



# FAR & NEAR

EVANGELICAL MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP OF INDIA

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Far & Near is a newsletter published once in three months

# Chairman's letter

## Passion in life

I was in the CEO's office of a private hospital in a city in Western U.P. We were waiting for coffee to arrive; and had to make polite conversation. When we had run out of the usual topics: Mayavati, weather, and traffic in the city, there was a pregnant pause. The CEO's wife, who was a non-medical person, surprised me with a question: "Dr. Thomas, what is your passion in life?" I stuttered and muttered, "You know, I *like* travelling and I *like* reading; well, what about you?" She said, "My passion is to do Puja that is what I love doing". Suddenly, I could sense the emptiness of my own words in contrast to the import of the words she had spoken! It really set me thinking. Did I have a passion in life? Or was my life just filled with some likes and dislikes?

One is defined by one's passion. It was Denis Waitley, an American motivational speaker who said, "Chase your passion; not your pension". If one were to ask Lee Redmond from Salt Lake City, she would say, "Growing fingernails is my passion; that is my life!" (She held the world record in having the longest finger nails in the world and was devastated when she broke them during a car crash few years ago!). Lucky Diamond Rich, a street performer might respond, "Getting tattoos on every inch of my body is my passion!" (He holds the Guinness world record for having 100% of his body covered in tattoos. If one were to interview St Paul, "Mr Paul, what is your passion in life?", he would say, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Christ was his passion and his all. In John 4:34, Jesus referred to his passion in life: "My food," said Jesus "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

Do you have a passion in life? Being a good doctor... doing well in your studies... being an accomplished professional... becoming financially successful? All these are good things; there is nothing wrong in wanting these things. But should not our passion be about something and **Someone** far greater? "But one thing is needed... and Mary has chosen that good part" (Luke 10:42).



*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art...  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*  
**Dr. Naveen Thomas**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF

<p><b>Devakumar: Coordinator: Training</b> Devakumar was a part of the Saline Process training that was held at Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet. Deva conducted a one day programme for the Chennai medical students called the DOWNLOAD. He was busy with the wedding of his son which took place in May. He visited the fellowships at Ongole &amp; Guntur along with Solomon. Deva was encouraged to see many students enthusiastically attending the fellowship at Guntur and the active involvement of the local doctors in the student fellowships.</p>	<p><b>Malsawmliana Darlong: Coordinator: West Bengal</b> Malsawma visited many of the college fellowships in West Bengal. He was able to continue his regular bible studies and spend time with individuals helping them to cope with stress, fear of exams, and loneliness. He has an open home and some students stayed with him. He has been instrumental in counselling and guiding their lives. Malsawma has been encouraged by the new graduate contacts he has been able to make in Kolkotta, who are willing to be involved in the ministry. Pray for his wife Martha as she is expecting their second child in September.</p>	<p><b>Michael Sandersingh: Coordinator: Pastoral Care</b> Michael initiated doctors' meets in Gurgaon and Noida once in 3 months. He visited CMC Vellore and Bangalore and met up with the local graduates. During his visit to Bidar, he could meet up with the EHA leadership and discuss the way in which pastoral care could be rendered to mission doctors. Michael and Grace were also involved in dialoguing and arranging the marriage of 2 doctor couples in the past months. Along with Dr. Latha Mathew, Grace and Michael were able to promote the Saline Process training and identify contacts to take it forward.</p>	<p><b>Anshuman Singh: Field Partner: Maharashtra</b> Anshuman visited many fellowship groups in Maharashtra, encouraging and counseling the students from the Word of God. He could guide a student prior to her first mission trip to Uttraula. The doctors fellowship at Andheri in June had a good participation of doctors and students with 3 students attending the fellowship for the first time.</p>
<p><b>Lindley Marquis: Coordinator: Karnataka</b> Lindley was instrumental in conducting a camp at Nargal for medical students from 3 medical colleges. He travelled as a family to Asha Kiran Hospital, Orissa to conduct the VBS for the campus children. Along with Dr. Cijoy, Lindley organized a half day retreat in a mission hospital in Mysore. Together with Dr. Sunil Gokavi, they introduced Medical Missions to Church pastors and leaders at a meeting in a Methodist church at Bangalore.</p>	<p><b>Solomon Raju: Field Partner: Andhra Pradesh</b> Solomon visited fellowships in Ongole, Kurnool and Anantapur. It has been encouraging to see many young graduates being actively involved in the student fellowships. He was able to attend the wedding of one of the students of the Anantapur fellowship. He accompanied Mr. Victor from EHA to the fellowship at Nandyal, where Mr. Victor shared about the work and ministry of EHA.</p>	<p><b>Malcolm &amp; Uma Johnson: Andhra Pradesh</b> Malcolm was encouraged to see the young interns of Adilabad regularly meeting for fellowship, even in his absence. He was able to encourage the fellowship at Khammam. He visited fellowships in Karim Nagar and Warangal. The one day retreat in Karim Nagar in June had a good attendance of students. It was encouraging to see two of the old students from the college taking initiative in organizing the retreat.</p>	<p><b>KT Paul: Coordinator: North India</b> KT visited several fellowships in North India, and encouraged many young doctors in their lives journey. He was encouraged to see a young doctor join him on his visit to Lucknow and share in the fellowship, inspite of the prevailing heat. A bunch of students from Andhra Pradesh and CMC Vellore had a blessed time visiting Herbertpur.</p>
<p><b>Pratik Sindhu: Coordinator: Madhya Pradesh &amp; Chattisgarh</b> Pratik visited fellowships in Bhopal, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Bilaspur and Indore in the past months and individually spent time encouraging and counselling students. The Lord saved Pratik's family from a near fatal fire accident in their car.</p>	<p><b>George Suchiang: Field Partner: North East India</b> George started a series of Bible studies titled 'Meaning and Purpose of Life' with the students. He was part of a picnic along with the NEIGHRIMS students and was able to build a rapport with the new students. He visited some of the doctors individually and encouraged them to attend the National Conference.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PRAISE GOD FOR</div> 	

## Family News

### Births

Drs. Vimal & Jacinth (Oddanchatram) were blessed with twin boys Jonathan & Joel on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Drs. Sukumar & Vidhya (Vishakapatnam) were blessed with a baby girl on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Drs. Vinaya & Jerry were blessed with a baby boy on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Drs. Jerome & Madhana (Bangalore) were blessed with a baby boy on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

### Movements

Drs. Arlene & Ashley from Hubli, Karnataka to Herbertpur Christian Hospital, Dehradun.

- The 'Kingdom of God' planning workshop in May - Bangalore
- The young doctor couples who attended the Alongsiderz programme -CMC, Vellore.
- The retreat in June - Holdsworth Memorial hospital, Mysore.
- The 40 odd students who attended the one day retreat, DOWNLOAD - June, Chennai.
- One day retreat in July for the colleges - KarimNagar, Andhra Pradesh.
- The 'Kingdom of God' Seminar conducted in August - Chennai.
- The many students who attended the State conference for Tamil Nadu in August - Pachalur Camp.
- The Retreat in August for medical students - Udaipur.



# GROUND REALITIES

## WHEN THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD



Isac and I were born again during our school days and had committed ourselves to be available to God. We wanted to work where nobody else was willing to go. I was keen to know what God wanted to do with my life. In the early nineties I joined the Dip NB course in Family Medicine, which was a new specialty in India. I felt that this course would equip me for rural work in a mission field setting. Isac was my classmate in the FLM course. We discovered similarities towards missions that attracted us to each other.

After the course, we visited 5 mission stations in 4 different states. We were challenged to see the great need among the Malto tribe of Bihar. We realised that we were not strong or smart enough to pioneer medical ministry among the tribals. God assured us of His approval and assistance. We clung on to the promise in *Isaiah 35:8*. In 1996 with a team of five people, harnessing our faith we made a humble beginning.. Thus Prem Jyoti was formed. While the task ahead seemed overwhelming and impossible, we asked God to break us that we may be a blessing to the Malto people.

The Maltos are a diminishing population with an alarmingly high infant and maternal mortality rate. Infectious diseases and deaths related to child birth were very common. The whole district of Sahibganj was backward with poor transport, communication and electricity. God chose to use Prem Jyoti to bring light and love into the lives of the Malto people in the dark corner of India.

Today, Prem Jyoti team has grown to more than 50 strong, a 30 bedded hospital, a good network of community health volunteers and better facilities (8-10 hours of electricity since last year). Our personal lives and growth have been intertwined with that of Prem Jyoti.

It has been a joy to see positive changes within the team and in the community. Illiterate community health volunteers teaching, treating and referring; increasing awareness about prevention of common illnesses; improvement in health seeking behaviour; Malto girls completing their nursing training; pregnant women visiting the hospital for safe delivery...the list continues.

The Maltos and Santals have turned to the Lord in large numbers – so we are ministering to an outsized believing population. However, the non-tribals rarely know the Lord. Every day we have the opportunity to share the Gospel to our patients. They listen eagerly and witness many miracles of the Lord's mighty hand of healing. In the years to come we look forward to a great harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God.

There have been pit falls; times when we have wondered whether it was worthwhile to spend our best years in the remote jungle; when it seemed as if we were not making any difference whatsoever; when our endurance was tested to the limit; recurrent episodes of malaria in the first ten years; early separation from children for schooling; times when we made mistakes or faced failures; when even God seemed far away – yet with no one else to fall back upon except Him... It was in those valleys that we best learnt the sweetness and all-sufficiency of our Saviour. These life lessons have impacted us the most...

It has been 17 years, since we arrived ... and deep down in our hearts we know that in the midst of all the struggles, the Lord has always been holding our hands... and the best is yet to be...

God can use us if we are **FAT!**  
Faithful to the end  
Available to His bidding  
Teachable when He corrects us

**Drs. Isac & Vijila**

Prem Jyoti Community Hospital & Project  
Chandragoda, P. O. Baramasia, Sahibganj District,  
Jharkhand— 816 102.

### Kingdom of God seminar Chennai, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014

EMFI unveiled the 'Kingdom of God' initiative among doctors and dentists, through a well attended 1 day retreat at a hotel in Chennai. Mr. LT Jeyachandran captured the participants' rapt attention through a powerful exposition on God's kingdom purposes for mankind, beginning from Adam to the end of Revelation. We were challenged to "metanoia" -to 'see' in a new way. We were reminded of our calling to be 'pilgrims, strangers and stewards' rather than 'settlers, citizens and owners'.

In the afternoon, we reorganised as groups to do a picture study of a remarkable revelation of God's kingdom design in Zechariah Ch 8. The session concluded with a panel discussion summarising the key learning points. We pray that Christ the King will lead us in every dimension of our lives.

- Dr. Rabin Chacko, CMC—Vellore





## EMFI BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MY LIFE, MY WORK:  
FOR THE KING!

## Overview of the Sessions and Focus Track Seminars

**Theme Talks:** **Dr. Ajith Fernando** serves as a Teaching Director for the **Youth for Christ** in Sri Lanka after being the National Director for 35 years. He has an extensive counselling and mentoring ministry with Christian leaders and workers; a teaching ministry at conferences and theological schools in Sri Lanka and abroad.

He will be focussing on the **THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM**, looking at the first 10 chapters of Mark, to view the radical new mission; teaching and lifestyle lived by Jesus and present it before us to follow.

**Devotions:** **Dr. Kuruvilla Varkey**, a senior Physician and Bible teacher, based in Christian Fellowship Hospital, Oddanchatram, Tamilnadu seeks to integrate the Word of God with life and practice. He hopes to cover the following themes in his devotional messages:

**Covenant Love of Jesus** - The invitation and the promise of His covenant.

**New identity and new life in Christ**

**Kingdom of God** - The call, the cost and the joy in His Kingdom.

Focus Track Seminars  
(Graduates 1-3; Students 4-6)

■ **Leadership- The Kingdom model** hopes to address the following:

**The heart of a leader** - to clearly understand what it means to be a man after God's own heart.

**Being a servant** - being the only model that is acceptable in God's sight. How does it practically translate?

**Accountability** - which is one of the most vital, but neglected issues in leadership.

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Sam Thomas** (Executive Director of **Development Associates Initiative**, India) and **team**.

■ **Accompaniment and Mentoring** ■ **Alternative expressions of Kingdom witness**

will seek to understand the present context and mentoring in the context of the Kingdom of God. It will work through the process of mentoring and build capacity, to be potential God focused mentors, committed to mentoring and nurturing the next generation of nation-shapers.

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Santhosh Mathew** (Executive Director of **Emmanuel Hospital Association**) and **team**.

■ **Bioethics** hopes to identify major ethical issues faced by the health care professionals and the challenges in addressing the needs. It aims to provide basic tools to analyse ethical issues and equip doctors to decide from a Biblical and Kingdom perspective. It will also explore creating a cadre of ethicists and forming an association of ethical practice in the country which shape our nation for the King.

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Jameela George** (Executive Director of **The Centre for Bioethics**) and **team**.

■ **Kingdom living in a post-modern world**

will address Post-modernism and tackle issues like the apparent carefree attitude of youngsters; the confusion about what is true versus false; is there truth at all, or is it just a perspective? Are there any absolute reference points? Is morality only a personal choice? It will also look at the influence of internet, visual and social media on the current generation and caring for those who are confused.

**Facilitators:** **Mr. Cyril Georgeson** (Chief Training Officer of **RZIM Life Focus Society**) and **Dr. Sunny Philip** (Director, **Transform for Life**).

■ **Alternative expressions of Kingdom witness**

seeks to give a better understanding of different expressions of the Kingdom of God, by showcasing various innovative approaches that Christian health care professionals use all over India, in order to engage with difficult existing and upcoming problems. It would facilitate a process by which young professionals are encouraged to think beyond the conventional and traditional options, and become willing to implement radical steps in order to establish God's Kingdom.

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Pradeep Ninan** (Faculty in CMC Vellore, blogger, activist) and **team**.

■ **Making life's crucial choices** - Life is about choices. The seminar will peek at major choices young medicos have to make and the challenges faced while taking a decision. Through practical examples and teaching, they will be equipped to examine their algorithms, using God's word as a plumb line.

**Facilitators:** **Dr. Philip Alexander** (Team leader of **Lady Willingdon Hospital, Manali**) and **team**.

VENUE:  
CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE  
LUDHIANA, PUNJAB

The conference commences on

**2nd OCT at 11 am**

and concludes on

**5th OCT 2014 by 2 pm.**

## A TRIBUTE— CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. P. I. ABRAHAM

### “Love Thy Neighbour as Thyself”

ran the motto of a man who was called His abode on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Even as we remember his life and work, may we be inspired to serve our Living God. Dr. Abraham was born on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1923 to Lt Mr. P I Abraham and Lt Mrs. Annamma Abraham. Dr. Abraham imbibed the value of 'Christ-like Living', especially the simple, transparent and just-living with value-based convictions from Mr. P C George (founder of Agathi Mandiram, Kottayam). Dr. Abraham learnt the importance of 'Community Living' from Sadhu Mathai (founder of Christavashram, Manganam, Kottayam). Dr. Abraham stressed the fact that no patient should be denied treatment for want of money. He encouraged and desired that the highest education be provided and the services be rendered to the people who could afford for it the least. He stood for his convictions in Christ. He refused bribes, even if it meant material loss. He also refused awards in view of the greater reward from above. He was accessible to anyone.

Dr. Abraham was greatly inspired and influenced by Jim Elliot and David Livingstone. Jim Elliot's statement became Dr. Abraham's missionary outlook - “He is no fool who loses what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose”.

David Livingstone's final conclusion to his friends who pleaded for his reversion of the decision to go into the land of cannibals of Africa, drilled into the mind of Dr. Abraham, that the absolute determination can never be the product of this world. David Livingstone had remarked that the words of the “Gentleman” *‘Lo! I am with you always, even to the end of this age,’* had sustained him through all the years of exile amongst people whose language he didn't understand, whose attitudes were uncertain and hostile.

Dr. Abraham joined the Miraj Medical Center [Maharashtra] in 1943 to do LCPS and pursued the condensed MBBS from KEM, Mumbai. Studying in Miraj, he became a part of the Saturday evening prayer group where he came in contact with Dr. A K Tharien (one of the founders of CFH, Oddanchatram) who was his classmate, Dr Jacob Cherian (founder of Ambillikkai Hospital) who was his junior and Mr. P T Chandapillai, who later joined UESI and thereafter the Evangelical Church.

Two groups were formed and planned to venture into mission fields. The group that went to South-India was the inception of the work at Oddanchatram, Tamil Nadu while the other group went to North-India and started the work at Rajnandgaon, in the then MP state (now Chhattisgarh).

Dr. Abraham felt the need to trust in God's provision for the finance of the Fellowship. For him simple trust and plunging into the deep was a must (*Matthew 6:33*). So, he decided against owning any personal property and bringing all income to a common pool. The “Common Purse” principle was adopted, whereby no one had personal property, but all shared and utilised from a common pool. Further, the society would meet all expenses of each member. Children would be educated by the society.

Before Dr. Abraham started for Rajnandgaon, he made a personal covenant with the Lord; and his prayer was “*Lord, help me to have nothing more than what these people have as my personal possession in this world*” (make-shift bamboo tents and food pots hung from the bamboo poles fixed just outside the sleeping space, so as to protect from dogs and pigs). He faithfully kept this covenant and God in turn met all his needs until his time on earth.

In 1954, Dr. Abraham married Aleyamma, a girl who had promised to live and face challenges with him in the mission field. She stood by him and helped in nursing management and anesthesia, as well as labour cases, besides looking after their own children. Dr. Abraham lovingly addressed her as “My Gynecologist and My Anesthetist”. Dr. Abraham & Mrs. Aleyamma Abraham have 6 sons, of which the first two and the last two are medical professionals.

### INITIATIVES

Dr. Abraham's desire and initiative was to extend medical as well as social help to the community. The community work was organized in the form of a holistic Community Health Service under the name of SHORE (Society for Health Opportunity, Rehabilitation & Empowerment).

Dr. Abraham believed that “Jesus is the answer and only HE can impart the true values to an individual.

A school for the underprivileged was established, to train them with moral values amidst the degrading culture of the community at large, and also coach them so that they would rise to the highest cadres of the community as senior government officials, who would then practice the ethical values in their respective roles. It is located about 50 km from the base hospital to the west on the NH-6 (Howrah- Mumbai Route).

The Hospital work has General & Eye Services. The Farm Services started about 10 years later and has been intended to be the main support unit for the charity services through the hospital and the community as well, so as to reduce the cost of living.

As Dr. P C Abraham looked forward to meet His Father in heaven, he confidently recollected *II Timothy 4: 7-8...* “*I have run the race; I have kept the faith...*”. *He ended with Psalm 48: 14...* “*For this God is our God forever and ever... He will be our guide even unto death.*” Here was the man who left a legacy that many could follow and bless the future generation.



Dr. Abraham with medical students from Tamil Nadu who were on a mission exposure trip.



## My first visit to a mission hospital! (Prem Sewa Hospital, Utraula)

Still recovering from the post traumatic stress of exams and not quite oriented, I travelled alone to the Prem Sewa Hospital, Utraula (Uttar Pradesh).

I always heard of people's account of mission trips and wanted to know for myself what it really was like? Was it all just sacrifice or was there something more?

And so work began... and it wasn't like it was back in the cities. I realised the distance people travelled to be treated! Most forfeiting their daily wages, some who in spite of being treated in bigger hospitals and obtaining no relief came here with hope in a "mission" hospital (which had limited resources). The illiteracy and ignorance of the people here was frustrating and sad.

During this time I also happened to read "Promises to keep" - the story of Dr Thomas A Dooley. I was reminded of the importance of the "patient who has a sickness" rather than the "sickness that is in the patient" a simple but important statement but one I had somehow forgotten! I could comprehend the truth of the statement "Dedicate some of your life to others. Your dedication will not be a sacrifice." And so I returned, having received more than I expected, more than I could give. Praise God for He provides things we may not even realise we need!

Apeli Sukhalu  
Parel, Mumbai



## ETHICAL DILEMMAS

*"I encounter a lot of pharma company representatives who come to me with various incentives for prescribing their particular brand of medicines. Where do I draw the line in receiving gifts or other perks from them? Or should I totally refuse and reject any incentive from them?"*

*Dr C.R., Tamilnadu*

It is certainly a relevant day-to-day issue for doctors, that pharmaceutical companies promote their products by offering perks of various forms to the doctors. The companies then promptly recover the cost of the perks from the patients by charging a higher price. So, finally the patients have to bear the expense of the perks the doctors receive. Thus the vicious cycle subtly facilitates the spiraling of the cost of medicines. Well conducted studies have proved that the cost of medical treatment has pushed many, especially the poor, below the poverty line. So what is the way out? It is to understand the underlying problem of the desire created by drug companies and their business tactics. We need to take a clear stand that we do not receive any perks from these firms as it finally hurts the patients. Once again to reiterate that our mandate is to PROVIDE ETHICAL, LOW COST, YET EFFECTIVE CARE COMMUNICATING CHRIST AND HIS LOVE. May we all receive the courage and grace to say 'NO' to this temptation.

Dr. Kuruvilla Varkey, Christian Fellowship Hospital, 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 requests to [emfipublications@gmail.com](mailto:emfipublications@gmail.com) and senior Christian doctors will give you Biblical guidelines to address your issues and concerns.*

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Graham Staines Memorial Hospital** is a 15 bedded Charitable Hospital, situated in the heart of Baripada, Orissa. It was started in July 2004 as a project of the Mayurbhanj Leprosy Home Society (MLH). It was built in memory of the late Mr. Graham Stuart Staines, who lived his life serving people with leprosy and dreamt of having a hospital in Mayurbhanj district to provide loving and compassionate care to the poor tribal people in general and in particular people with leprosy.

The hospital has a ground floor with a built up area of 6176 sq ft. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor has a built-up area of 7076 sq ft and there is ample scope for further expansion. The facilities include an Operating Theater, Laboratory, Department of X-ray, Physiotherapy, and Ultrasound.

In the recent past the hospital has not been functioning properly due to lack of personnel.

The hospital now requires:

Junior Doctors - 2,  
Specialist in General Medicine-1,  
Specialist in General Surgery-1,  
Gynecologist -1,  
Pediatrician -1,  
Staff Nurses (GNM) -6,  
Lab-Technicians -3,  
Pharmacist -1

Those willing to join as individuals or as a team please contact:

Mr. B. Narayan  
Administrator

Emails & Mobile nos:  
[Siddhartha\\_sahu@yahoo.com](mailto:Siddhartha_sahu@yahoo.com),  
Mob No-08658097670

[contactgsmh@gmail.com](mailto:contactgsmh@gmail.com),  
Mob No-09438169893  
[subhankarmira@yahoo.com](mailto:subhankarmira@yahoo.com),  
Mob No-09437172259

**GNANADURAI HOSPITAL,  
SIVAKASI - 626123, TN.**

(A maternity hospital run on Christian principles)

REQUIRES:

1. A Christian doctor couple to take over long term
2. Junior lady doctor interested in Obstetrics

CONTACT:

Dr. Gio Gnanadurai  
Mob No : +91 9786023408  
Email : [giodurai@hotmail.com](mailto:giodurai@hotmail.com)

## UDAIPUR RETREAT      TN MEDICOS CAMP II, PACHALUR. 14-16TH AUGUST 2014

The Udaipur medical fellowship, had a retreat from 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at Matt's resort Udaipur. We had in our midst brother Vijay, uncle K.T Paul and pastor Manu and his family. We extend our gratitude to them for sharing God's word that was a blessing to each one of us.

Being able to *introspect* on God's will and purpose brought much light on why we are created. *Sharing* our experiences showed us how God touched each of us personally. We also understood how important our lives are, being set apart by God to glorify Him, to build up character and not reputation. And last but not the least; we must keep on preparing our fields. God has sown in each of us seeds...seeds that we must care for by yielding to the Holy Spirit and being dependent on Him, for rain will be sent by God. Yielding more to the Holy Spirit, we are renewed.

**Elgiva Iangngap,  
Udaipur Medical Fellowship**



The Camps at Pachalur are always a blessing. Though this is the sixth time I am attending, I had so much to learn. The theme for the camp was 'Face the Book'. It turned out to be a life changing encounter with God and His truth revealed in the Book. We had a group of dedicated men of God who shared not just from their intellectual minds but also openly and frankly from their lives and experiences. We had Drs. Thomas Jacob and Christo Philip from EHA as the main speakers. We also had Dr. Cijoy, Drs. Susheel and Valsa and Dr. Amit from Oddanchatram, Dr. Balamukesh from CMC and Mr. Devakumar from EMFI as our resource people. We started out revising our basics of faith and our identity in Christ. We then learnt about holiness and sexual purity and that it can be a reality in our lives. We also learnt among other things that:

- We are called to stand for God and His righteousness wherever we are.
- We are to be aware of the enemy and his schemes to lead a victorious life.
- Marriage is the most important choice in our life after God - We received a great deal of practical and scriptural advice on it.

Finally, we concluded on how the heart of God is inclined towards missions. Wherever we are placed, is our mission field -called to live as missionaries.

Many of us experienced personal encounters and learnt varied lessons from the retreat. The talent night showcased our abilities. The movie 'God's not dead' was screened and it showed us that our God is in our midst and not dead. As always, God was faithful in supplying the needs of the camp and providing us with adequate water. We pray that the seeds sown in our hearts bring forth fruit at an opportune time.

**Dr. Jasper, CMC**



## Pray For

- The upcoming DOWNLOAD (7<sup>th</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November) a one day retreat for Medical students in Chennai
- The series of marriage seminars that are coming up (19<sup>th</sup> —21<sup>st</sup> September, 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> —15<sup>th</sup> November).
- The Biennial National Conference at CMC, Ludhiana (2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> October). That the delegates will have a blessed time.



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The recent NDTV expose on the corruption by medical doctors may not come as a surprise, considering the extent of vice spread in our profession. As Christians, called by God into the medical field, what ought to be our response, when we are exposed to similar news and occurrences in different sections of life and society?

We can either plead helplessness, lamenting over the circumstance or take action.

Prayer is an important tool God has provided in our hands to see transformation of situations that seem humanly impossible. We often undervalue the power of prayer. Instead, learn from great men of God as R C Trench said "Prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven, but getting God's will done on earth and in D L Moody's words, "Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure."

Jesus taught His disciples and us to pray "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". In a recent seminar for doctors in Chennai on the "Kingdom of God and health care" one of the speakers Mr. L T Jeyachandran emphasised on the strategic role we have as God's regents to intercede in prayer and join Him in His work to establish His Kingdom in diverse spheres of life and society. "We are God's co-workers in His great work of redeeming all of creation." As doctors and dentists, it is therefore important that we not only practice but also stand for Kingdom values in our professional life. EMFI in partnership with The Centre for Bioethics is working on a model code of ethics which we can abide by. Stay tuned for more information in the next issue of Far and Near.

The countdown to the National Conference has started with hardly a month remaining. With the theme, "My life, my work- for the King" we trust God will offer each of us a new perspective about our life and work in relationship to our position as the King's representatives on earth.

We will value your earnest and regular prayers, as the teams in CMC Ludhiana and EMFI work hard to make the arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you all at CMC Ludhiana and to a great time of learning and fellowship.

Dr. Manoj C Jacob

## OBITUARY

### Remembering Dr. Karuna ...



It is difficult to write about people who have given so much of themselves unselfishly. It comes so naturally to them, so much a fabric of who they are.

Karuna was one such special person. We got to know her more through Dr. Giovanni her husband, who regularly visited us, a close friend, a regular face at camps and conferences. Karuna was the one who held the fort at home and the busy hospital they run in Sivakasi. Their home was always open to the extended family and many others.

Karuna was diagnosed with non-small cell adeno carcinoma with the primary in her lung on 4 October 2013, with secondaries after investigations for a backache. Over

the months, with radiation, chemotherapy and repeated hospitalizations she initially made progress, but later it took a toll on her. Through the discomfort and pain, she cringed but did not complain, patiently bearing it all. Dr. Giovanni and their two sons Sam and Daniel were always around her, along with dear ones, who took turns to be by her side.

Karuna passed away in Sivakasi on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The people of the town asked for a public viewing of her body to pay their respects. Shops downed their shutters and roads were jammed during the time of her funeral.

We thank God for Karuna's life. She had run the race God had for her, in obedience to her calling and God had called her home.

Mrs. Sarah and Dr. Sam David

## Treasurer's note

Dear friends,

How happy we are to talk of God's abundant faithfulness! It is not always in the abundance in our bank balance, but in spite of it! Salaries, travel reimbursements, rents etc, etc are sent every month (though often times they are delayed). Our regular supporters are few and faithful. But God works in mysterious ways to provide through not-so-known sources in times of need. We appreciate your giving and encourage you to continue to support the work regularly and pray for us.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,

Dr. Grace Thomas,  
Treasurer

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

	INCOME	EXPENSE
MAY	634950	640908
JUNE	513595	608382
JULY	722209	755144

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: SBIN002288)  
**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