



FAR AND NEAR

FIRST QUARTER 2018

VISION

Christ's Transforming presence in Healthcare and The Nation through Christ centered Medical Professionals.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

○ ————— NO GUARDS AT THE GATE? ————— ○

Reading: Luke 22:54-62

Peter was part of Jesus' inner circle. He heard and experienced Jesus as close as one can get. As a person, Peter is outspoken, boisterous and impulsive. Now, as Christ is taken to be tried and crucified, he is bewildered. He is unsure what to make of it. All that he thought was true, now stood challenged. Was his trust and belief in Jesus for nothing? Was Jesus for real? These were his thoughts as he faced the greatest trial in his life. And Rembrandt paints Peter's trial with exceptional insight.

Rembrandt uses light, with exceptional ability, to convey the central message of this painting. The overall scene has subdued lighting. Peter and the servant girl are the central figures in the painting. A soldier is seen relaxing and drinking water from a large pot while his helmet is off his head and the sword is on the floor. There is another soldier behind him who seems to be listening to the conversation. In the distance, there are some figures. But they are all secondary. The hearth in front has some fire, but it is not very bright. A more intense source of light is behind the woman's hand - backlighting her face and Peter's face - both principal actors in the drama. Peter seems to say, 'woman, I don't know him.' The source of light backlights the finger making it appear red. Rembrandt has made it the central focus of the painting. Is Rembrandt warning us of the danger ahead - for Peter and us?

How easily Peter denies Jesus, almost dispassionately, as a matter-of-fact. As Jesus is led to his trial, Peter's world is crashing down. He is confused and has lost his bearings. To add to this, he is surrounded by those who do not sympathize with him or care about things that he values.

You fall when you are complacent. Your mind is weak when your guards are down; when no one is looking- to call us to account; when an opportunity presents itself; when what you love most loses its hold over you. And you start developing a justification for what you are about to do. Result? - A perfect disaster. It is most painful when there is a betrayal. And all you are left with are shattered dreams, shattered relationships, and shattered reputation.

How do you prevent such disasters? Firstly, your belief system and assumptions that lead you to destructive behaviors. Are they flawed? What are those beliefs that make you vulnerable and how can you get rid of them? In its place how can you build an impregnable belief system? What were Peter's flawed beliefs that led to his downfall?

Secondly, the state of your vigilance. What doors were left ajar? What gates were unguarded? How can you make the gates of your mind and heart secure?

Varghese Philip



Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt_Harmensz._van_Rijn_012.jpg

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF

REST IN THE LORD

I had been introspecting and questioning about my trust in the Lord in difficult situations. I have seen a change and have been growing in this area by reminding myself "If I trust in the Lord I should rest". I had been encouraging the students and graduates to exercise and experience the presence of God in times of difficulties just like the Israelites in the wilderness. Whether it is an exam or a time of struggle if it draws us closer to the Lord then it is a blessing in disguise. It has been encouraging to see several students and graduates witnessing how they were blessed and have grown through those challenging situations like exams etc. I always remind them that if they exercise and experience the presence of God today, then it will get translated into their future professional and family life too.

KT Paul - North India

THE LORD KNOWS - HE PROVIDES

I have been waiting for an opening in a college in the Northern part of Karnataka for a long time. I tried to have fellowship in college hostels, but it was not working. Recently, when I went to the college, one of the students, who is doing his PG in the College of Dental Science asked me to meet with the hostel warden and ask him about having a fellowship there.

I thought about it for a while and kept the issue in prayer the whole night and the next morning, I went to the college to meet the warden who is also a professor. Once he saw me, he was very kind and asked me how he could help. I told him about EMFI and the fellowship and he said that we could have fellowship in the hostel and that it wouldn't be a problem. He said that he would support us by giving a place to gather in the hostel too.

This proves that God shows us His favour even in situations where we think that it is impossible.

Bibin Benoy - Karnataka

A PRAYER ANSWERED

Working at Delhi and moving closely with Medics in the Capital City and in Premier colleges poses a BIG Challenge. We eagerly pray for two or more Christian Medical Students to come in contact with us and then make efforts and mobilize them so that we reach out to their hostel and college. God has somehow been giving us a contact person when a bunch of students graduate and move out.

So in the same way in June 2017, we prayed earnestly for Christian students and truly in answer to our prayers, Christian students joined in all the colleges at Delhi. Now the vision and mission are to reach others through them so that Christ-centered medics blossom as witnesses and impact the Indian Health Care system with Christ-centered values.

Pray for the medical Fellowship groups in Delhi where Christian Students meet to study God's Word and Fellowship. All these groups are ministered by some like-minded graduates from various churches at Delhi.

Being in Delhi demands our partnership with other like-minded Churches and Organizations as well.

Michael Sundersingh - New Delhi

FREELY RECEIVED - FREELY GIVE

"In 2017 when I was in my 1st Year MDS, it was very difficult for me to cope with studies, attending OT's and night duties. I was under too much stress. During this time I was told about a Christian fellowship in College. Their prayers and support strengthened me in the Lord. Now, I am able to manage stress better as I can see the plan and purpose of God more clearly.

A few months ago, a junior who had come to our department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery on a regular posting asked me to guide her in a procedure called Alveoloplasty, which can be done only by PG's. As we started carrying out the procedure, these were the thoughts that went through my mind: "Why do you want to guide a junior? Don't guide her...don't guide her. On further reflection, I was convicted and came to grips with the truth: As a child of God, have I not been taught to do all my work in such a way that others can experience the love of God?" That conviction was from the Holy Spirit, but the very next set of thoughts was from the devil who began to repeatedly accuse me: But, how could you ever think of not helping someone who asked you for help? Soon the Alveoloplasty was completed and she was able to learn the procedure. Over the next couple of days, my thoughts went back to this experience in the Department. Now there was greater clarity as I prayed and asked God to teach me to do His will in such situations. In fact, the Lord gave me a burden for the College - to reach out to ALL with His love and the Gospel. As we read in James 2:17, Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead. Later I had the privilege of sharing this burden with others in our College fellowship and now, together we look to God to guide and enable us to fulfil His plan in 2018."

- 2nd Year MDS student, Bangalore

Issac Chandy - Karnataka

COME UNTO ME, I WILL GIVE YOU REST

"Many times we fail to give thanks to our Lord during happy moments and it's even harder to do that when we are in trouble or when we face failures in our life. Personally, when I faced such a hard situation, I found it hard for me to pray and praise God, but I knew in my heart that God had a plan for me and he wanted me to trust and have faith in him. I didn't stop there, I prayed to God for his guidance and his strength during my hardship. He comforted me and there was peace. To be honest, it brought me nearer to Him and my relationship with Him grew stronger. What God wanted me to know was that whatever we do, we should put Him first and lean not on our own understanding. His plans are bigger than ours. All we have to do is to have faith in Him and Him alone."

Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

- A student from Madhya Pradesh

Pratik Sindhu - MP & Chhatisgarh

Yet another New Year, 2018 arrives! Before I could get down to rearranging my thoughts I found myself launching right into work. The current of the 'things-to-do' list for January & February was strong and I found myself being swept away. It has been quite an eventful couple of months with so much happening and Nanditha & I travelled so much in such a short time. But the bottom line is HIS timeless promise: 'HIS mercies are new every morning' and that's something we are going to bank on heavily. Every day will be a walk of Faith. We thank GOD, for HE has still not given up on us in spite of all our goof-ups! Thank you, Father.

Devakumar - Coordinator, Training

A PROJECT THAT CHANGED MY PERSPECTIVE

It is my enormous joy to share some of my experiences with the EMFI movement. I am not going to spiritualized things here; I am stating a fact that God brought me here to this movement for a purpose. God in his great mercy allows me to encounter with people and that changes my perspective of life and my diminutive service to Him.

To be more concise, from the time I got involved with the Kingdom Of God (KOG) project for the last one year, my knowledge about life as a kingdom bearer became more meaningful. I could see that God's world is filled with His beautiful creation and it's my duty by calling to bring a restoration to this creation, in every way possible according to my ability. I then, realized that I am here to bring a change in three aspects of the world and I call it, the "three worlds". The world of people (John. 3:16), the world of creation (Matthew. 5:14) and the world of system (1 John.2:15). It changes my perspective completely.

Praise be to God, for bringing me to this project. A project that "CHANGED MY PERSPECTIVE"

George Suchiang - North East India

In John 17: 5, Our Lord prays, "And now Father, Glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."

And again we read, 'For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form and you have been given fullness in Christ who is the head over every power and authority.' Our glorious Lord laid aside His glory in order to give us that glory. As His children, our hearts burn with His love for those in the clutches of the cruel ruler of this world. Our Lord's Love compels us (EMFI staff) to run to the medical college campuses to shed the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ and help them experience the treasures of life eternal.

JMV Rao - Associate Staff,
Andhra Pradesh

AN ANSWERED PRAYER!

Going to a new Medical college is always a challenge especially when you do not have any contacts there. There is a new Medical College in Tamil Nadu which started its operation last year. After the formation of this college, I had undertaken 3 prayer walks there, asking God for some contacts. I was getting discouraged after some time as I was unable to find any contacts. Then, I got in touch with a junior Medical officer who was on a temporary posting. She promised to help me get contacts in the college but the next time I called, she was sent back to the PHC for her regular posting. I was again discouraged. In February, I attended the wedding of a PG student in Tirunelveli. I met the HOD of medicine of another college there and shared the burden of being unable to get any contacts in the new college with him and we prayed about it. As we finished the prayer, an old student was waiting to talk to him. She said, "Sir I have finished my MD and I am posted in the new medical college in Tamil Nadu." It was such a joy to meet her and we praised God together for giving us an immediate answer to our prayers. Praise God for this encouragement and opening in the college.

Linu Zachariah - Field Partner, Tamil Nadu

I have been praying for the state, the fellowships and graduates to come together for the ministry of EMFI in the state of AP and TS. Now, I can see a change happening. One day retreats are organised in different parts of the state. In all other states, EMFI has to initiate the work but in AP-TS, the graduates start/initiate the work. Not just the local retreats but now it's taking shape in a big way like state/National level conferences. I feel this is an answer to our prayers. Now and then I also test my faith with small things. Recently my daughter and I travelled from Kurnool to Vijayawada and we somehow lost my daughter's spectacles in the city bus. We only realised it after we got off the bus. Now there were two options; either I go to the Ophthalmologist and get new spectacles or try my luck at finding the bus driver or conductor to retrieve the glasses from the bus. Since I had to wait till 11 or 12pm to meet the doctor, I went to the bus stop to try and find the same bus in which we travelled. As I was waiting I prayed saying, "Lord please send the bus, with the same driver and conductor in the bus and let them come with my daughter's spectacles. Not that you cannot do it, but in so doing, my faith will be strengthened, money and time will be saved and my daughter's faith will also be strengthened and she will learn to live by faith." But since I got a call from my daughter, I had to go back to the hostel. As I was preparing to return, I thought to myself, "There is one bus approaching, I will check with that bus and go back to the hostel." As the bus came close, I asked the conductor with a doubtful and low voice, "Did you find any spectacles in the bus with a red frame?" Immediately the driver pulled out the red spectacles from his pocket and handed it over to me without even a scratch on it. Finding the bus itself is unimaginable and here I find the bus and the spectacles. How great is our God! He knows our needs and is the answer in times of trouble. We praised the Lord together that day and marvelled at His providence.

Solomon Raju - Field Partner, Andhra Pradesh

SALINE PROCESS- MY JOURNEY

I had the privilege of attending the EMFI saline witness training program in October 2014; and also the Training Of Trainers' program at the same time, not realizing what the Lord's plan was for my life through this training. Though it was exciting to attend one, it actually changed my entire attitude towards being a witness in the workplace. I have come to terms with the fact that I can be a witness to all my patients, using the God-given tools to cultivate and sow into the hearts of people around. Having said that; it was a gradual process of how the Lord started helping me to transfer what I have understood to other healthcare workers; and truly, it has often been a very humbling experience to teach the qualified sincere healthcare providers!

The Lord opened opportunities for me to train healthcare workers in a few places over the last year.

- ◊ In Believers' medical college hospital, Thiruvalla, Kerala - around 25-30 staff members attended and committed themselves to using the tools given by the Lord.
- ◊ In Pondicherry, a few consultants from PIMS and some medical students attended the training.
- ◊ In Visakhapatnam a total of 42 people attended including medical students, PGs & consultants from different hospitals.
- ◊ In Hyderabad, CHAI training center for healthcare workers of Roman Catholic organizations from all over India, around 48 people (mostly nuns) attended and participated eagerly, committing themselves to become witnesses where God has placed them.
- ◊ I could also help in conducting a SALINE Process training at Chhatrapur hospital where Cherian (my husband) and I worked for nearly 15 years.

I was very eager to introduce the concept as a 'Taster' to my life group in the Church and opportunities have opened up for other hospitals. As I visited different centers in Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh, teaching SALINE, my understanding about it became more cemented and I returned home with a dream of all healthcare workers working as a new network of believers to be Salt & Light, cultivating and sowing into the lives of their patients. This will bring many who pass through our hospital doors, one step closer to the Lord, fulfilling the heartbeat of our Lord that 'None should perish'.

Sarah Cherian



OPPORTUNITIES

HERBERTPUR CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

Unit of Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) has been serving the people of the region of Uttarakhand and the neighbouring states of Himachal and UP for the past 82 years.

Over the years the hospital has developed into a secondary level center with all basic specialities including Medicine, Surgery, OBG, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Dermatology, ENT, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry and Physical medical & Rehabilitation.

- ◊ We have a busy ER with a lot of critically ill patients coming in.
- ◊ We are in close coordination with the community health and development unit which focuses on disability and mental health.
- ◊ We have a robust community with an intentional focus on nurturing fellowship and interdependence.
- ◊ The spiritual life in the campus is very vibrant with emphasis on youth and growing/ learning together through cottage group.

God has provided us with enough doctors in the past. But this year we are in acute need of junior medical officers. The junior medical officers who come here become confident in managing any emergency, they become confident to lead a team and communicate well. They grow spiritually and as a person. We understand the need for the junior doctors to prepare for their PG entrance exams. Hence, we are planning to have satellite courses with other units of EHA and give the Junior doctors time to prepare.

We would be available to clarify any further queries.

Dr Viju John - 9897201592

Dr Mathew Samuel (Managing Director) - 9837940922

Mr Thomas Kurien (Administrator) - 9559930107

SCHIEFFELIN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH - RESEARCH AND LEPROSY CENTRE KARIGIRI - 632 106

Invites applications for the following posts

NAME OF THE POSTS / QUALIFICATIONS

Dermatologist: MD / DD or DNB
 Paediatrician: MD / DCH (Paediatrics)
 Orthopaedic Surgeon: MS (Ortho) or D Ortho.
 Medical Officer: MBBS

- ◊ Salary commensurate with qualifications and Experience
- ◊ Family quarters provided

Apply with detailed bio-data along with photocopies of certificates to:
 The Director, S.I.H - R & LC, Karigiri, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu - 632 106.

E MAIL: director@karigiri.org
 TELEPHONE: 0416 - 2274235

THE LEPROCY MISSION HOSPITAL

HOSPITALS & LOCATIONS

TLM Naini, Allahabad, UP
 TLM Barabanki, Lucknow, UP
 TLM Shadara, New Delhi

TLM Faizabad, UP
 TLM Kolkata, WB

TLM Purulia, WB

TLM Salur, AP
 TLM Muzaffarpur, Bihar
 TLM Champa, Chattisgarh
 TLM Chandkuri, Chattisgarh
 TLM Dayapuram, TN

DOCTORS REQUIRED

Medical Officers.
 Dermatologist, Medical Officers
 Medical Officers, Physician (General Medicine)
 Gynaecologist, Medical Officers
 Dermatologist, Orthopedician,
 Laboratory Technician
 Dermatologist, Ophthalmologist,
 Medical Officers
 General Surgeon, Medical Officers
 Dermatologists
 Medical Officers
 Medical Officers.
 Dermatologist



URGENT NEED FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN MAHARASHTRA

CMC Vellore has joined hands with the Emmanuel Hospital Association in a joint effort to revive a hospital in the Vidharba region of Maharashtra.

We have all heard or read about Vidharba, the region where the maximum number of farmer suicides have taken place in recent times; a place of great need, where it is well within our power to bring about improved health among the local, agrarian communities.

This is an urgent call to medical professionals of all branches to respond with open hearts and willing hands. All that it takes is for a few bold ones who would use either their sabbatical, one year, one month or even a few weeks, for the service of the desperate and marginalised communities of Vidharba; a willing few who understand that in reaching out to those living out their lives in silent misery, the giver is blessed much more than those who receive. A long term commitment will make a life time change. You could be in any of these group. God sees the heart.

We look to you for your support.

"The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live" - Ethel Percy Andrus

For more information, please contact the Missions Department, Directorate, CMC, Vellore (0416-2286117 / 6121) or email us at missionsoffice@cmcvellore.ac.in.

JUNIOR DOCTORS IN RURAL MISSIONS IN THE ERA OF NEET

At Madhipura Christian Hospital, the leadership team has been thinking together about how we could best mentor and nurture young doctors who approach us with a desire to work in Missions.

We strongly feel that ALL young Christian doctors should spend some time in rural mission hospitals.

- ◊ Many young doctors graduate without having the opportunity, in their medical colleges, to pick up essential clinical skills. Many have never examined patients, performed basic procedures, conducted deliveries, ordered lab investigations or prescribed drugs independently. Mission hospitals can provide them with the opportunity to develop into well-rounded doctors. This is true, even if they subsequently decide to move into non-clinical areas, like pre and para-clinical teaching, research, or public health.
- ◊ Working in rural India can be a great eye-opener to young Christians who have hitherto led sheltered lives. They will be exposed to health realities and the actual health needs of the country. They will observe firsthand the effects of the 'social determinants of health', like the widening gap between the rich and poor, the effects of the caste system, the status of women, the effects of illiteracy and poverty, and so on. This will help them grow into caring, informed and relevant health-care professionals.
- ◊ As they use their knowledge and skills to impact hundreds of poor patients, they will be an important part of the Christian effort to correct inequity and injustice in the distribution of healthcare in India. They will be working towards repaying their debt to the many hundreds of poor patients from whom they have learnt medicine.
- ◊ Most importantly, a stint in mission hospitals gives them the opportunity to be a part of something exciting and satisfying as they seek God's Kingdom and glory and become a part of Jesus' redemptive work in healthcare. This experience can help in their formation as disciples of Jesus who will subsequently be able to work for Him in whichever sphere of healthcare they are led to practice.

At the same time, we realise that these junior doctors are under immense pressure to get into a postgraduate training program. Many of us who worked previously as junior doctors in EHA, had an advantage in the CMC entrance exam, because it was a very practical, patient-care oriented exam, and those who had actually worked with patients were at an advantage. Now, however, NEET is quite theoretical, and it is understandable why junior doctors might feel they would rather spend time in a library or at home or attending coaching classes, studying exclusively, without working in a hospital.

How can we be a caring community to the young doctors who join mission hospitals?

At Madhipura Christian Hospital (MCH), we are piloting some of the following ideas to demonstrate our commitment to the best interests of these doctors. Perhaps, some of these, or similar ideas could be used in mission hospitals all across the country in the changing scenario.

- ◊ JMOs who have been on night duty in MCH complete morning rounds and discharge summaries, and are then encouraged to spend protected time in the morning hours studying and reading, needing to report to the OPD only at 12 noon.
- ◊ The hospital pays for a subscription to online NEET coaching for students who have completed at least one year in MCH. (we are currently using the videos at www.drmentors.com, but other options are available as well). This arrangement permits all the junior doctors to watch the teaching videos together, while those who have completed one year can also appear for online competitive tests to assess their performance and countrywide ranking.
- ◊ Every evening, between 4.30 and 5.30pm, the junior medical officers have protected time to watch these coaching videos, do group discussion, solve MCQs together and so on. The consultants run the hospital during this time.
- ◊ The consultants have committed to conducting one teaching rounds, one class and one seminar per week, in addition to training the junior doctors in skills like performing surgeries, deliveries and Caesareans, use of the ultrasound machine, and so on.
- ◊ Lastly, the consultants have committed to being caring mentors to the junior doctors, investing in them so that they develop missional thinking and a spiritual skill-set that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

Of course, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating", and we will know we have been successful if our junior doctors get into PG courses and serve as Shalom-makers wherever God takes them subsequently. However, regardless of that outcome, we can pray that their time in Madhipura will be life-changing and a great blessing to them.

Pradeep Ninan
pjninan@gmail.com

We are three scrooges who sit in the EMFI office: Jacob, Jabez and Nanditha. The fourth is a 66-year-old Karunaharan. He keeps us all in good humour with his light-hearted wit and several hot cups of tea (and occasional snacks). The General Secretary is like an ever-absent father crisscrossing the length and breadth of this country! When Raji strolls in on Tuesdays and Thursdays there is unending conversations and laughter as she badgers Jabez with her to-do list.

It is difficult to describe a typical day at the office. Sometimes it feels like the railway station with someone arriving or leaving. On other days it feels like we are monotonously banging away at the keyboard all day! Then, the newsletter has to be sent out and we are all pouring over heaps of paper and envelopes...almost two thousand copies strewn all over the place! There are days we are doing some spring cleaning to accommodate a meeting at the office, be it a board meet or some graduates study or some special guest. After a special program on a weekend, we are all blurry-eyed on Monday and prefer to chat about the weather and catch up on family gossip before getting caught up in the whirlwind of activities again.

But jokes aside, what keeps us going is the fact that we are all very involved with the staff and the field. We know what's happening! We pray for the programs. We are concerned when a staff is ill. We know when some of them are feeling tired and discouraged. We feel their struggles and pain. We also experience the joy of students responding to God through the programs planned for them. We are equally thrilled when we get some feedback. Our work doesn't end with the pen, paper or the keyboard, files and figures. And so, in some sense, we are mentally travelling many roads with the field staff and the work in the country! Our lives are tied up with the larger constituency as we remember them in prayer and keep in touch. We have hard moments when we are approaching salary day and the coffers are only half full! Yet we move from month to month and our faith has been strengthened.

We have been a witness to a great movement in our country with the medicos and are privileged to be a part of this engine room.

The office staff team

TEACHING AS MISSION- A CALL TO BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

The practice of medicine is undergoing rapid and radical changes in India. There are many challenges this brings to the health scenario in the country.

- ◊ In the current economic climate of the country, the gap between the poor and the rich is rapidly widening. It is a painful reality that 50 million Indians are pushed into poverty each year due to health care expense. Medicine has moved from of Christian missions that were sensitive to the needs of the poor and were pro-poor in their philosophy; to the hospitals that are run with profit as their bottom line. Students and postgraduate residents are not trained to be sensitive to the economic status of the patients. According to the Multidimensional poverty index of 2016, nearly 54% of the Indian population is multi-dimensionally poor. Who will influence our medical students and trainees to be aware of this and practice affordable and accessible medicine? How will they practice this, unless they observe and learn from their teachers?
- ◊ Unethical practices, unnecessary investigations, kickbacks from labs and other doctors, inappropriate procedures etc. are a growing problem. Students do not have many teachers who model ethical practice. We need Christians in teaching hospitals who will demonstrate ethical behaviour. A recent news item in a prominent newspaper in Kerala published the story of a patient who went to a district hospital. The father of the patient expected the staff to take a bribe for the surgery. But many turned down the money he offered. One doctor told him that he was a follower of Jesus and does not take money other than what the government pays him. This particular doctor later testified that it was the influence of a dentist in his life as a medical student, that enabled him to do this. The many hours of mentoring paid off and the Lord's Name was glorified. Do we see an opportunity here? Medical education is a key area to bring a change. Merely teaching of ethics is not enough to bring changes in students. As a student of Christian Medical College, Vellore commented, "We will hear what you say, but we will do what we see."
- ◊ The doctors today, do not receive training on how to approach the patient and be sensitive to the physical, psychological, social and spiritual aspects of health. This lack of sensitivity to the person and a narrow focus on the disease has caused a breakdown of the doctor-patient relationship in India and is the cause of an increase in violence against the medical profession. They need to learn that human beings are not just cells, tissues and organs with a mind, but persons who have a body, a mind and a spirit, and to integrate this reality into their practice..
- ◊ Though ethics informs us what to do, it is the values that inform us why we should behave the way we should behave. As Christian dentists and doctors, we can instil the Biblical values of compassion, intrinsic worth of each person created in the image of God, integrity, humility etc. in students.

There is an urgent need for Christian medical educators to be actively involved in modelling, teaching and mentoring medical students to be Christ-like in their values and the practice of medicine in government and private medical colleges, the Christian medical colleges, those training DNB residents in private institutions and the mission hospitals with DNB training programs.

Those who teach in various roles should have this sense of mission and call, and to teach like Jesus and be excellent in their academic credentials and be models to the students. As a response to this need, a medical educators desk was formed for EMFI to bring together Christian medical educators in India. The purpose of this desk would be:

- ◊ To bring together Christian doctors and dentists who teach in different capacities
- ◊ To enable them to catch the vision of Teaching like Jesus, building His Kingdom in medical education wherever God calls them
- ◊ To support one another and share the challenges of being Christian medical educators in India
- ◊ To share resources that would enable them to improve their skills and be salt and light in medical education
- ◊ To be channels of blessing to their places of work
- ◊ To mentor Christian medical students and residents
- ◊ To encourage and empower students and junior doctors to take up teaching as a mission
- ◊ To establish a network of mentoring in the teaching hospitals where the faculty will proactively mentor students who will mentor others
- ◊ To collaborate with other organisations with the same vision such as PRIME International
- ◊ To organize conferences for Christian medical educators.

As a first step, we would like to make a registry of the Christian doctors and dentists who would like to be part of this. If you are involved in teaching and are interested to be part of this venture, please contact me in the email id given below

In the Lord's service

Dr Sunil Abraham, Professor
Department of Family Medicine
Christian Medical College, Vellore
sunil.george.abraham@gmail.com



TAMIL NADU STATE MISSIONS CONFERENCE (PACHALUR CAMP)

MARCH 2018



This year's Pachalur camp was held from 30th March to 1st April 2018 at CF Ashram, Pachalur, Tamil Nadu. There were 96 students registered for the camp. The theme for the conference was 'Unshackled to serve', taken from 1 Peter 2: 9. The students from the Medical Colleges of Chennai (Madras Medical College, Stanley Medical College and Chettinad Medical College) organised the conference. The speakers served the students with rich spiritual food along with their testimonies which in turn was a great blessing. Many committed their lives for mission and most of them were revived after attending the camp. The main speakers for the camp were: Dr Kuruvilla Varkey, Dr Susheel Tharien, Dr Latha Paul, Dr Samuel Sidhartha, Dr Benedict, Dr Pauline, Dr Timothy, Dr Bina, Dr Immanuel, Dr Isaac, Dr Berin and Mrs Hannah Alex. The arrangements were perfectly done and the food was wonderful. We are grateful to the staff at CF Hospital and Ashram, who worked behind the scenes to make the camp a blessing. We praise God for the wonderful camp and pray that the seeds sown in the hearts of the students will bear much fruit for His kingdom in the days to come.

Linu Zacharia
EMFI



PRaise GOD FOR

- ◊ The young couples who could attend the marriage enrichment seminars at SU Cornerstone, in February and March
- ◊ The medical students from the colleges who could attend the one day retreat on basic biblical doctrines, 'DOWNLOAD' at Chennai in March
- ◊ The fruitful time of planning and deliberations that the Executive Committee had at Nagpur in February
- ◊ The time of planning and prayer that the EMFI staff could have at Nagpur during the Staff meet in February
- ◊ The doctors who have begun meeting on a regular basis at the EMFI national office in Chennai for a time of fellowship and prayer
- ◊ The many students who could attend the week-long foundational course on Medical Mission called IMM (Institute on Medical Missions) at Asha Kiran Hospital, Lamtaput, Orissa and Oddanchatram, Tamil Nadu in March
- ◊ The 96 students who could attend the Tamil Nadu state Missions conference, 'PACHALUR CAMP' held at CF Ashram, Pachalur, Tamil Nadu in March
- ◊ The students who could attend the Karnataka State conference held at Bangalore in April



- ◊ 15th April: Zonal meeting for graduates and student leaders of Southern Andhra Pradesh
- ◊ 14th - 17th June: Andhra Pradesh & Telangana state conference at Vishakapatnam
- ◊ 23rd - 26th August: XVI ICMDA World Congress for doctors and students at Hyderabad



THE BELIEVER-DISCIPLE

'I thought he was a believer. His parents told me that he was a believer. But what a blunder I have made!'. Do these words sound familiar? Again, we hear in another scenario, 'I took her for this job thinking she was a believer. I made an error of judgement. She is proving to be a bad influence in the workplace'. What went wrong? How do we make out a believer? No fool is going to say 'I am an unbeliever'! Even the demons say 'You are the Holy one of God!'

We would do well to begin thinking in terms of a 'Believer-Disciple'. It is not a good term because when I say 'I am a believer' then I am also a follower, a disciple of the Lord. But the experience of ourselves and that of many whom we see around us shows that there can be gross errors of judgement. If we define a believer as a person who believes that the Lord Jesus died for my sin and rose again from the dead, then we are definitely right. But stopping here in our own lives and while making long-term covenants, we will do well to ask whether this believer is a disciple.

The primary call of the lord was 'Follow me', to be a disciple. As his disciples followed him, they learnt from him about his death and resurrection, and the new life, the eternal life in him. And they continued to follow him, now in ways more radical than before. Why is it different with us? A disciple of Jesus Christ now is a believer who has made life's decisions based on the platform of what he/she believes in. Our platform is the death, resurrection, the outpouring-indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the life and the teachings of the Lord concerning our whole life.

A believer-disciple applies the teachings of our Lord Jesus in all the areas of his/her life. Family, work, social, and personal and other areas. He/she grapples with life's decisions in the light of his words about all these areas and his/her goals is that of our Lord. How else can it be? So, let us ask those questions concerning our work including place of work, type of payments, over the table and under, missions and commissions, the time we agreed upon and time we work etc. Let us ask the questions of how we treat our spouses and nurture our children. Let us see in what streams we flow in society.

The Believer-disciple follows the Lord in all things. He may stumble and fall. She may groan that these commands are impossible. But they go on asking the Lord for strength and proceed. They engage in the battle. Yes, they take knocks, but they are not cast down. So, let us ask those careful questions to probe ourselves first and then others with whom we develop long-term arrangements in work or marriage or other important agreements. Let us be diligent and vigilant. Let us be a 'believer-disciple' and associate with 'believer-disciples' and let us make 'believer-disciples.' For he said just before he left '...and teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you'.

All Glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Samuel Siddhartha

TREASURER'S NOTE

In 1 Peter 3:7-10, Peter exhorts the believers to be alert and of sober mind in order to be able to pray, to love each other deeply and to offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. He goes on to say that each of us should use whatever gifts we have received from God to serve others. We have just gone through the period of Lent and Easter when we meditated on the greatest gift of all - God's only Son. Let us examine ourselves to see whether we are using all the resources that we have to build up God's Kingdom on earth.

Grace Thomas

FINANCIAL UPDATE

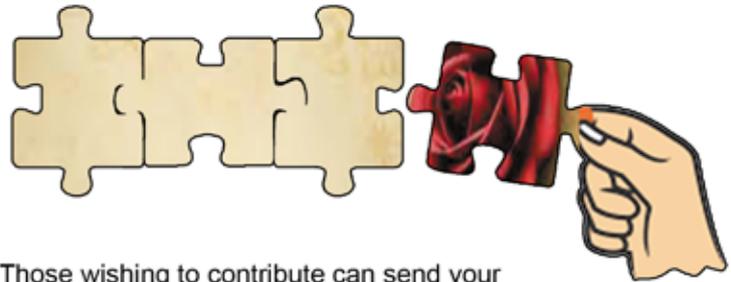
MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSE
NOVEMBER	679325	761156
DECEMBER	935283	766886
JANUARY	711800	713364
FEBRUARY	563043	737252

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- APPLIED DISCIPLESHIP IN HEALTHCARE
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Look out for further deliberations on each 'Focus' points in the forthcoming issues of the Far & Near.



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