



Far and Near

2019 | FIRST QUARTER

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

Chairman's Letter

SHOULD THE BASIN AND THE WHIP CO-EXIST?

I am not sure if you are as confused as I am to see many different characterisations of leadership. Among Christians, the 'servant leadership' model is popular and is generally considered as the only model of leadership.

However, we see several other types of leadership described: autocratic leadership, facilitatory leadership, courageous leadership, transformative leadership, visionary leadership, strategic leadership, laissez-faire leadership and on and on. Which one should I adopt? Did Jesus follow only one model? We look at Jesus, and we see his leadership style was contextual. He practised a range of leadership styles.

When he was at the Cana wedding or when he was feeding the five thousand, he was a charismatic leader. To Bartimaeus and to many others who needed healing, he was a compassionate leader. When he sent out his disciples to heal the sick and drive out demons, he was a leader who delegated his work. When he washed the feet of his disciples, he demonstrated servant leadership. To the Samaritan woman, he was a transformative leader. To the Pharisees, he was a rebel and an anti-establishment leader.

In the painting, 'Christ driving the money changers from the temple', Rembrandt portrays an angry Christ. Jesus appears outraged. He is violent with his whip, chasing out traders and overturning tables in the temple. He exhibits absolute leadership.

It is apparent that Jesus does not fit into any particular leadership style. He responded decisively to each context differently but appropriately.

We are often led to believe our leadership style should be one or the other. But the example of Jesus teaches us precisely the opposite. Our leadership to be effective has to be contextual. Jesus used leadership as a tool. To be effective, the tool has to be appropriate for the occasion. The same leadership type will not have the same effectiveness in all situations.

Each context calls for a different form of leadership, and each has a differing impact on the people and the organisation.

Often we are guilty of not using the appropriate style of leadership. We use the whip when we should be taking the basin and the towel. Or we use the basin when a whip is more appropriate. When a courageous leadership is called for, we turn into laissez-faire leaders.



'Christ driving the money changers from the temple',
by Rembrandt van Rijn

The painting challenges us to refuse to be boxed in by any one particular type of leadership. Each situation calls for a deliberate choice. It must be a well-considered, decisive choice as it was to Jesus. It was his choice to show compassion, it was his choice to criticise the Pharisees, it was his choice to take the whip and, it was his choice to surrender himself to the authorities.

As we enter this season of Lent, we see the intensity of his anger directed at those who desecrate his 'Father's house.' We also see his determination in surrendering himself.

Aren't we called to hold these together?

- Varghese Philip

Highlights from the staff

KT PAUL: Coordinator – North India writes:

I am grateful to God for using me for His purposes in the past 25 years with EMFI. It was a challenge to leave Helen with a high fever on the night of 31st Dec '93, obeying the GENTLE VOICE that said: "Go I will take care of her". Till date, the GENTLE SHEPHERD (Genesis 48: 15) has never let us down. Surgeries or illnesses forced me to rest whenever I was exhausted. I am grateful to God for Helen's quiet contribution in every way. I have also been blessed by good role models within the family of EMFI who have inspired me and also for the love, encouragement and their support that sustained me through the journey. I have grown in Christ and changed and continue to do so. I am indeed privileged to be used as a family to invest in individuals and families. I Covet your prayers for grace to go on as the journey gets tougher with health issues.

THANK YOU ALL.

CHANDY ISSAC meets with the students of a Dental College in Bangalore. Here is a write up from Dr. Eva John of that college:

"God makes everything happen at the right time."
Ecclesiastes 2:1

When we look back over the years, as young people, we see God's provision and faithfulness in our lives. In midst of all the doubts, trials and tribulations that we experience, He has been steadfast in reminding us of his unconditional love. Last year, as a part of sharing the gospel, we organised a Christmas party for the students of our college.

During the preparatory phase, we faced many challenges; viz Financial constraints, misconception of the students regarding prayer meetings, organisational trials etc. We placed these issues before God and kept praying incessantly for his divine intervention. He kept encouraging us and gave this verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths". (Proverbs 3:5,6)

All our anxiety was washed away by His grace and providence.

The day proved to be a blessing for all who attended, touching hearts, sowing the seed of the word of God in their minds. The attendance was beyond our expectation and we could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit moving in our midst. True to the promise of God, everything went on smoothly. Teaching us to trust God resolutely and not our own way of thinking and reasoning. Certainly, we saw God's hand in everything we had done at every point till then. "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you". (Mathew 7:7).

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Bangalore



Madurai



MICHAEL SUNDERSINGH writes:

Psalms 32: 8 (ESV)

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”

This is one of the promises of our Lord for His guidance and care to His children.

From the time of entry into full-time ministry in April 1981 until date, God has proven His faithfulness to guide and keep me. Whenever I was confronted by the dilemma to stay or quit, the encouraging words of the Holy Spirit reminded me “It is His work, the Doer is the Lord Himself and I am only a tool, which belongs to Him”.

His Hands sustained us and Grace (my wife) could have her eye surgery, my brother could care for our mother, my son Gabriel & his wife Mercy could settle in a miraculous way. Words are not enough to share of Jehovah Rapha & Jireh.

The areas of ‘Spiritual Formation’ of students, ‘Spiritual Nurture’, ‘Mentoring’, ‘Follow-up to Disciple’ and train them as leaders have been our focus. Therefore, visiting colleges, hostels at Delhi and Ludhiana and, persuading the Doctors and seniors to give time and mentorship are the ongoing work that we do.

Few seniors at Delhi have taken on the responsibility of meeting students on a regular basis. However, we wish & pray eagerly that students themselves will feel responsible. When fellowship meetings lack participants God sends and adds on more students.

At Ludhiana, I try to keep in touch with the EHA Sponsored students and EU/EGF members at CMC through my visits spending time, encouraging and praying for them. In addition, I keep following up Graduates at Rajasthan and pray for new openings as this is one state with no mission hospital. Many students from the North East study here. Praise God the local graduates have reached them and are mentoring them.

BIBIN BENJOY writes:

The last year was a great year of exploration and of new openings. I was able to visit a new place, where I was able to meet some staff workers of UESI. They were very happy to have me and even introduced me to some students. Another opening that happened was in a medical college at Bangalore. We were able to have a good fellowship and the students are eager to have the next fellowship and to keep it alive. There were long and tiring travels, but it was worth it as I was able to witness how God was bringing people together for the sake of his glory.

Praise God for the new active fellowship happening in Belgaum where about 10 students are attending. Pray for Dr Sunitha who is leading the fellowship.

MV RAO shares his musings:

I am looking into my life in the light of the word of God. It penetrates deeply into my being, where the deadness of soul is evidently obstructing the life of the Spirit which is the word of God.

As I find my way into the campus hostels and doctors' cabins, I notice that they guise their spirituality with hypocrisy. Shallowness and deception rule people. How pathetic and pitiable is this state! Spiritless evangelism produces grumblers and fault-finders rather than seekers of the truth who needs to experience and enjoy the boundless life of Christ.

How often we need to bow down before Him, not for just a day or a night, but throughout, to plead with the Father in

heaven, to have mercy and to remove the veil over His face so that this generation of medical students and doctors will taste His goodness, righteousness and truth.

May our intimate relationship with Christ produce the highest moral excitement as we become a dwelling in which God lives through His Spirit. My prayer for each college fellowship is that we may gain at least a single person who can truly experience this transformation, so that he/she may transform many.

Pray that we may give the best that God expects from us as we host the 2019 EMFI State conference at Tirupati.

LINU writes of an answered prayer

For the past few months, we have been trying to start a fellowship in a medical college in South India. Though there are a lot of Christian students studying there they find it difficult to meet for the fellowship because of the ideologies of the management. There was hardly anyone interested also. We tried to connect with the students many times but were not able to do it because of the lack of interest in the students. Dr Jefferson and I had been praying for this need. Jefferson also had tried many times to get contact through his friends but was not successful. It was a matter of concern and we had prayed for this for many months in the last year. Thankfully, in the month of December, I got a call from a final year Medical student who got my number through her sister's friend who is a medical student. She said that she is desperate to start a fellowship and there are a couple of girls who meet in her room for prayer. I was very thrilled to hear this and the answer from the Lord came at a time when we had literally stopped praying. Praise God for this and please continue to pray for the growth of this fellowship. The Lord answers prayers in His time and in His way.

ANUP RANA: Field Partner – Orissa

Anup our new staff for EMFI has been visiting college campuses and also making valuable contacts among medical students and doctors. In the month of February, he was also able to visit many places in Orissa along with Dr Samuel Sidhartha and he has been very encouraged.

GEORGE SUCHIANG: Field Partner – North East India

Though George was unable to travel as much as he planned due to sickness in the family and other constraints, he has been encouraged by the response he has received from some of the fellowships that he visited. He writes, "Ten doctors attended the fellowship and we had a wonderful time sharing and learning from each other. We tried to make the message as practical as possible. A lot of discussion happened on how to be a Good Shephard in the medical profession. Some doctors also visited George and his wife Dafa in their home to encourage them. George has been greatly encouraged by this gesture.

George could also spend time individually with some students and guide and pray with them to face the struggles that they were undergoing.

SOLOMON TALARI: Field Partner – Andhra Pradesh

Solomon shares the word of God with great enthusiasm, knowing that God speaks through the WORD and that the Holy Spirit changes lives. The immediate recipients of his time are the students of Kurnool Medical college where he is able to teach systematically and spend time with individuals. He is with them at special times like their baptism. Solomon could visit the colleges at Ongole, Vijayawada, Eluru, Anantapur, Nandyal and Khammam. He attended the Christmas programs at Nandyal and Vijayawada. He was a part of the Kingdom of God seminar that Dr. Mathew George conducted in November and a planning meeting for the upcoming AP/TS conference in the home of MV Rao and Dr. Bharathi at Tirupathi in January. At Vijayawada, Dr. Noel John has often opened his home for the fellowship to meet. Solomon led a study from Acts on the 'Characteristics of Disciples' and applied them into the health care system and present situation of life. At Eluru, Khammam and Nellore also some young doctors have opened up their homes for student fellowships. It is such a blessing when graduates get involved in the lives of the students and open their homes for fellowship in spite of their very busy lives. Students are nurtured well under their guidance. In December, Solomon had to take off for a few days to rest as he had Typhoid. Thank God for His healing hand and enabling him to get back to routine.

DEVAKUMAR: Coordinator – Training

In trying to pen down a couple of highlights from the last year, I'm afraid I may not capture the moments and passion! As feedback from the Marriage enrichment seminar, one couple described the whole experience saying 'We have never had such insightful teachings on Marriage, having attended several marriage seminars in other parts of the world'. For Nanditha & me it made the whole Marriage seminars that EMFI was doing worth the effort. Six years of DOWNLOAD Programs was indeed a milestone for EMFI. That's a long haul! The aim of 'DOWNLOAD' was to bring back 'Biblical Foundational Truths', covering Biblical DOCTRINES, to counter the teaching dished out by the media. Many students have mentioned that it has helped them tremendously. At the Karnataka State conference, I had the privilege of leading 5 students in prayer to a personal commitment to Christ. What saddens my heart though is to see many students having very poor bible knowledge. So my resolve is to invest more on discipleship, start from the basics. The Lord hears & never forgets to answer. - God's raises and preserves HIS gems. I had the joy of meeting Drs Bhaskar & Shanthi at the office and had a wonderful time recalling their days here in Chennai. Their lives continue to challenge me. Their dedication astounds me; their simplicity amazes us & they wear their faith on their sleeves!

PRATIK SINDHU: Coordinator – Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh

In the midst of Madhya Pradesh recording the lowest temperature in many years, Pratik could visit Bilaspur, Indore, Bhopal and Raipur and encourage the students as well as the graduate families there. He is very encouraged to see the hunger the students have for the word of God though they were in the midst of exams. Pratik was sick due to the change in weather and was unable to travel for a few days because of this sickness. At Jabalpur, he could visit the students at night in their rooms and pray for them as they were preparing for their exams. At Bhopal, Pratik could meet with Dr Sam, Dr Bertha and Dr Prashanth and plan things.

Praise God For:



The many Christmas programs that were conducted in various college fellowships in the country.

The 40 students from the medical colleges in Chennai who attended the Download Program in December and had a blessed time of learning basic biblical doctrines.

The many students who attended the Institute of Medical Missions (IMM) programs at Asha Kiran Hospital, Lamtaput and CF Hospital, Oddanchatram

Many Saline Process seminars and Training of Trainers programs conducted in various parts of the country.

Pray for:



5th – 7th April: Karnataka state conference at Bangalore.

North East conference.

19th – 21st April: Tamil Nadu state conference at Pachalur hills, Oddanchatram.

27th April: EMFI Executive committee meeting at Chennai.

25th – 28th October: North India Conference at Delhi

Family News:



BIRTHS:

Drs Stephen and Sharon (Vellore) were blessed with a baby girl, Anugraha Rachel on 6th January

Drs Roopak and Rajini were blessed with a baby girl, Elisha on the 20th of January

Drs Naveen and Swetha were blessed with a baby girl Yasha Miriam Thomas on 13th February

WEDDING BELLS:

Dr Joel wed Dr Jenifer on 5th January at Ranipet, Tamil Nadu

THE FAITHFULNESS AND MERCIES OF GOD IN MY LIFE

a personal experience

The Bible mentions that GOD'S mercies are countless, new every morning and sustaining. "Through the Lord's mercies.. we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness". Lament 3 : 22 & 23.

I was born in a well-educated family. My parents were God-fearing, loving and caring. It has been the grace of God that had sustained me even in the earlier part of my life so that I had not only a good supportive family but God had provided me with good friends. I had accepted the Lord at an early age, committing my life to Him and becoming His child according to John 1:12. His mercy and grace saved me from bad company and wrong friends, both in school and college. I excelled not only in studies but in the sports as well, representing Cuddalore District for volleyball and cricket.

It was the grace of God that gave me medical seats both in CMC, Vellore and later at MMC, Chennai. At times I was stubborn and refused to hear His still small voice bidding me to do His will. I had taken certain wrong decisions, in spite of His persistent warnings. Yet due to His abundant mercies He took me under His wings and sheltered me. In John 10: 27 & 28, "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me"... "and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand." Thus, I was safe in His hands.

Though I thought of going abroad to continue my specialization it was His mercy that prevented me from going. God always has a purpose for allowing certain things in our lives. He had a ministry for me among the young medical students and His intention was to use me here in Chidambaram and is still using me in His vineyard as His servant.

It was God's mercy and grace that made me marry at the right time. He gave me a God fearing, understanding, prayerful, supportive life partner Dr. Vanitha Samuel now a professor of pharmacology at RMMCH, Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram. By His mercy He gave us two wonderful sons, John and Jeshurun. John is a doctor and Jeshurun a mechanical engineer.

Although both the children had grave health issues in their earlier years, it's the mercies of God that sustained them and brought them through, true to the verse in Ps 23: 4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Yes, in His great and abundant mercy He was with them and gave them life when they were close to death. It is the grace and mercy of God that sustained and helped my wife as she had to go through several surgeries.

It's the grace of God that



DR. BHASKER

He enabled me to join Tamil Nadu Government service and by his mercies I was promoted quickly to higher designations. As said in Ps. 75: 6 & 7 "Promotion comes neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South"... "but God is the Judge-you shall be the head nor the tail" In the meantime God helped me to finish MS Ophthal and D. Ophthal from MMC Chennai. Also, by His mercies that I was able to develop every Government hospital that I stepped into, be it a PHC, or a District Hospital. By the grace of God, the 32 bedded eye hospital in Cuddalore became a 52 bedded one. I was once transferred to another place for not signing according to the whims and fancies of the powerful people around but was duly reinstated within a week without even going to the new place proving the verse in 1st chronicles 16:9. He showed Himself strong on my behalf. God helped me to work hard in the government service performing many eye surgeries in the government hospitals and at times I was second in the state in performance which helped me to receive awards from collectors. I had been Head of the department of ophthalmology of our Cuddalore district since 2008 and serving as District programme manager for blindness control programme of the same period. Recently our GH Cuddalore has been chosen as DNB ophthalmology training center fulfilling the dream for me to become a teacher. Many rose to spoil the reputation which God was giving but they only disappeared from the scene without any effort from me. Recently, I was given an award as one of the best doctors among the government doctors by the Tamil Nadu government. His grace helps me to be punctual in my duties entering the hospital before any assistant surgeons come and not leaving the hospital before the end of duty hours. At one time, Vikatan a Tamil weekly magazine took a survey among the people about the trustworthy departments in govt hospitals and our eye department at GH Cuddalore was chosen along with Coimbatore medical college eye department.

It's by His grace that He is using me in my church in various ministries for His glory. It's by His mercies that we were able to mentor and nurture medical students for the past 23 years to mature spiritually. Our sincere prayers are that the Lord would sustain us and our ministry by His mercy and grace till our end or His coming which ever takes place earlier. Let the "Grace and Truth that was in Jesus Christ," as said in John 1:14 become true in our lives also. What little we do for Him we pray that it will bring glory and honor to His name, Amen.

Reflections from the General Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters

It is a joy to greet you in this first edition of Far and Near in 2019. The Lord has been abundant in His mercy during the last year and till now, giving us all the opportunity to partner in His purposes for this nation through the field of Healthcare. Many groups have been added to the fellowship of EMFI during the last year. As we expand it would also be good to reflect on the founding purposes, aims, vision and Mission of EMFI so that we are reminded and refreshed and put these things into effect. With this in mind, the following summary has been prepared. We would like to encourage each member to read this prayerfully and reflect upon the responsibility that lies upon each member of EMFI. We pray for His grace upon us all and upon all those whom we serve.

PURPOSE OF EMFI

'... a fellowship has been formed among the Christian members of the Medical and Dental profession of India with the intention of promoting holistic medical service among the poor, needy and unreached in India in the name of Jesus Christ'. (Trust Deed of EMFI, 1990)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF EMFI: (TRUST DEED OF EMFI 1990)

1. To promote the holistic healing ministry to meet the needs of the poor, needy and unreached in the name of Jesus Christ;

To help members recognise their profession as a calling from God and to regard the care of the patient as an expression of God's love; To seek to understand the emphasis of Jesus Christ in the healing of the whole person; and to express God's authority in the moral aspects of medical practice.

2. To provide fellowship for Christian members of the medical profession and unite them in their common loyalty to Jesus Christ, endeavouring to establish the highest attainable standards of Christian life and professional ethics.

3. To witness primarily to those in the Medical profession of the need for a personal commitment to Jesus as Saviour, Lord and God through the new birth, to encourage evangelism in the medical colleges and to strengthen the work of UESI in the colleges.

4. To present the medical missionary needs at home addressed to students and graduates, to encourage them to respond to God's call and to strengthen the medical missionary enterprise in India.

(Keywords: *Personal relationship with Christ, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, Pro-poorness, whole person care, medicine as a vocation, medical ethics, medical missionary needs*)

DOCTRINAL BASIS

1. The Unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.

2. The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment.

3. The divine inspiration and infallibility of the Holy Scripture (by which we understand the 66 books of the bible) as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

5. Redemption from guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death (as our representative and substitute of Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God).

6. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

7. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ.

8. The indwelling and the work of the Lord in the believer

9. The one holy, universal Church, which is the body of Christ and to which all true believers belong;

10. The expectation of the personal return of Jesus Christ.

EMFI is an inter-denominational fellowship of Christian medical/dental students and doctors of evangelical faith, having an experience of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord. The membership is open to all Medical and Dental practitioners registered in India and Clinical Medical and Dental students who subscribe to the aims and doctrinal basis of the fellowship and sign the following declaration of membership.

'I subscribe whole-heartedly to the Aims and Doctrinal basis of the EMFI and solemnly affirm that I have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, Lord and God.'

OUR VISION

Christ's transforming presence in Healthcare and Nation through Christ Centred Medical Professionals.

OUR MISSION

We are followers of Christ in the practice of Medicine and Dentistry, who foster fellowship and enable Christ-centred living, caring service and ethical practice, thus promoting wholeness of life.

KEY FOCUS AREAS OF EMFI

- **Fellowship:** Growing in fellowship with Christ and one another, by developing caring communities.
- **Discipleship:** Enabling Christian medical students and graduates to grow and mature in Christ.
- **Ethics:** Enabling Christian medical students and doctors to be equipped to recognize the ethical components of Healthcare and applying them in their clinical practice. (Christian ethics can be considered as 'applied discipleship' in Healthcare)
- **Leadership:** Initiating and facilitating the emergence and the growth of Christ-like leaders.
- **Missions:** Envisioning and facilitating Christian Medical and Dental professionals to intentionally involve in God's mission in all sectors of Healthcare.

INTERPRETATIVE AND FUNCTIONAL KEYS THAT HAVE EMERGED INCLUDE

- The Kingdom of God
- Applied discipleship
- Pro-poorness
- Building of Vibrant families
- Evangelism

In EMFI the burden for holistic medical service to the poor, needy and unreached in India is mingled with the concern for evangelism and discipleship of students and graduates. In fact, it envisions that such discipleship will transform healthcare in a way which will not ignore the cry of the poor, but transform the situation towards equitable healthcare and a sharing in eternal life. It calls for us to think what the Kingdom of God means to Healthcare. It calls for 'applied discipleship in healthcare' which involves ethics and high standards of professional work. It envisions Christ's presence itself ruling over Healthcare of India. This calls for prayer, faith and action. It calls for accepting that these things are given to us by the Lord. It encourages us to engage with them in the guidance and power of His Holy Spirit and in doing so we hope that this will bring transformation in our Land, a transformation that will be life today and for eternity.

'Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?'

— Mathew 6: 26

Treasurer's Note



Dear Friends,

God has been faithful all through the years from the inception and EMFI looks to God in faith for its financial needs and is supported by voluntary contributions from members and well-wishers.

Supporting EMFI through periodic/regular contributions has been a desire of many of our friends expressed over a period time. Let us look to God in bringing the desire into reality.

You can take part in this initiative as an individual or as a facilitator in your place/region. Please contact EMFI Headquarters for more information in this regard.

- Dr Sukumar Chitturi

Financial Update

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSE
NOVEMBER	1090308	826658
DECEMBER	974920	775940
JANUARY	992057	843856
FEBRUARY	596616	1008799

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

State Bank of India

Current A/c No: 35465591006

(Branch Code: 2288, IFSC: SBIN0002288)

HDFC Bank A/c No: 04921000009885

(Branch Code: 492, IFSC: HDFC0000492)

You can also make direct online payment by visiting our website www.emfi.in and clicking on the DONATE NOW button*

*EMFI is charged 2.5% service charge for every transaction

*Please call/Text/Email us after you make the transaction.
09176215489/90, emfihq@gmail.com