



FAR & NEAR

FOURTH QUARTER 2018

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

- *Insanity of God's Call* -

Caravaggio, the 17th century Italian artist painted 'The Crucifixion of Saint Peter'. It is said that he created the most powerfully physical Christian art that has ever been painted. His paintings touch you physically and move you emotionally.

Tradition says that when Roman authorities came for his execution, Peter's last wish was to be crucified upside down. He did not consider to be worthy to be crucified like his Master. The painting captures the exact moment the cross is being hoisted. Peter is already been nailed. Peter's face is contorted in pain. Perhaps Peter remembers his Lord's words '...but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' But, never for a moment did Peter doubt the meaning of following Christ. Never for a moment did Peter misunderstand the consequences of obeying God.

The current discussion in global media on John Allen Chau, who was killed while reaching out to Sentinelese people brings to focus some of the questions around God's call. This incident that has raised so many questions, is a good point of reference to discuss the nature of God's will and His call.

Firstly, God's desire is the ultimate unity of all things and people in harmonious relationship with Jesus (refer Col 1:19,20). Reconciling all peoples to God is the will of God. It is only in Him that the peoples of the earth find their true identity and fullness. This is the most powerful reason why God calls us to go out to the uttermost parts of the world. This is our mandate. God did not create man to be put in a zoo for others to observe. God wants the isolated people to experience the joy of finding their true creator.

Even humanistically, the idea of keeping people isolated is not reasonable. They lack the knowledge or the technology to take care of their health or their future needs, resulting in their eventual extinction. Keeping people out of reach of the benefits of scientific and human development that has the potential to develop their minds and societies, is not just. Though there are dangers of such integration, keeping the societies isolated is a sure way to destroy them.

Secondly, God's call is not rooted in the visible reality of the material world. This is amply clear from Jesus' own words, 'My kingdom is not of this world'. Since the call of God arises out of another reality, it must necessarily appear insane to the world - to our family, friends and our social circle. This particular type of insanity or unreasonableness is a necessary precondition to its explosive power to bring about transformative change. Normal people live and die normal bourgeois lives.

Jesus asserted, 'My life, for the life of the world.'

What's your life for?



The Crucifixion of Saint Peter

- Highlights from the staff -

GEORGE SUCHIANG: FIELD PARTNER – NORTH EAST INDIA

George has been using innovative ways of sharing the word with the boys outside their hostel in a, 'Walking and Talking Fellowship' as he calls it. This is what he writes, "In my service with EMFI, one thing I found out, that being together with students in their rooms and outside the rooms where we can talk openly has more impact than merely delivering a good sermon. A true relationship is strongly built in that way. They tend to look up to us like their brother and friend. The barrier of being a preacher or a pastor (In my case) has been lifted up. This is a true ministry. I always said that, as an EMFI servant, the last thing we do is to preach to them. The full knowledge of Christ can be known by association (being with them) before communication (preaching)."

BIBIN BENYO: FIELD PARTNER – KARNATAKA

Bibin could organise a one day retreat (DOWNLOAD) at Hubli for the students of North Karnataka on basic biblical doctrines. Though the number of students who attended the retreat were less than expected, they had a blessed time of learning. He was involved in the fellowship that took place at the CSI Hospital discussed about initiating a new fellowship in a college. Please pray that things move forward for the Lords glory in this college. All senior members of the dental fellowships have now graduated and are looking to the Lord for guidance.

ANUP RANA: FIELD PARTNER – ODISHA

Anup our new field partner for Odisha has begun visiting some places in the state and made some contacts. He is enjoying the work and has been encouraged by his visit to the mission hospital at Asha Kiran, Lamtaput and meeting the doctors and staff there. This is what he writes about his visits on Odisha, "I am happy to say that God has given me a wonderful opportunity to work in Odisha, I was able to visit a few places and also meet some graduates." Anup could also attend the regional conference at Ranchi in October.

DEVAKUMAR: COORDINATOR – TRAINING

Deva visited Hubli and helped Bibin and Chandy organise a one day retreat for medical students called 'DOWNLOAD'. The retreat focuses on grounding the students on basic Biblical doctrines. Though there were only a few students they had a blessed time of learning. He also took Drs. Anil & Shalini Cherian who were in Chennai on a holiday from their work in South Sudan, Uganda to a local fellowship in Chennai where they spoke very practically about what Calling and Ministry is all about. He also organised two one day retreats at Chennai. Other than this he also conducted a program for young married doctor couples in his home where four young couples attended and had a fun filled evening of games, fellowship and learning from the Word. He was also part of the one day family retreat for the Pulmonology department of CMC, Vellore. Some of the topics covered there were; Disobedience, Superstition, Fear & Worry, Buisness, Sexual Immorality etc. Deva was also enabled to organise a marriage enrichment seminar at SU Cornerstone at Mahabapalipuram which was attended by 6 young couples. He also visited the Government medical college fellowship at Vellore.

KT PAUL: COORDINATOR – NORTH INDIA

KT visited Ranchi and could finalise things for the North India Regional Conference along with Dr Vikram Turkey. Though he was anxious about the conference, the Lords faithfulness in sorting things out encouraged KT greatly. He writes, "Though things did not happen according to human expectation, God fulfilled His purposes. All glory to God." KT had a fruitful time of ministry with some of the interns and final year students on his return from Ranchi at Dhanbad where he could discuss a few topics that they were struggling with. In another fellowship KT could minister to a student who was suffering with depression due to the upcoming pre-final exams. Their home continues to be an open home for graduate families.



LINU ZACHARIAH: FIELD PARTNER – TAMIL NADU

Linu has been trying to get a proper place for a fellowship as they are able to meet only in the college ground as of now. Do pray that they find a suitable place. He accompanied Dr. Oby Cherian to a fellowship in Madurai, where the students were much encouraged by the visit and the teaching of such a senior doctor. Linu also visited a couple of mission hospitals and could encourage the staff there and also be encouraged himself. He is concerned about some fellowships where the students are becoming irregular and dwindling in numbers. He could also be part of the leadership camp for students held in Ambilikkai. Linu could also visit a private nursing home and encourage the doctors and staff to be the agents of change in that place for the Lord.



PRATIK SINDHU: COORDINATOR – MADHYA PRADESH & CHATTISGARH

Pratik could visit a few fellowships and encourage the students from the life of Noah, challenging them to examine their lives to see whether it is pleasing to the Lord. He visited many doctors and spent quality time with them. He encouraged the students in their preparations for the Agra conference. He along with a few students from the fellowship at Bhopal visited and spent time with Dr. Bertha.



IMV RAO: FIELD PARTNER – ANDHRA PRADESH

Rao could encourage the young doctors who meet regularly on a weekly basis at Tirupathi. His wife Dr. Bharathi visits the girls in their hostels and encourages them from the word. It is quite encouraging to see three of the PG girls also taking the effort to spend time with the UG girls in their hostels on a regular basis. Rao also visited some of the senior students of a dental college and encouraged them to meet regularly for fellowship in their campus itself. He along with a four senior graduates visited a private college and encouraged the students there. At Vijayawada, Rao attended a graduates fellowship where they bid farewell to a young couple who were planning to join the mission hospital at Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu.



SOLOMON RAJU: FIELD PARTNER – ANDHRA PRADESH

Solomon visited the fellowship at Ongole and encouraged them from the word of God and also clarified some misconceptions they had on certain topics. In other fellowships, Solomon has been engaging the students on the topic, Children of Darkness and Children on the Light. He also visited a young doctor who is running a private nursing home in Nandyal and encouraged him to be available for the students fellowship there.



ISAAC CHANDY: ASSOCIATE STAFF – BANGALORE

Chandy was able to help the senior students at Bangalore plan their Christmas program for all the colleges in Bangalore. He continues to encourage the doctors and staff of a private hospital in Bangalore where they have been doing a study on the book of Revelation. He along with Bibin could meet with some of the graduates at Baptist Hospital and plan for the Karnataka State Conference, 'UPLIFT 2019'. They were able to shortlist the speakers and also decide on the theme for the conference.



MICHAEL SUNDERSINGH: COORDINATOR – PASTORAL CARE

Michael visited and encouraged the fresh students in the fellowships of Delhi and Ludhiana. He could also visit and encourage the doctors and their families at CMC, Ludhiana and Makunda Christian Hospital. Michael also took an Agriculture graduate along with him on his trip to Makunda and this person could give them Agri counselling to the people at Makunda. He also spent time with a few doctor families on his visit to Dehra Dun. Michael and Grace were also engaged with preparations for their elder son Gabriel's wedding which took place at Khammam, Andhra Pradesh in November.



GROUND REALITIES - WHEN THE TYRE HITS THE ROAD

- Contentment -

Our generation is a restless one. We are relentless gazers of our pixellated screens. We are morbid shopaholics lured by the next big thing too restless to enjoy our present possessions. Our craving for novelty is dire than all our previous ages combined. The comparisons with our peers force us to make purchases that we do not need with money we don't have. We very well know that a particular article or a gadget does not give us lasting happiness but we push ourselves to own them anyway lest we fall behind in the race.

I am the typical guy of my generation. I am excited by things my friends buy and try to own them impulsively. I dream of holidays and foreign travel without an iota of who will fund them. I compare my phones to the most recent ones and keep pondering on how I could bridge the gap. But we are in a technological revolution and that means the trendy today becomes obsolete by tomorrow. Even as I write I am surrounded by a Mac-book, an AI speaker, high speed internet and android smart TV. But there is still discontent because my boss just purchased a new phone and I am behind him in that regard.

Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6) teaches the Scripture and a little thought would enlighten us that the two are inseparable. When we are Godly enough to understand that He supplies all our needs, contentment is the obvious corollary. True contentment comes by believing in the Sacrifice on the cross for us, and that would move us to Godliness. When discontent rules our hearts, then the throne for God is given away to materialistic plenty. There is no Godliness left when our heart is restlessly eyeing the new things in the market. Since no thing can give us lasting happiness we are on the vicious cycle of discontent, debt and insecurity. We keep grumbling about things we don't have and remain ungrateful. Counting my blessings is obviously not what I would do because my discontent blinds me seeing any of them.

But God is gracious and kind. He removes the scales off our eyes and encourages us to see the truth sometimes even through tragedy and loss.

It was another normal day at my place of work. We had a pregnant lady who presented with an ultrasound scan that reported cord around the baby's neck. The foetal heart was dipping with every contraction. It was an obstetric emergency. It required cesarean section, the age old operation of cutting through the abdomen for delivering the baby; the surgery which apparently brought forth emperors to rule the world; It has off late become the most abused operation according to layman sources.

But the scenario was too complicated. The lady belonged to the Bhil tribal group which is spread across central India and had no quality antenatal checkups. The fruits of 'acche din' had not evidently reached this tribal woman. Her husband, did not accompany her and did not want his wife to be rolled into the OR till he reached the hospital. To complicate things further her hemoglobin was 6 gms. It was a high risk emergency surgery with no one willing to give consent. After 120 gruelling minutes he reached the hospital. After much cajoling, he agreed for surgery.

Anaesthesia was administered, abdomen was opened and Homeostasis was achieved immaculately keeping in view the low haemoglobin. Uterus was sliced and the baby was delivered. The child had aspirated meconium (foetal stools) and his lungs were filled with amniotic fluid. The vigorous cry of a normal child was absent. The child was unresponsive to stimulation, floppy, with no spontaneous breathing. After placing a tube in the child's lungs, assisting his breathing and giving all other life saving medicine, the baby could not be revived. The child was wrapped in crumpled garment and I could not but imagine my child in that fatal predicament. We handed over the child to the father who still did not come to terms with the tragedy. I tried counseling him but I knew, words would not help much.

Tears rolled down in tiny rivers in the dark corridors of theatre complex. Through the heartrending experience of a child's death, a hymn of worship emanated from my heart. The relevance of my mobile's operating system, the size of my TV screen, the horsepower of my bike, the specifications of my dream car and the choice of my international holiday felt irreverently rubbish before the blessings I have been bestowed. Grumble gave way to praise and discontent to thankfulness.

I did not have to run from pillar to post to get my wife a semblance of obstetric care. In fact both my children were delivered by the best doctors in the country. We were properly nourished that our blood levels are good. And it was sheer God's mercy that my kids did not aspirate maternal fluids into their chests. We take things for granted and we don't see that our lives, our children's lives are gifts from God. We are alive, having food to eat, clothes to wear, shelter over our heads and screens to read this on. Most people in our country don't have them. Instead of being upset that we don't have certain luxuries in life, we must be thankful that we have life.

I came out of the theatre as a thankful man. I asked God to console and heal the wounds of the young family. I asked Him to teach me to be content. To be humble to enjoy the good things he has given me. I asked Him to teach me count my blessings.. Never should a mother lose a child due to ignorance and indecision and never should we see an infants death for realising how thankful we must be.

Arun Gautam
Chinchippada



SALINE PROCESS TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN BCMCH

This is a concise record of the Saline Process training programmes that have been going on in Believers Church Medical College Hospital, Thiruvalla, Kerala. It all started 2 years ago when the Director of Missions, Rev. Dr. Daniel Johnson happened to meet Dr. Latha Mathew at a conference in Kolkata. Dr. Latha did a one-on-one Saline Taster presentation, and Rev. Dr. Daniel started dreaming about what this program could do to his institution. As a result, Drs. Latha and Mathew were in BCMCH within the next couple of months with their first training programme, and armed with a plan to cover the entire staff by conducting ongoing training programmes every 3-4 months. So far we have had 6 batches of trainees totalling about 125 staff. The participants have been from all sections of staff like physiotherapists, chaplains, nurses, doctors, receptionists, technicians, teachers, tutors and so on. The impact on the institution has been significant. The healing ministry and the witnessing aspect of medical work has almost entirely become owned by the Saline alumni. The hospital chaplain says that at one point of time he struggled to get volunteers for his activities like morning chapel, the weekly healing service for patients and the dawn prayer for patients undergoing surgery. With each new batch of Saline trainees, he gets more and more staff joining this ministry with much desire and enthusiasm. We have realized through these programmes that God is at work in the lives of each of our staff, and we are amazed every time at the testimonies that arise especially from the nursing staff. We want to thank Saline International (IHS) and EMFI, especially Latha and Mathew for this wonderful ministry which has been a great blessing to us.

Dr. Sathish Thomas
Professor and Head of Ophthalmology,
Believers Church Medical College Hospital,
Thiruvalla, Kerala



NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MEDICAL EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

- Medical education as a calling -

WITNESS TO THE HEALING MINISTRY OF CHRIST THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

As CMC celebrates 100 years of Medical education, we rejoice in God's faithfulness and the way He has guided us as an institution in various areas of service, research and education. We are aware of the challenges that medical education faces in our country and the need for teachers who will be role models. We believe that the Christian medical educators of India should respond to this by teaching through their lives the values of compassion and ethics along with excellence in knowledge and skills to provide care for the whole person. Dr. Ida Scudder was clear that she was not building a medical college but the Kingdom of God. Many have been called to build God's Kingdom in teaching institutions around the country, in various settings. The goal of this conference is to encourage them to see teaching as a calling from the Lord and to support them. It will focus on important topics such as teaching as a calling, teaching compassion, preventing burnout and teaching justice and equity. The sessions are planned to be very interactive to facilitate participants to learn from one another and also to network for future training opportunities.

Dates: January 18th and 19th, 2019

Venue: New Examination Hall, Bagayam, Christian Medical College, Vellore

Registration fees: Rs.1500

Contact: Dr Sunil Abraham . Phone 9843232793 email: sunil.george.abraham@gmail.com

Limited accommodation is available in the campus on a shared basis.



- Christian Dental Practice -

How can a Christian Dentist be a witness to Christ through his or her Practice?

A group of dentists representing various Christian hospitals informally studied this issue and attempted to draw up some criteria which would characterise Christian dentists and God honouring dental practice.

- 1. A SENSE OF CALLING:** A Christian dentist needs to know that he has been called by God into his profession. Without this awareness of one's calling, work remains only a job and at the most a career. Both of the latter approaches to work are based on self and ambition. Work carried out in response to God's invitation is considered a privilege and is done not for personal honour and advancement but for God's glory. It is done thankfully and whole heartedly realising that work itself a gift from God.
- 2. PERSON CENTRED PRACTICE:** Selfless service in dentistry seeks the best interests of the patient and is motivated by Christ's agape love. The patient is the most important person in the practice and not the dentist or the dental team. A patient is not seen as a customer or a disease to be treated but as a person sent by God whose needs the dentist is called to meet. More than the body the Christian knows that he is dealing with a living soul with a heart, mind and spirit. How sad it is to save the body (or tooth) but to lose the soul of the person sent to us?
- 3. COMPREHENSIVE CARE:** Even though patients usually come with a problem related to a single tooth the Christian dentist will see not just the tooth but also the entire dentition, the whole mouth and also try to understand the problem in the context of the patient's medical condition as well as their socio-economic situation. In today's world of specialisation and clinical "tunnel vision", the patient is reduced to being a "root canal" or "implant case". The Christian doctor will go beyond these restricting barriers and see the patient as a whole person, created in the Image of God.
- 4. QUALITY OF CARE:** The Christian dentist will seek to do the best she can to meet her patient's dental needs. For this the dentist will not only be qualified to practice dentistry but also be competent to practice "Good dentistry". Excellence in the profession includes both treatment of disease as well as active measures to restore health especially through patient education and preventive care. Quality of practice is directly proportional to the quality of the relationship the dentist has with patients, fellow staff and students.
- 5. ETHICAL PRACTICE:** The good dentist will always seek answers to the Question "What is the right thing to do?" for every patient and in every situation. Is not the "Fear of God" "the beginning of wisdom (and ethics)? God has invited us to ask Him for wisdom and has given us His Holy Spirit to guide us into making right and just decisions.
- 6. CONCERN FOR THE POOR:** A practice which has no place or concern for the poor cannot be called Christian. The Christian dentist will find ways and means to reach out to the underprivileged and not be satisfied with using dentistry as a business only.
- 7. WISE STEWARDSHIP:** The Christian dentist is equipped by God with various gifts, talents and resources to fulfil the calling. He or she is required to carefully develop these resources and use them effectively. The rewards include not just personal and professional satisfaction but the commendation of God Himself "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

EMFI is committed to enable dental students and graduates to fulfil their calling. Towards this end a Christian dentists forum is being developed to enable networking of dentists with a common commitment who will interact, encourage, pray and grow together as God's children. If interested in participating, please contact Dr. Abey Chacko (Bangalore Baptist Hospital) abeyvchacko@gmail.com.

A One year Certificate course in General Dentistry (CGD) is organised by the Distance education and Dental departments of CMC Vellore, as a blended learning and competence building course which will enable dentists to learn the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to put into practice the values of Christian Dental practice. This program involves clinical mentoring and one on one training by senior dentists at CMC and some Mission hospital dental departments. Those interested can apply to dental1@cmcvellore.ac.in

Dr Rabin Chacko
CMCH, Vellore.





FAMILY NEWS

- Weddings -

Dr. Arvind wed Dr. Pranuthi on 27th October at Vijayawada

- Births -

- Dr Esther and Dr Maben (Chennai) were blessed with a baby boy on 5th November
- Drs Ronald & Sylvia CMV, blessed with a baby girl Iniya Ann Carey on 19th October
- Drs Noel and Pranuthi (Hyderabad) were blessed with a baby girl on 19th November

- North India regional conference at Agra - 8th to 10th November -



Around 80 students from the Government colleges of North India met at Agra for the EMFI North India conference at Agra. They had a blessed time of fellowship and learning. Many committed / re-committed their lives to the Lord.



- Praise God for -

- The many students who attended the Missions conference at CMC, Vellore in September.
- The six couples who attended the marriage enrichment seminar at Cornerstone, Mahaballipuram.
- The 80 students who attended the North India conference at Agra in November.





- Reflections from the General Secretary -

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

It is a time when most of us rejoice in his coming among us in flesh. Oh! What an unfathomable mystery! What joy! Let us celebrate! The simplicity of his life, coming among us in such simplicity is stunning! The reason for his coming, as it unfolds slowly is almost unacceptable to his disciples and needs his resurrection and the enlightenment by the Holy Spirit to sink in! Yes, let us celebrate this glorious coming of our Lord among us! Let such celebration call us to simplicity and making us lay down this life for his purposes.

While we do this, it is also the time to eagerly await his coming again. In this season, the Church is encouraged to meditate both on his coming among us in flesh, and his coming again to consummate all things.

While he taught his disciples, he has revealed to us how we can eagerly and joyfully prepare for his coming again. He has taught us how the times will unfold. Major themes of the times will be persecution of his children, deception regarding who the messiah is, 'life as usual' lifestyle, abuse of power and drunkenness.

In contrast he has through some beautiful parables shown us how his disciples should prepare for his coming. The major themes here are stewardship, preparedness (the wise virgins), diligence and industry in His cause with what we have been given (the parable of the talents) and the concern for the least of the brethren which results in unselfish conscious action on their behalf. Needless to say, that the disciple will be actively involved in the spread of the gospel of the kingdom as a testimony to all nations.

Of course, there may be many other things to exhort each other with. These are some of the things that he has taught us regarding his coming again. This has to be placed in the matrix of all that he has taught us.

Let us pray that the blessed Holy Spirit will bring these things to our remembrance in a way that these will become part of our Character.

Happy Christmas & Maranatha!

- Financial Update -

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSE
SEPTEMBER	504176	800716
OCTOBER	699783	796751

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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 (Branch Code: 492, IFSC: HDFC0000492)

*** PLEASE CALL/TEXT/EMAIL US AFTER YOU MAKE THE TRANSACTION.**

09176215489/90, emfihq@gmail.com
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YOU CAN ALSO MAKE DIRECT ONLINE PAYMENT BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE*

WWW.EMFI.IN

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