



FAR & NEAR

THIRD QUARTER 2021

OUR VISION

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



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

OUR REACTIONS

It is said that a person is known more by his/her reactions than actions. Much of life forces circumstances upon us without our asking. It is then that reaction counts.

Our reactions come out of our character that has been built up. If an orange is crushed, what comes out will be orange juice. Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of heart the mouth speaks" and "...a good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart..."

This brings us to the question, "What do we store up in our hearts?" If I may share a personal experience, - when my mother-in-law, in her 90s was admitted in the ICU with delirium, the words that came out of her mouth were all Bible verses! The attending physician remarked how he wished that he too would be like this in his old age. For the past several years she had been reading the Bible in all her free time throughout the day, till cataract clouded her vision. She resumed this reading after her cataract surgery till dementia gradually overtook her to the point that she could not even recognize her own daughter. Even so, when the Bible was read at family prayers, she would complete the verses from memory!

In 2 Peter 1: 5-8, Peter asks the believers to make every effort to add to their faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love. He says the Christian who does not realise the importance of adding to their faith these qualities, will easily forget they have been cleansed from sin. Adding these qualities to faith occurs only as we grow in the grace of God. Then our reactions will be from what we have allowed God's grace to instil in us. God supplies the power and we supply our willingness. He enables and strengthens us on the journey.

The Christian life is never stationary.

Susheel Tharien

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF

MV RAO: FIELD PARTNER - ANDHRA PRADESH

As the pandemic caught us up through the great terror of chaos and confusion – my travel halted and confined me to my home. My heart grew heavy as I cried and yearned to meet the students in the campuses and ultimately that prompted me to acquire data of many fellowships across AP and Telangana from their WhatsApp groups. So now I have hundreds of mobile numbers. Time went on with much prayer and reading the word and calling the numbers - not knowing how they would respond. There was 80% response as I started calling the numbers from morning to evening and listening to them. When they cried, I cried, when they laughed, I laughed but became one of them as I listened silently. I gained strength for myself by praying for them. I encountered a few rebukes at the other end from the girl's parents but later they turned into acquaintances. There were attempts to end their lives out of utter brokenness but my call hindered their attempts as they shared later. Overall, I arrived at an overview of their state: the youth are in a mess, lost in deception and immorality; Evil is devouring them. I must confess it was a warning to guard myself too from these evils. Above all, I could recline at His feet and plead for these medicos and even faculty members. If it were not for the pandemic, I would not have reached out to so many. I have now begun to travel and I humbly urge you all to pray that I would be able to reach out to these youngsters and encourage them in their faith and walk with the Lord.

ISSAC CHANDY: ASSOCIATE STAFF - BENGALURU

As people in general and our members (Medical & Dental students and interns) in particular have coped with the ongoing pandemic, going past the second wave and gradually returning to classes, duties, exams etc., we have striven to keep in touch through calls, messages, email and are greatly encouraged by the few who continued to faithfully meet online for prayer and Bible Study. Here in Karnataka the team has worked hard to meet regularly on the last Saturday of every month to listen and discuss some interesting and relevant topics viz.

- **Serving the poor, profitably: A mission hospital story** by Dr. Ajay Raju of Gadag.
- **My work is for a King: Working together with Jesus** by Dr. Pradeep Ninan of Goa.
- **Medical Ethics: A framework for thinking about all of life** by Dr. Shantanu Dutta of Delhi.

But the backbone of all these initiatives, in terms of giving a strong impetus, has undoubtedly been the regular times of prayer at both the State and National levels. While in Karnataka we have met on a weekly basis to pray, there is an ongoing daily prayer in the morning where students and graduates from different states of our nation come together to intercede on behalf of our people that they may be given life abundantly as only the Lord Jesus can do for them. It is a time of worship and crying out to the Lord to intervene in the spiritual and physical health needs of our people which encompasses many areas including governance, justice, education, the Church and its God-given role and for society as a whole. Since prayer has no geographical boundaries, we also plead for God's mercy on our neighbouring countries and the world at large. On the 15th of August- Independence Day - we had an extended time of prayer from 6am to 6pm and on 19th of September it was decided to have a focused time of prayer for the North and North Eastern states of India (EAG states and Assam) from 1pm to 7pm.

These regular times of prayer have been a great blessing for many, in uniting our hearts in Christ and especially for me, in building up a sense of discipline and devotion. We are learning, in a small way, what it means to "pray without ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and to see God working in our lives and in others. Just recently Dr Anuraj (of KIMS, Bangalore) told me that he and his wife, Dr Chandrashree are praying for and seeking opportunities to set up their home after their P.G. studies so as to give students the freedom to come over for fellowship.

Dr Rajani, a regular participant in the Morning Prayer, challenged us with this quote by Watchman Nee: *'If we spend an adequate amount of time in God's presence and deal properly with Him, there is no need to sweat before man; we can accomplish the most amount of work with the least amount of strength.'*

SOLOMON RAJU: FIELD PARTNER - ANDHRA PRADESH

I praise the Lord for HIS goodness, grace and mercy upon me and my family for the last few months. We experienced HIS healing as I went through COVID and post-COVID complications and after coming out of it I was able to meet the students through digital platforms like Zoom. I was able to study and discuss the word of God with few colleges like RIMS Ongole, Kurnool Medical College, ESI Medical College Hyderabad, RMC Kakinada, and PSIMS Vijayawada. I attended the fellowships even when I was not a speaker I listened silently and at the end answered some questions and prayed for them.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF

Online platforms brought connections inspite of the lockdown. Instite of the inability to travel and meet students, I was able to share the word with them even at short notice.

Not meeting the students in person; and not being able to talk to them; connectivity problems; not knowing whether they were attentive; students forgetting to meet; no interaction etc. were some of the downsides of online meetings. However being able to reach out to some going through deep trouble and sorrow and praying with them was rewarding and encouraging. I was enabled to also guide some in finding life partners. I visited some students in their hostel in RIMS Ongole and some in their wards. The Lord willing, I plan to meet them in person in the coming months based on the rules and regulations of hostels in this scenario.

ANUP KUMAR RANA: JUNIOR FIELD PARTNER - ODISHA & WEST BENGAL

Praise the Lord. I greet you in the name of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

After my training at the UESI study centre at Kotagiri from August to November 2019, I visited Asha Kiran Hospital, Lamtaput, Odisha to attend the IMM in February 2020. It was very helpful for my ministry and changed my lifestyle. Soon after this our country was affected with COVID-19 and the first lockdown was enforced. So I started to get in touch with students and graduates over phone. In the midst of this cyclone Amphan affected West Bengal very badly, specially my hometown. We did not have electricity in our area for almost a month. This caused difficulty for me to continue my ministry. As there was a full lockdown, I tried to help the poor and needy people in my village and surrounding areas. Somehow after one month electricity was restored and so I began my work from home over phone and wished to visit colleges in Odisha, but the second COVID wave hit our nation and we had heavy rainfall again. This time it flooded all-over and our place was very badly affected causing a lot of destruction. But in the midst of all this I found that in West Bengal the students and graduates were distracted due to lack of physical contact or conversation since I was unable to visit them. Now by the grace of God I have more opportunities for my ministry in West Bengal and on 15th August there was a meeting held which helped me a lot. Do uphold me in your prayers.

ELIZABETH ELLIOT, LINU ZACHARIA & HERALD ADELAIDE

By God's grace COVID has finally started to ease up from the beginning of July and students started getting back to their hostels. On returning the students had difficulty running out of mobile data as they had sporadic classes also happening online. However, the local restrictions did not permit physical meetings in most places.

There was a steady pressure in few medical colleges with regard to the "PRIDE" movement. To explain the Biblical basis on gender issues we had a meeting with Dr Duke Jeyaraj expounding from God's word. Dr Prasanna Jebaraj and Dr Starlin Vijay helped answer questions on the same topic. This meeting was held online as we were expecting students from other parts of the country also.

Come August, all the batches were advised to report to colleges in Tamil Nadu and some students from our fellowship took ill with COVID but recovered well by God's grace. Most of them had to undergo a mandatory 2 week quarantine on return to hostels. Post quarantine they had study leave to prepare for their university exams (2018 & 2017 batches) which continued for the whole of September. Towards the later half of September the staff team could travel to various campuses in Madras, Vellore, Coimbatore, Erode, Pondicherry etc. some campuses meeting onsite after a rather long gap for the first time. We were encouraged by the enthusiasm and warmth felt in physical meetings.

Congratulations to Dr. Shunmugapriya from Madras dental college on being university topper in MDS orthodontics.

Just to highlight a few advantages of the online meetings is that the possibilities are unlimited. Connectivity enabled us (especially resource people) to connect from across the globe without the need to travel which otherwise is impossible. There were 'n' number of meetings happening round the clock so participants could pick up their preferred sessions and topics to attend. Connections were established across campuses.

It was difficult to assess exactly how many were really participating although the numbers attending the meetings appeared to be high. The real fellowship which happens beyond the formal time of gathering was amiss. The major glitch of course is the technical part of it - everyone had a chance to blame it on the network.

Thank God we were preserved through this time and our hearts are filled with gratitude for the umpteen number of opportunities to network. One remark comes to mind from one of the meetings "*imagine if we were struck by this disease 10 years back when zoom was unheard of*". God in his mercy opened a door to keep the connect through various online platforms.

Ripple Effect

'It's more blessed to give' - John 12: 20-33

These words spoken by our Master has a profound natural principle which we ignore at great cost to ourselves. What we understand and practice in the natural realm, we fail to apply in the spiritual realm. Jesus makes a few statements which he himself fulfils within the span of a few weeks leading up to the Cross.

The church or our mission hospitals do not require a great scientist or an administrator to bring new life and vision. It needs a corn of wheat which is willing to die.

A man who loves his life will lose it and one who hates his life will gain it for all eternity.

Christian Medical College, Vellore has had several such people by the Grace of god, who put themselves and their needs last for the sake of the kingdom of Christ. The life and example of such men and women will remain etched in our memory for a long time to come. While I was a medical student in the early 70s my life was inspired by one such corn of wheat, Dr Garlick. Dr Frank Garlick was a professor of surgery, who gave up the glamour of practicing in Christian Medical College in order to travel around the country visiting mission hospitals. At the peak of his career he chose to encourage and nurture young medical doctors to work in the needy areas of our country. Dr Garlick and his wife lived on the college campus and their home was a haven of love and care for medical students. I can still remember their warmth and personal involvement with a large number of students. Hours of interaction and gallons of coffee paved the way for spiritual maturity for some of the students, and some of these students have today become the cornerstones of modern medical missions in India. He travelled for about three years to visit many mission hospitals and mentored many young graduates in these places. He taught them surgery in the rural setting and influenced them with his simple lifestyle and spiritual values. He also visited several medical colleges and interacted with the students and faculty. This resulted in the founding of EMFI which has contributed a great deal to the staffing of mission hospitals. **'Fellowship in following'** was his motto which has been emulated till date with its focus on affection and personal concern extended to all those who seek to serve Christ.

About 40 years after he left Christian Medical College, I heard Dr Garlick's name being mentioned in one of the alumni get-togethers. An alumnus was reliving her pleasant memories of Christian Medical College and concluded that what made the College great was the lives of its faculty who were outstanding examples of compassion and love. She mentioned the name of this surgeon who influenced her greatly during her internship time and added that what was intangible about God became tangible to her as she worked with this head of the department for three months, since there was very little discrepancy between his practice and his precepts. I was once again challenged to recapitulate what this teacher summarised by his life.

It is more blessed to give than to receive... "except the corn of wheat falls to the ground and dies..."

Issac Jebaraj



REFLECTIONS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The Good News

The Evangelist Mark begins the book with these simple, but astounding words which encapsulate an entire message.

The beginning of the Good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1:1

Mark does not want to describe it as anything else like a 'book of Knowledge, law codes, information, guide to life etc. Though we can identify all these elements in the book, we are presented by what is in its essence – GOOD NEWS.

The Beginning of the good News...

If a body of writing begins with the words 'the beginning of something', then it is implied that the rest of what follows is about that 'something'. In Marks's case if it is the 'beginning of the good news', then it implied that the entirety of what follows is the 'Good News.' Though we can speak about a core of the 'good news', it is refreshing to know that the entire book itself is good news, every page, every chapter, every verse. Even in places where seemingly hard teaching or commands are given, it is indeed 'the good news', generically. We can then come to the gospel with joy to read, learn and to rejoice.

...about Jesus

The Name Jesus (Yeshua) means Yahweh Saves or Yahweh is my savior. The other similar names are Hoshea and Joshua. It is very comforting to know that the meaning His name is 'Savior'. Every time we call upon the Name of Jesus, we are reminded of the one who is our Savior. In the account by Mark, Jesus saves his people from demon, disease, deficiency, danger and death. The good news accordingly calls us to faith in the one who is able and willing to help us in this tumultuous journey, which life is. *The beginning of the good news about the Yeshua (our Savior).*

...Christ

The Word Christ comes from Christos in Greek. The Hebrew for the Word is *Messiah*. Both *Christos* and *Messiah* mean the same thing, *'The anointed one'*. To be anointed for is to be chosen, empowered and set apart to carry out a particular role or mission. Usually, Priests, kings and prophets are the ones who are 'anointed'.

What is 'Yeshua, the savior' *annointed for*? Mark gives us an answer, later in his book. Interestingly the answer is connected with the question from Jesus, *'Who do you say, I am?'* Peter answers *'You are the Messiah (the anointed one).'* What follows immediately throws light on what the *'anointed one'* is anointed for. Our Lord says *'the son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days, rise again.* He is chosen, empowered and set apart for this and he will brook no advice which will distract him from this!

In choosing to describe himself as *'the son of man'*, immediately after being identified by Peter as the *messiah*, our Lord makes a connection between these two words. This makes it easier for us to retain the connection whenever we encounter this enigmatic work that our Lord used to describe himself very often. *The beginning of the good news about Yeshua (the savior), the anointed one (anointed to suffer, be rejected, to be killed and to rise again)....*

...the son of God

This is the statement confession that arises from the revelation about our Lord that Mark and the other followers received about Him. They received this revelation from the words, work, death and resurrection of our Lord. The conviction that He is the Son of God is given to them and through them to us. So this *Yeshua, annointed to suffer, be rejected, to be killed and to rise again is none other than the Son of God.*

Mark knows this when he is writing. So to increase our joy, we can express it in this way. The book of Mark is the good news about Yeshua, the Savior. He is the anointed one, anointed to suffer and be rejected and be killed and to rise again. And, he is none other than the Son of God'. This is what the book is about and this is the pure GOOD NEWS in every page.

Good news – the core of our life

We as his children, have at our core, the gladness that comes from this good news. It is both knowledge and experience. We are filled with gladness and rejoice exceedingly. We abound with it. We cannot hold it in ourselves. Such is the truth about what is happening at the core of our being.

Often the experiences of this life, namely, sickness, economic difficulty, strained relationships, hostile society, competition etc. seemingly overshadow the gladness at the core of our lives that wells up from the Good News. This is compounded by the battle with the fallen nature that often expressed itself in insecurity, anxiety, backsliding etc. within ourselves. And, the enemy mercilessly assaults us with his accusations.

Let us take heed. The Lord, about whom the good news is, intercedes for us in Heaven. His Blessed Holy Spirit indwells in us, giving us the gift of Joy. Let us then work with him, in prayer and action to 'reclaim', what is already ours, the gladness that arises out of the glorious good news of Yeshua, the anointed one, the Son of God.

Hallelujah! Rejoice evermore, for this is what our Lord wills for us!

Samuel Sidhartha Swamidoss

TREASURER'S NOTE

Dear Friends & Partners,

The Lord has been faithful in providing for our needs all through the preceding months and we are thankful to HIM for the miraculous ways that He has provided us with so many co-labourers even during these tough times.

Thank you for upholding the Lord's work through your support and involvement. If you know/are aware of an acquaintance who is willing to partner in this work, please support them with the necessary information (bank details-given below) and if necessary, connect them to the local staff of EMFI or the national office.

The financial update for the months from June-August is given below.

Sukumar Chitturi

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	Income	Expense
June	727739	917000
July	847666	712120
August	780581	679543

Weddings

- Dr Akhila Robbin wed Dr Brian F Pereira (both Dentists) on 18th August 2021 at Chennai
- Dr Divya Susanna Ninan wed Dr Richu Bob Kurian (both serving at CMC, Vellore after their PG) on 2nd September 2021 in Kerala

Movements

- Dr Oliver Kaunds has moved to Madhepura Christian Hospital last November after graduating from Mangalore
- Dr. Stanley Gladson Daniel is back to GEMS multispecialty hospital, Sikaria, Bihar after completing his M.Ch Urology from Madras medical college
- Dr. Berin Lawrence after completing his MD Anesthesia from Safdarjang hospital has moved to Scudder Memorial hospital in Ranipet

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 and clicking on the DONATE NOW button <https://emfi.in/donate/>

EMFI is charged 2.5% service charge for every transaction

IMPORTANT: We can only receive contributions from Indian passport holders.

Please call/Text/Email us after you make the transaction.

09176215489/90, emfihq@gmail.com

SCAN & PAY



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