



## VISION

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

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The second quarter of 2021 had been an anxiety ridden time with the second wave of the pandemic causing havoc. Those in the health-care work faced tough times not only with the heavy rush and lack of beds to admit, but also with unprecedented lack of oxygen. Often, we were bewildered feeling helpless. **Such times are tests of our faith.**

What is faith? A simple definition would be 'Welcoming that which you believe in'. Faith is not just an acknowledgement of some external fact. It is believing and receiving. "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God. (John 1:12)." **The key thought underlying the Greek word for faith (pistis) is that of trust.** It is trusting wholeheartedly the One who is worthy to be trusted. Only then can we have the quality of life that is the foretaste of eternity.

Jesus was quick to detect faith in those who came to Him expecting a miracle.

In the letter to the Hebrews, faith is the power to see reality behind appearance. *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11: 1*

For Peter, faith is the conviction that what Jesus says is true and that we can rely on His word to launch out on His promises (2 Peter 1:4).

As a little boy I have often wondered how my father – seen by others as the doctor who comes on bicycle – could ride on the two wheels without falling. When I was a little bigger, I learnt that I too could ride it – only when I was prepared to launch out, even at the risk of falling and getting bruised.



Some have told me that I should have been named Thomas, as I seemed to be a 'Doubting Thomas' always! But I admire Thomas. He was willing to admit his doubts. He was realistic enough to realise that going with Jesus may mean even dying with Him. He may have ended up doubting, but in the end, he courageously lived out his conviction to go and die for Jesus – in India. The “St Thomas Christians” in the west coast of India from the first century are the testimony.

Being a Christian requires courage. We do not often fit in with the world's thinking/ways, and when we refuse to conform, we will most likely suffer some form of persecution as a result. Are we ready for that? Thank God, we are not left alone.

The Bible says that the king of Syria had surrounded the city with his horses. Elisha's servant was greatly alarmed. But Elisha said, “Don't be afraid, those who are with us are more than those who are with them”. At Elisha's prayer, the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw the hills full of the Lord's army with horses and chariots of fire. May our faith continue to grow and may our eyes be opened to see clearly the whole mountain aflame with light.

**Susheel K. Tharien**



## MOVEMENTS

Dr Dheeraj Kattula has moved back to CMC Vellore after successfully completing his DM in Addiction Psychiatry from AIIMS, New Delhi

Dr. Azariah Jayaraj Premkumar has moved from CMC Vellore to AIIMS, New Delhi for his DM



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF

## DR HERALD ADELAIDE: COORDINATOR – TAMIL NADU

In the beginning of April 2021, COVID-19 cases began rising in Tamil Nadu and the medical college hostels were asked to be vacated. With elections around the corner in Tamil Nadu, slowly other curbs were also put in place. This brought physical meetings to an end in various colleges and hostels. Most medical fellowships resumed online. However, the final MBBS students were expecting their exams and they were allowed to stay back in the hostels. By the end of April, they had completed their exams, and they were awaiting their results due in May to take on the COVID challenge head on.

As many of them expressed their fear and anxiety over deployment in COVID duty without adequate skill and knowledge, an open meeting titled **'Are you ready?'** was arranged online on the 15th of May to answer their questions and clarify doubts. Dr Ashok Bhaskar shared from the scriptures. Dr Balamukesh (CMC, Vellore) and Dr Jacinth (Madras Medical College) shared clinical expertise and answered questions in the meeting. The students were expecting the results by that weekend and their colleges to recall them in a couple of days. Sure enough, as the results were announced, some colleges asked their interns to report in a couple of days for observership. By May, the number of COVID cases were nearing their peak in Tamil Nadu and there was a huge demand for oxygen beds, drugs and other accessories for COVID management. More networking had to be done to connect people for appropriate care. During one of the weekly Wednesday prayers of the Madras Doctors group, a question was asked as to how the group could be involved apart from praying. And yet again, during the daily morning prayers when a student was asked as to how they were spending their time, the reply was startling - 'purposeless'. Immediately in the following week Dr Isaac Jebaraj volunteered to start clinically oriented orthopedic online classes. So, this began on the 18th of May and so far, 38 classes have been conducted covering OG (Drs Anita Shirley, Elsy, Emily, Dhanya), Pediatrics (Dr Prabhakar Moses), General and Pediatric surgery (Drs Abraham and Jacob Chacko), CVS (Drs Jesu, Haynes, Arpudh), and Orthopedics. The classes had been widely attended by students from across the state and many teachers started the classes sharing from scripture. We are thankful for the streamlining brought in by Drs Praveen and Johann.

I am extremely grateful for the past year as I was enabled to complete one year with EMFI and the opportunity to work with you all in the Lord's kingdom. I will appreciate prayers for the Lord's guidance in the coming days.



# TN MISSIONS CONFERENCE (PACHALUR CAMP)

## 25th - 27th JUNE 2021 (ONLINE CONFERENCE)

As the number of COVID cases started to decline by mid-June, the students of Tamil Nadu felt that the colleges may reopen by the beginning of July, and hence wanted the Pachalur annual medicos' missions meeting to be held by the end of June.

So the TN Missions Conference (Pachalur Camp as it is fondly called) was conducted over the virtual platform in the month of June 2021. The theme for the conference was **'FAITH, HOPE & LOVE'** taken from 1 Corinthians 13: 13.

The theme speakers were Dr Cijoy Kuriakose (CFH, Oddanchatram) and Dr Arpit Mathew (Madhipura Christian Hospital). While Dr Cijoy expounded on the theme from the word of God, Dr Arpit spoke about its practical implications on our lives as medical/dental professionals.

There was a brief video interview on the history and origins of the Pachalur conference and the hopes and expectations for the future, shared by our Chairman Dr Susheel from Oddanchatram. Dr Deepak Abraham - CMC Vellore, set the tone of the meeting and 3 of the TN-EMFI staff shared in the morning devotions.

We had Mission Hospital presentations from four hospitals; SMART Hospital - Tamil Nadu, Umri Christian Hospital - Maharashtra, Nuajeeven Medical Centre - Odisha and GEMS Hospital, Bihar. We had three testimonies from different doctors - Dr Vikram Tirkey (Ranchi), Dr Wilset, (Jharkhand) and Dr Leslie (Chattarpur). Though there were 388 registrations, the maximum online attendance during the conference was 176. On the second day, we had a time where questions pertaining to contemporary issues raised by the students were answered by Dr Justin Paul, (Chennai) and Dr Bijin Oliver (Vellore). On the whole, the conference was a blessed time for all who attended as we saw from the feedback submitted by the students.

We are very glad that a team of students from different colleges spent time with us working on the logistics for the conference and taking up various responsibilities to see that the online conference went on without any glitches. The sessions had contributions from a vast group of people from across India based in different mission settings. The students actively participated in connecting with resource people, recording sessions, covering interviews and a lot of background work. All this was possible because of the Lord's help as the entire meeting was arranged in a hurry within 2 weeks from the first planning meeting.

Many college fellowships recorded songs that were used aptly during the time of worship. We thank God for this wonderful conference that was made possible even during these challenging times.

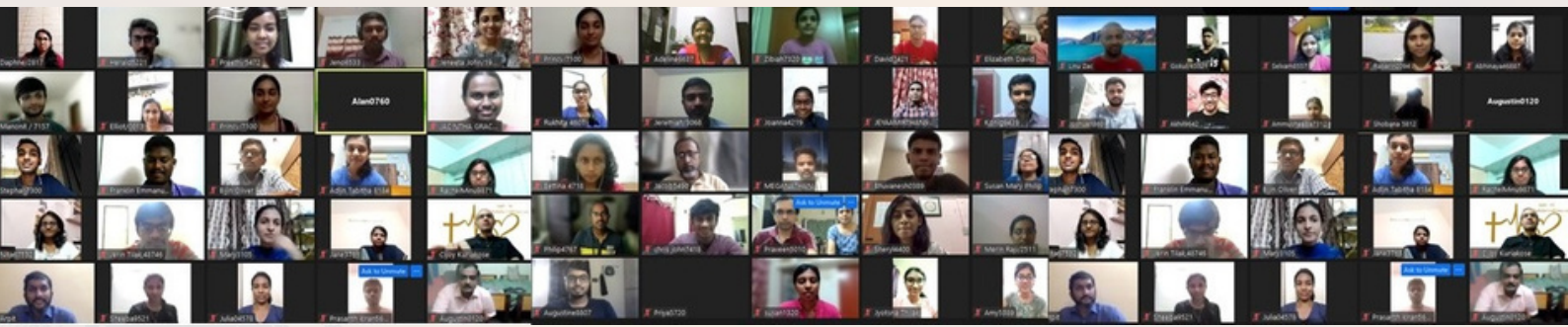
### TN EMFI team

### Some feedback from students who attended the Pachalur Camp

All the theme talks were very useful and challenging. It helped me understand Faith, Hope and Love better. The Lord spoke to me through the practical talks. I was especially touched by the prayer we had at the end of 3rd practical talk on the final day – **Zibiah, Tanjore Medical College**

There's no part that was 'not-useful'. God spoke to me through all the sessions. I thank God for that. I would like to do what God wants me to do, and spend my life boasting only about Christ and His love, and will submit myself as a tiny instrument for His great work – **Julia, Sree Mookambika Institute of Medical Sciences**

Mission hospital presentations reminded me of how many people are still suffering out there and how mission-minded doctors are so few. I was also reminded about God's love for these people, and challenged by the sacrifices that the missionaries working there are making - **Jenis Sylvia - Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences**





## KARNATAKA STATE MONTHLY MEETING – JUNE 2021

We praise God for the Karnataka state monthly session we had on the 26th of June 2021 on the topic "Assurance of Salvation". Dr Spurgeon, endocrinologist and director designate of Bangalore Baptist Hospital spoke on this topic. Dr Sunitha opened the session with prayer and Joel lead the worship session. Dr Shyam introduced the speaker. The session was attended by medical/dental students, and graduates from all over Karnataka. Though there were only around 20 participants, there was active participation in reading the scriptures and during the Q&A session by everyone.

The topic was dealt under three sub-headings:

- **The Work of Christ:** Salvation is through the completed work of Christ on the cross. It is by grace through faith and not by our works. Ephesians 2: 8 & 9, Titus 3: 5,6
- **The Word of God:** Faith comes by hearing the word of God. The word of God reveals to us the only way to reach the Father and that is through Jesus Christ. John 1: 12, John 3: 36, John 5: 24, John 10: 27,28, 1 John 1: 9, 1 John 5: 11-13.
- **The Work of the Holy Spirit:** We become a new creation when we are saved, and the Holy Spirit will guide and comfort us. It gives us the assurance that we are sons of God. 2 Corinthians 5: 17, Ephesians 1: 13, Romans 8: 14-17

Interesting questions were raised on assurance of salvation, baptism and faith which were answered by Dr Spurgeon.

**Dr Steffy Grace**

BBH, Bengaluru

## SION - EMFI REST HOUSE

The Lord has provided EMFI with a rest house in Chennai near the beachfront. It is a place where people can come for a time of relaxation and refreshment. It has 6 bedrooms and a swimming pool in the backyard. This place is:

- A place of rest for missionary doctors and their families
- A place of healing for those in troubled or broken marriages
- A place for Medical Graduates and students to have fellowship and spend time in prayer

### Location:

Panaiyur, (Off) East Coast Road, Chennai

25 km from Chennai Central & Egmore Railway stations

For details, contact : Dr Elizabeth Elliot 98407-20013





## LISTENING POST

Over the past few months, the second wave of COVID has devastated the lives of many. We at EMFI were burdened, especially for the medical students & young graduates who were/are facing uncertainty about the future and battling the loss of loved ones.

At this critical time, we thought that the least we could do as EMFI, would be to lend a listening ear to the medical students & graduates, pray for them and extend further support as needed, in these unprecedented times.

A telephonic helpline was set up for this purpose and many seniors volunteered to help in this initiative. The helpline number is 044-4631-3526 and is available from 9am to 9pm, Monday to Friday. We request you to please share this information widely among the medical student & graduate communities.

Let us together lend an ear and reach out to those who are hurting and in need.

For further details you could also contact Dr ELLIOT – 9840720013, who is coordinating the LISTENING POST.

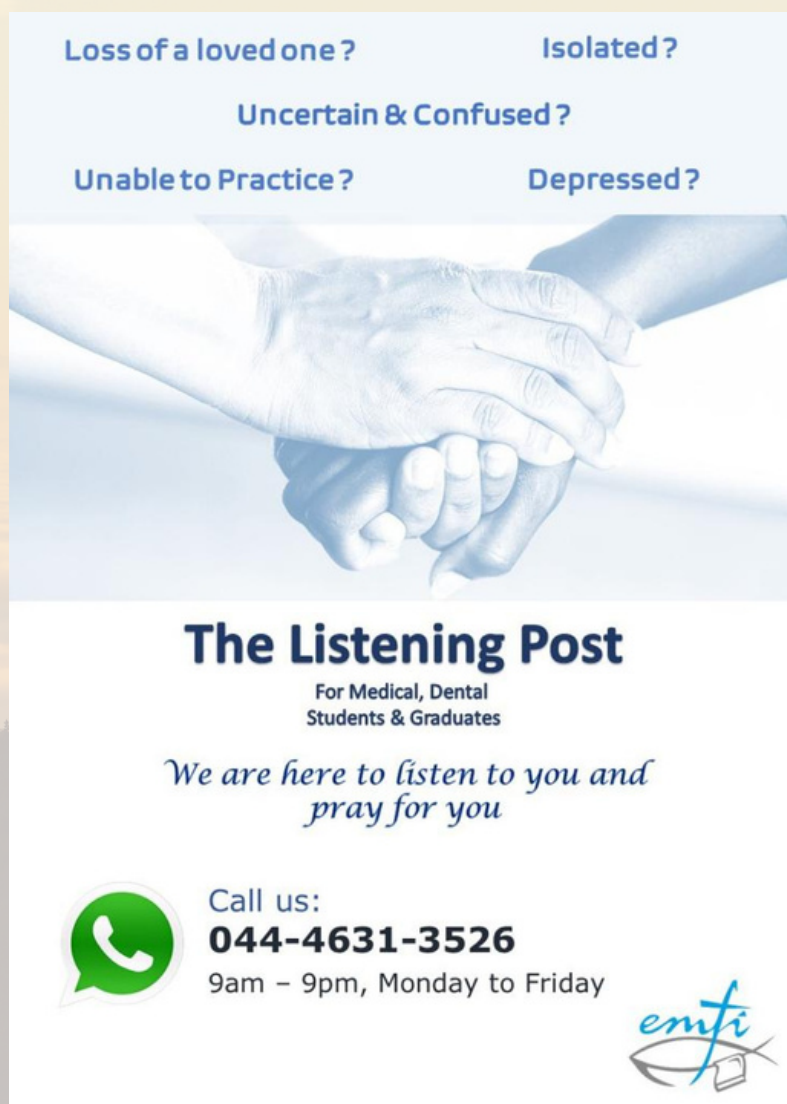
## OPPORTUNITIES

### POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN BIOETHICS - PGDCBE

CMC Vellore in partnership with The Centre for Bioethics is offering a 2-year Post Graduate Diploma in Christian Bioethics, through the Distance Education Department of CMC. This is an excellent course to equip oneself to be an active, knowledgeable member of Clinical Ethics Committee (required by NABH), teach Bioethics to MBBS students and others; to promote ethical clinical practice in one's own Department and institution; and to be active members of Institutional (Research) Ethics Committees, etc. Given below is the link to the Brochure and Application form.

<https://www.cmch-vellore.edu/WeeklyNews/OTHERNEWS/2021/PGDCBE.pdf>

**The revised last date of receiving application is 15.9.2021**



Loss of a loved one?      Isolated?

Uncertain & Confused?

Unable to Practice?      Depressed?

**The Listening Post**  
For Medical, Dental  
Students & Graduates

*We are here to listen to you and  
pray for you*

Call us:  
**044-4631-3526**  
9am – 9pm, Monday to Friday

*emfi*



# OPPORTUNITIES Contd.

## MANALI CALLING!

We have a private out-patient clinic. About 50 - 70 patients come twice a week. (Due to COVID it's closed for now). We are part of a small local Christian NGO called Himalayan Friends Trust. We have a preschool, child rescue work, youth work and surgical work for elective surgical issues. Primary focus of surgery is to only help those who are economically weak. We also do surgical camps wherever we are called. We are a small team of 4 nurses and two of us doctors.

Manali is in Himachal Pradesh, India. The winter here is cold, and the summer is pleasant. We are involved in reaching out to people who are far away, with the gospel. It's not a big set up. Small and Caring. No big ambitions. But to be a small light. We continue to discover Jesus and His significance in today's rural life. Due to COVID, everything is closed-down...but the sun will shine....This is where we are now. We are looking for someone who can take it forward.

In this light, we are looking for a young doctor with a heart of a GP, to work in our clinic at Manali. We are interested in taking care of ordinary people who come with all sorts of medical and family issues who need reassurance, diagnosis and sympathetic hearing. The doctor needs to be a good listener and interested in the whole person. We desire that the person develop various skills by working with us and get motivated to reach out to the community around to bring about lifestyle changes.

Please contact us for a chat to know more about the work.

**Drs George and Sheila Varghese**

sheilaji.salve@gmail.com

9428774440

## BETHANY MEDICAL CENTRE, ANAIKATTY – TAMIL NADU

Bethany Medical Centre, a Christian Mission hospital at Anaikatty, a village on the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, is looking for:

### SENIOR PHYSICIAN

Surrounded by the gorgeous Western Ghats, the hospital has a panoramic background, and the village is slowly developing as a tourist centre in the last few years. Started as a Mission hospital in 1990 with the aim of providing affordable, high-quality medical care to the poor tribal population, it has grown over the last 30 years into a 60 bedded hospital with all basic facilities.

Presently after 5 decades of medical service, Dr K. Muralidar, the medical director, has decided to step down as director of this institute and the management is looking for a senior Physician to hand over the responsibility of running the hospital. We are also on the lookout for a committed **PAEDIATRICIAN**.

The hospital is on an 8-acre land with a camp centre, and a senior citizen quarters. 80 per cent of the hospital staff live within the campus which has a beautiful Chapel and mess facilities.

Decent salary and partially furnished accommodation are provided.

Interested doctors can apply to:

**Dr K Muralidar**

Director, Bethany medical centre, Anaikatty, Coimbatore 641108

Email: muralidar.anaikatty@gmail.com

Mobile +91 94431 65080





# REFLECTIONS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

As this letter is being written the number of deaths due to COVID is nearing four Lakhs. The official numbers are being questioned, which may well increase this number several times higher. The emotional toll has probably overshadowed the reporting of the economic distress and the plight of the poor and the marginalized. As the second wave ebbs, uncertainty is writ large about the future. Education in general and medical education in particular hangs in balance amidst various speculations.

As EMFI we are faced with caring for an emotionally scarred graduate population and vast number of students who are increasingly stressed out.

Graduates have shared about the fatigue of caring for large numbers of the COVID patients and the concern about not being able to help the non-COVID patients adequately. In addition, they share the pain of having to make ethical decisions, of rationing Oxygen and drugs among many who needed it most. Many also shared about their eyes being opened to the glaring disproportion between the rich and the poor in accessing health care. Many were also disturbed about the large bills that were run up by the corporate hospitals, some of which resorted to cash payments to avoid compliance by the government guidelines. Added to this was the demoralizing news of violence against doctors and other healthcare personal.

Students shared about feeling 'vague, uncertain, fearful, and anxious' about the future. The exams were postponed for some batches leaving them fed up of revising vs preparing for the next year which they had not yet entered. Many said that they could not concentrate on studies as well as have a good 'quiet time' despite having time on their hands. The overuse of media was very prevalent. When classes did start online, they were not of good quality in many instances. Students also lost interest in attending online Bible study events as the novelty wore off.

Interns who did not have clinical postings in the final year of MBBS, found themselves caring for very sick patients. Along with nurses, they were the real front line of care. Even the final year students found themselves involved in the COVID response, mainly in Telemedicine and some coordinating work. On the whole, it was an experience like never-before.

As Many friends, among students and graduates went into bereavement. We also lost a young student who was active in fellowship to COVID. Another student lost both parents and was in grief. Even as others were involved in comforting her she died too. All this has sensitized us towards deepening our involvement with students in getting to know them better, in ways more meaningful than before.



In this scenario the staff and graduates associated with us in EMFI were enabled by the Lord to be a voice of encouragement and comfort. The morning prayers from 6.30am to 7.30am everyday were a time when some graduates, students and staff would come and intercede for many issues. A week of prayer from the morning to evening was arranged and it gave us a fresh hope that we will see changes. After a lull, many fellowships began to meet over online platforms and began to grow in listening and offering comfort which was much needed. Sessions which were predominantly spent in listening to each other made us understand each other and pray with empathy.

The Mission Hospitals stepped up in a very special way during the second wave and our staff and graduates have been involved in much prayer and in encouraging them. We were in turn very much encouraged by the sacrificial work of the Missions, especially those situated in the rural areas of North India.

A new and very important venture was the starting of academic classes online. This has come as a big help to some students who number from seventy to hundred. Excellent classes are being taken by senior doctors. The classes are also being recorded and offered to students.

The AP & Telengana students and graduates had a retreat with the theme of Comfort and Hope. It was a blessed time with very good practical sharing from senior leaders like Dr. Kuruvilla George, Dr MC Mathew, Dr Manoj Jacob among others. The TN Missions conference (Pachalur camp) was held in the last weekend of June with the theme Faith, Hope & Love. The theme speakers were Dr Cijoy Kuriakose and Dr Arpit Mathew.

A helpline called 'The Listening Post' has been set up with staff and graduates volunteering to spend time listening to students going through various kinds of stress. The process has been helped by the logistics set up of PISCES led by Dr Vinod Shah.

As staff we have met frequently to pray and to encourage each other. Some of us took ill but the Lord has restored us to health. We have been provided for by His mercies in an uncertain time like this. Our office has continued to function with staff taking turns in keeping it going and others contributing online from Home.

As staff, students and graduates, we have experienced His comfort, encouragement and guidance in this very trying time. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks, to all our friends who have been involved with us sacrificially. Glory be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Samuel Sidhartha Swamidoss**



## TREASURER'S NOTE

Dear Friends & Partners,

The Lord has been providing us with His grace and mercy. Thank you for your prayers and support. The Income and Expenses for the last few months are given below.

If you have a desire to partner with EMFI in supporting the needs, here are a few ways that could help:

- Standing instructions to your banks will help in hassle-free transactions
- Wire transfer through the QR code, posted below
- Supporting specific needs, the details can be obtained from headquarters

If you are interested in nurturing students or being involved in our work in any other way, please reach out to our local staff or the EMFI headquarters.

In him

**Sukumar Chitturi**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	Income	Expense
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April	706682	759872
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May	694433	721536
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June	727739	917000
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Those wishing to contribute can send your cheques/DDs in favour of:

'Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India' to the address given below or make an

### **Electronic/Bank transfer to:**

#### **State Bank of India**

Current A/c No: **35465591006**

(Branch Code: 2288, IFSC: SBIN0002288)

#### **HDFC Bank**

Savings A/c No: **04921000009885**

(Branch Code: 492, IFSC: HDFC0000492)

You can also make direct online payment by visiting our website [www.emfi.in](http://www.emfi.in) and clicking on the DONATE NOW button <https://emfi.in/donate/>

\*EMFI is charged 2.5% service charge for every transaction\*

**IMPORTANT: Only those who have Indian passports are eligible to contribute.**

Please call/Text/Email us after you make the transaction.  
09176215489/90, [emfihq@gmail.com](mailto:emfihq@gmail.com)

### SCAN & PAY



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