



## OUR VISION

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

# FAR & NEAR

## CHRISTMAS EDITION 2015



THE EMFI TEAM WISHES YOU

*a joyous*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
AND  
*Every Blessing*  
IN THE  
**NEW YEAR**  
2016

### Jesus Christ,

the Prince of Peace, assures hope, peace and security in an uncertain world, hurting with violence, disasters and natural calamities. Let us pass on this message before He returns and the Christmas story itself cannot be told!!

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

### Desire | də'zī(ə)r |

Desire is a powerful force that motivates us to act. We spend our time, effort and life in pursuit of what we desire. But unfortunately, our desires are often fragmented and eventually diffuse. Because we get pulled in different directions by our desires, we muddle through life. Occasionally, our desires are for unworthy objects and we end up with a life that is robbed of vibrancy and fullness. How do we get back? And how do we get hold of our desires?

An authentic experience of being born again, is essentially a transformation of desire. What we desired earlier, we desire no more. From a life of many desires, we move to a life of a single desire (e.g., Martha vs Mary). Repentance, is shunning many desires to embrace the one overarching desire, that is God himself. As we approach 'advent', we remember the great example of Simeon at the temple. A single desire gripped his thoughts - 'to see the salvation, prepared for... all people' (Lk 2:30,31). Such intensity of desire and focus, is cultivated through constant shunning, pruning and choosing - an ongoing process of repentance and embracing newness. It is indeed, an undertaking of a lifetime!

When our desires change, our choices change. When our choices change, our life changes. Doing a bit of reverse engineering, if we look at our past choices, or even day to day decisions, we know what our desires are, and there lies an opportunity to repent, leading to the path to transformation.

Singleness of desire is important if we are to lead a productive and full life. Singleness of desire empowers us in several ways. Firstly, it has cleansing power. A sufficiently strong desire, marginalises all other small and unworthy desires. Thus, cultivating one desire is essential to get rid of the multitude of desires that battle within us and those that create havoc in our lives. Secondly, desire gives us a strong sense of direction. Desire is the North Star that inexorably moves us in a particular direction. It is the key to how our life gets organized and is the pivot that determines the radius of our involvement and influence. Thirdly, sufficiently strong desire invests our life with purpose and meaning, whereas, multiple desires can dissipate our energy and leave us frustrated and empty.

May Christmas bring such profound transformation of our desires that we concur with the Psalmist in saying: *I desire to do your will, my God* (Psalms 40:8). Nothing else! And nothing less!

**Varghese Philip**



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM STAFF

## **ANSHUMAN SINGH, FIELD PARTNER, MAHARASHTRA**

Anshuman visited and encouraged some of the fellowships in Parel, Miraj, Kholapur and Nagpur. He spent some time with Dr. Adarsh and family encouraging and comforting them. At Miraj, Anshuman shared amongst the doctors and staff of Wanless Hospital. Anshuman & Alankrita have moved out of EMFI from Nov 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, they are looking to the Lord to serve HIM in West Bengal in a different capacity.

## **DEVAKUMAR, COORDINATOR, TRAINING**

The 'Pachalur camp' this August had a record attendance of 138 students. Since there were more girls, they were accommodated in the main hall for the first time in the history of the camp says Deva! The sessions were handled with great passion by Drs Sujith Varghese, Naveen Thomas, Sam Sidarth and Susheel Tharien. A 'Marriage enrichment seminar' in August at Corner stone was a blessing to couples. At the 3rd DOWNLOAD (The program on basic biblical doctrines for students of Chennai) Dr. Kuruvilla Varkey spoke on 'Spiritual Disciplines' with such simplicity and clarity that the students hardly had any doubts. In October along with other staff Deva attended the SHILOH. Students from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu thronged the conference to attend this unique endeavor on Missions at CMC, Vellore.

## **LINU ZACHARIAH, FIELD PARTNER, TAMIL NADU**

Visited the fellowships in Madurai, Theni, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, Tanjore and Vellore. At Tuticorin he could meet graduate doctors. He spent time with the roommates of some fellowship students to develop good friendships and rapport with them. Linu invited a boy from the Madurai Medical College to his home in Oddanchatram during the Puja holidays and exposed him to the way Christian Fellowship Hospital functions. He returned encouraged.

## **PRATIK SINDHU, COORDINATOR, MADHYA PRADESH & CHATTISGARH**

On his visit to Bilaspur, he had planned to spend only a short time due to exams. But many students came to clarify their doubts and the fellowship lasted for over 2 hours. At Raipur the accident of one of the fellowship members leading to paraplegia has shaken them very much. Pratik visited Gwalior and Bhopal and encouraged the fellowship members and leaders. Most the students who attended the Regional Conference at Lucknow have been greatly blessed. Pray that they will continue to grow in the Lord.

## **GEORGE SUCHIANG, FIELD PARTNER, NORTH EAST INDIA**

George met many young & senior Doctors as he visited places like Tezpur, Dimapur and Sikkim, motivating them to attend the Regional conference. At 'RELOAD', a one day retreat on basic biblical doctrines at Shillong, around 70 students came and were challenged by the teaching on 'Money Management'. The regional conference at Guwahati in October was a blessing to all who attended. George has been conducting a series of Bible studies with some of the fellowships on the topic 'Authentic Caring'. George made his maiden visit to the Jorhat Medical college & met students.

## **KT PAUL, COORDINATOR, NORTH INDIA**

Visited fellowships in Jaipur, Ajmer, Lalitpur, Jhansi, Udaipur and Lucknow, stressing the importance of studying the Word and the need for mentors. Many shared their personal struggles and discouragements. At Lalitpur, KT could spend time with Dr. Bachan before he entered to eternal glory. Dr. Bachan headed the institution after the missionaries left in 1972. KT could stand alongside Dr. Adarsh and Latha as Dr. Latha went through illness and finally entered eternal rest. For Helen & KT it was a turbulent time. At the Regional Conference and KT and Helen who helped in the planning, were also able to help students with personal issues and ministered to graduates.

## **SOLOMON RAJU, FIELD PARTNER, ANDHRA PRADESH**

Solomon visited the fellowship groups in Kurnool, Anantapur, Ongole and Nandyal and encouraged the students. Helping them on issues like future, marriage, career etc, by spending time with many of the fellowship members individually in the hostels. He visited the local doctors and encouraged them to visit the student fellowships whenever possible..

## **MALSAWMLIANA DARLONG, FIELD PARTNER, WEST BENGAL**

Malsawma visited the medical colleges in Kolkata Kalighat, Burdwan and Siliguri. He has been taking a series of Bible studies on the topic, 'The Christians Certainty'. He has found a good cell church in Kolkata to worship in and the pastor has shown keen interest in involving some of his medico contacts in medical student ministry. He has been encouraging the fellowship members to be sensitive to the voice of the Lord in their lives.

## **LINDLEY MARQUIS, COORDINATOR, KARNATAKA**

Lindley visited fellowships in Hubli, Mysore, Bagalkot and Kolar. At fellowships he has been using 'Life of a Disciple' Bible study series and in other groups he has been conducting inductive Bible studies from the book of Daniel and Ephesians. Some doctors and pastors partner with Lindley to oversee the fellowship groups. At Kolar he has been motivating a group of young doctors to reach out to the medical college fellowship in the city. Lindley has also started meeting with some seniors to prayer and plan for Karnataka. The 'Kingdom of God' seminar held at Bangalore had a good response and around 28 medical and dental students attended.

## **MALCOLM JOHNSON, FIELD PARTNER, TELANGANA**

Malcolm and his wife Uma helped the fellowships in Hyderabad to prepare for the State Conference. They visited Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Vishakapatnam, Kakinada, Rajamundry and Amalapuram, Eluru & Khammam and encouraged these fellowship students to participate in the conference. They are regularly visiting and encouraging the fellowship group in Adilabad. .

## **MICHAEL SUNDERSINGH, COORDINATOR, PASTORAL CARE**

Along with his regular visits to the fellowships of AIIMS, in Delhi, Michael and Grace visited the Robertsganj Mission hospital. Started a prayer every month for EMFI, EHA work and Healthcare in general at the EHA office in Delhi. He and Grace regularly minister to young doctors who seek life partners. They helped the AIIMS fellowship plan their Christmas program.



# GROUND REALITIES

## WHEN THE TYRE HITS THE ROAD

### **BONE MARROW (STEM CELL) TRANSPLANTATION:** *The CMC Ludhiana Journey*

Department of Clinical Haematology, Haemato-Oncology and Bone Marrow (Stem cell) Transplantation at CMC Ludhiana manages and treats patients affected with haematological disorders; both benign and malignant (leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma).

Bone marrow transplantation existed only in books during my training in MBBS and post-graduation. For different reasons, I was convinced that God wanted me to stay back in CMC Ludhiana and contribute although I was not sure how. On different considerations by different people, I was told about the need for establishing hematology and transplant services as there was a need in this part of the country.

Although the prospect of pursuing it looked challenging, the road looked daunting considering the "ground realities". I had many deliberations with God on "Why me"?

The feel of setting up a transplant program in CMC Ludhiana was like climbing Mount Everest!! Uncharted territory, needs plenty of local support and one can die during the expedition! What drove me was faith that 'God has a plan'. My debates with God on this issue went into arguments. Looking back I realized, He was moulding me rather than me contributing.

Opposition, sarcasm, non-cooperation, criticism are part and parcel of a novice trying to establish a unit, for that matter any new venture in the world. The learning point is "*Hope for the best, prepare for the worst and expect nothing*".

In 2008, we were allotted the space and I was to modify few rooms of an existing private ward and convert it to a BMT unit. By the time, we got it ready; I was the architect, plumber, mason, carpenter and designer all rolled into one with some bit of medicine.

As the BMT unit neared completion, our apprehension remained "*Who would want to be the first transplant patient by paying 10 lakhs in a new unit and that too started by a novice?*" The ethical dilemma was "*Should we mention to the patient that this is the first BMT or just proceed without mentioning anything or boast that we have done many and convince them just as most of the centers would do?*".

In October 2008, a Punjabi working in Dubai who required transplant for leukemia was looking for a center close by. The family was taken to the unimpressive modified BMT unit nearing completion and expected them to go elsewhere as he had full insurance cover. The patient and family seemed to be happy to get the transplant done here!! It was a time of excitement, tension and sleepless nights.

As steady manpower was a challenge, we started an in-house physician assistant training program which was later recognized by the university as a technician course. I believe that the supporting nursing and paramedical staff is the key to any successful program. It is this team work which governs the short and long term outcome of patients.

Our subsequent growth has been by the support and faith of patients and their relatives bestowed on us to take up more challenges and now we have an ongoing matched unrelated donor transplant program. Over the last few years, the institution has provided us with a suitable 5 bedded transplant unit and we can take on more transplants.

More than the subject knowledge and individual brilliance, it is the ability to work together that has helped us sustain this journey. Policy of delegation and empowerment is the way forward in any unit/organization.

Sustaining the program is the greatest challenge. We need to innovate at every point, keep the personnel motivated, upgrade infrastructure and keep our moral compass aligned to the mission of the institution at all times. Knowing that God is at the helm of affairs and He will provide is the conviction which has led me all this while.

In the global perspective, I often feel that doing transplants here is like performing a low cost surgery in a mission hospital and it has the importance in fulfilling our mandate. We have a long way to go in establishing research facilities and prospective studies where we can take steps which will allow us to take measures which are relevant to our society.

**Dr. Joseph John**

**Professor, dept. of Haemato - Oncology & BM TRANSPLANTATION**



## **FAMILY NEWS**



### **Births**

Drs. Luschi and Songa Pavan (Oddanchatram) were blessed with a baby girl on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Movements**

Dr. Pradeep Ninan & family from CMC Vellore to Madhipura, Bihar.

Dr. Easwara Moorthy & Ashwini from Chennai to Asha Kiran Hospital, Orissa.

### **Wedding Bells**

Dr. Justin Ebenezer Sargunraj wed Dr. Asisha Janeela at Vellore on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Dr. Aparanji wed Dr. Chandra Shekar Reddy at Kurnool on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Ms. Melanie Sumita Das (Ex-EMFI office staff) wed Mr. Sanjay Pahuja at Mumbai on 10<sup>th</sup> October.



## NORTH EAST INDIA CONFERENCE - 2015



### Theme: **Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done**

The conference started on the evening of 22nd October with the key note address by Dr. Manoj Jacob (Gen. Sec. EMFI) and then a welcome by Dr. Clement Momin (President, EMFI NE).

Dr Manoj Jacob reminded us that the Kingdom of God is not just about the future but also in the 'NOW'. A lively discussion followed on 'Medical Profession: Ministry or Industry'? Drs. Lionel and Jessy (CMC, Vellore) handled the Bible studies and showed us the different characteristics of the Kingdom of God.

**In practical sessions,** Dr Vijay Anand answered the question whether medical mission is still relevant in current medical practice. Dr Gurbir (Intern, CMC, Ludhiana) on Medical Missiology and Dr Manoj on Balancing work and family life. Dr. Sedevi spoke on Bioethics and gave us short clinical vignettes involving decision making capacity, confidentiality and surrogacy and discussed the ethical issues involved, the Scriptural basis and how to apply in practice

Dr. Bamin Tada who is in a key position in the Government, with personal stories, powerfully challenged doctors to be a witness in Government service and not be afraid. The devotions by Rev. Bryan John helped us to understand more about the Lord's Prayer and the need to connect and build relationship in God's Kingdom.

It was three wonderful days of intimate fellowship, heart to heart sharing by the resource persons and feasting on the Word of God. All the participants went back with a strong conviction to be a Witness of Christ in their appointed places. The EMFI NE was also a fresh challenge to be on the knees in prayer for Gods kingdom to come.

### **Drs. Eddie Mukhim (Shillong) and Clement Momin (Dimapur)**



- The young doctors who attended the Training in Leadership program, 'ALONGSIDERZ' at Raxaul Bihar (25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Sep).
- The North East India Regional Conference (23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Oct). Many were blessed.
- The 250 students who attended the Andhra Pradesh & Telangana state Conference (23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Oct)
- Three couples who attended the marriage seminar at SU corner stone (30<sup>th</sup> Oct - 1<sup>st</sup> Nov).
- The students who attended the North India Regional Conference at Lucknow (13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Nov).
- The doctors who attended the Kingdom Of God seminar at Bangalore Baptist Hospital on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- The Nurses, Doctors and Students who attended the workshop & CME on Palliative & Whole Person Care at Chennai (20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov) and Vishakapatnam (27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Nov).
- The 40 odd pastors and Church leaders, Counsellors and Social workers who attended the workshop on Responding to Emotional & Mental Challenges at Chennai (28<sup>th</sup> Nov).
- All those who attended the one day retreat on Basic Biblical doctrines called DOWNLOAD at Chennai (29<sup>th</sup> Nov) and NEOGENESIS at Guntur (8<sup>th</sup> Nov).
- The various Saline Process programs in different places. Jamshedpur (6<sup>th</sup> Nov), Ranchi (8<sup>th</sup> Nov), Satbarwa (9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Nov), Fatehpur (11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Nov), Lucknow (14<sup>th</sup> Nov) & Jaipur (25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Nov).

## PRAY FOR



- The relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood affected people of chennai and other areas.
- The EMFI staff as they begin to implement the new Strategic plan for 2016 - 2020.
- The staff as they meet together with families for a time of fellowship, prayer and planning (23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016).
- Marriage seminar in February 2016 in SU, Mahabalipuram.
- The Karnataka State Conference (18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016) in Bangalore.
- The ICMDA World Congress 2018 planning meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in Chennai.
- Dr. Manoj's visits to the six zones in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana for clear direction for the ministry.



## LONGINGS OF A HEART

I always feel that we are all a part of a cosmic comedy. We indulge our entire life in careers and building reputation. Out of the blue, a tragedy, failure or bereavement strikes and all our materialistic facade crumbles. It is then that our heart starts asking questions that matter- about life, its purpose and destiny. In those moments, we see that our heart yearns and searches for something beyond ourselves to find answers.

*'Honor your father and mother'. Exodus 20:12*

The view from 06 ward of Christian medical college is majestic. Set on high altitude, the block overlooks the city of Vellore and its historic fort. When you peer through the latticed windows, you can see vehicles and people just racing along on the roads like busy ants indulging in their daily pursuits. From such a distance, life looks small and ephemeral. Into this cardio thoracic ward, my patient was admitted to undergo a bypass procedure of the heart. Since I was part of the anaesthesia team, I had dropped in to say hello.

My patient [let's call him Rakesh] was a 70 year old gentleman. He starts his conversation and does not give a chance for the listener to even intervene and break the flow of words.

As I asked him what his problem was, he started narrating a story that dated back to his

teen years. His passion captivated me and the twinkle in his eyes amazed me. The next half hour of the meeting taught me one of the greatest life lessons.

Rakesh was a bank accountant. He also had a consultancy by which he helped people to wisely manage their finances. He was successful and built a good reputation for himself in the city of Patna. He got married and had kids who are doing extremely well now. His wife who was a kin was also in her sixties and a diabetic on daily medication. Rakesh retired and was leading a comfortable life. He decided to go on a Himalayan pilgrimage under the aegis of the Government of India. He had enrolled for the tour and he had his mandatory health check-up. The doctors told him that his heart vessels were blocked and he needed a bypass surgery. He was an athlete all his life and never had any health issues.

I could not but ask Rakesh about his children. The smiling face of Rakesh turned sore and tears began to roll down his ripe cheeks almost involuntarily. His two sons were engineers and passed out of IIT. Both of them are in the US. One works for the NASA as a project consultant and the other is a CEO of a software firm. They are prospective bachelors and Rakesh plans to get them partners.

I enquired when they would be coming. Rakesh sobbing, told me that they were too busy to come. It was not that Rakesh or his wife Priya were materially lacking anything. Rakesh, in his long uninterrupted speech, mentioned that he donated crores of rupees for a local hospital. He still travels by air and keeps contacts with friends in high places. But as his tears flow down it was evident that he missed his kids during a life threatening event like a heart surgery. I consoled and assured him that his sons would soon visit him and his surgery would go just fine.

As I walked back the long corridors of the ward, I just opened my phone to see when I had called my mom last. The Asus Zen phone's pixelled screen displayed '3 days ago'. Life has become so busy that I did not even find time to call my parents and enquire about their wellbeing. All my days go in work and whatever is left is wasted away by the sedation of anesthetic gases. As the chain of thought progressed, I imagined my dad in the place of Rakesh. *'Will I be with my parents in their most vulnerable moments or will I be busy constructing my own career?'* *'Will I be with them in their last few years or will I be too ambitious to look after them?'*

Life is too short. I can still feel my dad's warmth as I hugged him under thick blankets in frosty winters. I can still remember jumping into his arms from a guava tree in our neighbourhood. The taste of my dad's fruit salad still lingers in my mouth. My mom's words of love and patience still resonate in my ears. I now recollect those pathetic moments when I questioned and rebelled against my parents' wishes. I can still relive those moments when I doubted my parents' love for me.

Rakesh had inadvertently given me a strong insight on what parents mean in our lives. I called my mom instantly. My mother was cheerful as she received the call. I was glad to hear that all was well.

*"You must call more often son"*, she said. I promised that I would be better next time !

**Dr. Arun Gautam**

CMC, Vellore.

## NORTH INDIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE - 2015

Amidst all the intolerance, killings and hate that you read in the front page of every newspaper, around 120 youth from different backgrounds, races and colour met and lived together for 3 days in peace, harmony and happiness bound together by Christ. The regional EMFI conference 2015 (for UP, MP, CG and Rajasthan) was held in Lucknow, U.P. from 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November with the theme taken from Romans 11:36 *"From Him and Through Him and For Him are all things"*

Our speakers were Drs Alex, Manoj, Lata, Ivy, Thomas and Bonik.

We had 4 sessions each day and are thankful to God for our speakers who spoke from God's word, simple yet clear. I have no doubt God used their teachings to touch many hearts and refresh souls. Our regional conference is not only about listening but also about interacting, sharing, making friends, singing, dancing and having fun. Our host set apart some time for all these recreations by letting us have group discussions, praise & worship, games, quizzes and talent night. I would like to thank all the organisers from Lucknow and also our God given mentors Pratik and K.T Paul for always encouraging us in our spiritual life.

To everyone who attended the EMFI conference, let us not forget to spend our daily quiet time with God and receive our daily manna from above.

**David Khiangte 4<sup>th</sup> year student  
Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal.**





## MEDICAL NEWS

### DRUG RESISTANT BUG KLEBSIELLA CAUSES WORRY

A bug that doctors until about three years ago treated with moderate-class antibiotics is now causing worry in intensive care units of hospitals across the country. Doctors report that third-generation antibiotics — carbapenems — are failing to treat the Klebsiella pathogen, leading to higher mortality in patients and peg the resistance at up to 50 per cent. In Mumbai, the bug is being recorded in 10-20 per cent of the patients in ICUs of major public hospitals.

Cases of colistin-resistant Klebsiella have started emerging, including four in Mumbai. Colistin is the last antibiotic available in the world for infections that the strongest antibiotics fail to treat.

Klebsiella causes urinary tract infections, ventilator-acquired pneumonias and blood stream infections (sepsis) among other conditions and is proving to be fatal in 30 to 40 per cent of the patients who have contracted it — usually during a long stay in the hospital, particularly in the intensive care unit.

“For the first time, we have seen Klebsiella resistant to colistin,” said Dr. V. Balaji, Head of Microbiology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, where six such cases have been recorded. Dr. Balaji, who also heads the antimicrobial stewardship and infection control and prevention of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said it was difficult to find the resistance mechanism and that they were working on it. Citing a pan-India study that CMC has done, he pegged resistance to carbapenem between 50 and 60 per cent.

The implication of the growing resistance is serious. Simply put, higher the level of resistance, higher the mortality.

“If Klebsiella is resistant to carbapenem, a higher dosage or combination therapy is the next step, but this requires careful laboratory evaluation and patient monitoring, which may not be possible in many hospital settings. Besides, a high level of resistance means many treatment failures and thus higher mortality,” said Dr. Kamini Walia from the Division of Epidemiology and Communicable diseases, ICMR.

But the concern is here to stay, and only getting graver. With resistance to colistin in other parts of the world much higher, it is only a matter of time when the last antibiotic fails on Klebsiella even in India, said Dr. Balaji.

- THE HINDU 29<sup>th</sup> NOV 2015

**Lesson for us : Be judicious in the use of antibiotics, specially the higher ones to minimize the development of resistance.**

## PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING

EMFI in coalition with PRIME - UK conducted workshops for doctors , nurses and students in Chennai (20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> November) and Vishakapatnam (27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> of November) on Palliative & Whole Person Care.

These are some of the responses from the participants:

“Most of the participants who attended the workshop felt sensitized to the need for Palliative care in India. It was a pleasure watching you both do the role play with ease and sensitivity. I was personally touched by your testimony that God chose you and through circumstances made you drift from Diabetology to Palliative Medicine. Kindly continue to visit other countries and disseminate your knowledge”.

**Dr J Jerene Jayanth, Medical Director**  
CSI Kalyani General Hospital, Chennai.

**Other responses:** “The information presented at the course will help me improve my communication skills with all my patients, not just the terminally ill”.

“I understood the patients feelings when we break the bad news and the need to do it with love”.

“Be more understanding and treat the person with the disease rather than the disease of the person”.



**PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING**

## RESPONDING TO EMOTIONAL & MENTAL CHALLENGES

A Seminar on responding to Emotional and Mental Challenges was organised in Chennai on 28<sup>th</sup> November for pastors and Church leaders. All those who attended the seminar were greatly blessed. This is what one of the participants wrote about the program:

*"The timely and relevant workshop conducted by EMFI to help Christian leaders to understand Mental illness was extraordinary! Excellent resource persons (Drs. Kuruvilla George, Jameela Koshy, and Prasanna Jebaraj) handled this touchy topic with great sensitivity and precision. Helping us to understand that all psychological and mental illnesses is not caused by demon-possession opened many eyes to the Bible's clear position on this hot subject. Everyone who attended were not only enlightened but greatly motivated to bring more awareness to our Christian community, and to take concrete steps to correct common Christian misconceptions.*

*I hope EMFI will build on this excellent foundation and provide more workshops on topics that can transform our lives for Jesus Christ and His glory".*

**Rev. Peter Ignatius**

Lake View Bible College & Seminary, Chennai



## AMAZING STORIES OF GOD'S MERCIES:

1. "Asha Kiran was recently issued a letter and fined 4 Lakhs by the IT Dept for a minor deficiency in filing returns. Even before we could present our case, the officer said, that while in walking in the morning, he felt he should not charge us so much and reduced it to 80,000". **God moves the heart of the King!** Mathew, Asha Kiran Hospital.
2. "After clearing all Nov dues by Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, EMFI needed 6 lakhs + before 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. By 17<sup>th</sup> we had 6.5". **Our God is Jehovah-Jireh!** Nanditha.
3. "I dropped my mobile phone on the train while alighting at Bangalore Cantonment station. I went to the Railway Police Station and the Inspector called the Police officer in the next station who boarded the train and retrieved the mobile. I was put on the subsequent train by the Police officer to the city station and I got back my mobile intact." **God's eyes are on the sparrow!** Manoj Jacob.
4. "We run a home for 600 destitute people in Chennai, including 150 who are totally bed-bound. During the recent floods, the water came up to just below the mattresses of the beds and stopped". **God gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command!** Mr Paul, Little Drops Home, Chennai.

## AP - TELENGANA STATE CONFERENCE 2015

Here is the report for the 21st EMFI (AP and TS) State conference, which was held from Oct 23-26 in Seva Bharat, Jeedimetla, Hyderabad.

Approximately 250 students and physicians attended the conference over 4 days. The format of the conference included challenging morning devotions, inspiring spiritual talks, 6 different breakout sessions covering practical application issues, panel discussions on career and relationship, games, reflection time, question and answer session and games.

We have learnt a lot of things about ourselves and others, both good and not so good, but more importantly we have learnt that we all are sinners and are in need of a Savior for ourselves and for those around us.

**Ravi Kiran B, Hyderabad**



## FAREWELL

Anshuman Singh restarted the ministry in Maharashtra after a long gap. He and his wife Alankritha faithfully served for 2 years with EMFI. We wish them all blessings as they move to their home town in West Bengal and explore other avenues of ministry and take care of his aged parents.

## REFLECTIONS FROM GENERAL SECRETARY

We can only look back at 2015 with humility and gratitude to God for His goodness and mercies in carrying us through. The recent floods in Chennai and surrounding areas caused much loss and damage and efforts are on to help and support the affected. In a world torn apart by violence, disaster and uncertainty, the only unchanging and constant factor is Christ's faithfulness. Hallelujah! (God be praised!)

The Lord enabled us to finally complete the Strategic plan document after 2 years with multiple corrections and revisions. We are hoping to use this as a road map for the ministry from 2016-2020. **Systematic discipleship and spiritual formation**, emphasis on developing **mature, Christ-centred leaders** in health care, training in **Bioethics** and imparting a **missional perspective** to all our young graduates will be the key areas we desire to focus on. **Fellowship** will continue to be the undergirding factor, even as we desire to see small groups of doctors across the nation connect and meet; to encourage and support one another and then reach out to others.

It is reassuring to see many young doctors rise up and take responsibility to guide and mentor medical students. How we wish there were more of passionate shepherds, seeking to see Christ formed in each of these young students!

The 'Kingdom of God' initiative is a step towards this direction with study materials being developed to enable medical professionals to perceive their role in the bigger purposes of Christ Jesus and His Kingdom.

We have partnered with the Centre for Bioethics to develop 10 modules on Bioethics. Other partnerships include that with IHS for the Saline process; with PRIME-UK in conducting palliative care training for doctors and medical students; with CMC Vellore for Shiloh Medical Missions conference 2015; with HCF for Shalom Healthcare 2015 and with Scripture Union for marriage, family and parenting. A seminar on mental health for church and lay leaders in Chennai was the result of networking with churches. We foresee more such relationships.

We are in an exciting and crucial period in the history of our nation with numerous possibilities and opportunities to be the salt and light. It is our sincere prayer that each of you will be enabled in the coming year to rise to the occasion and be a loving and leavening presence for Christ in your own spheres of influence. In addition, make an effort to develop our 'Joshuas and Timothys' to pass on the baton to this generation of dynamic young doctors. This is vital to keep the flame of the gospel burning.

The Lord of hosts spoke through the prophet Haggai, "These people say, 'the time has not yet come, for the LORD's house to be built.'" (Haggai 1:2) May we not fall into the same blindness in a world which is hurting and the house of the Lord in ruins!

Even as we wish each of you a blessed Christmas and a fruitful new year, we would like to express our deep gratitude to all who have stood with us, prayed for us and encouraged us with your calls, mails and sacrificial giving.

**May the Lord be your strength and song in 2016 !**

**Manoj Jacob and the EMFI staff family.**

## TREASURER'S NOTE

MONTHS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
August	6,60,469	8,67,742
September	6,96,478	7,58,715
October	8,05,098	8,11,747
November	7,58,743	6,97,443

Just as the wise men brought their treasured gifts to the Lord Jesus, so many of you have been faithful in giving. God uses people from all walks of life to build His Kingdom. At the close of 2015, EMFI wants to thank each of you for sharing of your time, money, gifts and talents for the Kingdom work to press forward and for its borders to extend. May the Lord bless you in His own special way.

**Grace Thomas**

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 A/c No: 10021817300 (Branch code: 2288, IFSC: SBIN0002288) HDFC Bank 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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