



far & near

august 2013

chairman's letter

wholeness in a broken world

There is so much of brokenness all around us. As I type out these words, images of people I came across over the past 2 days come flashing to my mind: A widow, still grieving over the untimely death of her teen-aged daughter in a road traffic accident, a Christian gentleman seeking a counselor for a close relative going through an incapacitating psychiatric debility, children trying to come to terms with the recent demise of their mother who was a doctor, a young nurse whose marriage seemed wrecked by the physical and emotional abuse by her husband and in laws, dashing her innocent dreams of building a happy family to pieces, and the head of a family who just discovered he has a retroperitoneal tumour, awaiting the verdict; and the list seems endless. So much of heart ache and tears and suffering! It truly is a broken world and no one is immune to all this. Jesus' words seem to address this directly. "...In this world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (Jn 16:33)

As medical people, we deal with broken lives all the time. We are strategically placed in these situations. The interesting thing is that we ourselves are not perfect vessels; but rather, vessels with cracks and imperfections... and yet, it pleases our Lord to use us. The gospel singer Cece Winans deals with the same theme in her song 'Broken and Blessed' (...of the Lord Jesus blessing and breaking bread in Emmaus).



*My life is blessed far more than I could ever imagine
I've been touched by God's grace more than I'll ever know
So let me be given to the hands of the father
Let me feel, what you felt, when you were broken for me*

*After my blessing, and after my breaking
Let me be given to bring sight to all men
When I've been blessed
When I've been broken
Then after I've been given
Lord, bless me and break me again and again
Lord, bless me and break me again and again*

Friends, we are placed in a broken world; not by accident, but by design. In our hostels, our homes and hospitals, the Master Healer has chosen us to be His instruments. When touched by our Lord, our words and our actions carry His power to mend and to make whole. What a blessed privilege it is... to enter into the day's work knowing that we are partners with the Heavenly Healer!

Dr. Naveen Thomas

OUR VISION:

to see disciplined doctors & dentists impacting & enabling a transformation in society through biblical values by their service and witness

Devakumar: Coordinator—Training

It was a joy for Deva & Dr. Manoj to be part of the graduation ceremony of Madras Medical College where some of the fellowship members graduated. Pray that these young doctors will continue to seek the Lord's ways. As an answer to prayer, the Kilpauk Medical College fellowship now has a good place to meet. Deva & Nanditha were also able to welcome a few students from Chennai to their home and fellowship over a meal. The time with the doctors at the hospital in Ranipet was edifying. God enabled Deva and Nanditha to attend a Life-skills seminar organized by 'Transform4life' at Coonoor which was an eye-opener to the needs of families.

Anshuman Singh: Field Partner—Maharashtra

Anshuman is busy with preparations for the Regional Conference planned in Mumbai in October and solicits your valuable prayers for it. The Lord enabled him to make new contacts at St. George's Hospital in Mumbai and another Medical college in Mumbai central. He was also able to organize doctor's retreats at Pune and Mumbai both of which had a very positive response from doctors. Few showed keen interest in the work of EMFI. Please uphold Alankrita, his wife, also in your prayers as they await the arrival of their first child.

K. T. Paul: Coordinator—North India

KT has been able to visit graduates and students in Kurja, Lucknow and Meerut and have meaningful times of fellowship and sharing. The group at Lucknow continues to grow and KT was able to address issues of Abortion and Pre-marital pregnancies. He was encouraged to see a post-graduate student persevere in his studies in spite of failure in his exams and accept the failure with the right attitude. The Kanpur fellowship is encouraged that they have identified a venue to host the upcoming regional conference. Continue to pray for them as they look to the Lord for the needed finances. KT says that having Akansha, their daughter at home for her holidays was great and has been a good learning and transforming experience for him. KT and Helen keep their home open for doctors in Herbertpur.

George Suchiang: Field Partner—North-east India

George has been able to visit the colleges in Shillong and Guwahati. At NEIGHRIMS, Shillong, a musical evening was conducted in the month of May and quite a few students made commitments to the Lord. George is also conducting a series of Bible studies on 'The greatness of God' in the fellowships that he oversees. At Shillong he met a few senior graduates to plan his work in addition to informal gatherings with the students. We praise God for enabling George to complete one year of service in EMFI. Continue to pray for George even as he makes new contacts and builds relationships with the students.

Lindley Marquis: Coordinator—Karnataka

Lindley accompanied 5 students from Bangalore on a medical mission trip to Asha Kiran Hospital, Orissa in the month of April. Two of them assisted him in conducting a VBS for the children there while the other three helped in the outpatient section. Doctors from Baptist Christian Hospital encourage Lindley by visiting one of the medical colleges in Bangalore regularly. Visits to Hubli, Davengere, Mundgod, Bagalkot and Naregal were fruitful. As an answer to a student's prayer in Bagalkot, the Lord prepared her house for the fellowship to meet in a miraculous way. Lindley writes, *"We went there having only one medical contact, but ended up spending time with 15 medical students."* He has also got openings in colleges in Chitradurga and Gulbarga. Please uphold Lindley in your prayers as he copes with the pain of his cervical spondylosis.



Michael Sandersingh: Coordinator—Pastoral Care

Michael was able to mobilize the students and graduates in the fellowships of Delhi for Bible studies and to remain accountable to each other for Christian growth. He and Grace were also able to minister to some of the doctor families who visited their home. They were also able to help the Madras Medical college students organize the TN state conference at Pachalur near Oddanchatram where 125 medical students were ministered. Michael is restructuring his work in Delhi, with individual fellowship groups being taken care of by local churches. *This networking with local churches we think, is a key step forward in our ministry for the future.*

Pratik Sindhu: Coordinator—Madhya Pradesh & Chhatisgarh

Pratik was able to visit Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Raipur and Bilaspur in the past months. Dr. Joel Selwyn who was travelling through Bhopal ministered to the students there along with Pratik and they were blessed. He was also able to minister to some of the graduates in their homes. The Raipur fellowship continues to grow, though they meet irregularly. As an answer to prayer, the fellowship was encouraged to find a suitable place to meet in the campus itself.

Solomon Raju: Field Partner—Andhra Pradesh

Other than his usual visits to the medical colleges in Kurnool, Anantapur and Nandyal, Solomon was able to visit Vizianagaram, Guntur and Ongole in the past months. He had a time of interaction and prayed with the family members of the students from the local fellowship that had their convocation recently in Kurnool. Few students who had not gone home for their holidays were invited to his home for a time of fellowship over a meal and the time was meaningful. He could also meet a few doctors in Ongole and Guntur and encouraged them to be part of the ministry of EMFI. Solomon was also part of the Regional conference at Guntur where students from 7 medical colleges participated. The theme of the conference was, *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.'*

Malsawmliana Darlong: Field Partner—West Bengal

Malsawma was able to encourage few students struggling with loneliness and frustrations from the word of God. He also had a blessed time at Purulia spending time with the doctors there. He is continuing his Bible studies on 'Jesus Christ' with the students and continues to make new contacts in the colleges during his visits. He spends time to also clarify doubts that some of them have regarding their walk with the Lord. We rejoice and praise God with Malsawma and Martha who were blessed with a son 'Benson.'

Malcolm Johnson: Associate Field Partner—Andhra Pradesh

We praise God that Malcolm who was only involved with the Adilabad fellowship till now has prayerfully decided to give more time to the work of EMFI. He visited Khammam, Karimnagar, Warangal and Guntur in the recent months. He was able to participate in the conferences at Guntur and Khammam making new student and graduate contacts. He and his wife Uma continue to be a source of encouragement and guidance to the fellowship at Adilabad.

alongsiderz

The Alongsiderz weekend in bangalore in ACTS Bible college on July 5th -7th was the best weekend of rest we had after our marriage last year (we even celebrated our 1st wedding anniversary there!!!). We had longed for this time of rest, reflection and fellowship. We have a small fellowship of medicos at our home in Hubli. But the time at Alongsiderz with other families, graduates and seniors like Dr.KV, Dr. Manoj, Dr. VP, and Sunny Philip was very special. The reflections on Psalm 131 and decision making still echoe in our home as we ponder over it and we even shared it in our fellowship. We are looking forward to the next meeting and we know that the time spent in quietness with our Lord, and in fellowship with fellow-believers and families is what will propel us forward for the glory of His kingdom.....Jesus rockz!!! Don't miss it next time.....:-)

Drs. Ashly and Arlene
Hubli

welcome to the family

EMFI is glad to welcome Drs. Mathew George and Latha Mathew as they relocate to Chennai from an EHA hospital in Raxaul on the Bihar- Nepal border where they served for about 20 years. They have been deputed by EHA to EMFI for the next 2 years. They have a daughter Rachel who is in grade X.

Latha will be coordinating the International Saline program and Mathew primarily looking at developing medical missions, networking with churches etc.

We are grateful to God for them and wish them God's peace and grace as they make this transition.



mumbai doctors

meet - 2013



ethical dilemmas

I work with many patients who are terminally ill. I have heard people say that sharing the Gospel with a sick patient under our care is, "exploiting his vulnerability." What is the right perspective?

The simple answer is NO. Let me explain the background of this idea of "exploitation".

The word 'EXPLOITATION' needs clarification. The meaning of this word is: "doing/using something for a selfish gain at the expense of another." So it is a myth which needs to be cleared. When we share the gospel we do it out of love, not for our selfish gain and not even to improve our statistics in the spiritual score board. Apostle Paul says (2 Cor.5: 14)"love of Christ compels /constrains me ". "Woe unto me if I do not share the gospel" (1 Cor: 9: 16). Two loves meet/work together whenever the gospel is shared - love of Christ and love for the other. When we truly love some one e.g. our patient we will naturally, share Christ.

Another misconception in the mind of many is that faith is only a personal matter and hence one should not trespass the privacy of the person. Let us remember that for a Christian, faith can never remain only as a personal matter. Jesus has clearly given us the command and mandate to go out into the world and share this good news to all (Math.28: 18-20). So evangelism is our Mission and it is to be done with respect and sensitivity.

Sharing the gospel is sharing the Good News, in fact, the Best News. It is in essence sharing Jesus Christ. Jesus belongs to all, not just to Christians. Remember that by sharing Jesus and the eternal life in him, is loving some one... Love is giving our best to another. What is the best that we can offer to any one? Is it not Jesus? He is the best we have received in life and so He is the best that we can give. On the other hand, by withholding the gospel are we not withholding the best to some one whom we love and care?

Sickness is a time of vulnerability; so also, it offers an opportunity to pause, halt on the track of our busy lives, to think of deeper issues of life. Hence, it is a time of respite and one is more open to eternal matters during an illness.

When we care compassionately it is an opportunity to share the most important issue of life! "Meet A Need And Meet The Need." The time of vulnerability during sickness leads many to despair and fear..and on the other hand, the Gospel, by the Holy Spirit, leads a person to hope and eternal life.

So, may our lord Jesus help us all to share the gospel unashamedly but with love, humility and sensitivity. Often prayer with the patient is an opening in this direction.

Dr. Kuruvilla Varkey, Christian Medical Fellowship, Oddanchatram. Tamil Nadu

This is a column that addresses the dilemmas that Christian doctors face in relating their faith to their professional practice. Readers are requested to send their questions to emfipublications@gmail.com and senior Christian doctors will give you Biblical guidelines to address your issues and concerns.



ground realities : when the tyre hits the road the story of dr. iris paul

God has enabled me to work in the interior district of Malkangiri of Orissa for the last 40 years where I came with my husband, late Dr RAC Paul. Now I have handed over the work to Mr. Ragland Remo Paul, who is the Executive secretary of the organization 'Reaching Hand Society.' His wife Dr Susan Sunalini is the medical Superintendent of St. Luke Temple Hospital.

Our Vision is to see the tribal people fully empowered, economically stable, fully educated and their children accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior and holding Government Jobs.

There are 928 villages in Malkangiri District out of which over 200 villages are hidden from the public eye with no government programs whatsoever. These villages do not have any motorable roads and so one has to walk through snake infested paths to reach them. Our mission is to trek 3 or up to 5 of these villages every year with God's help and see how best we can bring about a radical change for the better in these yet unreached areas. Vicki Hitzes aptly said: '**Attitude is Everything**'.

Some of the highlights of what is happening at Malkangiri are:

- .. Free treatment for missionaries and evangelists
- .. Programs for Government employees and shop keepers
- .. Sharing the good news to Bengalis through development work
- .. Survey of areas outside Malkangiri and placing workers
- .. VBS and the regular Sunday schools conducted by Dr. Susan
- .. Training of missionaries and placement— two of them have been appointed in Govt jobs

I like the saying of Theodore Roosevelt – “Do what you can where you are and with what you have.”

We read in the book of Nehemiah that '**God was looking for a man to stand in the gap**'. **We will stand in the gap to accomplish what God wants us to accomplish in the District of Malkangiri and the surrounding areas.**'

-Dr Iris. G. R. Paul.

This space has been created to get to know one another and the work we are involved in. This will enable us to support, pray and encourage one another.



inviting articles for "voice"

This is to request you to send us an article from your experience and interest on any of the themes below for the next two issues of 'Voice'. It would be good if the articles were between 500 - 1000 words. We hope the EMFI fraternity will be enriched as we share with each other from our experience and edify and bless each other's life. Please send your original writings to voice.emfi@gmail.com.

The themes for the next two issues are

Third quarter 2013 - RELATIONSHIP - Please send in your articles by 30.07.2013

Fourth quarter 2013 - INCARNATIONAL PRESENCE - Please send in your articles by 15.10. 2013.

doctors life support - aizawl 24th april 2013

The theme of this years Doctor's Life support was, "You...be a blessing to others." The speaker for the day's program was Rev. Dr. Lalchungnunga.

We had a record attendance of 71 members with a good mix of seniors and juniors and also members from outside Aizawl. The speaker spoke from Genesis 12:2 about the call of Abraham, describing it to be a blessing and pointing out the promises of God that come along with it. In the second half of the message the speaker asked, whether we are a blessing to our spouses, children, family, neighbors, patients, employers and fellow humans. There were also group discussions on how we can be a blessing to others. The last session that had open sharing was spiritually enriching as members shared their experiences. Praise and worship and solo songs from our young members also added greatly to the overall spiritual nourishment for the day.



- Dr. Laldhuwami, Aizawl

drumbeats of our times



Court quashes common medical entrance test

MCI is not empowered to conduct NEET, says Bench

The Supreme Court on Thursday declared the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) unconstitutional. The Medical Council of India (MCI) and the Dental Council of India (DCI) had introduced the test for admission to graduate and postgraduate courses. The Bench said in a majority 2-1 verdict that the test had the effect of depriving the States, state-run universities and all medical colleges and institutions, including those enjoying the constitutional protection, of their right to admit students to MBBS, BDS and postgraduate courses as per their own procedures, beliefs and dispensations. The Christian Medical College, Vellore; the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; several associations of private medical colleges and various individual colleges had filed petitions in High Courts and obtained an interim stay on the applicability of the NEET to them. On the MCI's petitions, these cases were transferred to the Supreme Court.

Excerpts from THE HINDU, July 19, 2013

This judgement has been received with mixed reactions. For institutions like the CMCs, they can retain the system of admitting students sponsored by various churches and organisations, thereby continuing to meet some of the needs in rural and other mission hospitals. Stringent selection criteria are already in place in these places.

However, there is also the apprehension that this judgement has "in effect made the management of private institutions that fleece students for capitation fees immune from scrutiny". It will also benefit the coaching institutes that profit from "customised" State entrance exams lacking uniformity.

Let us pray that this verdict will not in anyway further compound the existing corruption in medical education, specially in the private sector. Also that the MCI which is the regulatory body be able to play its 'watchdog role' with fairness and fearlessness.

family news

"When I read the Vision statement of EMFI, I am motivated for the work. I want to see 'Christian principle' directed doctors in India and not 'Dr. Cheaters' exploiting people who are made in His image."

-Dr. Khreinuo John, Kohima.

...Yesterday was probably the last Ragas Dental college fellowship with me being a part of it.....It was an emotional feeling when we called the seniors and told them to take over the responsibility of continuing the fellowship. "There is nothing that one can be proud of but the Word of God," is what I told them. I hope and pray that the fellowship will grow in strength.

-Dr. Ashwin George, Chennai.



new arrivals

Drs. Cijoy and Ancy, Oddanchatram, were blessed with a baby girl Eva on 6th April.

Dr. Vinu Thomas and Sowmya were blessed with a baby girl Jaira Vinuaust on 27th April.

EMFI staff Malsawmliana & Martha have been blessed with a baby boy Benson Darlong on 9th May.

Drs. Shoba and Ravi George, Orissa, were blessed with a baby girl Namrata on 9th June.



wedding bells

Dr. Sukumar wed Dr. Susanna on 4th May at Kadapa, AP

Dr. Abimanesh wed Dr. Neemu on 27th May at Chennai

Dr. Arun Gautam wed Alice on 5th June at Guntur

Dr Sachin wed Sara Joy on July 5th at Vellore

The much awaited 'Shiloh 2013' will be held at the Christian Medical College, Vellore from 3rd to 6th October 2013.

The theme of this conference is "Serving God's purposes in this Generation".

The plenary speakers are
Bro. Rajkumar
C.B Samuel.

There will be exciting group discussions, Q&A sessions, talent night, Music concert, movie night and a host of other interactive sessions. Please block these dates on your calendar. And prayerfully plan to attend it.

shiloh 2013

shiloh 2013

reflections from the general secretary

We have continued to experience the Lord's goodness and faithfulness over the last few months. It's been a fulfilling experience journeying with young doctors and families through the accompaniment initiative (Alongsiderz). The sessions at Vellore, Vishakapatnam and Bangalore helped connect with many of them at a deeper level.

In one of our recent office prayer sessions, we were burdened to pray for Christian doctors to be able to live integral (wholesome) lives.

This is always a challenge considering the demands put on us by the profession we are called to practice. Many of our professors teach us that medicine is 'to be the all and end all of life'.

It has been noted that a large number of medics fall away from their faith during their house jobs and post-graduate training. One of the primary reasons is neglect of their personal relationship with the Lord, fellowship and spiritual disciplines. It is important to be careful though training has its special challenges.

It is also observed that doctors spend unduly long hours at the work place leaving less space and time for the other dimensions of life- personal enrichment, family, fellowship, church etc. For some, it is because they are placed in situations where there is no help available while for others it may be a deliberate choice.

An anaesthetist friend who was in the faculty of a medical college and also practising outside recently shared his experience. He mentioned that most surgeons preferred to operate in the early mornings, late nights or Sundays. With this schedule, he was left with hardly any time for his personal devotions, family, for medical students or to attend church. He confessed that it was a difficult decision for him to choose between getting time for these and foregoing the extra money that came in from the practice. Finally, he decided to quit his extra practice and have time at hand to meet some of the other needs. He is grateful to God for enabling him to make this decision. He is freer to deepen His walk with the Lord and focus on other dimensions of life. Children also are happy to have Daddy more at home!

"When we are too preoccupied or too tired, there is little chance of deepening a relationship with our heavenly Father. Work is an integral part of our life but it must not take the place of building our relationship with God. Our work will fade and die but our relationship with God will last for all eternity".

Bill Hybels asks in his book, 'Too busy not to pray', "Where does the still, small voice of God fit into our hectic lives? When do we allow him to lead and guide and correct and affirm? And if this seldom or never happens, how can we lead truly authentic Christian lives?"

Jesus provides us with an example to follow. Despite the huge pressures on his time, not least from physically and spiritually needy people, he frequently withdrew from the crowds in order to pray (Lk 5:15-16). Time with His Father was his first priority.

We must prayerfully set our priorities, remembering to 'fix our eyes on Jesus'. God is faithful and can be trusted to meet all our needs. "To maintain eternal perspectives is the best way of approaching our medical careers as we press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called (us) heavenwards in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:14).

May our good God enable each of us to live wholesome lives and glorify His name in all that we do.

Manoj Jacob

for praise and prayer

- The 5 couples who attended the ALONGSIDERZ program at Vishakapatnam (April 26th—28th) and the young doctors who attended the program at CMC, Vellore (June 15th—16th). Pray that they would continue to walk closer to the Lord.
- The 32 medical students who attended the one-day DOWNLOAD program at Chennai (June 23rd). Pray that they would practice some of the truths learnt at the program.
- The 70 students who attended the One-day retreat at Khammam (June 29th), that they would grow in their faith.
- The 120 students from seven medical colleges of AP who attended the Regional conference at Guntur (June 29th—30th). Pray that they will grow in the Lord.
- The doctor's fellowship that met in Mumbai (June 30th). Pray for the doctors who attended and for this fellowship to grow in future.
- The 4 couples who attended the ALONGSIDERZ program at Bangalore (July 5th—7th)
- The fruitful time that some of the senior doctors, staffs and theologians had at Yelagiri to finalise the Bible study materials for medical students, (July 12th—14th)
- The regional Conference at Indore from—24th to 27th of July.
- The leadership program for student leaders of medical colleges in Tamil Nadu at Anaikatty—8th to 10th August
- Discipleship and missions camp at Pachalur—15th to 17th August
- Marriage enrichment seminar for young doctor couples at SU Cornerstone camp site, Chennai—23rd to 25th August
- Golden Jubilee Conference of CMF, Kerala—13th to 16th September
- The regional conference at Mumbai, called 'Doctors Life Support' - 2nd October
- The missions conference 'SHILOH' at CMC, Vellore—3rd to 5th October

financial update

| month | income | expenditure |
|-------|----------|-------------|
| march | 5,84,071 | 5,55,036 |
| april | 6,33,860 | 6,89,095 |
| may | 6,43,964 | 5,16,129 |
| june | 4,64,972 | 6,07,733 |

Those wishing to contribute can send your Cheques/ DD's/MO's in favour of EMFI to the address given below, or make electronic/Bank transfers:

1. State Bank of India A/c No. **10021817300**
(Branch code: 2288, IFSC: SBIN0002288)
2. HDFC Bank A/c No: **0492100009885**
(Branch code: 492 (IFSC: HDFC0000492)

***Please Call/Text/Email us after you make the transaction.
09176215489/90. emfihq@gmail.com***

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