



OUR VISION

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

FAR & NEAR

THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS
2016



Chairman's Letter

Wisdom | חָכְמָה | 'wɪzdəm |

Wisdom is almost synonymous with Solomon. Solomon was the wisest of all men, with an encyclopaedic grasp of all available knowledge. He dispensed justice to his people with fairness. He wrote Proverbs and Ecclesiastes - part of wisdom literature. He began well with humility, seeking after God. But towards the end of his life, he was a pathetic man from whom wisdom had fled. He had squandered away the gift of wisdom by embracing every other ideology that came to him through marriage and international relations. He did the very things that Kings were warned against in the book of Deuteronomy (Ch 17).

What is wisdom? Wisdom originates in God and it is a God given gift, as we see from the example of Solomon. Wisdom is nurtured as we align ourselves with the commands and purposes of God. Wisdom is not just a mere accumulation and application of knowledge. Morality and justice are foundational to the concept of wisdom. Divorced from morality, wisdom is empty and destructive. Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament scholar and writer puts it eloquently: 'To be wise is to understand what Yahweh wills and to practice it. And clearly Yahweh does not will the greedy pursuit of riches or preoccupation with one's own life. What God wills is the enhancement and well-being of community neighbours in faithful and just relations'.

An important facet of wisdom is the way power is handled. Power is addictive. And it has the potential to distort the way we view ourselves, those whom we work with or those under our care. Wisdom is knowing that power is delegated and we are not in any manner autonomous to act as we like. Solomon forgot this as he forgot the God who had given him wisdom. Solomon increasingly became autonomous in his use of power in relationships and in material accumulation. He had to resort to forced labour or slavery. He began to resemble Pharaoh, the very personification of everything that is anti-God and anti-faith.

So then, pursuit of wisdom is essentially the pursuit of God. The book of Proverbs talks about the 'fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom'. It is not a state of being terrified of God, but being in reverent awe of God. The result is that we become humble before God and accept God's definition of right and wrong, being dependent on Him and working for the purposes that God has created us.

Finally, Christ Jesus himself has become our wisdom from God (1 Cor 1:30). As we deepen our relationship with Christ, His presence within us, becomes for us wisdom, leading us to make wise decisions.

Varghese Philip



THE EMFI
FAMILY WISHES YOU

— a Joyful —

CHRISTMAS

AND

★ a Blessed ★

NEW YEAR



THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED,
BUT TO SERVE

May This

CHRISTMAS

be an occasion to Rededicate
our lives to serve Christ and our patients

HIGHLIGHTS FROM STAFF

Bibin Benoy - Field Partner, Karnataka

Bibin underwent a 3 month training at the UESI Study centre at Highfield, Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu. The training was on Bible Study methods, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Overview of the Bible, Research methodologies etc. He had a very fruitful time and has now started traveling and visiting colleges in Karnataka, making contact and building relationships with the students.

Chandy Issac - Associate staff, Karnataka

Chandy has been helping the students study the Gospel of John in some of the fellowships in Bangalore and also meeting with Bibin on a weekly basis to prayerfully plan the work in Bangalore and the rest of Karnataka. He could also motivate 3 students from the fellowship to attend the 8 day Medical Missions Training program (IMM) at Oddanchatram. The students have come back inspired and challenged by the life and work of the doctors there. Along with a doctor from Bangalore, Chandy has been able to visit two villages and help in the medical camps there.

Devakumar - Coordinator, Training

Deva visited CMC, Vellore and had a refreshing time with the young doctors teaching them 'Walk thro' the Bible' in actions. There were two 'Downloads' held in Chennai in June and September. Some of the topics dealt with were Diligence in studies, Academic excellence, the Church, Trinity, Counterfeits, Friendships etc. He was also involved in helping the students organise the Tamil Nadu state conference at Pachalur near Oddanchatram in August. Among other topics, Ethics was dealt with for the first time. The students had a blessed time and have expressed their need to meet regularly. Deva writes, "Continue to remember the Pachalur camp that the Life Lessons learnt in those 3 eventful days will help students decide & make radical changes in their lives". The marriage enrichment seminar held at Hyderabad had 7 couples and the one in Chennai had 5 couples, all young and some newly married. They were blessed.

George Suchiang - Field Partner, North East India

George visited fellowships in Shillong, Jowai and Guwahati. He also visited a mission hospital at Jowai and addressed the doctors, staff nurses, nursing students and other staff of the hospital. In the fellowships he has been sharing about Success vs. Faithfulness and Discipleship. He could also help organise a one day retreat at Shillong called the RELOAD, where forty odd students attended and had a good interactive time of learning on topics like World view and Decision making, Relationship, Medical science and the Bible and Authenticity of the Scriptures. The Kingdom of God (KOG) seminars held at Dimapur, Tezpur and Shillong were a blessing to all the doctors who attended and they are very keen on having such meetings in future.

J M V Rao - Associate staff, Andhra Pradesh

Rao has been visiting and encouraging the fellowships in Tirupathy on a regular basis and has also been making trips to Nellore and Kuppam. A group of doctors also meet for fellowship on a weekly basis and they have completed studying two books of the Bible already. He could also help the students organise a meeting for the freshers in November.

Malcolm & Uma Johnson - Associate Staff, Telangana

Malcolm visited fellowships in Adilabad, Warangal and Srikakulam, other than his regular visits to colleges in Hyderabad. One of the fellowships in Hyderabad has started studying one topic of ethics from the book 'JUST MED' on a monthly basis. At Srikakulam the fellowship is growing and they are showing interest by regularly attending the meetings.

Solomon Raju - Field Partner, Andhra Pradesh

Solomon visited fellowships in Ongole, Vijayawada, Kurnool, Srikakulam and Kakinada. He has been engaging the students in a systematic study of the book of Daniel and II Kings. He could also pray and encourage the students who were going for their exams. In September Solomon assisted the Kurnool fellowship organise a one day 'Download' for the fellowships of Nandyal, Anantapur, Mahaboobnagar on the topic of Holiness.

KT Paul - Coordinator, North India

On his trip to the North East, KT Paul visited graduates at Shillong, Jowai, Guwahati and Tura. He could speak to the young graduate couples there on how they could enrich their marriages. At other places like Meerut, Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Lucknow and Kanpur he could encourage and engage the students on topics like Identity, Comparison & Jealousy from the life of David and King Saul. He also challenged them to go and serve in the needy parts of the country. At other places he could engage the fellowships on topics like Salvation and Sanctification. He could also spend time with some of the young graduate couples in Hyderabad and Mancheriyal. KT also took a couple of students from Jhansi and Gwalior for a weekend retreat at Lalitpur Christian hospital where a doctor couple could minister to them and also do four character studies. He could also minister to many of the senior graduates at Champa, Baitelpur, Jagdishpur, Ambikapur and Raipur. He assisted the fellowship at Raipur in organising the first Regional conference in Chhattisgarh. KT writes, "It was a great joy to see the first conference in Chhattisgarh being held and it was a greater joy to see good participation from Chhattisgarh. It was a blessing. May the Lord sustain His Word and build the young ones. Please pray."

Linu Zachariah - Field Partner, Tamil Nadu

Linu could visit fellowships at Madurai, Theni, Kanyakumari and Trivandrum. He could also accompany some of the students from Kerala and Bangalore to the foundational course on Medical Missions (IMM) and had a blessed time interacting with them. He also visited some of the students personally in their homes and helped them cope with their struggles. Visits were made to fellowships at Coimbatore and Sivagangai and the students encouraged to walk closer with the Lord.

Michael Sundersingh - Coordinator, Pastoral Care

In addition to his regular visits to fellowships in Delhi and prayer meetings with the EHA leadership, Michael visited and encouraged some of the students from AIIMS and Ludhiana who are now working at Ambilikkai. Michael and Grace could also counsel some of the young doctors who were preparing for marriage and were involved in the marriage of one doctor couple at Madurai. On August 15th, they organised a one day retreat at their home for the fellowships in Delhi. He was also involved in helping the organising of the ICMDA conference at Kolkata.

Pratik Sindhu - Coordinator, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh

Besides his regular visits to the fellowships at Jabalpur, Gwalior, Durg and Bhopal, Pratik made frequent visits to Raipur to help the students organise the regional conference. Pratik writes, "The Raipur students were amazed to see the work of the Lord in the conference and it was good to see them work as a team inspite of their differences. Some of the graduates were very blessed by the conference that they have promised to be involved in the student work in future. The students at Jabalpur are continuing to study the book of Genesis and many are being touched."



GROUND REALITIES WHEN THE TYRE HITS THE ROAD

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD

It was way back in 2007 when I attended the EMFINE conference in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, that I understood my calling as a medical student and I made my commitment to serve the Lord Jesus Christ wherever He wants me to work. The theme of the conference was from Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the LORD rather than for men"; I always wanted to work in Mission Hospitals but due to financial crisis I faced in the family I took up a government job after I completed my studies.

I got posted in a Primary Health Centre named Pamra Paithlu PHC (previously known as Wapung-Pamra PHC). It caters to a population of 30,760. It is a very old PHC started in the early 80s. When I first joined, the building was in a very shabby state. There were no proper quarters for staff and there was no water supply to the PHC. The people surrounding the PHC were mostly illiterate. I joined in 2012 and in the early days very few people came to the PHC, hardly 30 patients per day. Since there are a lot of coal mines in the area all the water sources had become acidic and are not fit for human consumption. So I approached the government for the quarters and water supply. A bore well was drilled but unfortunately the water was highly acidic (pH 4.3) and unusable. Two quarters were constructed and the PHC building was renovated. But I could not stay there due to the lack of drinking water. So I tried to find a source of water that could be brought to the PHC.

I roamed the jungles surrounding the PHC with the help of some local people and found a water source situated around 3 kilometres in the hills. This water came from the rock and was not contaminated with coal. With the help of RKS and MHIS schemes I purchased plastic pipes to bring the water to the PHC, but I could not pay for labour. So I requested the village heads of the nearby villages for help and the villagers came together with our staff and worked hard to bring the water to the PHC. Now we have a 24hr water supply and I have started staying in the PHC with my family for the last 3 months.

By God's grace I am the first medical officer to stay here. The staff nurses also are staying here now. We have large turnout of out-patients; on an average we have 100 patients per day.

Immunization status is slowly improving along with antenatal evaluations. We are in the process of starting inpatient services and hope to start conducting deliveries and admit patients in a month or two.

Through my service here I got a chance to share the gospel with many people especially those who come with health dilemmas. There are so many people here who are infected with HIV. Many lead immoral lives. Some have more than 15 children and cannot raise them up, so they send them as housemaids to other villages. Teenage pregnancy is rampant. MMR and IMR are high. It is a challenge to improve the condition here.

What I feel now is that working here is similar to working in a mission hospital. I realise that wherever we are we can be a channel of blessing to others. Each time I have to look to God for help and guidance to deal with these people who cannot understand one another and who are not even taking care of themselves. I thank God that we can work peacefully with two conflicting villages. I also praise God as the government is responding to our pleas and constructing buildings for the PHC. But, sometimes I want to apply for a transfer to a better place and at times I feel the urge to pursue higher studies. But whenever I have these feelings I hear a voice saying, "To whom shall you leave this place? I have chosen you to be a watchman over here (Jeremiah 6:17). The moment you leave, it will go back to its original state". Now I enjoy working here, knowing that I was sent here by God to fulfil His plan in my life. There are still many unfinished tasks here. Please uphold me in your prayer so that I can be a faithful servant to my Master till the end.

Dr. Fernandez Lamin, Jowai hills, Meghalaya



THE LAMIN FAMILY



WELCOME

It is our joy to welcome Dr Sam Sidharth, who will be taking over as the General Secretary of EMFI from Dr Manoj Jacob.

Dr Samuel Sidhartha Swamidoss (Sam Sidharth) known by his colleagues as a caring Physician cultivated a heart for pastoral ministry within the church at an early stage in his life. He trained and served as a Physician for few years before following his call to pursue Theology. He completed his MBBS from MMC, Chennai and MD from CMC, Vellore. He then did his BD (Bachelor of Divinity) from Serampore University and served as a pastor in and around Vellore. He currently serves as the Chaplain at the Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu.

He is married to Chitra, a trained nurse and counsellor and they have two children Praise and Joshua. He will overlap from January 2017 before taking over as the General Secretary of EMFI in June. We wish him God's blessings and guidance as he takes over the leadership of EMFI.



KINGDOM OF GOD SEMINARS

Kingdom of God (KOG) Seminars were held in the North East on 24/9/16 (Dimapur), 27/9/16 (Tezpur) and on 1/10/16 (Shillong) to introduce the Kingdom of God Bible study series to Christian healthcare professionals. This is a series of modules to enable medical professionals to get a clearer perspective about the Kingdom of God in healthcare.

In Shillong around 40 medical professionals attended this one day program at Dr. H. Gordon Robert's hospital. The resource persons were Mr. LT Jeyachandran, Dr. Mathew George and Mr. George Suchiang. The participants got an overview that we belong to the "Kingdom of God" and are called to live as Citizens of this kingdom. It was a meaningful interactive session with good participation from both young and old doctors. Please pray that we can start the monthly study circle for an in depth study on these modules. **Dr Eddie Mukhim, Shillong**

The KOG Seminar at Dimapur was held on the 24th Sept 2016.

31 participants attended the workshop which included medical students, nurses and pastors apart from doctors and dentists. The seminar was well received by the participants following excellent exposition and presentation by the facilitators Mr L T Jeyachandran and Dr Mathew George. The paradigm of viewing medical service from Kingdom Of God perspective was an eye opener. The understanding of health service from the viewpoint of God's restorative endeavor towards human kind was very revealing. A participant expressed that the thought of quitting medical service vanished after understanding the relevance of the KOG perspective in our workplace and lifetime. **Dr. Clement Momin, Dimapur.**



KINGDOM OF GOD SEMINARS - 2016

STUDENTS' SECTION

GOD IS FAITHFUL

I am a medical student from a college in North India and would like to share an experience of God's faithfulness in my final year MBBS results.

I wrote my final MBBS professional exam in January 2016 and our results were declared on the 12th of March 2016. But due to some issues with my internal marks in Medicine, my results were withheld. When I enquired about it at the Examination Cell of our college, I was told that the results would be available after two weeks. Later, when I went after 2 weeks the clerk said that my result would be ready by evening. But he also added that he had already seen my marks and told me that I had failed in medicine.

I was so sad and didn't know how to react. I sat there near the office and

sulked. Then the clerk called me back and he told me to follow him which I did. He took me to the basement of the parking lot and said, "You have failed by 3 marks in the practicals. But I can do one thing for you. I can manipulate your marks and make you pass." I asked him how he could do that and he assured me that he could do it, but it would come at a price of Rs. 5000/-. He asked me to hurry because he would have to manipulate the marks before the results are published in the evening.

I went back thoughtfully. But one Bible verse kept ringing in my mind. "Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture." - Psalms 37:3. I was confused and so I shared this to one of my believer friends. We discussed and prayed about it and decided not to give the bribe as that would not be pleasing to God.

I went back to the clerk and told him that I cannot do such things as I am a Christian. I returned to my room with a heavy heart but also with relief. In the evening some friends started calling and comforting me and praying for me. Two days later when the results finally were declared I found out that I had passed. Praise God! How great is God's faithfulness. But the icing on the cake was, 'Out of the four of us whose results were withheld, I was the only one who passed'. Praise God!

I am now doing my internship purely by the grace of God. I wanted to share this experience with all my fellow students out there as an encouragement to stand firm in times of trials and hardships. And let us remember it is God who helps us to stand firm and follow the right path and do the right thing.



"He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." -Psalms 23:3
A fellow Medico



Family News

Births

Drs Shailesh & Shilpa Gokavi (Hubli) were blessed with a baby girl on 3rd August.

Drs Esther (Chennai) and Mebin were blessed with a boy on 18th August.

Drs Sukumar & Vidya were blessed with a baby boy on 5th September.

Drs Nathaniel & Benita (CMC, Vellore) were blessed with a baby boy on 8th September.

Drs Vishnupriya & Bhupal (Tirupathi) were blessed with a baby girl on 16th September.

Drs Suesh & Swati (Raipur) were blessed with a baby girl on 19th September.

Drs Christy Pradeep Raj & Ramya (Guntur, Andhra Pradesh) were blessed with a baby girl on 20th September.

Drs Bijin Oliver John & Deepa (Chennai) were blessed with a baby boy on 19th October.

Drs Vijay & Smyrna (Raxaul) were blessed with a baby boy on 19th November.

Wedding Bells

Dr Hannah (CFH, Oddanchatram) wed Dr Simeon on 22nd July at Khammam, Andhra Pradesh.

Dr Immanuel (CFH, Oddanchatram) wed Dr Satya Sree on 23rd July at Eluru, Andhra Pradesh.

Dr Harika wed Mr. Shashikanth on 24th November at Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh.

PRAY FOR

- Christmas programs in various fellowships across the country
- Saline Process seminars and TOTs in different parts of the country.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

We praise God that we were able to attend the 'Marriage enrichment and Parenting workshop organized by EMFI from the 3rd to 5th of September 2016 at Jivan Jyoti centre, Hyderabad. About 7 couples were blessed by the sessions conducted by Mr. Peter and Mrs. Sally David. Some highlights were;

The '**Two becoming one**' in Christ is the Goal of Marriage.

Marriage is a covenant with God as our witness and He is hurt every time we hurt our spouse.

We need to love and forgive our spouses just as we receive forgiveness from God continuously.

Other topics included **Love languages, Conflict resolution, Roles and responsibilities, Intimacy and Parenting.** I was personally blessed to know about love languages and how to fill each other's Love Tank (heart) by appreciating, serving and spending time with each other. Most of my doubts and questions were answered as to why our spouses behave



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR HYDERABAD - 2016

differently in different situations. All these were explained wonderfully in the form of role play by our speakers.

We were immensely blessed by the efforts of Mr. Peter David and Mrs. Sally David who conducted all the sessions along with Mr. Devakumar and Mrs. Nanditha. I believe these teachings would help every couple no matter their age, to understand the purpose of marriage and resolve misunderstandings caused by the deceiver.

Drs. Vijay and Sousheelya

REPORT ON EMFI TRAINING OF TRAINERS SESSION HELD AT HYDERABAD 2016

EMFI conducted a three day training for doctors, part of a series of three over 2 years, with the main focus on Mentoring and Leadership. The need for this training was borne out of a desire to have godly leaders emerge in health care in our nation. The aim of the training was to equip people who are willing and motivated to intentionally engage in discipling/mentoring other Christian doctors as leaders and hence was envisioned as a training of trainers workshop.

The training was facilitated at a Christian leadership training center in Hyderabad with very good facilities and ambience. It was well attended by doctors and dentists, many already active in mentoring and discipling students or other doctors. The workshop was rightly called an 'Encounter with God' as what unfolded over the three days was indeed an opportunity to learn how to grow in intimacy with God and to have an overflowing life in Christ. The main thrust was to help each other emerge as passionate lovers of Jesus, as the first step to mentoring and ministering to others. The training was facilitated very well by Dr. Sam and Shashi Thomas, Development Associates International (DAI).

Each day began with a time of devotion on the theme of discipleship and enabled each of us to have a scriptural understanding of the importance and what it means to be a disciple. We studied together the differences between Saul's heart and David's heart and then examined ourselves to identify what leaders in God's kingdom should be like. We spent some time discussing and understanding servant leadership and how this inverted paradigm was demonstrated by Jesus, who in being God did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped but gave up His privileges and humbled Himself to a selfless obedient life.

Day 2 of the training dealt with spiritual transformation- what it is and why it is important. We meditated on intimacy with God and how all the work we do should flow from a constant abiding in Jesus, without which exhaustion and burn out are realities. The last session was a wonderful experience for each one of us as we meditated together on brokenness and what it means to have a contrite heart. Break-throughs always follow brokenness. We prayerfully thanked and submitted to God all our brokenness for him to mold us again, trusting Him to make us beautiful and more like Him.

It was an intense three days of reaffirming, renewing and being refreshed as disciples of Christ and a real encounter with God. We must mention it was also a lovely time to fellowship, meet old



EMFI TRAINING OF TRAINERS SESSION HYDERABAD - 2016

friends, make new ones and learn from the rich experiences of all those present for this training.

Drs. Jesu and Dorothy
ETCM Hospital, Kolar.

PRAISE GOD FOR

- The young doctors who attended the Leadership/Mentoring workshops at Hyderabad in July and Oddanchatram in August
- The refreshing time that the EMFI staff could have at Hyderabad, praying and planning the work ahead
- The young couples who attended the ongoing mentoring program for Post Graduates called **ALONGSIDERZ** in July
- The many students who attended the Tamil Nadu state conference at Pachalur, Oddanchatram and were blessed
- The series of Kingdom of God (KOG) seminars held in the North East of India
- The 800 odd medical students who attended the missions conference at CMC, Vellore called **SHILOH** in October
- North India regional conference held in Chhattisgarh for the first time at Raipur.
- The one day retreats on Basic Biblical doctrines called **DOWNLOAD** held at Chennai, Kurnool and Bangalore in June, September & November and the **RELOAD** held at Dibrugarh in September
- The seven young couples who attended the Marriage enrichment seminar at Hyderabad in September
- The one day retreats at Bangalore in October and Tirupathi in November

IMM AT ODDANCHATRAM, TAMIL NADU



The medical missions training (IMM) held from the 27th June - 3rd July at CF Hospital, Oddanchatram was more than just helpful. Our apprehensions, doubts and questions about being a missionary were in some way or other put to rest. For the very first time, we understood that as believers we are ALL on a mission. It is both a privilege and a responsibility. It begins NOW. In our context (work, hostel, college, home). And most of all it is the very heart of God. It is His mission, His agenda and we are His hands and feet.

Apart from the teaching, we would all look forward to that one hour with our mentors every evening. They took time out of their busy schedules, though tired after seeing hundreds of patients to spend time with us. It was a time where we shared our concerns, questions, fears and desires. All these were answered by them in love coupled with wisdom. Thank you so much!

The field trip was an eye opener. Not only did we come back thankful for everything we took for granted and realizing how blessed we are, but also learned that we are blessed to be a blessing. We were so touched by the way the doctors and health care workers visit the homes to spend time with the families and the efforts taken to set up primary health care centres. It inspired us to treat our patients with compassion and take the time out to listen to their grievances with patience.

We were all a witness to love in action when we stayed back to observe how things were done in the hospital. Everything about it was so different. From the atmosphere that filled the corridors to the work culture. Every procedure was done so carefully, soaked in prayer. The doctors and nurses seemed to have this beautiful tender touch to their care, which is so uncommon these days. We learned that our work must be worship to our God. We are Christians who happen to be doctors. Our identity as Christians comes first. Christianity is our core out of which our doings (as doctors) overflow.

Joanna Frederick, Intern M.R. Ambedkar Dental college, Bangalore.

NORTH INDIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 16th EMFI North India Regional conference that began on the 9th of October 2016 was held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. This was the first time that Chhattisgarh was hosting an EMFI conference. It was a 3-day conference organised by medical fraternity of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Medical Fellowship, Raipur and the students of various medical colleges (Bilaspur, Durg, Bhopal and Jabalpur).

The theme was 'Living the change' (Romans 12:1-2). The theme song called 'I am living the change' was composed by Aman Kujur. The speakers Dr. Rekha James (Jabalpur), Dr. Latha Mathew (Chennai), Dr. Sam Siddharth (Vellore), Dr. Manoj Jacob (Chennai), and Drs. Thomas and Ivy (Lucknow) enlightened our minds through the word of God. An hour every morning was spent in quiet time followed by breakfast and sessions.

Dr. Ivy and Dr. Thomas spoke on how God knows us individually and how we should move close to God and thus closer to salvation. This session was followed by group discussion where everyone was free to put forward their thoughts and ask questions to the speakers. How to tackle temptations and addictions were dealt with in these discussions. Dr. Rekha James spoke on the theme 'Living the change' from Romans 12:1-2. The day ended with a Bible quiz.

Dr. Sam spoke on making peace with God and getting eternal life. Dr. Latha Mathew took the session on how a Christian doctor should act as the saline solution in people's life. In the evening there were fun games in which everyone participated with great enthusiasm. Topics like Relationship with opposite sex and victory over sin were also dealt with. The conference ended with a question and answer session. They were all very well answered by Dr. Sam, Dr. Manoj, uncle K.T Paul and brother Pratik Sindhu. There was a talent night organised on

the last day, where many praised God with their different talents.

The conference was not just an event, it was a 3-day journey of spiritual enhancement. The godly atmosphere helped us move closer to the Lord, transforming ourselves and ultimately living the change.

We all returned with a heart full of God's grace and a bag full of memories with us and we are definitely looking forward to the next EMFI conference.

**Srishti Barwa, Final MBBS
Pt. J.N.M Medical College, Raipur (C.G)**



NORTH INDIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE - 2016

NEWS FROM FAR & NEAR

Thank you so much for sending this newsletter! It is great to be able to pray together as we hear about these news. It is so encouraging to see God glorified in the great work that you are doing in many areas. I am glad to be able to read about both personal joys and hardships, and to see mention of the Saline Training of Trainers as well. There is so much valuable content in this newsletter.
Many blessings

- Dr Gábor, IHS Global

EMFI LEADERSHIP CAMP AT AMBILIKKAI, TAMIL NADU

EMFI Leadership Training Camp (LTC) took place at the Christian Fellowship Community Health Centre, Ambilikkai, Tamil Nadu, from the 13th - 15th of August 2016. A total of 23 students from Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Vinayaka mission and Velammal medical college attended the camp. Topics like Assurance of salvation, Inductive bible study, Personal evangelism, Sexuality and Time management were dealt with. We also had studies from Nehemiah and Deborah. The resource people were Drs Alex, Sam Siddartha, Manoj Jacob, Oby Cherian, Deepa and Mr Linu Zachariah. We also celebrated our country's independence. It was followed by the continuation of the devotion and the final session on "Christ like shepherding." We had a tour of the hospital led by Dr Sam and Dr Andrew. The camp ended with the Ambilikkai team presenting each student with a memento and Dr Manoj recapping the whole camp for the students. Every day we had worship led by students from Vinayaka mission, Salem. On a personal note the camp made me realize as to where I stand as a leader in Christ and understand that where I turn to as my

next mission field is important. The session on personal evangelism was very useful. As for Anita she felt that she needs to spend more time

in the presence of God and meditate more on the Word. Knowing God through His word should be done with passion and not as a job. Her favorite session in the camp was "stewardship" which made her realize that as a child of God she has the responsibility to make the world a better place for His glory. We thank EMFI for organizing the camp and pray for more such camps to be organized in future.

Drs Jane and Anita



EMFI LEADERSHIP CAMP AT AMBILIKKAI, TAMIL NADU

SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL ICMDA CONFERENCE FOR DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

The South Asia Regional Conference for doctors and Dentists was jointly organised by CMAI and EMFI at Seva Kendra, Kolkata, West Bengal from the 27th – 30th of October 2016. The theme for the conference was, "For A Time Such As This" taken from Esther 4: 14.

Around 150 doctors and students from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and India participated in this conference. Dr Bimal Charles - General Secretary, CMAI welcomed the International participants to the conference. The keynote address on the three days were taken by Dr Vinod Shah - CEO, ICMDA, Dr Bimal Charles – General Secretary, CMAI and Dr Manoj Jacob – General Secretary, EMFI.

Dr Vinod Shah spoke on Vision, Witness, Vocation, Community and Ethics. Dr Bimal Charles co-related the theme, 'For a Time Such as This' with the health statistics of the nation. And Dr Manoj Jacob focused on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ at a 'Time Such as This'. The devotions were taken by Rev. Roger Gaikward – General Secretary, National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) and Dr Arul Anketell – Regional Promoter, Healthcare Fellowship International (HCFI). The international participants shared their ministry updates and the audience took time praying for them.

The Plenary Session on Global Health perspectives were led by Mr Mike Soldering - Chief Catalyst and Global Networker, CFHIM. The topic on Partnering and Networking was facilitated by Dr Varghese Philip - Chairman, EMFI. Dr Indra Napit - President, Nepal Christian Medical and Dental Association (NCMDA) and Mr. Peniel Malakar - EHA, Disaster Management Mitigation Unit shared experiences of the recent

Nepal earthquake. There were break-out sessions on various topics both for doctors and students. Some of the topics dealt with were:

Healthcare leadership, Bioethics, Kingdom Of God perspectives in Healthcare and Saline Process.

The break-out sessions for students included:

Biblical perspective of Sexuality, Learning to Learn and Career & Calling.

The participants were blessed and enriched spiritually.

Announcement was also made about the ICMDA World Congress to be held at Hyderabad in August 2018 encouraging everyone to pray and participate in it.

The conference brought doctors and students together from different South Asian countries for a time of fellowship, sharing and learning.

All glory to God 'For a Time Such as This'.

Ms. Indira Kurupati, CMAI



SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL ICMDA CONFERENCE FOR DOCTORS AND DENTISTS



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 'WINNERS OF ESSAY WRITING 2016'

Category 1 - Medical Students and Interns:

Vanlaltlani Khawlhing

Category 2 - Post Graduates:

Dr. Divya Susanna Ninan

All the essays received were of high quality and the panel of doctors had a tough time deciding on the winners. We thank you all for your participation. Continue to write for the Glory of the Lord. The prizes will be awarded at a function held at a later date.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear friends,

It's good to connect with all of you as the year 2016 ends. In hindsight, I am grateful to God for His goodness, mercy and faithfulness towards us. I am sure that each of you will have a similar story to tell of your own personal, family and professional aspects in life.

Change is a dominant factor of our lives. The recent demonetisation of 500, 1000 rupee notes and tightening of the financial system has brought much anxiety and stress. These are gentle reminders for us, as disciples of Christ to put our trust in the Lord, not on any of the material things of this world - be it power, position or possessions.

As I earlier mentioned, as part of its strategic plan, EMFI has identified 4 key areas to be the focus for the next 5 years - namely **Discipleship, Leadership, Ethics** and **Missions** with the process being defined and training resources developed. **Fellowship** would continue to be the core, with communities of Christ-following students and doctors formed and meeting in different parts of the country, encouraging and supporting one another to live godly and Christ-honouring lives.

I have been contemplating on the word 'disciple' over the last few weeks and have providentially come across some books and articles that focus on this important subject.

Most of us frequently use the word 'disciple' and 'discipleship', but often do not foresee the process and end product. Sometimes we have this notion that it is to complete a syllabus or organise a program.

I recently found this definition developed by a church "**A disciple is a Christ-mastered person, with depth in grace and godliness, who seeks God's empowering to fulfil God's will, in God's way for God's glory.**" The Lordship of Christ, growth in character and godliness, seeking God's will and living for God's glory are all included in this definition. This does not come only by completing a syllabus.

Jesus used an apprenticeship model with the early disciples (Gk. *mathetes*), where the teacher and an apprentice lived together over an extended period of time, not just imparting knowledge but sharing his life. "*Jesus' call was a personal invitation and one that was radical because it was a special invitation to life....in it was a specific calling to a specific way of life. He was not calling them to a geographical place but to a pilgrimage; not to a particular destination but to a particular destiny!*"

In his book, "Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World", Lee Camp writes, "*Jesus of Nazareth always comes asking disciples to follow Him - not merely "accept Him", or "believe in Him", or even "worship Him" but to follow Him - one either follows Christ or does not. There is no compartmentalisation of the faith - no realm, no sphere, no business, no politic in which lordship of Christ will be excluded. We either make Him Lord of all lords or we deny Him as Lord of any.*" **The Lordship of Christ Jesus over every area of life is very important.**

When we decide to follow Jesus or invite young people to follow Him, it is also an invitation "*to abide in Christ, by adopting a specific way of life, so as to become more like Him as we obey Him*". The disciple becomes increasingly like his/her

Master or Christ-like with objective changes in beliefs, feelings and behaviours. Without this transformation the aspect of 'following Jesus' becomes a cosmetic exercise. There is no doubt that this comes with a cost and only those willing to pay the cost can diligently follow Jesus!

John Stott in his book, "the Radical Disciple" mentions of four contemporary trends that threaten and swallow up anyone considering serious discipleship. They are **Pluralism** which rejects the uniqueness and finality of Jesus Christ and claims that every 'ism' has its own independent validity; **Materialism** which is a preoccupation with material things that tends to smother the spiritual life; **Ethical Relativism** where absolutes including the Word of God is rejected and **Narcissism** which is an excessive love for oneself. A serious disciple has to address these areas head-on and cannot afford to make any compromise.

Any change in health care that we envisage can only happen through the development of serious disciples or followers of Christ, who in turn become godly leaders. Even as the staffs in EMFI make an effort, it will be helpful if, each of you as doctors could identify and take along a couple of young students to share lives with and take them through a journey of discipleship. This will be deeply fulfilling and also strategic in complementing our efforts in this direction.

Thank you so much for standing with and supporting us through the year.

Wishing each of you a Christ-centred Christmas season and a blessed new year.

Manoj Jacob

TREASURER'S NOTE

Dear Friends

It is great being able to connect with you all through this letter. Thank you for your wonderful response over the past few months. As you can see from the accounts, we have been amply supplied, (as Paul writes to the Philippians after receiving their gifts sent through Epaphroditus). Please continue to remember EMFI in prayer that we will be faithful stewards in utilizing your gifts for the building up of God's Kingdom as we eagerly await His return. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT) And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Grace Thomas

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
June	5,65,319	7,40,269
July	8,10,817	7,17,658
August	9,57,184	6,18,907
September	9,42,867	8,56,783
October	7,30,543	6,84,685

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

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

HDFC Bank SAVINGS A/c No: 04921000009885 (Branch Code: 492, IFSC: HDFC0000492)

*Please call/text/Email us after you make the transaction. 09176215489/90. emfihq@gmail.com, Phone: 044-28361507

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

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