



# Far & Near

March 2014

## Chairman's Letter

### ALLOYS FOR THE LORD

Recently some of us saw a flower vase of polished brass in the lobby of a hotel. It was so stunningly beautiful that we could have called it poetry in metal. How is it possible to give such sheen to any metal? What gave this property to brass? Students of metallurgy will tell us brass is an alloy containing both copper and zinc. A copper vase would look like an ordinary old vessel and it would be near-impossible to craft any vessel out of pure zinc. But together, they exhibit a property which makes both those metals so much more useful.

Stephen Covey, in his book 'The 3<sup>rd</sup> Alternative', talks about synergy in metals. (He is the author of the best seller 'The 7 habits of highly effective people'). A bar of iron would withstand a pressure of upto 60,000 pounds per square inch. (psi) A bar of chromium of the same size would break at about 70,000 psi. A bar made of nickel would snap at 80,000 psi. What happens if the 3 metals were mixed in certain proportions? Even in the best case scenario, if their individual strengths were to be added up, the new alloy should withstand 210,000 psi, right? Wrong! The resulting bar would withstand 300,000 psi!  $60,000 + 70,000 + 80,000 = 300,000$ ! Mathematically wrong, but true in the metal world. Where did the extra 90,000 come from? Now, this new alloy is what has made the jet engine possible. Any one of these metals would not withstand the intense heat and pressure the jet engine is subjected to. But for these alloys, air travel would be most unsafe. But add these metals up together in the right proportion and they exhibit strength and character which far outweighs natural expectations.

It struck me that this 'alloy principle' is so valid in our lives, in our families and in our organisations and fellowships! The Creator God who made iron, chromium and nickel also made us... so different, yet so precious and complementary. When we join forces together wherever we are placed, a miracle happens. The new 'alloy' outperforms the constituents. That is how God has designed us.

Someone said, "I love the whole world; but it is my next door neighbor that I cannot stand". Have you heard of the porcupines which huddle together in winter to warm themselves, only to be repelled by each other by their 'poky' quills; they move away only to return after a while? We will always have our rough edges; but can we recognise that each one of us is special, unique and differently abled? Jesus alluded to this spiritual parallel in Mathew 18:20. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them". Jesus' prayer was to this effect too. "I pray that they may be one, as we are one" (John 17:21). Unity in diversity in the body of Christ was eloquently described by Paul in his first epistle to Corinthians (chapter 12).

The 'modern' individualistic values have infiltrated the church and also our organisations. Could we combat this by actively seeking out our fellow believers? Could we unite in prayer as we face demands to which we are not equal? How does this apply to our own situations? It might mean making a phone call today, "Shall we get together for a time of prayer?" We must forgive our brothers and sisters just as Christ forgave us. We should also receive forgiveness graciously from others. We must make the first move to fellowship; fellowship doesn't come to us. We must acknowledge our inter-dependence, and not merely our independence. May God impress on us and enable us to put the 'Alloy Principle' to work. May EMFI become a fellowship of people among whom Godly synergy is displayed. If we were to paraphrase Heb 10:25, it would read: "Do not give up meeting together even when you do not feel like it, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging and alloying with each other- and all the more, as you see the Day approaching." May we whisper a little prayer today, "Lord, make me a part of that work of Yours wherever I am placed... I am willing to be part of that transformational alloy that You are forging. Amen." Happy alloying!

#### OUR VISION:

To see disciplined doctors & dentists impacting & enabling a transformation in Society through Biblical values by their service and witness

**Malcolm & Uma Johnson:AP**

We are involved with EMFI ministries for the past two years giving part of our time to visit fellowships in Northern Telangana region. We want to give our best to visit, disciple and mentor the emerging doctors to do God's will in their lives and further His Kingdom on the earth. We may consider shifting our base sometime in the future for more strategic focus. We request your prayers. May God bless you.

**Solomon Raju and Hannah:AP**

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry..but if any man draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Heb 10: 37 – 38. Let us examine ourselves in the areas we are drawing back and press on with what God has assigned for us to do walking with Him. Situation in AP is uncertain. Please pray.

**George Suchiang: North Eastern States**

King David in spite of his many responsibilities found security and strength in the presence of the Lord. Medical students have their own personal struggles and challenges- pressure of studies, family problems, peer pressure, fear of the future etc. Friends, the only place that you can find strength is in the presence of the Lord. "One thing I ask of the Lord, that is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house (Presence) of the Lord all the days of my life..." Seek His presence and you will find security, satisfaction, fulfillment and strength - Isaiah.30:15 "... in quietness and trust is your strength..."

*"There's a holy hush around us, as God's glory fills the place, I've touched the hem of His garment; I can almost see His face. My heart is overflowing, with the fullness of His joy, And I know without a doubt—that I've been with the Lord."*

**Grace and Michael Sundersingh: New Delhi & Punjab**

"In Faith move mountains into ocean" is what the Lord taught us in Mat 21: 21 & in Zach 4: 6 – 7 we learn it is by the power of Lord Jesus Christ. This is what we have been seeing in terms of God's mighty doings that is otherwise humanly not possible. He uses us to impact doctors as we minister to them and the society through them. We have been ministering mostly to students in the medical colleges in Delhi and CMC Ludhiana. Of late, I am also guiding young doctors in their marriages and periodically visiting colleges in Tamilnadu. Pray for those who are standing for righteousness sake in the Medical/Dental Profession. Pray also for those whom we counsel for marriage and try to identify right life partners.

**Malsawmliana: West Bengal**

Dearly beloved in Christ, Let's continue to say with Robert Frost, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep. And miles to go before I sleep And miles to go before I sleep."



EMFI Staff @ the recent family retreat.

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

**Devakumars:Tamil Nadu**

In 2001, we as a family moved from Mysore (Karnataka) to Chennai (TN) to be with Nanditha's aging parents and seeking to serve the Lord, with no idea of where the Lord was leading us. Now looking back at these 13 yrs as part of the EMFI family, what a privilege it has been to serve the Lord and to be taught new 'lessons for life' everyday, an experience we value much in this wonderful ministry. It's been humbling and we often feel like the 'gate keepers & servants' who were hand-picked by Nehemiah (11:19). While Nanditha serves in the office, I am on the field. I travel less these days and concentrate on a few programmes. Thanks for the love & support we receive and we covet your prayers for us and our children Aditya & Varsha.

**Lindley and Rachana:Karnataka**

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being..." It seems like only a few days ago God called us to minister to those in the medical and dental fraternity and join the family of EMFI. And to realise that 11 years have passed makes us rejoice in the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. We not only had the privilege of ministering to many students and graduates but also are ministered to. We have seen lives (including ours) being transformed, new friendships grow, families touched and communities blessed. Thank you all for constantly lifting us up to the throne of our God through your love, prayers and support. May the Lord open our eyes to the "new thing" He is doing in our midst and to the Jesus-hungry world we live in. God bless

**KT Paul & Helen Paul: UP & Rajasthan**

When we look at the last 19 years our hearts are filled with gratitude unto the lord for the privilege to be part of this EMFI family and to be used in many lives according to God's great purposes in Christ Jesus. It is encouraging to see the lives that were touched and blessed and finally those who were blessed being a blessing to many in different ways. We are grateful to you all for standing with us in unseen ways and supporting us in the ministry. Thanks a lot for your love.

### **Nalini & Pratik Sindhu: MP & Chhatisgarh**

God called us nine years back to be a part of the EMFI family and serve His purposes. We feel honored and privileged to be used by God and to see and experience His faithfulness and goodness not just in our lives, but also in the lives of people we are ministering. We are so thankful to all of you for your valuable support in God's work. God bless you all.

### **Anshuman & Alankrita: Maharashtra**

When we came back to Thane after our annual leave in January 2014, we came as an enlarged family, with our baby girl Anindita. GOD has been gracious throughout 2013 in our service among the doctors and students in Maharashtra. This year we look forward to seeing GOD'S family being enriched and enlarged. So far we have only visited five districts— still a long way to go. We covet your prayers and support. Blessings.

## Snippets

.....I am sent the EMFI newsletter regularly and have often wondered if I have ever subscribed to EMFI. I have enjoyed reading Far & Near and in particular was thrilled to see Anil and Tina Cherian, my batch mates at CMC Vellore featured in this edition. Sunil & Jo Gokhavi were also mentioned. It was also great to read Thomas Sydenham's perspective of doctors. I am not sure if I joined the EMFI when I was at Vellore or Tiruvalla many years ago. I continue to have links with Vellore and organise sabbaticals for the Respiratory faculty in the UK. Best wishes for a Blessed New Year.

Dr. Johnson Samuel, UK

.....Join with us in thanking God for the way he worked out the revoking of the suspension of our Blood Bank license.....in his written order the Health secretary had given a very positive view of our work. We are sure it was God's hand at work and we praise Him for the way He moved through the situation.....Thank you for upholding the work and the support that you have given.

Dr. Mathews Chacko, AKS

.....It was nice to have Anshuman visit us in Nasik. The Face Book page of EMFI and the reminder in it every Tuesday to pray for staff is also good.

Dr. Vineet & Anjana Wankhede, Nasik

.....We (the whole family) had a refreshing break at Kerala. All of us enjoyed the Elephant ride there. (The Elephant is one animal which I recognize as the Lord's Creation—which personifies HUMILITY in spite of its mighty STRENGTH.

Dr. Ashwin George, Chennai.

.....The first year students from CMC, Vellore are going to various mission hospitals as part of their Secondary Hospital Programme (SRH). Our son and 5 of his classmates are going to Raxaul, Bihar. Kindly remember the students in your prayers..... that the exposure might show them the Lord's purpose for their lives.

Dr. Prabhakar Moses, Vellore

## Ground Realities— When the Tyre hits the Road

I am a Physician, who sees my calling as representing the risen Lord in my God given sphere of influence, which includes the staff at the Hospital that I oversee, the patients I come in contact with, the residents of the area where I live and the church where I fellowship.

Though I started my career before becoming a follower of Jesus, looking back I can see God's hand. I now practice Total Person Care ever since I came to know about it through the EMFI, and it has transformed my practice. I am more loving to each patient and by the grace of God see them as being made in the image of God irrespective of color or social standing. I respect my staff and aim to be a servant leader to them. Thanks are also due to my wife Dr. Vinita who encourages me to treat them as Jesus would, as members of our family.

It has been a great joy to see people visibly transformed by the influence we have had as a family that proclaims Christ in our life, through our actions, our financial statements and our words.

We partner with the local churches, which send people to minister to the patients at our Hospital. We keep Christian reading material at the reception, and waiting people often browse through them. Many ask if they can keep the resources and also the Gideon Bibles. I encourage my patients to attend meetings arranged by local churches. I am also active in the local citizen's forum where we deal with various civic and environmental issues.

Certain groups have objected to us keeping Christian materials and accused me of 'Dharmantar', which I whole heartedly accepted, since we need to be open and clear about our aims. Of course I know that a true change of 'religion' in any person is the work of the Holy Spirit.

It has also been a challenge facing Politicians and their requests, Pharmaceutical companies and their inducements and also managing my priorities in a busy city like Mumbai. I thank the local Church for the great help they have been in my spiritual growth and helping me in facing tough moral and ethical decisions.

I have invested my time studying the Word of God, and also benefited greatly by doing courses in Conversational Evangelism, Apologetics and used Creation Ministries materials. These have been a great help to me to understand where my patients are coming from, and how to defend the fundamentals of what I believe in.

I would encourage all doctors to be part of a Spirit filled church, and also fellowship with Christian doctors regularly. The EMFI has been a great source of encouragement to me personally in this. I feel that every doctor must be equipped with a thorough knowledge of the Word of God, and also know about the common doubts and questions people pose about our faith. These coupled with a life that is the salt and light will truly make a difference wherever God has placed you. God bless

Dr. Mathew S Peedikayil  
Physician and Director, Ashok Hospital, Ashokvan, Mumbai 400068  
[www.ashokhospital.in](http://www.ashokhospital.in)



# EMFI North India Conference—Kanpur

## Feedback

“I have regained my happiness and confidence in God through this meeting and bonded with God more than ever before.” .....

“I plan to continue like this even after the meeting when I go back to my hostel and try to look at everything in a positive way.” .....

“These three days have helped me a lot. It has helped me to get to know how to get out of my addictions.” .....

“Through this meeting I have learnt to keep going no matter what the situation is. I have learnt that the Lord's love for everyone is equal and abundant.” .....

“I have learnt how to overcome temptations by using the word of God and putting on the armour of God.” .....



## NEWS

**Cabinet clears addition of 10,000 more MBBS seats:** Times of India, Jan 10, 2014

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet cleared a proposal to create 10,000 new MBBS seats in government medical colleges. At present, there are around 22,500 MBBS seats in government colleges. There are 381 medical colleges - both government and private — in the country with around 50,000 MBBS seats registered with the Medical Council of India (MCI). The proposal is aimed at increasing the number of doctors to reduce the doctor-patient ratio from the current 1:2000 to 1:1000. ***This is also likely to increase availability of doctors in the hinterland where people have to travel long distances to get medical treatment.***

Since 2000, the government has created 9,300 medical seats, almost as many as it did in half a century from 1950 till 2000. But private medical colleges added at least 17,700 MBBS seats in the same period. The private sector taking over medical education in a big way has been a concern for the government and students alike because of the spiraling costs, question marks over quality and a sharp geographical skew.

***It is our prayer in EMFI that even as the number of doctors in India increase, more will consider responding to needs “in the hinterland” and make health care accessible to the needy.***

## Praise God for:

- ★ The staff family retreat in January at SU—CORNERSTONE, Mahabalipuram. All the EMFI staff along with their families were able to meet up for a time of fellowship and relaxation. The Life Revision Seminar (LRS), facilitated by Dr. Kuruvilla Varkey was an eye opener to many.
- ★ The time that some of the leaders were able to spend at Vellore in January reviewing the Bible Study materials for students which is in its final stages.
- ★ The doctors who attended the two Saline programs that took place in February. One in Delhi and the other in Chennai.



**Saline, Training of Trainers, Chennai – Feb 2014**

## From the jaws of death to life- a testimony

This is the true story of a young man lying on his sick bed whose future seemed bleak, having lost all hope, drained physically, emotionally and crushed in spirit.

It all started 3 years back, when he met with an accident from which he sustained a hip fracture and was operated. Unfortunately, his surgery failed when the wound got infected and he developed osteomyelitis (infection of bone). Subsequently, he was operated multiple times (seven) to get rid of the infection. This process drained him of all his finances and having spent lakhs of rupees, he was finally left with a painful hip, confined to bed.

He came to CMC, Vellore with the hope that he will get better after raising some money from a charity. As planned, he underwent total hip replacement and was fine for 10 days. From the 11<sup>th</sup> day he again started discharging pus from the operated site and had to be re-operated twice following the replacement.

After having gone through all the trauma of 10 surgeries, he lost all hope in life, not knowing where all this was going to end. He was depressed and decided that death was the only option to end his suffering and started declaring openly that he would commit suicide at any time. He was counselled by many and they kept him under the category of 'high risk for suicidal tendency'.

One night, around 1 am after my long hours of work, I felt I should speak to this young man. I was very tired and I wanted to skip his bed and carry on, but deep within, I felt an urge to go and spend some time with him.

I saw him with his mother standing at his bed side. When I looked into his eyes, I could see the turmoil he was undergoing and the lost look. Not knowing how to start the conversation, I asked them one question "Do you know Jesus"? After a moment of silence, his mother replied, "Yes Sir" and she started narrating her story of how she prayed to Christ when she had no children and how He blessed her with three children and in gratitude she gave Christian names to all of them. As days progressed, she drifted away from her faith because of her husband and over the past years had lost her husband and the family devastated in all aspects.

After listening to the entire story, I shared about the love of God and that He is always there waiting. I told them that they can come back boldly because His grace is ever available.... and that He can restore everything they have lost. I prayed and left them with a Bible.

I couldn't follow up the next day but met them seven days later. This time they appeared peaceful and radiant, but as usual I asked how they were doing? The mother went to the cupboard and brought out a brand new knife and testified "**Sir, if you hadn't come and visited us that night and shared about hope in Jesus, we would have been dead by this time**". She narrated how both she and her son had decided to end their lives that night with the knife! This left me shocked and I requested the mother to hand over the knife to me. She said, "**Sir, that night as you were talking the thought of committing suicide disappeared and the thought itself became nauseating**". Glory be to God!

As they committed their lives to Christ, God started acting on their behalf. The pus stopped draining, the wound healed, sutures were removed and he was discharged in 2 weeks.

Every follow-up visit this young man makes it a point to meet me. He first came with two crutches, then with one elbow crutch and on his third visit he came walking without any crutch! He is now a serious disciple of Jesus Christ, baptised, testifying and growing in the knowledge of God. He got back his former job which he had lost, there is peace at home and they are part of a family of believers.

Each time he comes to CMC, we have a short time of fellowship and he shares what God is doing in his life. When I look back, I wonder what if I had skipped his bed that night? Two souls would have been lost for ever! I keep praising HIM for using me as a vessel to restore those for whom HE laid down His life..... To Hope in Christ is Life..... Glory be to God alone!

Dr Chandan Nalli, Registrar, CMC, Vellore

## Family News

### Weddings

Dr. Senchi Momin wed Dr. Benjamin on 27th December at Tura

Dr. Ngopelo wed Dr. Nutalu on 8th January 2014 at Dimapur

Dr. Vjaykumar wed Dr. Smyrna on 1st February at Madurai.

Dr. Raja Sylvan wed Sweetey on 10th February.

Dr. Roy Rajan Mathai wed Dr. Biji Ninan on 24th February at Kattanam, Kerala.

Dr. Annie Prashanthi wed Dr. Anand Babu on 3rd March at Bapatla, AP.

Dr. Anju weds Ajay on 19<sup>th</sup> March

Dr. Shilpa weds Dr. Shailesh Gokavi on 21<sup>st</sup> April

Dr. Ramya weds Dr. Sandeep on 23<sup>rd</sup> April



Sylvester (EMFI Staff) wed Adah on 14th February

### New Arrivals

Drs. Sujitha & Elan (PIMS, Pondicherry) were blessed with a baby boy on 20th October

Drs. John David (Eluru) & Jyothi were blessed with a baby boy Joel Enosh on 18th November

Drs. Vijaya Bhaskar & Shanthy (Chennai) were blessed with a baby girl  
Drs. Vijaykumar & Parvathy (CMC, Vellore) were blessed with a baby girl Aradhana

Dr. Arun Gautam & Alice (CMC, Vellore) were blessed with a baby girl Amita Grace on 16th January

Emfi Staff Anshuman & Alankrita were blessed with a baby girl Anindita on 12th December

## Inviting Articles for VOICE

Dear Friends,

This is to remind you of my earlier request to share your experiences and learning with others in the fellowship through the pages of "Voice". As you know, Voice is produced with the intention of inspiring, igniting and initiating thought, prayer and action for the glory of God.

Your views and responses are crucial to this process. Please e-mail your experiences, stories and reflections to Dr. Anna Mathew at [voice.emfi@gmail.com](mailto:voice.emfi@gmail.com). The themes for the year 2014 are given below alongside the last date for receiving articles.

**Voice June 2014** - The Doctor's Personal Life - 10th April 2014.

**Voice September 2014** - The Doctor's Family Life - 10th July 2014.

**Voice December 2014** - The Doctor's Church and Social Life - 10th October 2014.

Please contribute articles (from 500 - 1000 words) sharing your experience. We are looking for your real personal stories rather than theoretical discourses. Even retelling a single story will be worthwhile and will bless those who read.

Regards  
Dr. Anna Mathew

## Reflections from the General Secretary

It is indeed a privilege to connect with each one of you this New Year. We have continued to experience God's goodness, mercies and faithfulness in the midst of challenges, questions and disappointments.

I have been reading II Chronicles and a common sentence that reoccurs is: "**He did evil in the sight of the Lord**" interspersed with an occasional "**He did what was right in the sight of the Lord**". It makes a sad reading, to see how most rulers of Judah went away from the ways of the Lord when power was given to them.

For a moment I wondered what would the reading be like, if a Chronicles of the Indian Christian doctors and leaders in health care of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was written down for posterity to read?

Paul in writing to the Corinthians was afraid for them that "...**their minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ**" (II Corinthians 11:3).

A man of God rightly pointed out, that the 3 basic struggles of a man are **Survival and Security; Acceptance and Esteem; Power and Control**. It is in these areas, that most of our temptations come, as is seen for Eve in the garden and Jesus in the wilderness. As health care professionals and leaders, we often seek to find fulfilment of the above in our profession or position. The truth however, is that it can truly and fully be realised only in our relationship to Christ. May we be alert and watchful of the schemes of the deceiver!

In this context, the team also decided the theme for this year's National Conference at CMC Ludhiana to be "**My life and work is for the King**". It is our desire and prayer that this becomes true for each of us, who are called to this sacred ministry of healing. We are grateful to God for the favour He bestowed us with the administration to host the forthcoming conference there. The EMFI family and the team on-site are making preparations to welcome you to be ministered and blessed.

Our nation is also preparing for a season of political change with the upcoming elections. Even as few leaders are seeking to bring about a transformation in the political and social system, it is important that we pray for the right people to be elected and that we have a government that stands for values of truth, fairness and justice.

We value your prayers and support, as we seek to accompany friends in their journey of knowing and being transformed into the image of Christ.

Manoj Jacob

## One Day Retreat at Mangalore

After a long gap, God enabled us to have a retreat on the 8th December 2013, which was held at Rishvana Ashram overlooking the Nethravathi river. Fifteen of us attended it.

Dr Manoj Jacob shared about principles of the Kingdom of God in life and practice. It was a good time of spiritual refreshment and re-examination. Please continue to keep us in prayers, so that God may use us to stand for Him in this city with 6 medical colleges. Dr. Justin Easow, Mangalore



## Pray For

The retreat at Lalitpur, UP, for medical students from the 14th—16th of March.

The one week course for medical students in Medical Missions (IMM) at Asha Kiran Hospital, Orissa from 16th—23rd of March. Pray that those who attend would be able to seriously consider their call in God's purposes.

The one day retreat DOWNLOAD on the 30th of March for the Medical students of Chennai.

Saline training in Herbertpur (4-5 April), Mussorie (11-12<sup>th</sup> April) Robertsganj (30<sup>th</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> May)

The young doctor families who will be attending the ALONGSIDERZ program at Vishakapatnam from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April.... that they will continue to have a deeper walk with the Lord.

The Pachalur Camp from 18th—20th April which is an annual camp for the medical students of Tamil Nadu. Pray that they would be touched and challenged to take their faith and call seriously.

## A word of encouragement from our Treasurer in response to our challenges in the area of finance

"Sometimes, when we pray, the answers come immediately and we soar on wings of faith. At other times, we feel like we are always praying for some need and we don't have the strength to go on. I had been reading the book of Genesis and God reminded me from 16:13 **He is the God who sees**. I don't have to struggle to get God's attention. I was filled with great peace and hope to carry on."

Dr. Grace Thomas

### Financial Update

Month	Income	Expense
Nov	817749	709027
Dec	678367	551426
Jan	442550	603757

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 electronic/Bank transfers:

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\***