



Far and Near

2019 | SECOND QUARTER

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

Chairman's Letter

WHY DO WE HATE ACCOUNTABILITY?

David was the greatest King of Israel ever. There was no ruler as righteous and just as David. He was known as the man after God's own heart. Psalms are a testament to his longing for God. At the peak of his career, he made choices that led to his downfall.

He had lusted after a woman and got her pregnant. He had schemed elaborately to make it appear that the conception was through her husband. But her husband was an honourable man who was devoted to his country and the King. He refused to go to his wife. Now the King had to put his Plan-B into action which was to get the woman's husband killed. He devised a way to make the murder appear as an inevitable consequence of war. After the deed is done the woman became his. A clean operation and a clean slate, or so the King thought.

This normality is interrupted by Prophet Nathan. Nathan tells a story that is simple but subtle. Unwittingly, the King implicates himself and pronounces his own judgement. The prophet had tricked the King. The painting captures the moment Prophet points his finger at the King and says, 'You are the man!' (2 Sam 12:7). The King is shocked and shattered. The enormity of what he had done begins to sink into him - literally.

This kind of prophetic courage to hold kings, CEOs and leaders accountable is rare today. Those who have enjoyed the intoxication of power desist any attempt to be held accountable. Like in the past, even modern-day prophets are met with intimidation, death threats and disappearances.

There are two lessons for us:

Firstly, about David. It is commendable that he did not respond to Prophet Nathan with anger. He could have exploded with violence and he had the power to do so. Instead, in deep penitence, David says, 'I have sinned'. For a leader, humility to accept prophetic voices is a life saver. Willingness to be held accountable indicates a deep sense of identity that is not related to the position or power.

Accountability has another important function. It brings to light what is hidden in dark-ness. Deeds done in darkness can only bring death. The reason why we hate accountability is because we prefer darkness more than light. But when brought out into the light there is cleansing and newness that gives us a new sense of purpose and direction. A leader who wants to finish well and leave a trail of changed lives must be willing to be held accountable.

Secondly about Nathan, the prophet. Nathan had extraordinary courage. His willingness to take the risk resulted in saving the King and the Kingdom from catastrophic fall. The courage to step out into such a dangerous situation

comes out of a deep conviction of God's call and deep humility without which the prophet can appear vindictive and over bearing. If we are to grow in our character and if we are to be God's instruments in His work here, we need to submit ourselves in accountability with each other. Kingdom of God makes progress, when we have the prophetic courage to confront leaders and hold the mirror of the Word of God to them, in humility and prayer.



'The Prophet Nathan rebukes King David'
by Eugène Siberdt

Varghese Philip

Highlights from the staff

BIBIN BENOY: Field Partner - Karnataka

Bibin was able to visit colleges in North Karnataka and invite them for the Karnataka State Conference at Bangalore Baptist Hospital. The state conference had a good number of students attending it including students from colleges in North Karnataka. He visited fellowships at Bellari, Bagalkot, Belgaum and Hubli. He could teach some of these fellowships how to do an inductive bible study. He also attended the graduation ceremony of one of the fellowship members.

ANUP KUMAR RANA: Field Partner - Orissa

Anup has been visiting doctors in Orissa and been trying to establish student fellowships in colleges of Bisam Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Burla and Balangir. He is in the early stages of establishing contacts and fellowships in Orissa and the Lord has been guiding him to the right places and people. Do remember him as he pioneers work in the state.

ISAAC CHANDY: Field Partner - Karnataka

Chandy along with Bibin interacted with doctors at Baptist hospital and helped in organising the Karnataka state conference. The members of the fellowship that meets in his house were instrumental in mobilising prayer for the conference. His house continues to be open for the students of a dental college to meet for fellowship. Some of the students from this fellowship attended the week long Institute of Medical Missions course in Oddanchatram, Tamil Nadu and were blessed by it and also challenged to think seriously about working in mission hospitals. Chandy could also interact with many doctors and also visit the CSI mission hospital and motivate them to be actively involved in the planning and participation of the state conference.

DEVAKUMAR: Coordinator - Training

Deva has been doing a series of studies in the fellowships in Chennai on the life of Joseph. The DOWNLOAD (A one day program on basic biblical doctrines) conducted in March for the medical students in Chennai had a record number of participants this time and they had a blessed time of learning about Marriage. The marriage enrichment seminar conducted at Yelagiri had six couples attending. They had a blessed time of learning about covenant, conflict resolution, intimacy etc. Deva and Nanditha could attend the graduation ceremony of a couple of students at MMC. He could also share at the Karnataka state conference. Deva could represent Dr Sam Sidhartha at a consultation where a national consortium of Christian Hospitals in India was formed at CMC, Vellore. He could also be part of many fellowship meetings at CMC, Vellore and participate in the doctors meet in Trichy where many senior doctors involved in student work were present to discuss the way forward for the work in Tamil Nadu.

GEORGE SUCHIANG: Field partner - North East of India

George could visit a fellowship in a new college which he had been longing to visit for the past few years but was unable to do so till now. Though the students there do not have a proper place for their regular meetings, it was encouraging to see that a student whom George knew as a PG student in Guwahati is now a lecturer there and is taking efforts to find a place for the fellowship. George was able to take studies on the book of Romans in a few fellowships. He could take a few sessions at a camp organised for medical students at Guwahati where 60 students were present. He could visit some doctors and pray for them in the mission hospital as well. The Biennial North East Conference held at Imphal had record number of students attending it. They had a blessed time.

KT PAUL: Coordinator - North India

KT visited a new college at Kota and could spend time with some of the students from that college who attended the Agra conference. He has been focusing on helping the students to practically apply what they study from the word in their daily lives. In many places KT could help the students to face/cope with their struggles. He visited some fresh graduates and encouraged them in their walk with the Lord. KT visited many places in the North East of India as well. Though the trip was hectic, he had a blessed time. This is what he writes about the trip: "It was a hectic time running around and I also struggled with sleep during all visits but I feel so blessed to be used by the Lord to bless the graduates and families. Its such a blessing to see lives change and family relationships getting better." His house continues to be an open home for doctors and staff in the campus.

LINU ZACHARIAH: Field Partner - Tamil Nadu

Linu visited and encouraged many fellowships and was able to guide some who were facing different challenges in their walk with the Lord and also their college life. He could encourage the staff and doctors of the Dhonavur Fellowship on his visit there. He was also involved in the planning and organising of the Pachalur camp. The 37 students who attended the conference had a blessed time. He was also part of the Tamil Nadu planning meeting held at Trichy where about 15 doctors from different parts of Tamil Nadu could meet, discuss and plan the student work in the state. Some of the fellowships do not have a proper place to meet and most importantly do not have a mentor to guide them.

MICHAEL SUNDERSINGH: Coordinator - Pastoral care

Michael could visit the medical fellowships in Delhi to encourage and motivate them. Though the turnout in the fellowships was less due to exams going on, he was able to

have a fruitful time with the students. Some of the doctors in Delhi also assist Michael in reaching out to the students. Michael and Grace are also in touch with many young doctors and their families, counselling them and nurturing their lives.

MV RAO: Field Partner - Andhra Pradesh

MV Rao could visit many young graduates and encourage them to think of serving in missions. Three of them have gone to serve in mission hospitals in different parts of the country. Many visit him at home for guidance and Rao has been counselling them prayerfully. He has been instrumental in organising a 24 hour chain prayer at Vijayawada where doctors and students interceded for the general election of the state and also for the preparations of the AP-TS state conference. Many doctors (both youngsters and seniors) could meet at Nellore for a time of planning for the state conference. This is what he writes about the meeting, "It was a very good meeting where we were moved by the Spirit of God. I have been noticing the Lord's mighty hand in every meeting in a progressive way."

PRATIK SINDHU: FIELD PARTNER - Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh

Pratik could attend the planning meet at Delhi along with the other North India staff to plan for the North India EMFI conference. Apart from his regular visits to college fellowships he could visit a medical student who had met with an accident that has made him a paraplegic in his hometown in the interior of a forest area. Though the journey was long and tiring, Pratik has been encouraged very much by what the boy said to him. He said, "I thank God for the accident as it is only because of it that I have come to know the Lord so much more intimately." Some students visited and stayed in Pratik's house and for a couple of days.

SOLOMON RAJU: Field Partner - Andhra Pradesh

Solomon could attend the wedding of one of the fellowship students in Warangal and spend time with the family. He could encourage and counsel two medical students who came to his house in a very depressed state. In some of the fellowships Solomon has been discussing about the humility of the Lord Jesus Christ and encouraging the students to follow suit. He participated in the farewell party of the 2013 students of the Guntur fellowship. He was part of the planning meetings for the upcoming AP-TS state conference. Solomon also participated in the one day retreat held at Kakinada.

Praise God For:

The 12 doctors who could attend the Life Revision Seminar held at Chennai.

The 30 medical students who attended the DOWNLOAD program (A one day retreat for medical students in and around Chennai on basic Biblical doctrines).

Upcoming Events:

10th – 12th August: AP-T State Conference

15th – 17th August: Tamil Nadu state Missions conference at Pachalur, near Oddanchatram

26th – 28th September: North India Regional conference at New Delhi

STATE CONFERENCE

Karnataka



GOVERNMENT SERVICE

GOD'S CALLING AND MY MISSION

When God granted me my heart's desire to study MBBS, I always thought that I would join a Mission Hospital when I become a doctor. I even worked for 8 months in Robert's Hospital, Shillong and I was happy serving my people in a mission set up. But my father being a man of integrity, he taught me that I need to serve the Government first because of the bond that we have signed since we did not have the money to pay back the bond money. So I applied for a government job and my first posting was Ganesh Das Government MCH hospital, Shillong. By the time I completed my bond period I realised that I can serve the poorest of the poor in a government hospital and that these people cannot afford to go anywhere else since they have no money. So God's calling for me to serve Him in the government set up became clear and I decided to stay on. By God's grace, I got good postings and it enabled me to also satisfactorily fulfil my role as a wife and mother for which I am so thankful to God.

The later part of my path as a government servant was rough and challenging as I faced problems with my seniority ranking. I was superseded so much so that I even thought I should appeal to the court of law to get justice. I approached a few lawyers to consult my case and I almost went ahead to file a case. But God stopped me through a sad and drastic intervention - My chosen lawyer had a heart attack and died and I was left thunderstruck. I prayed hard and asked God why this tragedy had to happen.

The New Year message for 2015 came loud and clear - *Exodus 14: 14 - "The Lord your God will fight for you, you just have to be silent."* It first came during the New Year message that I heard in the English Service and a week later, when I attended the NEIGRHIMS- EU, the very same verse was the memory verse for that day. So I prayed to Jesus - *" Lord, I acknowledge your Lordship over my life. If you want me to just be still and leave everything in your powerful and mighty hands, I surrender to your will."* Since I was posted in Jowai then, I just put up my petition to the government and surrendered the matter to God and told Him that I will not fight on my own since now it is His business. I did not have the time to follow up my case since I was deeply engrossed in my work and I enjoyed touring the entire West and East Jaintia Hills Districts meeting and encouraging the staff and Doctors of the health facilities.

The time for promotion came in the end of 2015 and my promotion too was due. So I went and met and discussed my case again with the top officials in the government. They all

were sympathetic and admitted that I was wronged but said that my case had become complicated over the years. Ultimately even though I did not get my original rank, I was promoted as Joint Director along with my batch mates. I praised God because I was not placed in an administrative position where I would have to compromise my values and standards as a child of God and I realised that He knew my calibre and capacity. I occupied the Additional posts instead but at least it proved to be comfortable and rewarding at the same time. I could work hard and travel extensively and these have enriched my knowledge and experience.

When I took over as Joint Director (MCH & FW) my prayer was - " Lord, just as you were with Joseph and prospered the works that he was given charge, please bless any task I undertake and let it prosper even through difficult and odd circumstances because you are with me". I was assigned to take care of many important and crucial programs some of them directly scrutinised by the PMO but God blessed me with sincere and knowledgeable staff with whom I could work comfortably and it was great team work. I don't want to boast but when I analyse the programs that I have been given charge, I realised that God indeed did help the work move forward and there were many visible accomplishments that God had blessed us with, all the glory and honour goes to God and Him alone through which all things have worked out so beautifully and wonderfully. Now that I have retired from Government service, I can say that I am very satisfied and have accomplished my mission of serving God through the government sector. Glory be to God.

Joy Lyngwa

Download, Chennai

MARCH - 2019



Missions

LIFE IN A MISSION HOSPITAL

I completed my MBBS from the Tirunelveli medical college. After completing my internship I worked for 2 different mission hospitals in Tamilnadu. And with sponsorship from EHA I got into CMC, Vellore. I did my masters degree in anesthesiology and critical care. I had learnt about EHA and other missions in North India during my college days when I attended the mission camps in Pachalur.

In 2017 June I joined Broadwell Christian hospital for my service obligation. I took over as a medical superintendent of the hospital in April 2018. My wife Dr Praylin (dentist) was carrying our son. She was 6 months pregnant then. I started working as an anesthesiologist. It had a newly renovated OT complex but I did not have much to do in the OT. So I began to sit in the OPD and see patients. Slowly I started seeing medicine and pediatrics cases. In a couple of months I became the acting pediatrician of the hospital as I was seeing only pediatric cases and the public thought I was a child specialist. I thank God for his blessing of the treatment.

Our hospital's major work is in obstetrics. Initially I had my hesitation in seeing antenatal cases. But slowly started seeing obstetric cases also in OPD. From Jan 2018, we had to run the hospital with only 2 junior doctors and all the consultants had to do night duties. Then I started learning about the management of labour room cases too. From April 2018 we started our HDU with 2 ventilators. We could save many sick obstetric cases since then.

order to save the mother or the baby, it is very difficult for them to accept the decision. Recently a young lady who had her delivery outside in a government PHC came with severe bleeding. We had to remove her uterus to save her. It was such a difficult decision for us because she was too young to live without her uterus and had just delivered her first child.

The major difference that I noticed in this hospital compared to other places is 'charity'. I had been advised to give generous charity if I saw any poor patients when I joined here. But the other hospitals where I worked it was given zero importance. Here I heard the doctors asking the poor patients "how much you can pay today? Do you have money for transportation?" and they bill the patients accordingly.

As a leader it has been very difficult to pull my team through, especially when the doctors' team was not at all stable; doctors were coming and going. There were misunderstandings in the management too. With Gods strength alone we are sailing through. Sometimes our patients encourage us by coming back and telling us how they were blessed by our care. Sometimes the miracles that we see in our patients encourage us to go on further despite the challenges faced. Finally, I would say that God uses us to fulfill His work and purpose for the people of Fatehpur and simultaneously works in our lives as well. He brought me into this realization through tough paths. Praise be to Him!



HDU & Casualty Complex



*Dr Jesudoss
Broadwell Christian Hospital
Fatehpur
Uttar Pradesh*

The major challenge as a doctor here is, that the dozens of hospitals in the town treat the patients by unethical means and finally refer them to us at the end with all sorts of complications. The patients also come with a hope of having a normal delivery. When we tell them we have to operate in

Opportunities

SCHIEFFELIN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH RESEARCH AND LEPROSY CENTRE (SIH-R&LC)

SIH-R&LC has been working for the marginalized, especially with the people affected by Leprosy for the past 65 years. Originally, the organization served as a "sanatorium". Later it became a research institute and still later a hospital and a world renowned training center for Leprosy related problems

Our hospital is a tertiary care centre for Leprosy and secondary care centre with regards to other health needs. It is a 150 bedded Hospital with 500 patients being catered through Out Patients Department on a daily basis. Apart from the base Hospital, we have Paul Brand Integrated Health centre at Katpadi to cater to the needs of the urban community and Skin clinic, Gudiyattam is part of the Community Health Department which provides Dermatology and General Medicine services at Gudiyattam.

Along with the Leprosy training rendered to all the Medical professionals through collaborations with various Global and Government organizations, Schieffelin Institute also provides professional training (Degree courses under The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University and Diploma Courses Under CMAI Board) through College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing where around 400 students are trained to become professionals in the Health care industry.



Schieffelin Institute is continuously involved in research through its Molecular and Animal Laboratory towards Drug resistance, Reactions of leprosy and Transmission of leprosy.

At present the hospital is in need of specialists / consultants in certain departments like Obstetric & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Dermatology, Anaesthesiology, Ophthalmology and Veterinary Sciences to meet the needs of the services provided through the hospital.

We would like encourage doctors to contribute their skills toward developing this Mission institution and to enable it to cater to the health needs of the marginalized in the community around it.

For More details, please contact:

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Karigiri – 632106, (via Katpadi), Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.
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Category 1: Medical Students and Interns
Topic: An Analysis & Response of a Christian doctor to the poor healthcare indices of the EAG states in India.

Category 2: Post Graduate Students
Topic: Mission hospitals are sandwiched between the Government and Corporate healthcare institutions – Analyse and suggest the way forward

LAST DATE FOR SENDING THE ESSAYS – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019

For more details (Word count etc.) kindly send an email to emfpublications@gmail.com



Reflections from the General Secretary

THE POOR, NEEDY AND THE UNREACHED...

Whereas a fellowship has been formed among the Christian members of the Medical and Dental profession with the intention of promoting wholistic healthcare to the poor, needy and unreached India in the name of Jesus Christ...

It gives me a quiet and good feeling to know that we in EMFI have this as our purpose of the fellowship. All of us as members of EMFI have a way to evaluate what we are really about. The stated purpose of EMFI gives a focus to our Bible Studies, retreats, regional camps, State conferences and National and International conferences, namely, that it in some way these make a difference to the poor, needy and unreached in India in a wholistic way in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is something we do intentionally. The word wholistic to me means, matters of this life and that of the coming one. So, all of us do well to ask ourselves whether our efforts are really contributing to a changed Life now and Life Eternal, for the poor, needy and unreached of India.

To do this, will mean that we allocate resources in His Body well. The most important resource is human, and we as the Body of Christ need to allocate such resources objectively and with conviction. We can get emotional about the poor, but it is really a very objective decision. We need human resource, and valuable healthcare resources in strategic settings, which will change the situation for our poor brothers, sisters and children.

One of the best ways to help the poor in a wholistic and consistent way is to get into a system which is already doing this or create one which will do this. Such systems already exist in our mission hospitals which have begun a downward cascade for the severe shortage on one resource – namely, human and to nail it, Doctors. It is here that we have those systems which can radically align with the poor and at the same time have the freedom to share about Eternal life in an unhindered manner.

Sporadic avenues are available in the other systems, but here we need to be increasingly vigilant that we are not misunderstood and penalised unjustly. While there may be exceptions, the general trend looks like the higher up you are in the ladder, the worse it becomes for the sharing about Eternal Life.

New hashtags like 'Murder of merit' and 'You deserve better' are really insensitive, self-seeking instruments which invite people to close their eyes to history, which for around three millenia around twenty five percent of our country were prevented from being able to study. We do well not only to keep away from these evil instruments but also to oppose them in Prayer, Communication and Action.

We have lost one of the sisters of our fraternity, Payal. She was a beautiful young woman with dreams like our own, the first among her people to study medicine. A life has been snuffed out by this evil. In our own colleges and fellowship this evil persist and grows stronger. It flourishes in our churches; it is the main constituent in almost every marriage among the Christians. Some ecclesiastical groups have morphed into behaving like a 'so called upper strata'. We have failed our Lord. It is imperative that we throw away this dirt from our heart. If we minister with this sewage in our heart we stink to the high heavens.

This is a call for all of us in EMFI to renew our identification with the poor needy and unreached in India. It is a call to especially reject the Caste System, the instrument which has been used to perpetuate oppression for millennia. It is a call to align ourselves to the systems that bring life and Life to the Dalit and the Tribal in areas of our country, where the gospel is not known or is resisted.

Samuel Sidhartha

Family News:

NEW ARRIVALS

Dr S. David & K. Gowthami(Kakinada) were blessed with a baby boy Joel Asher David on 10th April

Dr Ashwin & Ashita (CMC, Vellore) were blessed with a baby boy Ashriel Juan on 30th April

Dr Gnanraj & Dr Sheena (Raxaul) were blessed with a baby boy Nehemiah John on 13th June

WEDDINGS

Dr Beulah Shekinah Elango wed Mr Nirmal Kumar Dayalan on 4th July at Chennai



SHILOH 2019
CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, VELLORE
Students Mission Conference 2019



RESTORED
to build
TOGETHER

Nehemiah 2:18-20 & Isa 58:12

September 26th - 29th 2019

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

Please visit the following site after 1st September 2019 for more details.
<http://shilohcmc.org>

Treasurer's Note



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Though it was difficult in the last few months, we were able to meet the needs of EMFI by the grace of God by faith.

Furnished below are the details of our finances for the last few months. Thank you for upholding us with your support and prayers.

Regards,
Sukumar Chitturi.

Financial Update

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSE
MARCH	764646	817097
APRIL	926744	812576
MAY	744820	902068

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)
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