



FAR & NEAR

Second Quarter 2022

OUR VISION

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

Chairman's Letter

More tragic than orderly?

It was Oswald Chambers who said "Life is more tragic than orderly". Was he being pessimistic? No. He was probably being more realistic. Everyday the media beams into our homes reports of incidents that distress and disturb us. In the medical field we face the issue of seemingly unmerited suffering and tragic illnesses almost daily. Most of us would have voiced (usually sub vocally), "Oh why Lord, why?"

Dr Scot Peck begins his famous book 'The road less travelled' with the statement "Life is difficult". The Fall has turned this fair world of God's lovely creation into shambles. Though much about the world is still beautiful, calamities and suffering are a reality. Often our refusal to accept this fact is what makes our problems more difficult to bear. There is nothing wrong in wishing that things were not so, but when we demand that they be different, when we say the effects of the Fall must be reversed and reversed now, we will end up feeling terribly frustrated. This demanding attitude and the feeling of entitlement will only lead us to frustration and anger.

Job wanted an explanation for his puzzling suffering. He said that if he could have an interview with God he would tell Him exactly what he thought of Him! (Job 23: 1-17). St Teresa of Avila is supposed to have said, "Lord, if this is how You treat your friends, it is no wonder You have so few!" We can be honest with God.

If we refuse to face reality and admit to ourselves and to God our perplexity, we are not alert to hear His voice. Unfortunately some think that a Christian should never feel sad or depressed and tend to deny these genuine emotions, leading to what some call "Ecclesiogenic Neurosis!" God expects truth in our innermost part. Indeed Lord Jesus experienced great sorrow and grief. Apostle Paul admitted he was perplexed, but not in despair and said "...we may be knocked down, but not knocked out!" 2 Cor 4:9 (JB Phillip's version).

We note that God did not answer Job's questions. Job had an encounter with God that more than satisfied him. He could live without the answers when he knew God was there. He realised that God was perfectly capable of running His world and deserved to be taken on trust. True faith is Job saying "Though He slay me, yet I will hope in Him". This is probably what made one of our doctors, at the verge of death battling chronic lymphatic leukaemia, and his wife in coma after a recent accident, say raising his frail hands to everyone who visited him till his dying day, "God is good, all the time".

Anyone can believe when there are explanations and answers. The person who goes on to know God in a deep and intimate way is the one who can affirm that God is good even though there may be a thousand appearances to the contrary. May we come to the place of trusting God and His goodness, even when we cannot trace Him.

Susheel K Tharien

Dear friends,
There have been some new developments which I would like to share. Our General Secretary of the EMFI, Dr. Sam Siddhartha has been asked by the CSI church to return to the church ministry. He, an ordained minister of the CSI church, in addition to being a qualified physician, was graciously deputed by the church for a period of 5 years to serve as the General secretary of the EMFI. We were hoping that the church would extend his deputation so that he

could continue his second term. In spite of several representations to the church authorities for the same, they could not concede to our request as they needed his services in the church.

Dr Sam was instrumental in starting several initiatives in the EMFI, emphasising the importance of systems and accountability in the organisation and in sensitising us to be pro poor. Many staff members, graduate volunteers, state level committees and the regional group in North India, NE and NW were encouraged by him.

His having to leave suddenly has left a void in the leadership of EMFI. However, God in His divine Providence prompted our treasurer, Dr Sukumar Chitturi to step in and fill the gap and he has graciously agreed to be the acting General Secretary till a new General Secretary is appointed. Dr Sukumar is based at Visakhapatnam working as a CEO of a reputed hospital. But he and his wife have a heart for medical students and graduates and his house has been an open home for them always.

Dr. Sukumar with a remarkable journey with EMFI as a student and committed graduate leader, has mentored many students with an

open home. His heart is always with the students, having a wonderful co-labourer Dr Vidya, his wife, as his potential strength. Dr Sukumar and his wife have played an active role in the great revival that we see in the AP/Telengana medical students and graduates. We request the cooperation and encouragement of everyone as he steps into this new responsibility in addition to the enormous responsibilities he already holds.

This is an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the movement of EMFI in whatever way we can. We need your helping hand. After all, this is our Fellowship, isn't it?

Susheel K Tharien - Chairman, EMFI

Highlights from the staff

KT PAUL: COORDINATOR - NORTH INDIA

KT visited North-East of India and could attend the wedding of one doctor whom he knew as a student at Udaipur and also met with and encouraged many doctors working in the mission hospitals of Tura, Jowai, Guwahati and Aizawl. KT writes, "It is saddening to see the plight of the hospitals with lack of consultants but it is also heartening to see the doctors there working with zeal and commitment." At Aizawl, KT could share in the morning devotion at a mission hospital and was encouraged to see the staff meeting every morning in front of the hospital for devotions and kneeling down in prayer. He also visited Ranchi, Ajmer, Kolkotta, Kanpur, Lucknow and Kota. At Jodhpur, Aligarh, Meerut and Bikaner, KT spent time with the students encouraging them and clarifying many of their doubts. He visited Khariar to attend the wedding of Dr Arpita whom he knew from her student days at Jagdishpur. This being his first visit to Khariar Mission hospital, KT and his wife Helen could meet with the doctors there. He writes, "We were encouraged to meet Drs Mr & Mrs Ajit Singh, who have been serving here for more than 50 years. It was exciting to meet these legends of missions and listen to them and also to the juniors who were inspired by their lives to continue to serve in missions." Drs Viju and Molly visited KT in Satbarwa and they could spend a few days of fellowship with them.



ADALAIDE HERALD: COORDINATOR - TAMIL NADU

Herald visited students and graduates of the fellowships of Govt. Medical College, Vellore, Thiruvanamalai and Chennai. He also interacted with the doctors at CF Hospital, Oddanchatram, shared at the morning devotion in chapel and worked out the logistics for the Pachalur Missions conference in April. The monthly missions meeting with the students continues regularly and Dr Vijay Anand and Dr Sujith Varghese could share in these meetings.



He visited fellowships at Madurai, Nagercoil and Tuticorin for the first time and could spend time with some of the senior doctors there. At Tirunelveli, he was encouraged to see Dr Ashok Bhaskar also visiting the fellowship and spending time with the students. He interacted with some young doctors over lunch and got to understand their challenges of working at a mission hospital. Along with Linu he visited Neyyoor Cancer hospital and Jeyasekaran hospital, Nagercoil and interacted with the doctors there. He coordinated a mission trip for the students of Tamil Nadu to Asha Kiran hospital, Odisha and worked out the schedule for the visit along with the doctors of Asha Kiran Hospital. Along with a Chaplain of CMC, he visited and prayed for a patient who said that they were sent by God to minister to her. Herald and his wife Susithra also visited Kotagiri mission hospital and spent time with their friends from college days working there. Susithra could also minister to a patient with terminal illness there.



Highlights from the staff

GEORGE SUCHIANG: FIELD PARTNER - NORTH EAST INDIA

George could visit and console the family of a student from Guwahati Medical College who lost her father in a freak car accident in the parking area of their home in Shillong. The family was shattered by the incident. George writes, "I felt so immature to go and console them. But somehow God put the right words in my mouth. The mother said that they felt better after I talked to them. I have never done this before, not during my days when I pastored the village churches. But one thing I learnt is that just being there with them, feeling their pain and loss was more than enough for the family in the midst of such tragedy." George could visit Imphal, Kohima and Dimapur in April for the first time after the Pandemic. The informal meetings with the new committee members of Imphal, over a cup of tea was refreshing. George could interact with Dr Atea, Dr Dihe at Imphal and Dr Vesede, Dr Avito, Dr Yanglu at Kohima. He also met with some doctors whom he had known in their student days and who are presently working at CISHR, Dimapur.



MV RAO: FIELD PARTNER - ANDHRA PRADESH & TELENGANA

MV Rao helped organise a combined gathering for the fellowships in Tirupathi and also an Evangelistic retreat for these medical and dental college students in June. Many committed their lives to the Lord in this meeting. There were 45 participants for the meeting and they had a blessed time.



EMFI WELCOMES

EMFI welcomes two new staff who have joined the team.

Rev Pramod R Tantarpare will be taking responsibility as a Field Partner for the state of Maharashtra. He is a commerce graduate who has done his Bachelor of Divinity (BD) from Union Biblical Seminary, Pune. He will be based at Nagpur.



Dr Chacko Varghese is a Dentist who completed his BDS from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka in 2018. He has been involved with EMFI right from his student days. He will be based in Hubli and will be taking responsibility as a Field Partner for North Karnataka.



We welcome both Rev Pramod and Dr Chacko into the family of EMFI and pray that the Lord will lead them as they begin their responsibilities in EMFI.

Family News



WEDDING BELLS



Dr Grace Mercy (Chittoor) wed Mr Vinod on 7th June

Dr Alekya (Vijayawada) wed Mr Akshay on 8th June

Dr Srividhya (Tirupathi) wed Mr Adithya on 9th June

Major Dr Y Hanock Devadas (Tirupathi) wed Dr Y Pavithra Priyadarshini on 29th June

BIRTHS

Dr Jessy and Mr Sam (Sivakasi) were blessed with a baby boy on 16th May

MOVEMENTS

Dr Jemima, (Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad) moved to Asha Kiran hospital, Lamtaput, Odisha in May

Ground Realities Where the tyre hits the road

CSI MISSION HOSPITAL, ERODE - CARING FOR THE MARGINALIZED

Greetings from CSI Hospital, Erode. We are a 30 bedded mission hospital situated in the city of Erode established in 1909. We underwent a major renovation in 2018-19 and have started to function from October 2019. Currently we have a full-time consultant in OG, a dentist, 4 medical officers and visiting consultants in the fields of General Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics and ENT.

Our consultant in OG, Dr. Reeta Vijayaselvi M.D., D.G.O., from CMC Vellore joined the institute in October 2021. We are sharing an incident which happened in the OG OPD in the month of January 2022.

A middle-aged PLHIV couple came to our hospital enquiring whether a hysterectomy could be done in the recently renovated hospital. The patient was seen in our OPD and diagnosed with adenomyosis after a scan was done with necessary infection control precaution.

The patient opted for hysterectomy and stated "We know how badly the other hospitals treated us, and if we wait, we may not get this kind of care. We don't want to take any chance. We have been to Salem and Coimbatore where they also denied surgery because of the COVID situation." The surgery was performed with standard precautions and Intraoperative specific precautions followed to prevent transmission to health care workers.

The post operative period was uneventful. The patient went home on day 4 with gratitude. During her stay God's love was shared through the ward prayers and in-discriminatory care. She has been receiving Anti-retroviral therapy from the local Government Hospital. After her surgery, she had shared this experience with the staff in the ART clinic. The ART clinic has started to refer patients with Gynaecological complaints to our Hospital now.

To expand our services to the patients needing other specialists, we are in need of full-time consultants in the department of General Medicine / Family Medicine and Paediatrics.

Interested doctors could kindly forward your resumes to csihos@gmail.com.



Still Life - from the COVID ward

Back in September 2021, at the peak of the Pandemic, there was an outbreak of cases in the Male Oncology Ward of Civil Hospital, Shillong. Quite a handful of Cancer patients were shifted to the COVID Unit for further treatment and isolation. Among the many patients was Bah Khraw (name changed) in terminal stages of cancer. He had been in the hospital for more than a month, attended and cared for by his wife, Kong Mum (name changed) who had mild symptoms. Both were in their late 50's. On the first day of my COVID ward rounds, I had a brief talk with her, about the ordeal that she had been going through, taking care of her husband in the Oncology Ward over the last month or so. On her face, I could see signs of anxiety, despair and helplessness, not to mention physical and mental exhaustion. On the evening of the third day the nurses informed me that Kong Mum would be going back to her village the next day, as she could not take it any longer. She was exhausted. So the following day, I decided to visit her and arrange for her discharge. When I reached, she was having her lunch. "So, Kong Mum! Have you decided to go home today?" I asked her. She stopped eating her food. "Doctor! Yes, I thought I would. But when I saw my

husband in his condition, I couldn't. His face brightens up when he sees me. At least, I'm giving him some hope." Her voice began to break. "I'm giving him reason to keep going I guess" she said. Her eyes welled up and tears started rolling down her cheeks. With a broken voice she said, "Doctor, how can I leave him like this? Yes, I'm tired, I'm exhausted, but I will be here no matter what! I will keep on caring for him till his last breath!" while she wiped her tears, I stood still like a statue, momentarily. Suddenly, I felt a lump in my throat, the well inside me gave way to tears in my eyes. I tried to compose myself and thankfully I was wearing goggles and a face shield, Kong Mum couldn't notice my tears. But deep down in my heart, I was touched, inspired and challenged forever.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 (RSV)

A few days later Bah Khraw passed away, but his story and the love his wife had for him lives on in my heart forever.

Macmillan Surong

TN Missions Conference Pachalur Camp 2022



The Tamil Nadu Missions conference (Pachalur Camp as it is fondly called) was conducted from the 14th to 17th of April. It was attended by 63 students. The resource people were Dr KO John, Dr Issac Jebaraj & Dr Vijay Anand.



Dr KO John spoke on the meaning of being 'Born Again' and the assurance and the foundational teachings of Christian life. Dr Issac Jebaraj spoke on the Biblical Basis of Missions and Jesus as our Model in Health Ministry. Dr Vijay Anand dealt with the topic of starting a Health care service in a resource poor setting. Dr Prasanna Jebaraj handled some practical sessions for the girls and Dr Adeline shared from her experience of missions in Papua New Guinea. Dr Elliott shared briefly about EMFI. Dr Susan shared about the history of CFH and Dr Anish the role of Christian doctor and the larger need for Christian medical service in the country. There were times of group discussions and Q & A sessions and the students had a blessed time. 23 students committed their lives to serve in missions. Drs Sneha and Punith, junior doctors from ODC under the care of Dr Anish as consultant were in charge of the camp this year. Linu helped in organising the logistics for the camp along with the team at Oddanchatram,



Mission Exposure Trip

Drs Herald and Elliot could accompany 12 students from Vellore Medical College and Stanley Medical college to Asha Kiran Society Hospital, Lamtaput, Odish in the month of May.

Though some of the parents were concerned about the travel due to a land slide at Vishakapatnam caused by the cyclone Asani, the team of students braved the journey and reached Asha Kiran Hospital on the 11th May after a 'Compression Ride' in a 13 seater vehicle where 18 people travelled along with their voluminous luggage stuck between their legs and above their heads for 60kms. This was the first taste of what was in store for the team at Asha Kiran Hospital, Lamtaupt.

Please pray for this group of students who visited Asha Kiran Hospital, that the seeds sown will take root and bear fruit in due time to fill the gaps in Indian medical mission.



Some reflections from the students:

- All the day's activities and each person we met were so inspiring. The days were well spent, packed with fun, learning and fellowship. It consisted of thought provoking morning devotions, village visits, seeing patients in the wards and OPD, spending time with the doctors and their families, and lots more. We also trekked to the origin of a beautiful waterfall called Duduma. Above all, the care and love that was given to the patients, both by doctors and health workers was amazing to witness.
- To truly help patients, I need God's love to shine through me. This I learnt from the health workers who took us for a village visit. The time, care and love they gave each person was inspiring and humbling at the same time.
- We were taught that as Christians we must "do justice" to the skewed doctor patient ratio in the urban vs rural areas - Micah 6: 8
- I learnt that when I am obedient to God's call he can work in wonderful ways. I also learnt not to work for the applause of people, but to look at the BIG picture, to trust in the Lord for every decision.
- None of us knew the language, but we saw the love of Jesus in action.



Mr Andi Eicher briefed the team about the hospital and some of the junior doctors working there shared their life experience of working in a mission hospital after dinner and also answered the many questions that the students put forth. The students were split into groups and some were sent to the villages to experience the community work and the other team remained at the hospital to observe the work in the OPD and the wards. The students could witness first hand the work of Drs Philip and Susan at Kudumulguma among the Didayi people group. They could also spend time with the senior consultants of the hospital in their homes and observe and learn from their lives.



Adios Nanditha Devakumar

Nanditha joined EMFI along with her husband Devakumar in the year 2001 and has served in the national office at Chennai. She helped Dr Sam David and Sarah David set up the office at Chennai and has worked under four General Secretaries in the last 21 years. She served the constituency with a cheerful smile and a willing heart. Her letters to the members have been well appreciated and awaited with expectation by all. She worked alongside the staff team and interacted with students, graduates and leaders in a keen and personal way.



She handled the matters of the office with aplomb and meticulously maintained the entire accounts of EMFI all these years.

She retired from faithful service to EMFI in May 2022. Though we will miss her, we know that the Lord will continue to use her for His greater glory wherever she is. We at EMFI wish her all the very best of Gods blessings in this next phase of her life knowing that the best is yet to come. Adios.



DOWNLOAD 2022

The one day retreat 'DOWNLOAD' for the medicos of Chennai was held at CSI Kalyani Hospital on the 19th of June 2022. The theme for the day was, 'What are you looking for in Life.' There was a sudden change in the resource person in the last minute but the Lord graciously brought Dr Jeevarathnam, Senior Consultant in Ophthalmology as the speaker. He took two sessions on Missions and the opportunities available in missions. Dr Hanson spoke on the practical aspect of missions where he shared from his experience as student in Stanley MC fellowship, his time of working at Asha Kiran Hospital, Odisha and how he secured his PG seat. His wife Dr Jeblyn shared from her life of working in South Indian Missions for 2 years and how the Lord enabled her to secure a high score in NEET. Dr. Shanmugapriya, consultant Orthodontist shared on how she came to Christ from another faith and how she got into PG and then got a believing spouse too. All this inspired the students to wait on the Lord for the right time not only for life's major decisions but depend on Him at all times. The time of singing and worship was led by Helen and the students of Stanley Medical College. There was a time for group discussion and sharing led by Dr PV Cherian, Dr Shanti Edward, Dr Dominic, Drs Hanson & Jebilyn and Dr Jeevarathnam. Forty two students attended this meeting and were blessed.

We are thankful to the management of Kalyani Hospital and Dr Jeyanth for allowing us to use their facility and Dr Samuel Sidhartha for his valuable inputs into the meeting and Dr Elliot for working behind the scenes. We the organizing team will appreciate prayers for the group of students and graduates who heard the call of God and the need of our nation. That they will give place in their hearts for the work of God to transform them and the nation at large through their lives.



Opportunities

NAVJIWAN HOSPITAL - JHARKHAND

Hi everyone! Appreciating God's goodness for the little comforts of life has become easier after we moved to North India. In Jharkhand, where we are currently located, we are surrounded by people living in darkness - spiritual, mental and physical. Corruption, exploitation, witchcraft, ignorance, poverty, sickness, unemployment, addictions, lack of education and medical facilities etc. are few of the gamut of problems that these people are drowned in. The less privileged in these areas are to me what Jesus talks about as, 'The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few'. We are praying and looking forward to committed servants of Christ in any capacity especially medical (doctors - graduates, postgraduates and super-specialists, nursing staff, paramedical staff and support staff). Prayerfully consider paying us a visit and venturing out to short-term or long-term service in these needy places from the abundance of what God has given in your lives.

Navjiwan hospital, Satbarwa, Palamu district, Jharkhand is placed in a very needy and strategic tribal locality with a large catchment area of 3 neighbouring districts and patients from the states of Bihar and UP. It's a place where one will be mutually benefitted as a doctor through the wide variety of cases and hands-on experience in many specialities at a secondary care level including obstetrics (normal deliveries and doing LSCS), paediatrics and neonatology, critical care and being a blessing to the under privileged. There is a pressing need for a general surgeon, obstetrician, physician, ENT surgeon, Ophthalmologist and pioneering work in orthopaedics. Your service for even a few weeks would be a blessing to relieve the doctors to take their much needed annual leave to visit their loved ones in their hometowns in other parts of the country.

For more details kindly contact:
Dr Ashly John - 9897883515

Treasurer's Note

Dear Friends & Partners,

The Lord has provided us for the first quarter through his abundant grace.

I would like to thank Sister Nanditha who has retired upon her superannuation. She has been a blessing and support in the central office for the past few decades.

Please continue to uphold us in your prayers.

The following are the details of revenue & expenditure for the months of March - May 2022 for your perusal.

Regards,
Sukumar Chitturi.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	Income	Expenditure
March	942193	752894
April	752196	764137
May	771044	1002139

SCAN & PAY



UPI ID: EMFIHQ@SBI

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.

9943411321/917215490, emfihq@gmail.com