



Far and Near

2020 | THIRD QUARTER

VISION: Christ's transforming presence in healthcare and The nation through Christ centered medical professionals.

Chairman's Letter

HOW TO TRANSFORM YOUR JOB INTO A VOCATION? A SACRAMENTAL VIEW

I propose we look at our job as a sacrament. This perspective has the potential to transform our jobs into a vocation and in turn, revolutionise our lives. But before we get there, we need to understand sacrament.

What is a Sacrament?

Jesus instituted two sacraments - Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are more than symbols. They are seals marking us as belonging to him. We often think of sacraments as a pledge or a sign of our obedience. They are much more than that. Sacraments are instruments of His grace by which He makes us His own. They are the symbols of His love.

Lord's Supper

'While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.' - Matthew 26:26-28 NASB

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we do just as Jesus did: we bless the bread, break it, and give it to the faith community. Similarly, we share wine with others.

Bread and Wine - Products of our work

We bring bread and wine to the Lord's table. Bread and wine are the product of our hard work. The long process of getting the bread to the table involves the preparation of the ground, planting of the seeds, watering, and picking out the weeds. God graciously makes the wheat to grow and provides us with a bountiful harvest. Wheat is then harvested, threshed, ground and baked. We do a similar process with grapes. Vine is cared for, pruned and when it bears fruit, brought the vine press to be crushed. It is fermented to make wine.

All this is hard work. It involves waiting for the harvest. There is uncertainty of crop failure. There are disappointments. There is crying. There is also joy and happiness. Whatever profession we are involved in, hard work, disappointments, and joy are all realities of our work.

We bring the product of our work to the Lord's Supper. To do this is to be blessed. And after it is blessed, it is broken, and given to the community. Thus, the sharing of the bread and the wine (the product of our work) unites the community in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Job or Vocation?

Our work remains essentially a job if it is merely a means for our sustenance, keeping our lifestyle intact and leading a 'good life.'

But our job is transformed into a vocation when we bring the work that we do and the fruit of our labour to the Lord's table. Here it is blessed and through that blessing, it is transformed. Our work then becomes a means to bless the community.

Our work remains as mere employment if we are not aware of the transcendence of our work. But whatever may be the work we are doing (provided it is not criminal or unethical) it has the potential to be blessed and transformed.

What is the impact of considering our vocation as a sacrament?

Firstly, all work has value. There is no hierarchy in vocation. All vocations are equal and important before God. The work of an evangelist and the work of a cleaning woman has equal value before God. Both can be transformational. Thus the sacramental view of vocation brings a sense of equality and dignity to every kind of work.

Secondly, a transcendent value is imputed to our work when we surrender our work before God, for Him to break it, mould it, and shape it. Thus transformed, our work becomes a blessing to the community and the world.

-Varghese Philip

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, EMFI

Dear friends & colleagues,

Greetings!

EMFI has gone through a period of unprecedented change in the last several months. While many organisations were struggling through the C19 crisis, EMFI reinvented itself and moved forward with great focus and enthusiasm. The GS and the technology team did an excellent job of adapting to these challenging times. We now have more people attending conferences, seminars and Bible Studies than ever before.

The other heartening news is that despite country-wide loss of work and pay cuts, EMFI support has remained the same. There was no dip in the contributions. This indicates the tremendous commitment of EMFI supporters to stand with EMFI during this period.

All this is made possible because of each of you and your commitment to embrace change to keep true to the vision and mission of EMFI. Thank you for being part of this great work.

I have been part of EMFI from almost its inception. I have been the Chairman for EMFI since 2015. I have enjoyed working closely with Drs. Manoj and Sam. Next month we will be moving to Timor Leste to continue working with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). It is important to have a Chairman based in India particularly at a time like this. The Executive Committee has invited Dr. Susheel Tharien to be the next Chairman from the 1st of November 2020.

Most of you would know him. He is a psychiatrist based in Oddanchatram. He was at the landmark meeting where EMFI was formed in 1974. I am sure he will be a great source of strength and support.

Both Nirmala and I will continue to pray and be involved in the ministry of EMFI.

With all God's blessings,

Varghese Philip

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF

In the challenging times of COVID 19, the staff have not been able to travel and visit students. Though this has temporarily curtailed their work, all the staff have been ministering to students and graduates over virtual platforms and being in touch with them through phone calls.

ISAAC CHANDY: ASSOCIATE STAFF – KARNATAKA

In the midst of Lockdown and Unlock, Chandy has been able to be in touch with the students on video conferencing where the fellowships have been conducted on a regular basis. This is what he writes, "With the easing of lockdown restrictions, some interns were asked to resume hospital duties, while a couple of graduates began their consultations but the uncertainty for others continues – especially for the final year students whose exams have been postponed again. Amidst all these changes, the unchanging promises of God continue to encourage our members. The 'Know your Inheritance' virtual tour of the Madhipura Christian Hospital with the Q&A was very informative and a good eye-opener for many who are unaware of the healthcare and community needs in places like Bihar. The APTS seminar for Boys & Girls, held in June was also timely and much needed. The months of July & August has seen the maximum number of virtual meetings for fellowship, staff prayer and planning, state-level prayer and planning as well as a couple of national level consultations. It almost appeared overwhelming in terms of screen time, but on the other hand it is unprecedented in terms of blessing by virtue of the intensive discussions, extended times of prayer focused on the healthcare needs of the nation as a whole and giving opportunities to share burdens of like-minded professionals who serve in locations that are scattered across the length and breadth of our beloved country."

MV RAO: FIELD PARTNER – ANDHRA PRADESH

Rao has been on regular touch with the students and graduates of AP and T states through virtual meetings. Though they have been having regular Zoom meetings almost on a regular basis, many students are not willing to attend these meetings and that has caused a little sadness. In this trying times that students and graduates are facing a lot of challenges and Rao has been able to minister to many of them personally over the phone. He has also motivated some of the students to share in the Zoom fellowships and has also connected many of the students with senior graduates.

KT PAUL: COORDINATOR – NORTH INDIA

By the grace of God, KT was able to get back to his home before the Lockdown was enforced. This what he writes, "I thank God for the opportunity to be part of the hospital community and people around spiritually, mentally and emotionally like never before. The Lord used me in the past few months to bring encouragement and comfort through His Word to the staff during devotions. What I was going through and learning I could share so it was a blessed season. It was a blessed time to interact with our grads personally and get more involved in their lives. Could keep in touch with several grads and students who have been struggling in various ways due to the fear of corona or sickness etc. It was a privilege to walk with them in these times as its not very easy for some. Another most important aspect was to just sit quietly. There is tendency to find my identity in being active and doing. This was a good time to check myself whether I can sit back resting in the Lord by finding my identity and security in Christ. Finding my identity in who I am in Christ is more important than what I do and how much people long or look for me. Personally it was

a blessed time. Glad to be part of our graduate's, professional and personal struggles. One doctor could come and share his frustrations and helplessness but as we talk and pray trusting in the Lord Jesus we have seen wonders happen and the patients getting well. Our surgeon too come and share prayer requests for the difficult surgeries and have seen the healing. It's been wonderful to see the hand of God in every way and His protection and provision. We could feel the closeness and unity and purpose. Thank God for the blessed times."

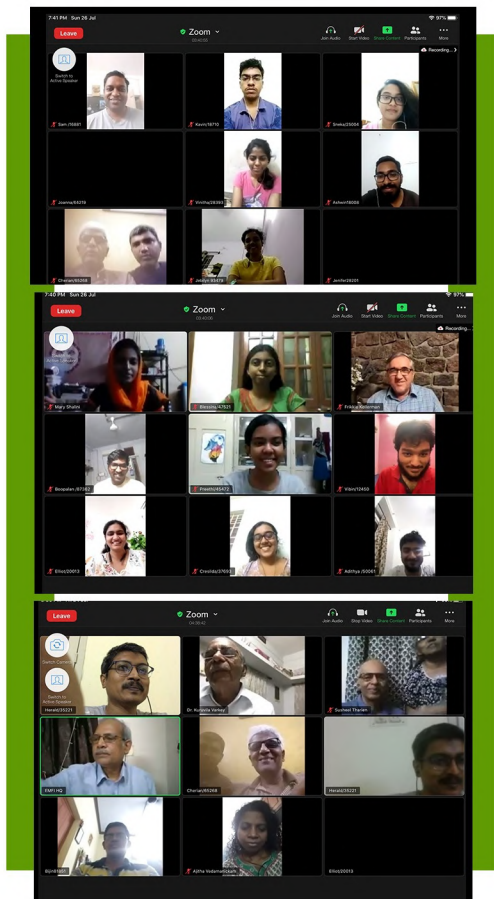
| EMFI TN STATE MISSIONS CONFERENCE, PACHALUR CAMP 2020 |

24TH – 26TH JULY 2020

This year was a different experience for the Tamil Nadu Students Medical Missions Conference (Pachalur Camp). We had to do it online this year in view of the Covid-19 situation. Each year we have 2 student's missions conference. One during the passion week and another around Independence day. We had apprehensions about how to go forward with the camp. After much deliberation and discussion, we decided to have it online. We had a very overwhelming response with over 300 students attending the camp. The theme for the conference was 'Repairers of the Breach' taken from Isaiah 58:12.

Dr Kuruvilla Varkey gave the keynote address. Dr Manoj Jacob spoke on the theme. Dr Varghese Philip spoke on the Biblical Perspective of Missions. Dr KO John took the morning devotions and Dr Susheel Tharian gave the introductory remarks. We also had presentations from Asha Kiran Hospital, Odisha and Lady Willingdon Hospital, Manali presenting the work at the hospital and the need in those hospitals. It was a blessing to all who attended the camp to be real repairers of the broken system of our country and its healthcare system.

Linu Zachariah
Field Partner – Tamil Nadu



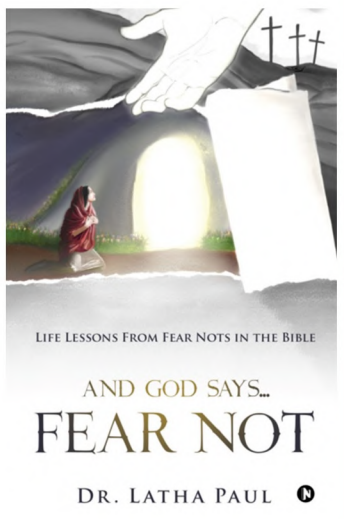
AND GOD SAYS FEAR NOT

The book "Fear Not" is a unique book - study of the 'Fear Nots' in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The context in which God said to different people in different seasons and the lessons learnt through these interactions. It's also about how we can apply these truths in the present times and live a life of faith and courage and not cowardice.

When we read these eternal truths from the Bible, the incidents come alive and our faith increases. We will be able to accomplish God's plans in our lives. It also has testimonies from the author's life as well as from different well known Christians who made a difference in the world. So it's a book meant to encourage, enrich and edify your walk with God especially in these days of constant fear of uncertainties, fear of future, fear of many other things which lurk in our minds and of course not to forget the recent terror - the COVID-19 pandemic.

About the Author

Dr. Latha Paul is an Anaesthesiologist by profession and is dedicated to serving the marginalized through her medical career. She also holds a Master's degree in Christian counselling. Having been trained in Christian leadership by the Haggai Institute in Hawaii, USA, she has been instrumental in training more than five hundred doctors through leadership seminars. Her passion for wholesome healing, led her to further train with Ellel Ministries, UK and she is actively involved in the ministry of Inner healing and Deliverance over the last two decades. She is also a seminar and conference speaker and has authored a few booklets and many articles in Christian magazines. For her dedicated social service, she has been awarded many times, the most notable being the title of "Jewel of India". Her Almamater, Christian Medical College, Vellore has also honoured her for her committed service of over four decades in Christian medical missions.



Dr Latha and her husband, Dr Paul Emmanuel, work in a charitable mission Hospital in Oddanchatram, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, India. They have two sons - David married to Bendangnaro and Jonathan married to Nidhi. They are blessed with 2 grandsons Jeremy and James.

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PRAISE GOD FOR

- The regular prayer meetings that have been taking place over virtual platforms all across the nation. In AP-TS there has been daily prayer meetings being conducted from 7.00 to 8.00am from the 16th of April 2020.
- For the many who could attend the online Pre-Marital seminar conducted by the AP-TS leaders from the 12th – 13th May 2020
- For all the young couples who could attend the half day Marriage enrichment seminars conducted in AP-TS from the 23rd to 25th of May 2020.
- For the many couples who could attend the online Parenting Seminar conducted by AP-TS from 6th to 7th June 2020.
- For the many youngsters who could attend the online webinar for Boys & Girls conducted separately for them dealing with the struggles and challenges that they face, and a dedicated time for Questions that were addressed by a panel of senior doctors and leaders – 27th – 28th June 2020 and 4th July 2020.
- A special program for medical and dental students was conducted online by AP-TS titled, 'First things First' in July 2020.
- For the 300 odd students who could attend the TN State Missions Conference in July 2020. Many have committed to serve in missions either on a short term or long term basis.

PRAY FOR

The Christmas programs that are being planned by the various fellowships. With the current situation it is a challenge to have physical gatherings, and so pray that the Lord would grant wisdom to the leaders of the fellowships as they plan these programs virtually.

A Testimony – He is Faithful

Hi! I am Sam and as a family we are happy to share with you how God has led us as a family in the past.

God's Word says in Hebrews 6:15,
“And so after waiting patiently Abraham received what was promised.”

When I was just 6 months old, I developed severe atopic eczema . It was so bad that it used to bleed and ooze after a severe exacerbation. My Parents cried and prayed for my healing and took me to many doctors in Allopathy and Ayurveda for many years. Later when I was in Medical college I used to cry and pray for my healing. One day a man of God whom I had never met before, came to my hostel room and prayed with me. He told me that my parents had been crying and praying for my skin disease and prophesied that God would heal me one day. I learnt to wait.

Then God brought the perfect life partner, Deepa to my life. She had no problem with my skin disease when I told her and she also wanted to work in a mission hospital to serve the poor like me. God is always true to his promises and as He promised, I got healed of my disease completely at the age of 29, three years after our marriage. It was a long wait but God used those three decades to help me understand His will for my life. After completing our PG, God led us to Christian hospital, Ambilikkai, Tamil Nadu. We joined the Medicine department in 2006 and God helped us build the department and share the gospel with many patients who came to the hospital.

Then came our next miracle. When we moved to Ambilikkai from Kerala after three years of marriage and had no children, it was an act of faith. Deepa was diagnosed with endometriosis and the doctors did not give us any hope. We were moving away from all advanced infertility treatment. But we believed that with God all things are possible. We along with our families waited on God. After 5 years of waiting, Mishael, our only daughter was born to us as a miracle without any medical intervention!

Then in January 2019, Deepa had to undergo a hysterectomy. The surgery went normal but on the first Post-op day she went into a very deadly complication called pulmonary embolism. It usually takes the life of the person. She suddenly developed breathlessness



and lost her life for a few seconds right in front of my eyes! It was a Sunday afternoon. I thought I lost her, but God in his mercy gave her life back. After a few seconds, she took a deep breath. It took us some time to understand what was going on as it was all very sudden and unexpected. As her breathlessness worsened we took her to CFH, Oddanchtram where she was diagnosed and then to GKNM, Coimbatore. It was a trying time for us as she had lost her voice also as a very rare complication of the pulmonary embolism (A Vocal cord palsy). My wife who used to sing well was now communicating with pen and paper! We were heartbroken. Again, we believed in God for the impossible. He did a miracle and slowly but surely He restored her heart, her lungs and her voice fully over six months. It was an answer to prayer of all the saints!

So if you're going through a trial now I hope and pray that this testimony will encourage you to wait on His promises patiently. His timing is perfect. God bless you.

*Dr Sam Abraham,
CFCHC, Ambilikai,
Tamil Nadu.*



Reflections from the General Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters and elders

We have just moved out of the lockdown, necessitated more by the economic reasons, than an improvement in the COVID incidence. As we look back on this period, we would like to testify to His goodness.

The work instead of suffering actually grew in terms of the interactions online. Though there were difficulties of not being able to meet in person, the online meetings had advantages too. Our staff were in touch with students on Zoom and other platforms like Google meet and on one to one conversation. Most student groups began to meet online. They also discovered that in addition to existing members, students who had passed out of the college were able to join from faraway places. Senior Doctors were also able to join in the fellowships in some places and there was much happiness.

Groups in APTS set the trend with Dr Sukumar, our Treasurer, motivating and guiding. Soon there were many meeting with big numbers gathering. Few conferences were held. Later the meetings have settled into a regular rhythm of a State level meeting every Sunday and a prayer meeting every morning. This is supplemented with college groups meeting once a week. Dr Christy has been contributing much in this process as are our staff Bro MV Rao and Bro Solomon.

Tamilnadu has experienced a sort of revival. The State coordinating team of Dr Herald, Bro Linu, Bro Jacob and Dr Elliot have worked very hard to have a good state level missions conference - Pachalur 2020. One important effect of this conference has been a follow up of many students who have been interested in missions. Another important development was a national level Dentists' meet. The Dentists and dental students around the country are facing unprecedented challenges and this meeting was a timely intervention, having been mooted by the Chairman. There was a follow up meeting for Dentists recently focusing on clinical care and finances.

We also had a very important National level prayer meeting for 12 hours. People from various states participated in the meet it was a very important event as we have cried out to the Lord together about many issues in the country. We are sure that the Lord is answering them and will do so more in the coming days.

In Karnataka, Bro Chandy and Bro Bibin have been on many Zoom. Meetings. The latest development has been the 'EMFI Bangalore Intercollege meet'. The coordinating team is prayerfully planning the UPLIFT 2020 - the state conference for Karnataka. Bro Pratik has been in Many Zoom meetings with students of MP and Chhattisgarh and Bro George in the North East. Bro KT Paul has been on many meetings on Zoom, Google meet and especially encouraging people through individual calls as well as being a blessing to Satbarwa Hospital where he resides. Bro Anup, our staff for Odisha had to undergo a harrowing time as the cyclone hit his home village hard in West Bengal. He has been in touch with students and graduates in Odisha' to where the Lord willing, he will move in due time. A small group coordinating Odisha is taking shape by His mercies.

The addition of Dr Santosh Mathew to the EMFI team on a part time basis has been a blessing. With his special approach and experience, Dr Santosh has been a big help in helping to infuse a special impetus into the newly formed 'National Tech Development Team'. The new website will be launched tomorrow the Lord willing. He has also been leading the work to start IMM training online.

At Chennai, Sister Nanditha has kept the work going without much change in this time. The rough audit statement has been readied and is pending signature from the auditor. Jabez has worked from office and in addition doing much work in the Banks and other works that arose. Bro Jacob has shouldered multiple responsibilities, working on the communications, insurance, logo and also beginning to help in student meets in Chennai.

A 'Finance committee is being formed with some members of Staff and EC to have varied inputs into managing finances. We have started work to put the new house on the Beach to use. The Lord willing a helper Ajith, will move into the compound this week to start caring for the place.

We have had staff prayer meetings on most Wednesdays during the Lockdown and some programs too. Recently Dr M C Mathew has begun the first of a series of Bible studies for the staff. It was a special time and we look forward to the coming weeks where he will share with us on Friday's. The need of building capacity for the new online communications systems has been realized. This will need skills, systems and gadgets. It will also need that we all adapt to these modes of communication and be adept and creative with them. There have been some downs but our Lord is working among us powerfully helping us through these. The Lord has taken care of our needs during the Lockdown. That we have received full salaries till September is a testimony to his providence and care. We are amazed and deeply thankful to the Lord. We are thankful to every member who has continued to support and encourage us through this time.

We would like to thank each one of you Brothers and Sisters and elders who have been praying for us and being involved in this work which we are together in for His purposes.

With a heart full of gratitude, we enter the unlock. The situation in the country is nothing short of a turmoil. Uncertainty is writ large on every area. Having seen His providence and guidance in this lockdown we are encouraged to go forward looking for Him for the days ahead. He who has been Ebenezer will be Jehovah Jireh for sure.

Sam Sidharth

TREASURERS NOTE



Dear Friends & Partners,

As the psalmist, says in Psalm 117:2, 'The faithfulness of the LORD endures forever' The Lord has been gracious and faithful all through the previous months, in spite of the challenges.

Please continue to uphold EMFI and its needs in your prayers.

Please contact the central office for more information.

Sukumar Chitturi

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FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSE
MAY	805820	722605
JUNE	643282	735488
JULY	689811	809433
AUGUST	715526	800858

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