went for OP rounds in the morning, and an outing to a nearby dam across the river Son in the evening for a time of relaxation. We realized that we need to pray always, work hard, please God and not men and use our knowledge to build God's Kingdom. We also got the right perspective about our career. We felt the need for doctors in Bihar and also in the mission field. We are very thankful to Dr Sam and Dr Stanley who mentored us!

We praise God for His grace and mercy throughout the Journey.

All glory be to God!

**Augustine David
Stanley Medical College,
Chennai.**



THE HINDU, NEW DELHI, February 8, 2016

Ministry nod for one entrance test for medical courses

The Union Health Ministry has cleared an amendment to a law, which, if cleared by Parliament, will allow the Medical Council of India to conduct a single, common entrance test for admissions for undergraduate and post-graduate medical courses across the country.

The test may be introduced in 2016 if the Cabinet approves the proposal.

If it is implemented, students will be spared the burden of traversing the length and breadth of the country and pay multiple entrance fees to take several tests for a shot at a medical seat. The MCI, it is learnt, has told the government that it could either notify an existing examination, for instance, the All-India Pre Medical Test (AIPMT), or a new one as the common test. The MCI attempted to hold a common exam for postgraduate seats in 2012 and undergraduate seats in 2013. But nearly 80 private colleges, several led by minority institutions and that currently have the freedom to organise their own tests, united to take the MCI to court. The Supreme Court ruled that the existing laws allowed the MCI only to decide the curriculum and not to administer entrance tests.

"The Indian Medical Association fully supports a common test. It is merit-based and will reduce the problem of expensive capitation fees. It is now a question of whether the government has the political will to ensure that this amendment goes through," K.K. Aggarwal, President, Indian Medical Association, told *The Hindu*.

Please pray that the right decision is taken, as this can affect selection of sponsored students in the CMCs and other similar institutions.

Dr. George Ani Mathew (1970-2016)

OBITUARY

Dr. George Ani Mathew entered eternal rest while he was on a long cycling trip from Vellore to Bangalore on the 28th of February 2016. His wife Mrs Annie, daughters Elsa & Sarah continued to be in CMC, Vellore .

TRIBUTES

George Ani Mathew joined the Batch of 1992 in Ludhiana in August. He was a much loved and cherished classmate who had a very simple way of living.

I represent 3 parts of George's life, his class the batch of 1992, Emmanuel Hospital Association, where he spent a considerable amount of time reaching the unreached and the closeness he shared with our own family.

He made friends easily and got along with almost everyone. He believed in personal friendships and close associations. He crossed the usual barriers of state and culture with ease and was always willing to befriend. He was a man far away from sweet talk but transparent and never shied from calling a spade a spade. He stood against injustice and one could count on him to stand by the truth.

His personal setbacks never deterred him from standing up for others. Many people recall his good nature and sweet smile. His selflessness and care will never be forgotten. He is remembered as being the silent and content jewel of our class who blessed us with his simplicity and beautiful voice. He struggled through many difficulties in life but we admired his calmness, good nature and faith during those times. Many of our classmates who travelled with him on long, five day train journeys, remember his smile, his care and the security he provided.

He is remembered as a family man. He would take care of us when we were in the vicinity of Vellore. Taking us for meals, picnics and inviting us home and providing us a place to stay. He had 2 passions. Cycling and missions. His passion for missions took him to the ends of our land with ENT services. Hospitals at Manali, Mussoorie, Herbertpur, Fatehpur and Tezpur bear witness to his silent service for the poor and the marginalized.

Cycling snatched him from us prematurely. He had always found time for long cycling trips in spite of his busy schedule at CMC Hospital, Vellore. In the midst of the why and how's we praise God for this life well lived.

Ani, we will miss your simplicity, your faith and love.

We admire your passion, firmness and struggles.

We stand with the family of Anu, Elsa and Sarah. Our prayer is that God would sustain them through this very difficult time.

Dr George Ani Mathew's quiet presence will be sorely missed.

Dr Deepak S Singh, Chinchipada

(Friend and Classmate with help from Drs Ramandeep, Wesley, George Sam, Sangeetha, Rashmi, Jacob, Jency)

George Ani Mathew entered his eternal rest in Jesus on February 28th 2016. Freed from all restrictions, he currently enjoys the presence of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for all eternity, having impacted many with his quiet witness

"George was a talented surgeon, who would tackle any surgery, be it a complicated twisted airway or advanced laryngeal cancers with the same calmness. Soft spoken, humble, highly conscientious, hardworking, much loved doctor, he was generous with his money, time and skills. He was a fine gentleman with supreme love for humanity which reflected in his medical care and friendship. He took time to share the joys and sorrows of all the members of the ENT team whoever they may be. George's strong, quiet Christian faith and conviction which he firmly stood by did not deter him from being gentle, soft-spoken and much cherished family member, friend and doctor. He will be deeply missed by everyone whose lives he touched. The void he leaves will never be filled. " – (quoted from CMC weekly news)

George was passionate about reaching out to patients who did not have access to specialized care as he had once said –*"If patients cannot access you, then you need to access them"*. This commitment was the basis for his regular trips to conduct surgical camps in North Indian mission hospitals – Manali, Missouri, Herbertpur, Fatehpur and Tezpur. This he did for more than 5 years, invested in surgical instruments personally, encouraged and inspired others to follow this trend. He also pioneered many surgeries for the first time in the department and if others followed his steps, he often encouraged them to do better. His family was very important to him and he was always careful to spend time with them in the midst of his busy schedule. Cycling was his other passion for many years and he used to frequently engage in long distance trips.

George's contribution can only be fully understood when we reach eternity as he will have many people welcoming him there since he multiplied his talents by serving people in remote areas who could not pay him back. While his absence is painful, we thank our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ for the time He gave George to us - though he had many roles in life, he was a true brother to many of us, in whom was no guile.

Dr Reji Thomas CMC, Vellore



Dr. George Ani Mathew

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear friends,

It's a privilege to connect with all of you again this New Year and I look forward with expectation to what the Lord would want us to pursue. Many issues confront us each day and we need much grace and wisdom from the Lord to address them in the way He wants us to.

Article 377 has again hit the headlines in our country. **Section 377 of the** Indian Penal Code dating back to 1860, introduced during the British rule of India, criminalises sexual activities '*against the order of nature*', arguably including homosexual acts. The section was declared unconstitutional by the High Court of Delhi on 2 July 2009. That judgement was overturned by the Supreme Court of India on 12 December 2013.

On 2 February 2016, the final hearing of the curative petition submitted by the Naz Foundation and others came to the Supreme Court. The Three member bench headed by the Chief Justice of India T.S.Thakur said that all the 8 curative petitions submitted will be reviewed afresh by a 5 member constitutional bench.

The LGBT community and other "inclusive" groups continue the fight to decriminalise gay relationships. Christians and other "narrow-minded" groups are labelled "exclusivist", "homophobic" etc. while it is surprising that there are no "theo-phobes" or "Christo-phobes"!

How do we as evangelical Christians respond to this war of cultures or ideologies?

Legality and morality cannot be put on the same plane. All that is legal need not be morally right. Chesterton's prophetic comment made more than half a century ago makes sense: "*For under the smooth legal surface of our society there are already moving very lawless things. We are always near the breaking-point when we care only for what is legal and nothing for what is lawful. Unless we have a moral principle about such delicate matters as marriage and murder, the whole world will become a welter of exceptions with no rules. There will be so many hard cases that everything will go soft*".

Scientists have periodically come up with genetic, hormonal, brain structure differences in people with 'same-sex orientation' but none seem to have any clear objective evidence. The Biblical injunction to 'enquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly' (Deuteronomy 13:14) is a good advice. As the Bible leads us to question our interpretation of scientific facts, new discoveries should lead us to interrogate whether we have correctly interpreted the Bible. Revelation and science need to be balanced in the humble search for truth; appropriately interpreted, without contradiction.

For a secularist who does not believe in a soul, what matters is only the body, which then becomes the sole means of fulfilment. Sexuality becomes a thing to be restricted only by parameters that are 'materially referenced'. Moral relativism has no absolutes. When there is no transcendent definition of life and no absolutes, a person is free to do whatever he/she feels, and no one dare prohibit anything.

A Christian has absolutes and sex is a sacred trust with clear boundaries...at the same time, 'one of the greatest gifts and struggles'. He cannot agree to the reasoning that "*if two consenting adults agree, they can express love in any way they feel free to*". Love for him cannot be defined in a way that is 'self-referencing'. It can be viewed only through the lens of God's love and how He defines love .

We need to be careful that what is right is not sacrificed on the altar of "rights"!

It is only in the keeping of the body as the temple that the sacred is upheld and the grace of God brings conviction and restraint. Only the power of Christ can help us tame our passions. The Biblical description of marriage is for one man and one woman in sacred commitment. So profound is this union that God presents Himself as the bridegroom to the Church which He takes as the bride!

As a person who follows Jesus Christ, our message to the world must be clear. We should never be accused of hate or indifference. But compromising the truth is a serious blunder and ends up celebrating that which is not in the will of our Father. Rejecting a belief or a behaviour cannot be seen as rejecting the person. This is a painful tension for a believer and God has to help us carry this burden.

May God help each of us to live out the Truth in love and grace, that men and women will find our faith attractive. We have been shown much grace and we need to be gracious. Let us also pray that many who struggle with these orientations and passions will find freedom in God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray and involve with the ministry as we touch many young lives in the medical field with the Gospel of the cross and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

References:

<http://rzim.org/global-blog/how-wide-the-divide-sexuality-at-the-forefront-culture-at-the-crossroads>

<http://www.cmf.org.uk/publications/content.asp?context=article&id=630>

Manoj Jacob

TREASURER'S NOTE

Easter! It's New Life, It's Power, It's Hope in a God who has Eternal Plans for us!

We pray that the money received from you will be used to fulfill His desire in all that we plan & do. Easter blessings!

MONTHS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
December	11,94,478	8,21,886
January	8,30,316	8,24,071
February	6,05,928	7,15,706

Those wishing to contribute can send your cheques/DD's/MO's in favour of 'Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India' to the address given below or make an electronic/Bank transfer to:

State Bank of India (New Account) CURRENT A/c No: 35465591006 (Branch Code: 2288, IFSC: SBIN0002288)

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Published on behalf of EMFI by **Dr. Manoj C. Jacob – General Secretary**

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