

SECOND QUARTER 2017

# FAR & NEAR

**Vision:** Christ's transforming presence in Healthcare and the nation through Christ-centered medical professionals.

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

These series of wall frescos known as 'Renunciation of Worldly Goods' by Giotto di Bondone (1267-1337) depicting the life of St. Francis of Assisi are still preserved at the main Chapel of Saint Franciscan Church in Montefalco, not very far from the town of Assisi in Italy. Giotto had a great influence on all the Renaissance painters who followed him. Even Michael Angelo is supposed to have studied Giotto's art.

Francis Bernardone grew up in the town of Assisi. His father, Pietro, was a wealthy silk merchant. His ordinary life in the town and his service in the army did nothing to stop his disillusionment. He began embracing the poor, the lepers and gave generously. Once while he was praying in the ruined church of St. Damian he heard a voice which said, "Francis, seest thou not that my house is in ruins? Go and restore it for me." Francis took it to mean that God wanted him to restore ruined churches. Immediately, he got down to the task of rebuilding churches. For this he raised money by selling off his father's silks and other possessions. His father was mad at him. He put him under lock and key in a dungeon and treated him Like a thief.



This was the darkest moment in Francis' life. But there, something changed within him. His father brought him before the Bishop of Assisi. The Bishop wanted Francis to restore all that he had squandered. At once, before all those gathered, Francis said: "Upto this time I have called Pietro Bernardone my father, henceforth I will say 'Our Father who art in Heaven'." With that, he shed his clothes and threw whatever money he had on the pile of clothes. As he stood naked, the Bishop covered him with his garment and blessed him. Then with very little clothing he walked out into the freezing world outside and into freedom.

A millennium after his death, Francis of Assisi continues to challenge us. His decisive act of breaking free from all entanglements was a result of radical surrender and deep engagement with God. The incredible freedom that we experience when nothing else matters except Christ and His Kingdom is truly amazing and truly liberating.

– Varghese Philip



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM STAFF

## **DEVAKUMAR - Coordinator, Training**

Planning and preparing for marriage enrichment seminars has not been an easy task as he is never sure till the end if the couples would turn up. Yet God has enabled Deva to hold one in February from 17th to 19th and a pre-marriage seminar on the 12th of March at CMC for students. While at CMC, Vellore, Deva was able to participate in different Bible study groups like the EU group, others that meet in Drs. David Chase and Suchita's home, Drs. Prasad and Jiji's home, Drs. Deepak and Elsie's home and the one that meets in the dental department. He was also able to meet many on a one-on-one basis. At Bangalore, he could meet the dental fellowship group at Bro. Chandy's home and also attend the State conference in April. Planning for the Pachalur camp is a mammoth effort and begins a couple of months earlier in order to get the right speakers and coordinate the theme and then the planning group. Linu was requested to take charge of the camp which was a blessed one.

## **MICHAEL SUNDERSINGH - Coordinator, Pastoral Care**

Michael was able to visit the college fellowships in Delhi encouraging the students and also guiding them. Michael and Grace could also meet with some of the doctors transiting in Delhi and minister to them. They are also involved in helping some young doctors find their life partners. Michael and Grace continue to do this in spite of it being a tiring and tedious process. Other than this Michael continues to visit and encourage leaders at the EHA central office and also work with other like-minded organisations like EFICOR. He is also actively involved in training programs conducted for pastors in his church.

## **KT PAUL: Coordinator - North India**

As usual, our Bro. KT did his whirlwind tour of Agra, Jaipur and Udaipur. Then after a short breather at home in Satbarwa, he visited Ranchi, Tura, Shillong and Jowai in the month of March. Besides visiting the college fellowships, his strength lies in spending time with individuals and couples. In the heat of May too he visited Allahabad, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Agra and Delhi. He is also very involved with the EHA unit he is based in. He was able to accompany Helen as she had to travel to other units and help in sorting major issues. God gives KT and Helen much wisdom to handle difficult conflict situations. They are a blessing to many. He has also visited Hapur, Champa, and Barharwa.

## **PRATIK SINDHU : Coordinator - Madhya Pradesh & Chhatisgarh**

February began with the Prayer conference at Lalitpur which personally encouraged Pratik. After the staff meeting he was able to visit Bilaspur and later went along with a 'Timothy' to Raigarh where he spent time with a graduate and some students. Pratik is always concerned for his sheep and often requests us to pray for persons he is concerned about. Please pray for God to continue to give Pratik the wisdom to counsel young people through the problems they encounter. In March, once again Pratik took another 'Timothy' along. They went to Bhopal and had a great time of ministry. Then he received news that his wife Nalini and the children had a road accident and that Nalini had fractured her collar bone and dislocated her shoulder. She had to undergo surgery. Pratik had to rush back. In spite of their trials they can see the hand of God on their family through all the pain and struggles and are grateful to their family and the family of God who helped them during this time.

## **BIBIN BENOY - Field Partner, Karnataka**

Bibin was able to mobilise and motivate prayer and organize the state conference. He visited fellowships in Hubli, Bagalkot, Bijapur and Davangere and encouraged them to participate in the conference at Bangalore. He was encouraged to see the receptiveness of the students in these fellowships. He could also visit and spend time with the graduates in these places.



**SOLOMON RAJU - Field Partner,  
Andhra Pradesh**

Solomon visited the fellowships at Kurnool, Ongole, Vijayawada and Anantapur in the past few months engaging the students in the study of Joshua and Esther. He was part of the Zonal retreat for AP & TS that was held at Vijayawada also where over a hundred students from different colleges attended. He could also visit Nellore and encourage a student who was tense with fear that she might fail in her exams. Apart from this Solomon has been able to meet and minister to the Interns individually.

**LINU ZACHARIAH - Field Partner, Tamil Nadu**

Linu was able to visit the colleges at Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Kanyakumari and Sivagangai in the past months encouraging the students in their spiritual walk with the Lord and also encouraging them to attend the Tamil Nadu state conference held at Pachalur, Oddanchatram. He has been engaging the students with topics like the Fear of God, How to deal with Sin etc. apart from the regular study of the book of Hosea. In many of the colleges that he visited the fellowship does not have a proper place to meet and he meets the students in canteens and bakeries. He covets your prayers so that they will be able to find suitable places where the fellowships can meet. Linu is also encouraged to see some of the new fellowships growing in faith and in numbers.

**GEORGE SUCHIANG - Field Partner,  
North East of India**

April began with the Shillong regional conference after much work and preparation had gone into it. The response was very encouraging. Besides that, George has been visiting NIGHRIMS, Guwahati and AMC. A noteworthy mention is George's visit to Jowai where Dr. Fernandez Lamin is pouring his heart into transforming the Government PHC that he works in to better the facilities and conditions of the PHC and the patients who come there. In April, George not only went to Guwahati but travelled as far as Dimapur. There he was able to meet several graduates and also plan for the Reload program in Tezpur.

**CHANDY ISSAC**

**Associate Staff, Karnataka**

Chandy was able to help coordinate the Karnataka state conference. This is what he writes about it, "Though the time was short the Lord brought together a good team who worked hard and coordinated all the ground work. We really experienced the guidance of the Lord in forming teams and assigning various responsibilities to specific people."

## **SALINE PROCESS—MAHARASHTRA**

Although I had been trained as a saline trainer twice, I really started getting involved in the saline process when my husband and I were transferred from Raxaul to Delhi in 2015. In March this year, Latha and I had the privilege of travelling through 6 cities in Maharashtra conducting saline workshops over a period of two weeks. For me, it felt like being in one of Paul's missionary journeys. The Lord's presence was so real, His grace, His protection, His provision and His strength was made richly available to us in many ways throughout our travels. Once we travelled by overnight bus from Nagpur to Nashik (14 hours) and immediately on arrival we had to start the workshop. I hadn't slept a wink and there was hardly any time to either freshen up or eat breakfast. But we prayed and started and I felt His strength filling and lifting me up. The entire workshop was a blessing and now we are looking forward to having a TOT in Maharashtra. The Lord is at work in India and there is much to be done. Won't you join us in prayer for our nation—especially Maharashtra?

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases  
His mercies never come to an end  
They are new every morning  
Great is thy faithfulness.

- Joanna Gokavi





## KARNATAKA STATE CONFERENCE

The Karnataka State conference, 'Uplift 2017' was held with the aim of strengthening our spiritual life as well as our ethical professional practice. Many students from colleges around Karnataka attended the conference. We were more than blessed to listen to the messages and testimonies shared.

Each day started off with a session of worship and a short message, which was followed by Group discussions. The games and icebreakers were the cherry on the cake. One night, an inspirational Christian movie was also screened. Through all these activities, we found ourselves getting closer to each other and at the same time getting closer to God . At the end of the 3rd day, students gave a reflection on the conference. This was followed by lunch and photo sessions. We learnt the fact that "When the going gets tough, the tough get going"

- Chacko Varghese  
Rajarajeswari Dental College



## NEWS

Doctor to lose license if C-Section rate exceeds 25 percent: MP State Woman Commission  
July 5, 2017

By: Meghna

Madhya Pradesh: If in a private or a government hospital, any doctor is found performing more than 25% of all deliveries by Caesarean Section in a period of 5 years, his/her license should be cancelled- Such is the recommendation made by the MP State Woman Commission to the state government, recently. The commission was seen responding to the rising rates of deliveries through Caesarean Section in the state and also rising complaints that gynecologists are indulging in the practice of unnecessary C-sections.

State commission, after going through figures of normal and Caesarean deliveries in MP, made certain recommendations including initiating action against doctors that indulge in this practice. The major recommendation stated that all the hospitals shall have to display figures of Caesarean deliveries of the hospital so that a pregnant woman could decide about the treating doctor.

For the Purpose of Action in case of violations, the Committee suggested an analysis of deliveries done during a 5 – year period, and actions would be according to the following:

Sr. No	% of Delivery Done by C-Section in a 5 year period	Recommended Action
1	Upto 15%	This is acceptable. No Action will be initiated
2	More than 15%, but less than 20%	Warning shall be issued
3	More than 20% but less than 25%	Fine upto Rs.5 lakhs
4	More than 25%	Fine upto Rs.5 lakhs

Speaking to Medical Dialogues Team, Mr. Pramod Dube, chief advisor to the committee that brought about the recommendations said, "There has been a sharp rise in deliveries through C-section in the recent past. These are our recommendations to the state. The government may act as it deemed fit. The complaints are rising by the day and our insistence is that, this issue of unwanted C-section be addressed by the government." Private hospitals perform more than thrice the number of C-section deliveries as compared to government hospitals, [data from National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16), released by the Union health ministry in the month of March 2017]

The data showed that Private hospitals carried out 40.9% caesarean sections (C-sections) as compared to 11.9% performed in government hospitals. The figures were a sharp rise from the previous survey figures which were 27.7% and 15.2% respectively. World Health Organisation recommends the "ideal rate" for caesarean sections to be between 10% and 15%

Doctor to lose license if C-Section rate exceeds 25 percent: MP State Woman Commission  
<http://medicaldialogues.in/doctor-to-lose-license-if-c-section-rate-exceeds-25-percent-mp-state-woman-commission/>  
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## PRAISE GOD FOR:

The One day retreats held at Tezpur and Chennai in June  
The students who attend the inter-college get-together at Bangalore  
The young couples who could attend the leadership / mentoring weekend workshop at Hyderabad in July  
(This is the third part of a series called 'Encounter With God' - EWG)  
The many students who could attend the Karnataka State Conference at Bangalore called 'UPLIFT'  
The young leaders who attended the AP-TS leaders meet held at Hyderabad in July  
The many SALINE PROCESS seminars held at Oddanchatram, Vishakapatnam, Hyderabad and Kerala  
Tamil Nadu state conference held at Pachalur, Oddanchatram in August  
One day retreat for colleges in North Karnataka held at Hubli in August  
Marriage Enrichment seminar at SU Cornerstone campus, Mahabalipuram, Chennai in August

## PRAY FOR

North India Regional Conference at Bhopal in October

## GROUND REALITIES - WHEN THE TYRE HITS THE ROAD

-Herold

I joined Asha Kiran Hospital (AKH) as a dentist in 2002 on invitation from Dr. Matthews Chacko. I had graduated and been into freelance dentistry practice for 2 years by then.

The preparation for mission work was laid down during college days through the MMC fellowship which was nurtured by Mr. P. Jebaraj, Mr. Balahan & Mr. P.C. Varghese (UESI), Dr. Sam David (EMFI), K. L. Thomas (Campus Crusade) and Mr. Philip Cheriyan who used to come and conduct bible studies in our hostel after his work hours in L & T.

The students of 3 medical colleges in Chennai (MMC, Stanley and Kilpauk) used to gather either in a seniors' house or at UESI/EMFI office every month after Sunday church service for a time of fellowship mostly over lunch.

The annual retreat in Pachalur used to be called 'medicos mission conference,' 20 years ago. Dr. K. O. John used to emphasise the need to make a difference through working in remote places rather than in cities.

In this context Dr. Jeyachandran, professor of pediatric surgery (now with SMART in Periyamalai) used to mention Dr. Vijila who went to missions from MMC fellowship. Hearing about their lives challenged me to try missions as an alternative to the regular fashion of those days which was to sit and prepare for PG entrance exams. So I wrote my entrance exam for PG and went to AKH for a visit. My trial run lasted for 4 months and by then I got my post-graduation in the subject I desired which was oral and maxillofacial surgery. I also came back with open pulmonary TB from AKH which was very prevalent and had to undergo training while on ATT.

At the end of PG training in 2005, Susithra entered my life. She was willing to go back to Asha Kiran. During her PG training in O & G I got the opportunity to work in CFH, Oddanchatram and it was smooth sailing until then. But after 18 months one day after the morning devotion in CFH chapel, Dr. KV asked me, "so you're not going back to Asha Kiran?" (I got employment in CFH on the premise that I'd be moving to Asha Kiran once my wife's Post Graduation was over from Madurai medical college). His statement reminded me of my commitment and I immediately booked my tickets to move to AKH with our 6 months old son in 2007.

I'm primarily involved with dentistry and basic maxillofacial surgery practice which did not boom like I'd thought over the last 10 years.

The picture shows dental extraction done in a mud hut of a Bonda village on a steel delivery table, the head of the patient being supported by his wife. Having studied dentistry in Madras dental college we were taught to extract teeth with any available instrument on immovable chairs under sunlight guidance which came handy after many years of practice in situations like these.

Asha Kiran apart from medical ministry is also involved in education ministry (Asha Kiran academy- an ICSE school upto 8th standard pending accreditation due to lack of required number of B.Ed. teachers with more than 150 children enrolled) and community upliftment in the form of providing life skill support and health and agriculture interventions (organic farming and nutrition garden as against eucalyptus and ganja plantations).





I specifically use the word ministry as, over the years both these are rechristened as Health care industry and Education industry with more than 100% profit as far as India is concerned. Childhood alcoholism is quite prevalent and the net result is burns as evidenced in the picture - the whole family gets fully drunk and sleep near the fire to protect themselves from cold and wild animals, resulting in burns.



Though new roads have been laid, still the old method is preferred which results in severe RTAs leading to loss of lives/limbs frequently.

Few things I learnt over the last 10 years are:



1. He who collected much had to clear the stink the next day - manna (Exodus 16:18). The images below show the comparison of land bought for AKH 25 years ago and how the Lord turned it around. It is His doing and it is marvellous in our eyes. This image reminds us of our endeavour acknowledged and blessed by Him. Our vision for the place is "Just and compassionate communities choosing and celebrating life".
  2. As we draw closer to Christ we draw closer to one another. So if I do not draw closer to my brother I better check the central connection.
  3. In my weakness His strength is made perfect so that I cannot boast. There had been many times I was confined to bed because of arthritis which sometimes is depressing and debilitating but through it all the Lord has brought me through.
  4. CFH, ODC has been a perfect second home where I had fallen back in times of crisis. I learnt from there that it's more blessed to give than to receive, hence the Lord says give and it will come back to you. It's not the other way round.
- My wife is the one who helps me hold on, even when situations get tough. Her ministry is far reaching both medically and spiritually for the people who come to her, both patients and staff. She takes extra effort to visit families and also to present Christ to patients and their relatives especially women. As Mordecai told Esther 'If not through you, deliverance will definitely come. Opportunity is knocking. Why don't you grab it?' God has called us to obedience and it is our responsibility to dig those ditches, and it is in His command to give us victory (2 Kings 3: 16).
- Both general surgeons and super-specialty surgeons, physicians and especially anaesthetists have special invitation to come and help if not for longer periods, at least for a few days at Asha Kiran. The whole district has no medical or surgical super-specialty services and has one orthopedic surgeon. If you are moved to support the community of Asha Kiran in anyway possible please make a visit in person or [www.ashakiran.in](http://www.ashakiran.in).

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

- Dr. Arun Gautam and Alice (Chinchipada), have been blessed with a baby boy Arpit John on 17th May
- Drs. Benjamin and Sengchi (Tura) have been blessed with a baby boy in July

### MOVEMENTS

- Dr. Arun Gautam & Alice from CMC, Vellore to, Chinchipada Christian Hospital
- Drs. Tony & Asangla Biswas from HBM Hospital Lalitpur to Chattarpur Christian Hospital



## TREASURER'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

I am always amazed at God's provision. Truly His mercies are new every morning! Even though the situation seemed hopeless, as it was in June and July, God provided for all our needs at just the right time. I want to especially thank all those who remembered and sent money. You are not just helping to pay salaries; you are investing in the lives of students all over India and in eternity we will have the joy of hearing from our master "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". In the months and year ahead, we will be concentrating on work in the North. We also hope to have a base in north-central India, where we can conduct training programs, retreats, workshops etc. We look forward to your prayer and support.

- Grace Thomas

## NOTICE

The official mobile number that was used by Dr. Manoj Jacob - 9444381490 has been transferred to the new General Secretary Dr. Samuel Sidhartha.

Dr. Manoj Jacob can be contacted at 9789867110 in future.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	Income	Expense
MARCH	5,52,550	8,89,390
APRIL	8,09,968	7,53,706
MAY	6,80,858	8,95,422
JUNE	7,82,798	5,10,500



## Shiloh 2017

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, VELLORE  
Students Mission Conference 2017



Transformed  
for  
Transformation

2 Cor 3:18 and John 14:12

September 28<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

A joint venture by CMC Vellore, EHA, EMFI, CMAI, TLM and other medical missions

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

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We have far too many anonymous donors which is not healthy for the organisation.

You can also make direct online payment by visiting our website [www.emfi.in](http://www.emfi.in) and clicking on the DONATE NOW button.\*

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# REFLECTIONS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His son, that whosoever believe in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

Among the many provisions that the Lord gives his children on this side of heaven, is the wonderful gift of the assurance of salvation. On one hand, it is His very own word(law) that make us wonder whether we will stand before him in the day of reckoning. Blessed is the day when we realise that we will not. Paradoxically, more blessed is the day when a thought fills our hearts, that we will stand(by His grace).

As we walk through the Law of Moses and a deeper study of the codes, we realise that we haven't scratched the surface yet. Then come the prophets, assailing us, ripping apart even the veneer of smugness about our spiritual standing before the Lord. Then come the very words of our Saviour, in the 'sermon on the mount' and the 'sermon on the level ground'. They are followed by his life, works and teaching. We stand completely disarmed, powerless exposed, naked.

But among these stand the wonderful truth of the cross and his words telling us about a love, a strange and warm love, a love for his enemies that saves us from the sentence of His own laws. For He so loved us that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish, but have everlasting life. In spite of his laws, his love has invaded us. The heart glimpses its freedom and rejoices in this warm glow.

It is this light that is to inform, instruct and flood all that we do in this life. If this were the bedrock of our life, where is the capacity for selfishness and strife that characterises our life? Will we not abandon the word leader for that word our Lord wants – 'servant'?

The assurance of salvation is not to remain as an emotional issue, but one that influences our very thought, motive and action. If this is what we believe, that we are saved by another one's death and live because he lives, then our feelings, thoughts, motives and actions need to bear the imprint of this glorious truth.

Beginning at our homes it needs to influence our workplace and engagement with society, in our attitudes, words and works. It needs to bring back the 'heart smile' amidst the twists and turns of life, the ups and downs in life and in death.

I have moved into servanthood in EMFI from the 1st June, 2017. I admire and thank Manoj for his servanthood in EMFI over the last ten years. He made the transition smooth and the staff made the welcome special.

The work in the grassroots is going well. Encouraging movements are taking place among the students in Andhra Pradesh and Telengana, in Madhya Pradesh and in the North East, Karnataka and in Tamil Nadu. In one place where one staff worker had gone for a Bible study, so great was the hunger that they went up to 2am studying the Word. It is also encouraging to see in many fellowships in AP-TS, students meet every day in their hostels for a time of prayer together. The staff are away from home many days of the month, as part of their responsibilities is to tour an entire State, and some several,.

Matthew and Latha, serving in the 'Kingdom of God initiative' and 'Saline Process Partnership' have been touring the length and breadth of the country, opening up new areas of service. The Institute of Medical Missions has been an intense time of engaging with missions. Something special among the office staff is the way they own up the work. When needs arise, I sense there is an atmosphere of sharing the situation in prayer and ownership that makes the place a family.

In the unprecedented situation that India is facing these days, each one of us is called to respond prayerfully and courageously. Radical choices and burning bridges are in order. Let us stand up and be counted. We welcome you in this process, among your many personal decisions to continue in the partnership with us, in the service to our brothers and sisters in healthcare, and through them to the wider family of our brothers and sisters in India.

- Samuel Sidhartha

Published on behalf of EMFI by Dr. Samuel Sidhartha – General Secretary

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