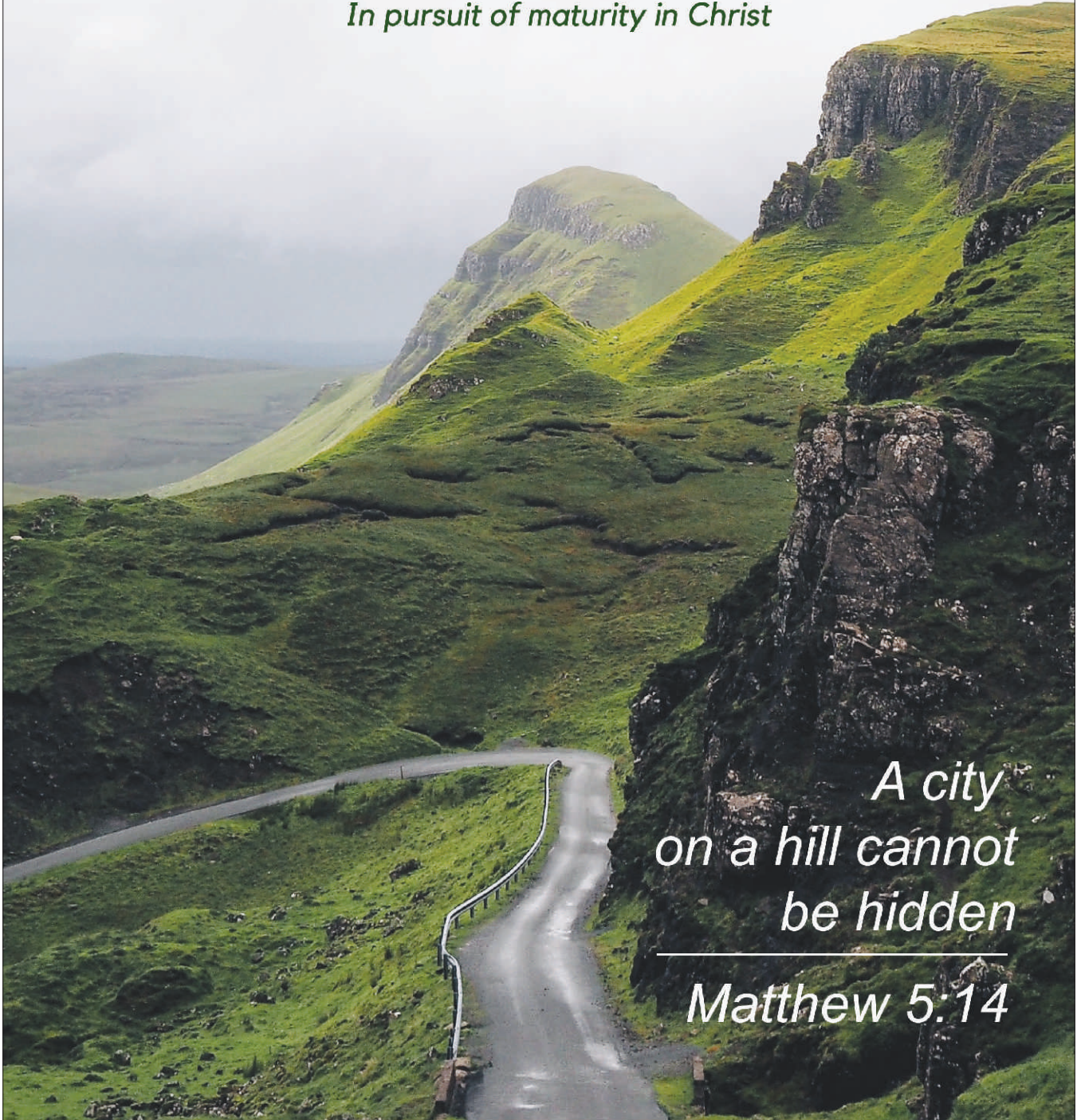


# Maitri

## 2018

*In pursuit of maturity in Christ*

A scenic landscape photograph of a winding road through green hills under a cloudy sky. The road is paved and curves through lush green hills. In the background, a prominent mountain peak is visible. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

*A city  
on a hill cannot  
be hidden*

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*Matthew 5:14*

**Maitri**  
**2018 Bible Studies**

**Chaplaincy**  
**Christian Medical College**  
**Vellore**

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*Dear Friends,*

*It is with immense joy that we publish the sixteenth volume of Maitri for the year 2018. "Maitri" in Sanskrit means "Friendship". This was prepared with the intention of providing a framework for our weekly departmental Bible study for our institution.*

*Picture in the cover page portrays the verse "The city built on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14). This is my prayer that God's love may be made visible through our work as a community. May our presence be visible and represent God's healing to the sick and suffering.*

*The themes and reflections in this volume are designed for fulfilment of the vision of Aunt Ida by strengthening a Christ centred community and bringing the abundant life to the people so that the reality of the Kingdom of God may be experienced.*

*Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this volume and those who took pain to edit, translate into Tamil, design the cover page and make the production possible on time.*

*May our discussions and reflections bring clarity in thinking, commitment in our work, and peace and harmony in our relationships. May we grow deeper in our maturity in Christ.*

*With best wishes and prayers,  
Rev Ananthi A. Mary  
Head of Chaplaincy.*

*January 1, 2018*

### **Aunt Ida's Prayer**

*Father, whose life is within me and whose love is ever about me, grant that Thy life may be maintained in my life today and everyday; that with gladness of heart, without haste or confusion of thought, I may go about my daily tasks, conscious of ability, to meet every rightful demand, seeing the larger meaning of little things, and finding beauty and love everywhere and in the sense of Thy presence may I walk through the hours breathing the atmosphere of love rather than anxious striving.*

### **VISION STATEMENT**

The Christian Medical College, Vellore seeks to be a witness to the healing ministry of Christ, through excellence in education, service and research.

### **THE OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the Christian Medical College, Vellore is the establishment, maintenance and development of a Christian Medical College and Hospitals in India, where men and women shall receive an education of the highest grade in the art and science of medicine, nursing, or one or other of the related professions, to equip them in the spirit of Christ, for service in the relief of suffering and in the promotion of health.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The primary concern of the Christian Medical College, Vellore is to develop through education and training, compassionate, professionally excellent, ethically sound individuals who will go out as servant-leaders of health teams and healing communities. Their service may be in promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative or palliative aspects of health care, in education or in research.

In the area of research, CMC strives to understand God's purposes and designs, fostering a spirit of enquiry, commitment to truth and high ethical standards. Research may be aimed at gaining knowledge of the fundamental bases of health and disease, at improving interventions or in optimising the use of resources.

In the delivery of health care, CMC provides a culture of caring while pursuing its commitment to professional excellence. CMC is committed to innovation and the adoption of new, appropriate, cost-effective, caring technology.

CMC reaffirms its commitment to the promotion of health and wholeness in individuals and communities and its special concern for the disabled, disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable.

CMC looks for support and participation in its programmes in education, service, outreach and research, from friends and like minded agencies in India and abroad, in a true spirit of partnership.

In its role as a living witness in the healing ministry of Christ, CMC seeks to work in partnership both with the church in India and the universal church, and their institutions.

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## New Beginnings

Isaiah 61: 8-11

**Key verse:** *"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...."*  
Isaiah 61:10

New beginnings involve putting off the old to start afresh and moving on with a changed perspective and attitude. In our personal life and as an institution, there are occasions when we need a fresh start. It could involve situations where we made the wrong choice or failed along the way or drifted from the real purpose. It could also mean situations where we need to put off thoughts of hurt, doubt or bitterness and start afresh.

Today's Bible passage talks about an important and essential beginning in the life of every individual, a crucial decision that determines one's eternal destiny – the process of establishing a right relationship with God. Isaiah, the prophet of God lived at a time when the nation of Israel had turned away from God and were leading a sinful way of life. There is a call for repentance and clear warning of judgment for sin. God's gracious provision of restoration is then described. The Bible teaches us that the broken relationship between man and God due to sin was restored by Jesus who willingly took upon Himself the punishment for the sins of the whole world. We can never match up to God's perfect standard. But God is willing to give us a new heart and new life. If we confess and surrender our life to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That is the beginning of a new life as a child of God.

May God help us to recognize the need for change and new beginnings in our lives. Let us take this opportunity to submit our lives to God and thus be transformed into individuals possessing the mind of God as we start another new year. If we have already experienced God's forgiveness, may we renew our commitment to serve Him more fruitfully.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do you see your life at the beginning of this New Year?
2. What are the changes you wish to happen for a new beginning?

*Pray for:*

**Directorate**

**Promotion and PTP Office**

**Hospitality and International Relations**

**Public Relation Office and Main Enquiry**

**CMC Association**

**Quality Management Cell**

**Development Office**

**Missions Department**

**Chittoor campus, Kanigapuram campus**

CSI Trichy – Tanjore Diocese

*Hospital :* CSI Hospital, Trichy and others.



## City on a Hill – In the Centenary Year of Medical Education

Matthew 5:13-16

**Key verse:** “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden”. “Matthew 5:14

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Medical Education in our institution. This is a time to thank God for the high achievements we have made as an institution towards the building of a healthy nation in the mission of the Kingdom of God. It is also an opportunity to reflect upon our call to shine through the ministry of education.

In our vision statement, education is the foremost. Aunt Ida understood the need to train those who are willing to serve people in the spirit of Christ. Thus she started the first nursing school in 1909 and then the Licentiate in Medical Practice for women in 1918. Today we are a premier medical institution in the country. Aunt Ida’s vision was to make this institution an outstanding place of education and training in India and the world. At this juncture, it is good to introspect and see what we are trying to achieve through the ministry of education.

### 1. Fear of the Lord

God’s Word exhorts us to fear God so that we may gain wisdom and we gain understanding through the knowledge of the Holy one (Proverbs 9:10). This is not a fear that produces terror. It is a holy fear of awe and wonder of the Holy God. This fear inspires one to worship God in holiness and joy and enable us to submit to the commandments and instructions of God. Our education should begin here. We permit God to teach us and guide us in His ways. This will make us more humble and dependent on God. There is no place for arrogance and pride. God is opposed to such people. He gives grace to the humble (Proverbs 3:34).

### 2. Drive for excellence

Our Mission statement elaborates: “The primary concern of the Christian Medical College, Vellore is to develop through education and training, compassionate, professionally excellent, ethically sound individuals who will go out as servant leaders of health teams and healing

communities. Their service may be in promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative or palliative aspects of health care in education or in research.” Here we see compassion and excellence going hand in hand. Our drive for excellence should be rooted solely on Christ as our foundation. Apart from him we can do nothing (John 15: 5).

### 3. Reaching out

One way to measure the success of our education is through finding out how much we have replicated our knowledge to empower “servant leaders and health teams” to reach out to those whom health care is still a dream. There are millions in this country whose health needs are not met because it is not accessible to them. How far has the outcome of our training reached the peripherals? How do we continue to engage in the ministry of education so that health care is available to all at a cost they can afford? Our call is to continue to shine where there is darkness (Matthew 5:14).

May our nation be transformed, as we pray for new possibilities in the centenary year to further the building of the Kingdom of God through the ministry of education.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do we continue to shine in the ministry of education?

*Pray for:*

**Anaesthesia**

**Operation Theatre, SICU & HDU**

Christian Assemblies in India, *Hospital:* Tiruvalla Medical Mission, Sankeshwar Mission Hospital,

Women’s Hospital, Ambajipeta, Narsapur Christian Hospital and others.



## In the spirit of Christ

## Philippians 2:1-11

**Key verses:** “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ...then make my joy complete by being like minded having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”  
*Philippians 2:1,2*

To serve “in the spirit of Christ” has been the guiding rule of conduct for decades for all who come to CMC whether as staff, students or patients. This relates to CMC’s motto: “Not to be ministered unto, but to minister” (Matthew 20:28). However, do we stop to consider what it really means?

Apostle Paul makes a beautiful description of Christ’s twofold character: fully divine (v 6) and truly human (v 7).

(a) He is of “the very nature of God” (Philippians 2:6). He was with God before the foundation of the world (John 1:1). He is called, “The image of the invisible God.” (Colossians 1:15).

(b) Yet He was fully human. “He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness. He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even on a cross!” (Philippians 2: 6-8).

In Luke 4:18, quoting from Isaiah 11:3, Jesus says of Himself “the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me”. Isaiah 11:1-5 describes the coming Christ as one with wisdom, understanding, full of power, knowledgeable and God fearing. He will judge the poor and needy with righteousness. Christ’s spirit is the ‘Lord’s spirit’ (Luke 4:18). The spirit of Christ is a part of His own unique character, but it also includes attributes brought to Him as part of the Triune God.

As Christ humbled Himself, so we should “do nothing out of selfish ambition...but in humility consider others better than yourself. We should look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4). We should have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) and must reflect His nature. We must follow His footsteps and be an example before others.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. As an institution, what are the areas we need to grow in the spirit of Christ?
2. In our personal lives, how can we reflect the spirit of Christ in a better way?

*Pray for:*

### **Accounts**

#### **Internal Audit**

Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Hospital* : Baer Christian Hospital, Chirala,

Ruth Sigmon Memorial Lutheran Health Centre, Guntur and others.

Arcot Lutheran Church

*Hospital* : Danish Mission Hospital, Tirukoiloor and others

All India Association for Christian Higher Education

Australian Board of Vellore CMC.



## Lessons in Adversity

## Romans 8:28-39

**Key verse:** "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Every infant that steps into this world is greeted by the sting of a vaccine on the very first day after birth. He or she is given a dozen or more of these within the first few years of life. Why and when did this world become so toxic that the body has to be pumped with this additional protection to sustain life?

Life in its present form is filled with adversities from cradle to the grave; it comes to anyone, in many forms and at anytime. It unsettles, shakes or shatters the person that comes in its path. Some people prepare for it, some desperately try to avoid it and some live with false hope that it will never come to them. Each one of us would have imagined and longed for a life without adversity?

The Lord Jesus Christ himself did not give a rosy view about life in this world. He said, '...In this world you will have trouble....' (John. 16:33). In fact, He himself was caught in a raging storm in the middle of the sea while going with his disciples (Mark. 4:35 - 41). It is inevitable that each one of us will face struggles of one form or the other at different stages in life.

The Bible provides a very clear answer as to why there is so much pain and sorrow in this world; a direct consequence of the fall of man from being a pure and holy into a sinful being (Genesis. 3:16-24).

But we do not have to despair about this condition of man as God in His mercy has promised to take us to a world where there is no adversity (Revelation 21:4).

As we eagerly wait for the new world to appear, He encourages us to face adversity with the knowledge that He will see us through it all and use them for our good (Romans 8:28). Let us be strong and courageous as we go through each adversity because He has overcome the world.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are some of the common adversities that we go through in life? How do we handle them better in the light of what the Bible says?
2. As a community, what can we do better at CMC to assist our patients in dealing with sickness, loss and death?

*Pray for:*

**Ida Scudder School**

**Balavihar School**

**Campus Kids Corner**

**College Hill Nursery School**

CSI Karnataka Diocese

*Hospital :* CSI Hospital, Bangalore, CSI Bethel Mission Hospital, Gadag

CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital. Mysore and others

CSI Krishna – Godavari Diocese

*Hospital :* CSI Vathsalya Hospital, Vijayawada and others

Friends of Vellore, Sweden.



**Spiritual Care****2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

**Key verses:** “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word”. 2 Thessalonians 2:16,17

Human beings are also spiritual beings. Therefore, as we take account of the physical, mental, emotional and social aspects of care, we need to be concerned about the spiritual care too. Spiritual care includes the matters pertaining to relationships, meaning, purpose and existence - with oneself, others and God. Spiritual distress occurs when there is a lack of meaning about oneself, others and God.

In a hospital setting, spiritual concerns and distress is quite common and often ignored. Many wonder about the meaning and purpose of what is happening around them or others. Thus they are disturbed in the way they relate with others and with God. Another reason why these concerns are unattended is the lack of individuals to be perceptive, sensitive and listening to the spiritual distress.

Even though the ultimate spiritual care is provided by God himself, we can function as instruments/agents of God to provide spiritual care. Prayer is definitely one way of providing spiritual care. Providing fellowship, an ambience of listening, an atmosphere of love and acceptance are other aspects of providing spiritual care.

Apostle Paul wrote about comforting and strengthening of our hearts in every good work and word by the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father (2 Thessalonians 2:17). Comforting and strengthening of the hearts is an important aspect of spiritual care. He was highlighting our need to receive care from God in the midst of the lawlessness and delusions in the church.

A nurse from children’s ward called the on-call chaplain mentioning that the parents had been explained about the poor prognosis of the child.

The family is in need of spiritual support. The nurse was able to identify it. Identifying one’s need for spiritual care and providing that care are important aspects of a caregiver’s sensitivity and expertise. When we feel that we are not resourceful to provide spiritual care, it is important to refer to someone who is better equipped to provide such a care. It is important to take it seriously as we are concerned about the wholistic care of individuals and communities. It is for this healing God has called us.

**For reflection and discussion:**

1. Describe an instance when someone offered spiritual care to you and how was it helpful to you?
2. How can we be sensitive to the spiritual needs of the people around us and provide spiritual care? List some practical ways to do this.

*Pray for:*

**Chaplaincy**

CNI Synod –

The Synodical Board of Health Services

*Hospital:* St.Stephen’s Hospital, New Delhi,

Lady Willingdon Hospital, Manali.

Kristiya Seva Sansthan Sarenga, West Bengal and others

Christian Service Society of Bengal, Orissa and Bihar

Christian Mission Service, Germany

Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI).



## Miss Thomson – A Beacon of Light

Matthew 5:14-16

**Key verse:** “Let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”. Matthew 5:16

Born in 1933 in Adelaide, Marlienne Thomson (Miss. Thomson) was the eldest of four siblings. Going out in the pilot boat with her father Captain Thomson to guide in the large liners, climbing rope ladders and caving with her father, Marlienne acquired a determinate and resolute spirit and the ability to accept any challenge.

While a student nurse at the Royal Adelaide hospital, Marlienne came to Christ and later realized her calling to come to India. After two years at Bible college with a sure call to India, Marlienne decided to work in CMC through Friends of Vellore, Australia in 1964.

After studying Tamil for 6 months she was appointed as a nurse of the surgical wards and then as a Department Sister in “M” Ward. Besides her responsibilities in “M” ward she taught the Hospital Admin. course and taught Work Simplification for the CME programme. She was then asked to set up the CSSD dept. During the difficult time of the strike in CMC, Sr. Thomson together with Sr. Bothamley and twelve medical students ran the Laundry department.

After 4 years of being the Assistant Nursing Superintendent, Marlienne was asked by the hospital to go to London and Toronto to be trained in Neurological Nursing. This was a huge challenge but Miss. Thomson returned again to take over this department with new ideas and the setting up of a Neuro. Nursing course.

Miss. Thomson retired in 1993 from the hospital having served for thirty years. Her commitment to Christ however went far beyond the daily activities at the hospital. This include Bible studies for young medical interns, nursing students, and house keeping staff. Sr. Bothamley along with Miss. Thomson started *Balanilayam*, a home for children of parents working as medical missionaries.

With high professional standards she was also spontaneous and generous while serving God. It was because of her faith in Christ which she witnessed day by day. After retirement from CMC she continued to care for the children in *Balanilayam* which she had co-founded. Her’s was a life lived for the One she loved and served.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do we find our vocation?
2. Share examples of shining for Christ.

*Pray for:*

**Clinical Biochemistry**

**Biochemistry**

CSI Dornakal Diocese

Hospital : St.Mary’s CSI Hospital, Khammam  
and St. Mary’s Rehab Centre, Khammam.



## Mission Drift

John 2:13-22

**Key verse:** "...guard what has been entrusted to your care". 1 Timothy 6:20

Jerusalem temple was the center of worship for the Jews. As a part of worship, they offered animal sacrifices. Over time, a lot of commercial activity began in the temple courts and it was given more importance than the worship. So Jesus made his stance clear that he wanted the temple, His Father's house, to be a house of prayer.

Without careful attention, faith-based organizations can drift from their founding mission. It is a slow and silent process and most organizations will never return to their original intent. It has repeatedly happened throughout history and it is important for us to analyse if it is happening to us. If we carefully study our mission statement, "The Christian Medical College, Vellore, seeks to be a witness to the healing ministry of Christ, through excellence in education, service and research" we can infer if we are an exception to the initial statement or if we too are vulnerable.

A well-known university had this mission statement: "To be plainly instructed and consider well that the main end of your life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ". It was founded in 1636 and emphasized character formation in its students above all else, rooted all its policies and practices in a Christian worldview. It served as a centre of academic excellence and Christian distinction. It is none other than Harvard University. It began as a school to equip pastors and evangelists to share the Good News of the gospel. Today, Harvard is an incredible institution with an unmatched reputation, but it no longer resembles its founding. Aside from the words on the diploma that read, *Christo et Ecclesiae* around *Veritas*, meaning "Truth for Christ and the Church", little evidence suggests it was a distinctly Christian School.

As the identity was shifting in only over 80 years, a group of New England pastors sensed that it had drifted too far for their liking. In 1701, they

founded a new stronghold of Christian higher education. A wealthy philanthropist, Elihu Yale, financed their efforts and Yale University was formed. Yale's motto was not just *Veritas* (truth) like Harvard, but *Lux et Veritas* (light and truth). But today, neither Harvard nor Yale resembles the universities their founders envisioned. At the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Harvard, Steven Muller, former president of Johns Hopkins University, didn't mince words: "The bad news is the university has become godless".

Our institution is more than a hundred years old now. Though we face similar challenges, if we pay careful attention and commit to work towards our mission statement, we will be partakers of a wonderful movement that impacts our nation. If each of us determine to bring about a "One degree change" to realign ourselves towards our mission, we will do what our Lord desired to accomplish through our institution.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are the challenges that can initiate the process of drift from our mission statement?
2. What can we do as individuals to bring about the "One degree change" so that we don't drift?

(Adapted from "Mission Drift" by Peter Greer and Chris Horst. A copy of the book is available in the chaplaincy library)

*Pray for:*

**Accident  
and Emergency Medicine**

Catholic Health Association of India

*Hospital :* St. John's Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore and others.



## Heart of Compassion

Matthew 9:35-36

**Key verse:** *"When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd." Matthew 9:36*

The word "Compassionate" comes from the French noun "Compassion" which means sympathy or pity. "Compassion" is understood as "a strong feeling of sympathy for someone in need and wish to help them". A heart of compassion identifies with the least, the last and the lost people of the world. It is to understand the suffering of others and a willingness to do something about it.

The above Bible passage gives us a clear picture of Jesus' attitude during his ministry on earth. He went to villages and towns. He taught from the Scripture, preached about the Kingdom of God, and healed those who were sick. Seeing the crowd, Jesus was moved with compassion. He resolved to provide a remedy for it. Compassion is not just feeling pity for a needy or a sick person but our emotions must move us to help the person to the best of our ability. We may not be able to help everyone in need but we can certainly serve those who come to us with a heart of compassion. In doing so we can light a candle in the darkness. A compassionate heart empathizes with other's pain and tries its best to identify with people who suffer. The Bible says in Colossians 3:12 "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion..."

Christ showed His compassion when he gave Himself on the cross as an atonement for our sins. When we have a heart of compassion for others we show-forth the love and compassion of our master and savior Jesus Christ who showed His great love and compassion for us.

### For reflection and discussion:

- 1 If the people of the world would lead a life without a heart of compassion, what would it be like? Discuss.
2. How do we serve with Compassion?

Pray for:



### **Cardiology**

#### **Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery**

CSI Kanyakumari Diocese

*Hospital* : CSI Hospital, Neyyoor and others

CSI Karimnagar Diocese

Friends of Vellore, Germany.

## Kneeling in Prayer

Matthew 6:5-8

**Key verse:** “...He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed...”  
Luke 22:41

Once a preacher, watching a marble cutter at work, exclaimed, “I wish I could deal such sharp blows on stony hearts!” The sculptor replied, “May be you could if like me you worked on your knees.”

Forgotten, yet standard spiritual posture in prayer is kneeling in prayer. The common Hebrew word is ‘kana’; which means “to bend the knee; hence, to humiliate or vanquish.” A quotation goes like this: “We are never so high when we are on our knees.” Kneeling posture is the traditional posture for requesting favors from a king, and so it became the traditional posture for prayers of repentance or supplication. When we kneel in prayer, we beg for mercy: “Lord have mercy on me.”

As we look at the scriptural base for this practice, we find minimum 27 references which support the view on this particular posture in prayer. Matthew 17:14 says, “and they having come to the crowd, a man came near to him (Jesus), kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy.” Mark 1:40 says, “Then a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, “if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Mark 10:17 says, “and he going out into the way, one running near, and kneeling to him, asked him, “inherently good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” Luke 22:41 says, “and He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed.”

Eusebius, a fourth century historian, tells about James, the brother of Jesus and head of the Jerusalem church: “James used to enter alone in the temple and be found kneeling and praying for forgiveness for the people so that his knees grew hard like a camel’s.” George Washington was another who knelt. In the early days the British ambassador visited Congress and asked how he could distinguish Washington from others. They said, “When the members pray, President Washington is the one who kneels”.

Look at our knees - are they calloused from kneeling in prayer? Let us adopt this beautiful posture in prayer for us and our children, thus offering this practice as a gift of spirituality for generations to come.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do we express our submission and surrender before God?
2. How do we come to God in prayer?

*Pray for:*

**College of Nursing**  
**College of Nursing Library**  
**Community Health Nursing**  
**Student Nurses Hostel**  
**Asha Kiran Hospital, Lamtaput.**



## Meditation of our Heart

## Psalm 1

**Key verse:** *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night".*  
*Psalm 1:2*

The Websters Dictionary defines 'meditation' as "to engage in thought or contemplate". 'Meditate' in Psalm 1 means to think about the instruction God has given for life and allow it to shape our thoughts and actions. It is to read and think the Word of God again and again, to the extent that it becomes a part of our life.

The happiness and the blessed state of the person who delights in the Word of God and meditates on it day and night is expressed here. This person is compared to a tree, which yields its fruit in season, whose leaves do not wither and who prospers in all that they do. Such person portrays stability and the capacity to withstand the storms of life.

He gets his life from an absolutely changeless source: God in His Word. Just as the life of the tree is dependent on the supply of water, so the spiritual life of this person is dependent on the abundant supply of the things of God. Out of the secret chamber of 'quiet meditation', this person brings revelation and strength for those around him. People who come in contact with him are refreshed and nourished. This is not a life free from troubles and pain, but it's a life that is deeply durable in the face of difficulties and hardships.

CMC has been able to stand the test of the times, because it was rooted in God's word and sought strength through prayer. The depth and solidity

of our walk with God depends on whether God's word is the fabric of our fellowship. Meditating on the Word of God should be the pleasure of the CMC community. May God help us to delight in his Word and stand firm in faith. Let every step and stop we take be aligned to the Word of God.

### **For reflection and discussion:**

1. What are the challenges of standing firm in the Word of God?
2. What are the benefits of being rooted in the Word of God?

*Pray for:*

**Biostatistics**

**Bioengineering**

**Anatomy**

**Physiology**

CSI Coimbatore Diocese,

*Hospital* : CSI Hospital, Erode.

Canadian Baptist Overseas Mission Board

Canadian Council of Churches,

Vellore - Ludhiana Committee.



## Purposeful Life

John 17:1-5

**Key verse:** “For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”. *Ephesians 2:10*

Towards the end of His life in this world, Jesus was seen lifting His eyes towards heaven praying to God the Father. He was very clear who He was and why He was sent to this world. Jesus identified Himself as the Son of God and the purpose of His life was to provide the way for salvation and eternal life. In John 3:16, it says, God the Father, loved the world so much to give His only Son, Jesus as a sacrifice for the redemption of the whole world. Jesus was confident that He finished the work entrusted to Him; thus bringing glory to Father God.

What are the parameters which determine successful living? Jeremiah was an Old Testament prophet who preached repentance to the nation of Judah. Though, in human eyes, he was not successful as people did not listen to him. However in God’s eyes, he fulfilled his life’s purpose by being obedient and faithful to God. Here are many examples we can see around us who led a life with purpose - Dr Ida Scudder, Mother Theresa, Graham Staines, and the list goes on. Rick Warren in his book ‘*The Purpose Driven Life*’ opines that ‘your life is not about you but it’s about God’ (Colossians 1:16). You were created to bring glory to God.

Have we ever thought of the purpose behind your life? A person’s identity should be that he/she is a child of God. God had kept every person in a specific time at a specific place with a specific

purpose to bring glory to his name. Our everyday living- the actions, words, thoughts and attitudes should all work towards this purpose. Our life is part of a bigger picture designed by God. God is a grand weaver who puts the life of His children together to weave a beautiful piece.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What is the chief end of human life?
2. How do we live with a purpose?

*Pray for:*

**General Superintendent’s Office**

**Personnel Office**

**Hospital Management Studies and Staff Training and Development**

**Hospital Annexe**

**Transport Department**

South East Asia Union of  
Mission of Seventh Day Adventists

*Hospital :* Penang Adventist Hospital,

Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital, Banepa,  
Nepal.

Baptist Missionary Society.



## God's Promise of Salvation

Romans 5:12-17

**Key verse:** *"For if by the trespass of one man death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ" Romans 5:17*

While moving to a new house a couple of years ago, I was looking for a Mover & Packer who had the reputation of consistently delivering valuable goods without any damage. Many came forward with huge promises but not all were known to keep them. The one we chose did the job but could not prevent damage to some glassware.

God has made a lot of promises in the Bible to prosper nations and individuals (Jeremiah 29.11). Unlike our poor experience with fellow beings, God has consistently delivered on all that he promised to us. Often when we wait expectantly on Him, it is largely to receive material blessings in the form of health, wealth and success. The Jews also misunderstood the Mission of the Lord Jesus thinking that the Messiah had come to fulfil the promise of giving them political freedom from the Roman rule.

The biggest of God's promises was to offer a way for man to restore his relationship with Him. It was impossible for man to get right with God on his own after the first fall in the Garden of Eden. A holy and just God cannot blink at sin and thus allow him to get away with it. The Bible reveals that if not for His infinite love, human race would have been wiped out in His holy wrath for all the wickedness that we have done (Ephesians. 2: 3-5).

The singular focus of Jesus Christ was to fulfil the promise of becoming the substitute for mankind and thus spare us from facing the wrath of God (Romans 4.25). There is no doubt that

God wants us to see man prosper in all areas of his life but it all begins with us receiving His supreme promise of our restoration (salvation).

How far or near are you from accepting the greatest of His promises – the offer of salvation and eternal life?

### **For reflection and discussion:**

1. What do you understand by the promise of eternal life?
2. When faced with challenges in life situations, do you struggle in believing that God is faithful to keep His promises? How can we learn to trust in His promises?

*Pray for:*



Chaldean Syrian Church of the East

*Hospital :* Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital, Trichur

Council of Christian Hospitals

Serango Christian Hospital

Christian Medical Centre Pithapuram

CBM Bethel Hospital, Vuyyuru

Star of Hope Hospital, Aikividu.

### **Palm Sunday Musicals**

## The House of Hope

## Psalm 130

**Key verse:** “...hope in the Lord, because with the Lord there is unfailing love” Psalm 130:8

In this psalm the writer speaks of crying to God for His forgiveness, and waiting and hoping for God. The writer cries out as he is in trouble — like being stuck in a big hole that you just cannot climb out of on your own. He asks that God will hear his cry. Then we are reminded that we have all sinned but God forgives us through Jesus.

In the second section we see the psalmist waiting for and hoping in God. The night watchmen would keep watch on a city - walking around the city walls - peering out into the darkness to make sure no-one would attack the city. In times of war this could be a frightening time, never knowing at what minute you might be attacked. They would not know until the very last minute since it is so dark. There were no electric lights to light up the outside areas! You wait for and hope for the sun to come and show what lies beyond the city wall. You know the sun will rise, it is a certain thing. And then you will return to the comfort of home to sleep.

Do we have the same hope in God as this psalmist? A hope that knows that God is seeing and hearing us. A certainty that God will look after us just as the sun will rise each day.

We often face difficult times. Our future is uncertain. Yet we know God loves us and has the future planned for us. Or maybe it has been a long and tiring time at work and all you want to do is to lie down and sleep. Yes we may grow tired. But we can put our hope in our God. We can rely on God. As Isaiah writes: “but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength”

Isaiah 40:31. Christ has given us hope as He has conquered sin and all the powers of the evil one through His death and resurrection. May we continue to build a house of Hope for many as we grow in Him.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Many of our patients come to us as they have hope that we can help them. They travel a long way, to somewhere with a different language, huge rambling buildings etc. We cannot be as reliable as God. So what can we do to make sure we always do our best? How can we encourage each other to “give of our best”?
2. What times or things do you find dark or difficult? What helps you to hope in God when things are difficult?

*Pray for:*

### **CHIPS**

**Community Health  
and Development**

**New Life Centre**

United Methodist Church of America

Voluntary Health Association of India

Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation  
Inc., USA.



## The Good and Faithful

Matthew 25:14-25

**Key verse:** "...well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness." Matthew 25:21.

The phrase "good and faithful" is a fine statement of commendation that can ever be given to a deserving employee from his or her superior. The "good" in the phrase suggests a quality that is notable and of high standard while the term "faithful" denotes steadfastness amidst all difficulties. Although these qualities are much desirable, there are not many people who are truly worthy of this phrase.

In the Bible passage for today, we read about a master who, before setting off on a journey to a distant land, calls his servants and entrusts them with his wealth. Each servant is given resources perhaps based on his track record. The duration of the master's absence is not specified except that it was long. This meant that the servants had to be prepared anytime for his return. The first two servants went about quickly into their tasks and eventually obtained a double measure on their investment. The third servant merely buried the amount of money assigned to him. On the master's return, the former two servants could confidently approach him and display the efforts of their labour. The third servant could only produce the original amount, possibly soiled by the dirt of the soil. His excuses reveal his laziness and lack of esteem for his master. The story ends by the master commending the former servants, entrusting them with more important responsibilities and inviting them to share in his success and joy. Sadly the lazy one is dismissed from service and there occurs a reallocation of resources.

What does this passage teach us? In life, not everyone gets similar talents and opportunities although all of us certainly do receive these in some measure. It is our responsibility to be faithful to our tasks unto their completion and sincerely offer our best efforts. There is surely a day of reckoning in which all our activities and services will be evaluated. We can be assured of appreciation and reward if we have done our duty with diligence. The many blessings we enjoy in our institution today are the results of the good and faithful service of those who preceded us. Now is our time and now is our moment. May we do our best and encourage others to do so.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do you make an audit of gifts and talents in your life?
2. How do you help yourself and others to be faithful in life?

Pray for:



### **Diagnostic Radiology and Imaging**

CNI Uttar Pradesh Regional Board of Health Services

*Hospital :* Christian Hospital, Kasganj,  
Memorial Hospital, Farrukhabad and others.

## Growing in the Vision

Mark 1:14-20

**Key verse:** “Where there is no vision, people perish” Proverbs 29:18

What makes us tick? What gives us the energy to do our work as we get up and go to our institution? What really motivates us to give our best to what we do, to go the extra mile and to be restful even in the midst of hard work?

A chat with a senior social worker recently brought out the issue of work-life balance. He mentioned that it should be seen as work-rest balance. We are all called to work and work is a good thing. But how can we be at rest, even in the midst of challenges and hard work? His explanation was that we are all blessed by God, to be a blessing to others. What we must understand is whom we are called to bless, and how we are to be a blessing. Each one of us is given an area of influence or a certain kind of work or a certain section of the society to be a blessing to. Our work, he said, should be seen as a tool to be used to be a blessing. Then it will not become a burden, but a blessing for us too.

This brings us to some foundational questions about Aunt Ida’s vision – “We are not building a medical college, but the Kingdom of God”. This perspective about our work is crucial for us to find meaning in the daily work that we do. For example we can see the work of cleaning the floor in different ways. It can be for the salary that is given at the end of the month and that of course is important. Or it could be for the patients and staff who use that area which has to be clean and the cleaning is done for the sake of the users and the department. Or it could be for the institution, “My work for CMC, which I will do well”. Again this is very important and will add to the fulfillment and joy of work. However, ultimately, the work of cleaning should be seen as part of the work of building the Kingdom of God. It is this perspective that will make our work a joy and a blessing, to us and to others.

There are two aspects to the vision and the broader picture of working in CMC. The first is a clear understanding of the vision of the founder and the mission statement of CMC- that we are involved in building the Kingdom of God and that our mission is to be a witness to the healing ministry of Christ. The second is an inner clarity of our role in this larger vision- where each one of us is called to be a blessing with our talents and work. It is this clarity of vision that will enable us to live as called people and to rest in our calling. The vision gives us freedom to say yes to what we should do and no to other things which might be good, but not the best for us. Proverbs 29:18 warns us of the danger of living without a vision. This is a reality for us as individuals and as an institution.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do you find energy and motivation for your work every day?
2. How do you have a vision beyond monetary benefits, which protect us from losing sight of the larger vision of CMC and make our work a blessing to others and to ourselves?

*Pray for:*

**Medical Superintendent’s Office**

**Private Consultation Office**

**Alpha Clinic**

**Main Hospital Extension Clinics (MAHE)**

CSI Jaffna Diocese

*Hospital :* Green Memorial Hospital, Manipal

CSI Tirunelveli Diocese

*Hospital :* CSI Jeyaraj Annapackiam Hospital, CSI Bellpains Indrani Chelladurai Mission Hospital, Palayamkottai and others.



## Let Peace Prevail

## Philippians 4:4-7

**Key verse:** “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:7

There is an often-quoted saying, “Peace is joy resting and joy is peace dancing.” In the same way, Aunt Ida’s prayer was for ‘gladness of heart’ and an ‘atmosphere of love rather than anxious striving.’ In this short passage from Paul’s letter to the Philippian church, we see that joy and peace should be part of daily experience.

However, the enemy of knowing joy and peace in the Lord is anxiety. It is very easy for us to become burdened with worry, particularly if we have many responsibilities. Yet this is not what God wants for us. Worrying is a sin! In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus teaches: “Do not worry about your life... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:25-27). Anxiety is as futile as it is harmful to our health.

Instead of worrying, we can pray “in every situation”. This means there is nothing too small to pray about and we can ask God for help for everything, our families, our work, our patients, our colleagues, our personal struggles. In short: worry about nothing, pray about everything. And we should remember to give thanks to God.

When we look back and see how he has helped us in the past, that also helps us to have confidence about our present difficulties. As we learn to pray and thank God in every situation, the promise we have is that peace will prevail, guarding our minds and our hearts.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Rejoice in the Lord! Are there ways in which we can experience more joy and peace in our every day life?
2. How can we remember to pray rather than worry?

*Pray for:*

**Dodd Memorial Library**

**Gault Library**

**Archives**

CSI Madras Diocese

CSI Kalyani Multi Speciality Hospital, Chennai

CSI Rainy Hospital

CSI Hospital, Ikkadu and Kancheepuram.



## Worship and Work

**Luke 10:38-42**

**Key verse:** “...Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her”. Luke 10:42

The service component of CMC is becoming busier by the day, with more patients from all over the country and abroad seeking help in the hospital. This has placed a strain on the systems as well as on personnel providing the care. Systems can be tweaked to improve output. However, the strain on manpower can have a telling effect. The brunt of the stress is felt on the junior rung staff with more and more instances of stress and burn out.

Mary and Martha represent restfulness and busyness respectively. They both loved Jesus, and on this occasion both were serving Him. However, Martha was unhappy with Mary's style of serving and considered that inferior to hers. Jesus did not look down on Martha for doing what she was doing. He only reminded Martha that what Mary was doing was important too.

This is very relevant to our context at CMC. Work and worship are important to fulfil our calling, and integral parts of our community life. Work and worship can be looked at with two lenses. One is when work **is** worship. The other is work **as** worship. When Work is worship we idolize our work and other aspects of life. Rest and recuperation is looked down upon. Work as

worship recognizes that work too is a mode of worship without looking down on rest and recuperation. Rest and recuperation is needed to recharge our bodies and minds. A balanced approach is crucial to prevent burnout and stress.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are your thoughts on work and worship? Do you agree with what has been suggested?
2. Discuss the issues of burnout and stress within the department and what steps can be taken to minimise this very real danger?

*Pray for:*



**Nursing Superintendent's Office**

**CSSD**

**Staff Nurses Hostel**

Christian Nurses League of CMAI

CMC Ludhiana, Punjab

CNI Nagpur Diocese

*Hospital* : Mure Memorial Hospital, Nagpur.

## Building Godly Families

## Psalm 128

**Key verse:** “But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord” Joshua 24:15

The first family was formed in the Garden of Eden by the Lord Himself (Genesis 2:18-25). The unit of family was intended by God to reflect the love of our Lord, in whose image we are made. Godly families build godly communities; godly communities form godly cities and nations! Satan was not happy with this idea and he cleverly deceived Eve and broke the first family. Even today Satan tries hard to break the unit of family through various deceptions.

The Psalmist describes the steps of building godly families in Psalms 127 and 128. There are three steps we need to take: (1) fear the Lord (2) follow His ways (3) be fruitful.

### 1. Fear the Lord (Psalm 128:1)

The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is to hate evil (Proverbs 8:13). It gives us wisdom and knowledge (Proverbs 1:7) to build our homes (Proverbs 9:1; 14:1), gives our children a refuge (Proverbs 14:26). In fearing the Lord we will not lack anything (Psalm 34:10) and we receive mercy (Luke 1:50; Psalm 103:17). So many times we miss out on all these blessings in our family because we do not take the first step - fear the Lord.

### 2. Follow His ways (Psalm 128:1)

Fear of the Lord leads us into obedience to walk in His ways. It indicates a continuous process. We are called to take up our cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). He assures us that his yoke is easy to bear (Matthew 11:30).

### 3. Be Fruitful (Psalm 1:3)

Following His ways will make us fruitful. If we abide in Him, we will bear fruits (John 15:5). God shows us that keeping His laws and trusting in Him will make us fruitful even when we go through a drought like situation (Psalm 1, Jeremiah 17:7,8).

There are many examples of godly families in the Bible and we have had wonderful examples in our institution also. As a larger family and as a community, it is expected of us to build families according to God's expectations. Are we ready to fear the Lord, follow His ways and be fruitful?

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are the major hurdles we face to build a godly family?
2. As a community, how do we fare with God's expectations as a family?

*Pray for:*

**Department of Medicine**

**Geriatric Medicine**

**Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology**

**Medical ICU and HDU**

**Clinical Epidemiology Unit**

**Acute Medicine**

CSI North Kerala Diocese

*Hospital :* CSI Mission Hospital, Codacal and others.



## Mindful of the Poor

## Deuteronomy 15:1-11

**Key verse:** “...I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.” Deuteronomy 15:11

It is hard to understand the purpose behind some of the detailed laws and regulations set out for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, but one thing comes through very strongly: people are important, no matter what their background. All members of the community (including foreigners who lived among them) should be respected and cared for. Each individual had a responsibility for the welfare of others, a duty to care for them. Deuteronomy 15 contains some of rules to protect those who have fallen on hard times. When forced to borrow money, they shouldn't have to live for evermore with the burden of debt on their shoulders. So every seventh year all debts would automatically be forgiven: “The Lord himself has declared the debt cancelled.” (v2). God's purpose was that “not one of your people will be poor” (v 4).

Deuteronomy 15 and many other parts of the Bible, show that God is very deeply concerned for the poor – some have even said that He has a “bias for the poor” - see for example Mary's song in Luke 1:47-55. In many places he calls us to be like Him in our attitudes and behavior (eg. “Set yourselves apart and be holy, because I am holy” Leviticus 11: 44). So we too should care about those in need.

Matthew 25:31- 46 tells us that God is not pleased with people who may be upright and law abiding, but who never lift a finger for those in need. It is not that the “goats” in the story did anything wrong. They are cast out because of their failure to actively help the vulnerable and they excluded strangers they came across. Sins of “omission” (not doing good) are just as serious as sins of

“commission” (doing bad things). In other words, we can't turn a blind eye – in Jesus' kingdom we are each our brother's keeper, and called to sacrificial service like the Samaritan who cared for the bleeding stranger, not deterred that he was from a different community.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Most of us will have seen people struggling with crushing debt, or even experienced it ourselves. Mention some of the effects of this on such people and their families. What have we done, or what could we do in such situations to help them?
2. Sadly medical emergencies are one of the chief causes of financial distress and debt. What more can we, as a hospital, do to reduce the impact of healthcare costs on those with fewer resources, and live out the words of our mission statement to have a “special concern for the disabled, disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable”?

*Pray for:*

**Clinical Haematology**

**Medical Oncology**

**Centre for Stem cell Research**

CSI Madhya – Kerala Diocese

*Hospital :* CSI Hospital, Pallom & Mallappally

CSI Madurai – Ramnad Diocese,

*Hospital:* CSI Christian Mission Hospital, Madurai.



## Serving the Great Physician

Luke 10:1-9

**Key verse:** *"The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go." Luke 10:1*

"My brother is into ministry since he's pastor of a church. I am working in a hospital, and I only do a little ministry on Sundays", said one church goer to another.

The word "ministry" refers to service to God. Unfortunately, the word has been associated only with the work done by priests, church workers and missionaries. Does it mean that the work done by other believers is not ministry? The hospital worker who is quoted above was probably under this impression and felt that his work in the hospital was not a service unto God.

Jesus did not see life in such separate compartments. He taught His disciples that life, work and service to God are indivisible. Jesus speaks to His friends in our Bible passage and calls them to be his witnesses to go to every place he himself would want to go.

In a town in France there is a church with a statue of Jesus which was broken during the war. The broken hands were intentionally not repaired and underneath the statue are written the words "we are the hands of Jesus."

Yes, Jesus wants to go into every corner of the world reaching out and bringing healing in all dimensions to a broken and sick world. He needs us to go into our own workplaces and be his hands and feet by serving others. In the hospital setting by serving others (our colleagues, students, patients) we are serving Him. We are all called to be full time ministers of God, in whichever profession we may be.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do we understand the meaning of the word 'Minister' in a world of power politics?
2. What motivates us in the service of the Great Physician?

*Pray for:*

**Dental and Oral Surgery**

**Kotagiri Medical Fellowship**

**Hospital, Kotagiri**

**CSI Medak Diocese**



## God's Creation

## Psalm 29

**Key verse:** "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name ..." Psalm. 29:2

In the movie, 'God's Not Dead', the class of Josh, the lead character, is asked to sign a declaration by their professor that 'God is Dead'. This was a precondition to pass their philosophy class. The whole film is centered on how Josh challenges his professor through a debate and gets the whole class including the professor to agree to the contrary.

It is true that in this postmodern era, human race has reached such heights of achievement in all frontiers that he finds it an insult to his intellectual capacity to believe in the existence of a superior being - God - who also happens to be his Creator. Contrast this attitude with that of King David, the mighty warrior of ancient Israel, who acknowledged the existence of God as a shepherd boy and later encouraged the people of his kingdom to fear and honour Him.

The Bible is centered on two major themes - God's revelation about Himself to humankind and the significance of man in the grand scheme of His creation. In Psalm 29, David is poetically describing the holiness of God and how the angels are giving the honour and reverence that is due His name. He also figuratively describes how the greatness of God is deeply imprinted in the elements of nature such that only a fool would deny His existence in spite of such overwhelming evidence to the contrary (Psalm 14:1).

The Scripture clearly tells us that we are all fallen beings who have deviated and gone away from the purpose for which God created us (Isaiah

53:6). We have defied Him through generations yet out of His deep love for humanity - the crown of His creation - we are offered a way to get right with Him (John. 3.16).

As we take this journey of life let us not miss out on finding the absolute truth - we are created in the image of an Omnipotent and loving God who is eagerly waiting for us to relate with Him. How do you respond to this invitation?

### For reflection and discussion:

1. A great number of people subscribe to the view that God is an ancient concept that does not have any relevance in the 21st century. What are your views?
2. What do you think are some of the negative effects that we face by taking God out of the equation?

*Pray for:*

**Laundry**

**Hospital Maintenance**

**College Maintenance**

**Security Services**

Baptist Church of Mizoram

*Hospital :* Christian Hospital, Serkawn

Christian Hospital, Lawngtlai, and others.



## Self Control and Wisdom for Living

James 3:7-18

**Key verse:** *"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self controlled so that you can pray." 1 Peter 4:7*

We depend upon the Wisdom of God for successful living. One way to measure our wisdom is through Self control. Self control and Willpower touches nearly all aspects of healthy living – a healthy diet, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, study, work and our use of resources are some examples. Self-control has become a topic, both for scientists interested in understanding the roots of human behavior and for practitioners who want to help people live healthier lives.

Human potential rises with the training of the mind. Social psychologists say that Willpower is "rediscovering the greatest human strength". This means that we have a much more productive mind if trained in the right way. The practical significance of this learning is enormous. Most of the problems that plague our society such as crime, domestic violence, prejudice, debt, educational failure, underperformance at work, lack of savings, failure to exercise etc. can often be due to failure in self control and lost determination.

There are around nine thousand staff working in our institution. Everyone is skilled and talented. Praise God for the gift of knowledge, skill and articulation which results in greater achievements. Thank God our Creator for designing our brain to have the ability to subdue our impulses in order to achieve long term effectiveness.

The Apostle James points out one example of self control - taming our tongue. Good use of tongue brings healing. A tongue that is not tamed brings disaster. If taming of tongue makes such a difference, we marvel at the highly positive outcome of a life of self control. It is so amazing to know that more than our strength, the Spirit of God enables us to achieve this, as self control is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23).

Guided by God's wisdom may we allow the Holy Spirit to take control over all aspects of our life. May this bring healing and joy in the lives of many.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Give examples of wisdom in practical life.
2. Share insights on self control that leads to maximum benefit of our community.

*Pray for:*

### **Endocrinology**

Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Assembly

*Hospital :* Gordon Roberts Hospital, Shillong,  
Norman Tunnel Hospital, Jowai.



## Value of Life

## Psalm 139:1-18

**Key verse:** “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” Psalm 139: 14

Two of the persistent questions we repeatedly ask are: “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” We can get answers for those questions through the above mentioned verse. Indeed, God created human beings in a special way from all the other creation; we are fearfully and wonderfully created. The unique characteristic of each human being is the reflection of being created “in His image.” Each of us reflects the very image of God. If we lose sight of the value placed on human life, we are susceptible to the temptation to destroy that life designed by God.

Life is sacred. Genesis 2:7 says, “The Lord God...breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.” We are created in the image of God and endowed with His very breath to live. That is sacred. When life is destroyed, we lose the impact of a life that could have enriched our lives and brought glory to God.

A college professor presented this challenging situation for his ethics class to consider. “A man has syphilis and his wife has tuberculosis. They have four children. One has died; the other three have terminal illnesses. The mother is pregnant again. What do you recommend?” The class voted to terminate the pregnancy. The professor explained that they had just killed Beethoven. (*HIS Magazine, February 1984*)

We are created to live. We may think that there is no meaning in life when we encounter hardships, sickness, disappointments and failures.

However, Psalm 139 vividly tells that our heavenly Father knows our life situation. God knows our heart, our fears and frustrations. He knows our past, present and our future. He will continue to guide every step of our life as we trust in Him.

God, the incredible Artisan who made us for Himself gave us personality, innate abilities, and spiritual gifts with a specific purpose to glorify Him. We are His treasured creation and He values us much. Let us enjoy our lives with an understanding of the value of our lives.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. “I am fearfully and wonderfully made” – Discuss
2. What hindrances do we have in understanding the value of our life?

*Pray for:*

**Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

**Gynaecologic Oncology**

**Reproductive Medicine Unit**

**Neonatology Unit**

Mennonite Medical Board of the Mennonite Church in India

*Hospital :* Dhamtari Christian Hospital, Chattisgarh.



## The God of Refugees

Genesis 16:7-15

**Key verses:** "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners..."  
Deuteronomy 10:18, 19

Hagar is an ill-treated Egyptian servant girl who has run away from home. Her name means 'flight'. Hagar's mistress Sarai used her as a surrogate mother so that Abram could have a son. However, once Hagar conceived, Sarai became jealous and mistreated her. Lost, despairing and alone, Hagar wanders in the desert with the baby. Today, hundreds of thousands of people are on the move, far from home and fearful for their lives. We may have met some of these people, or seen them on the news. And in some ways, Hagar's story is our own. When we face difficulties and ill-treatment, we want to run away.

The theme of refugees recurs throughout the Bible. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to wander for 40 years in the desert. Jesus was a refugee in Egypt, escaping Herod's massacre of infants. Refugees matter to God. In this passage, we learn that:

**God sees** the plight of refugees, their fear and suffering.

**God cares** about Hagar, even though she is a person of low social status, foreign nationality, and no fixed abode, a pregnant, unmarried woman with no protector.

**God has a plan** for Hagar and her unborn baby. He advises her what to do next, and reassures her about his concern for her.

**God acts** to protect Hagar and her son Ishmael and give them hope.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How might God's knowledge of and care for refugees change our approach to people we meet who are far from home and fearful?
2. God advises Hagar to return home, even though she must return to a difficult situation. Are there situations in our own work that we are trying to run away from? What can we learn from Hagar?

*Pray for:*

**Engineering**

**(Civil & Planning) Department**

**Mechanical Engineering**

**Electrical Department**

**Air Conditioning Engineering**

**Environmental Engineering**

**Electronic Engineering**

**Telephone Exchange**

CSI Rayalaseema Diocese

*Hospital* : CSI Arogyavaram Medical Centre,  
Madanapally,

MLL Hospital, Madanapally and others.



## Ministry of Reconciliation

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Key verse:** “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

The word reconciliation comes from Latin *reconciliare*, *re*=again, *conciliare*=to bring together, to unite. Reconciliation, a restoration or even a transformation toward an intended wholeness that comes with grace. Paul sees the work of Jesus Christ on the cross as a mandate for all the believers to share this good news. He defines it as a ministry of reconciliation.

In the chosen text, Paul mentions two things that are necessary to follow; namely, regeneration and reconciliation. Regeneration creates a new world in the soul when the old passes away and we are renewed to new principles, new rules, new ends, and in new company. God appointed the Mediator of reconciliation in Jesus Christ and has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ. The Cross is a bridge of reconciliation between us as humans and God.

As God is willing to be reconciled with us we need to be willing to reconcile with Him and with one another. As a community chosen by God for the ministry of healing, reconciliation is important as with it comes healing. Reconciliation brings change. A change from enmity to friendship, hatred to love and unforgiving spirit to forgiveness. As individuals and as a community, we need to work to accept

each other and be reconciled as Jesus Christ came to reconcile us with God. It is vital that as servants of Christ we need to embrace His teachings of love and reconciliation so that we become more effective in this ministry of healing.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are the factors that disrupt reconciliation between people?
2. How best can we be ambassadors for Christ in contributing to the ministry of reconciliation?

*Pray for:*

**Gastrointestinal Sciences  
Clinical Gastroenterology  
and Hepatology**

**Welcome Trust Research Laboratory  
Medical Genetics**

CSI South Kerala Diocese

*Hospital :* CSI Medical College and Hospital,  
Karakonam and others

Church Mission Society.



## Relevance of Faith in a Scientific World

Job 42:1-6

**Key verse:** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” Hebrews 11:1

In the scripture portion, God challenges Job to look at life differently. He is asking Job to trust God in times of confusions and times of clarity. Verse 2 says, “who is this that obscures My plans with words without knowledge?” God tells Job to brace himself like a man to answer the questions put forward by God.

God engages Job in a conversation that compels him to think about the wonder of the universe. God asks Job about the foundations, the function and vastness of the earth (Chapters 38-41). After Job listens to God he makes a confession: “Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know” (Job 42:3)

God was helping Job to have faith in Him at all times, particularly during difficult times. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). In our life, it is impossible to reason the existence of God as we try to look for God in the physical realm. We need to see God as a reference standard. He is the ultimate standard as in Him and through Him all things were made. The scientific community sometimes finds it hard to believe this reference point as they are unable to comprehend. St. Paul writes about this finding in I Corinthians 2:14 – “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

In order to quantify substances in the human body, we require a calibrated reference or

measurement tool which we consider as a standard. However, this measurement tool needs to be calibrated against a standard reference given by a national or an international authority. This states that there needs to be an authority which controls the reference standards globally. Anything referred to this standard is considered relevant by the scientific community and is accepted by researchers.

In the context of reference, the set standards vary time to time and is debatable as this is viewed in the physical realm. However, God’s reference standard is constant and can only be viewed through the eyes of faith. God’s standard is not debatable even if man doubts since man’s reasoning does not diminish or neutralize the existence of God. God is supreme and infinite.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What is the relevance of faith in a scientific community?
2. How do we continue to explore science and continue to grow in faith?

*Pray for:*

**Dietary**

**Dermatology**

Assemblies of God in North India

*Hospital :* Mission of Mercy  
Hospital and Research Centre, Kolkota.



## Facing a Crisis

## Exodus 14:5-18

**Key verse:** "Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today". Exodus 14:13

Crisis is part of human life. We do our best to find a way out during crisis times. In spite of our best efforts we face situations where we cannot do anything humanly possible to find a solution.

The people of Israel were faced with such a situation. Moses, their leader delivered them from the cruel hands of Pharaoh and was fleeing to the Promised Land. Pharaoh decided to chase them and bring them back to his fold again. By that time, the people of Israel reached the Red Sea. They were caught between the Sea and the army of Pharaoh.

God gave instruction to Moses to raise his staff and stretch forth his hand toward the sea. The water on both sides stood still as a huge wall. The people of Israel crossed over the sea through the dry land that appeared. The people of Israel safely reached the other shore and they began to thank God for the miraculous protection they experienced in their crisis (Exodus 15:1-21).

God is present with us to help us overcome crisis. God also uses us as instruments to provide miracles in other's lives, just as He used Moses.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Think of a situation where you were caught up between the 'sea and the devil'. What did you do and why?
2. How do you see the hand of God in every crisis?

*Pray for:*

**General Pathology**

**Forensic Medicine**

**Cytogenetics**

Council of Baptist Churches in North East India

*Hospital :* Satribari Christian Hospital, Guwahati

Johart Christian Medical Centre

Tura Christian Hospital

Evangelical Mission Hospital, Tilda

Christian Hospital, Berhampur and others.

Eastern Regional Board of Health Services

*Hospital :* Evangelical Hospital, Khariar,

Christian Hospital, Mungeli and others.

Friends of Vellore, U.K.



## Waiting Upon the Lord

## Psalm 46

**Key verse:** “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

Waiting is defined in the Webster dictionary as “to stay in a place in expectation of”. We all know what waiting means, experienced what it is like. Most relevant example is our patients waiting in OPD’s for meeting doctors, doing investigations etc.

It is easy to wait for something we know will have a tangible response, which we can see or feel or hear. But when we wait upon Almighty God to speak to us, it is possible to get discouraged very easily. In the book of Genesis chapter 40 we read about a man of God called Joseph. He waited upon God in all circumstances; good and bad, and the promise God made in Joseph’s life only came true after 15 years.

God is faithful. Psalm 46 explains to us that when the world is fading away and the earth is in turmoil we can have a strong refuge in God’s love and grace. Jesus waited upon the heavenly Father every day for his daily tasks (John 11:6, Luke 13:31-32).

Different situations in our personal, departmental, institutional life may be challenging

and difficult at times. But as Lord God encourages us to wait on him in faith, we come to know that he is God, and believe that he has the ultimate say in all matters of our life.

To quote Aunt Ida’s prayer “...in the sense of thy presence may I walk, through the hour’s of this day breathing the atmosphere of love rather than anxious striving.”

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do you think waiting upon God can reduce stress?
2. What are few ways we can practice to wait upon God in our work life?

*Pray for:*

**Nuclear Medicine**

**Neurological Sciences**

Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Hospital :* Christian Hospital, Nabarangpur and Bissamcuttack.



Word of Life

2 Timothy 3:10-17

**Key verse:** *“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

Many of us have probably had many opportunities to hear the Word of God being read or taught in various ways. Has this over-familiarity led to a state of complacency and sometimes even contempt and callousness?

Selwyn Hughes, in the ‘Everyday with Jesus’ writes about an incident. “Many years ago I used to get a little exasperated by a man who attended the church of which I was the pastor. After every service he would say: “I don’t see the point of all this preaching. You say the same things over and over again- Christ was born in Bethlehem, walked the earth, healed the sick, died on the cross, was resurrected and ascended to heaven, and is coming again. Aren’t there other things that you can talk about, such as the state of the world and feeding the poor? I knew my answers were not reaching him, but one night, as I was preaching on the cross, I saw the Holy Spirit gently lift the veil from his eyes and make known to him the wonders of Christ’s undying love. He came forward to the front of the church at the end and said “Now I know what it is all about. It is all about Christ giving Himself for me...for me”. How was that accomplished? The key element was the Spirit revealing the Word through human words. Through the written Word and by the spoken word, he saw the living Word.

So how can the Word touch us and transform us?

**a. Dwell in the Word.** Colossians 3:16 says “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all

wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God”. Unless, we internalize the Word, it cannot transform us.

**b. Yield to the Word.** Are we people who hinder the work of God in us and through us? Isaiah 55:11 says that the Lord sends His Word to accomplish His purposes and not return empty. If we are yielding, we are people who enable the Word to bring forth fruit. If our hearts are hard and unyielding, it will be like seed fallen on unprepared soil.

The Word of God invites us to grow as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ with far reaching impact.

**For reflection and discussion:**

1. As an individual and as a community, what hinders us from allowing the Word of God to dwell in us?
2. What are some of the things that can make us unfruitful?

*Pray for:*

**Clinical Microbiology**

**Clinical Virology**

CSI Vellore Diocese

*Hospital :* Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet and CSI Hospital, Vandavasi.

Council for World Mission.



## The Least of These

Matthew 25:31-40

**Key verse:** "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

This is the testimony of the founder of Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Gramma Pannai, more popularly known as MBKG Pannai, Kasam. Located about 12 km out of Vellore, this rural ambience has been an oft visited retreat spot for many of us. The story of the lady behind it is an inspiration.

Pauline King was a small town girl from rural Pennsylvania who literally changed the lives of thousands of the sick, abandoned, and forlorn in India, giving them dignity and hope in a world that had discarded them. Never married, Pauline adopted five children on her own and provided homes for hundreds more on the Family Village Farm near Vellore. The Farm, established by Pauline in 1969, gives orphans, widows, and elderly people the dignity of a clean home, education, and the ability to work to improve their lives. Everyone there called her, simply, "Mummy." The story of how she came to adopt these children is testament to the selfless assistance that she provided to others despite many obstacles.

Pauline worked for many years as a professor and public health nurse at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, and she managed the Family Village Farm until her retirement in 1988. In 1979, King was honored by India with the President's Award for meritorious service to the community, one of the highest honors bestowed to India's citizens.

A missionary and public health educator in post-war India, her philosophy was, "I may not be able to do much, but I can do something. And, if I do what I can, maybe others will help." It was with that thought in mind that she took in her first destitute family and began changing the lives of thousands without hope through the Family Village Farm. The Farm is designed to encompass all aspects of a child's life, including education. It's mission is "the translation of the love of God in action by providing a healthy environment in which the physically, socially and spiritually deprived may find new life and hope for the future". Her life and small initiatives continue to impact many lives even to this day.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are the lessons we learn from the life of Ms. Pauline King?
2. What are the similar initiatives we can think of as an institution?

Reference: <http://app.imcreator.com/static/B0FCC80352D345979E6EDD16F463597E/bio>

Pray for:

**ENT**

**Audio Vestibular Unit**

American Leprosy Mission

Hospital : SLR&TC, Karigiri and others.



## The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

**Key verse:** “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5.

This passage referred to as ‘the beatitudes’ has the Kingdom of God as the dominant theme. It is interesting that each of the 8 beatitudes starts with certain blessing (an enviable state of happiness; with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favour and salvation, regardless of their outward condition) spoken of by the Lord Jesus. However each of these beatitudes progress to identify a certain need / vulnerability of humanity that each of us needs to address and meet, by handing over control to God. This is where we run into problems; for how can we establish a kingdom by handing over control of our very self...The beatitudes gives us security, because it transforms our vulnerable perspective, from that which is passing and temporary, to a lasting identity as a child of God, our heavenly Father.

It is certain that our beloved Founder Dr. Ida S Scudder had caught a glimpse of this when she at one point stated; that she was not building a medical college at Vellore but establishing the Kingdom of God. This profound statement conveys that Dr. Ida had caught a glimpse of the eternal in her earthly pursuit, amidst the nitty gritty and the uncertainties of running her little medical school.

Today, CMC stands testimony primarily to the faithfulness of God our Father and the obedience of Dr. Ida and numerous others who chose, to follow through on the principles enshrined in our biblical text. Over time, mission drift sets in any

organisation unless the original intent is revisited. 118 years later, we in CMC would do well to examine ourselves.

Centuries later, ‘The beatitudes’ beckons us to ‘be-at it’; persevering, to keep to the original intent of our existence!

### **For reflection and discussion:**

1. How do we experience the ‘blessedness’ as mentioned in the beatitudes?
2. What is the relevance of the radical teachings of Jesus in our society today?

*Pray for:*

### **Nephrology and AK Lab**

Emmanuel Hospital Association

*Hospital :* The Duncan Hospital, Raxaul

Makunda Christian Hospital

Herbetpur Christian Hospital

Prem Jyoti Community Hospital

Chinchpada Christian Hospital

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh

*Hospital :* Padhar Hospital, Betul and others.



## Nation Building

## 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

**Key verses:** “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire... Test everything, hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil” 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Nation building in the modern context is an important issue as new nations born in the post-colonial world struggle to bring heterogeneous ethnic, linguistic and religious groups together to form a national identity and remain politically stable and viable. Unfortunately several new countries passed from the euphoria of independence to the dismay of a failed state caused by vain leaders and corrupt governments pandering to the greed of a privileged class, unable to hold together diverse groups or encourage development for the masses.

Let us examine the biblical context as God promised the descendants of Abraham to make them a great nation. It started with the people getting into a **right relationship with God** albeit slowly and falteringly. God laid down the principles of right behaviour in the Ten Commandments and a host of laws emphasizing that discipline of the individual is the core of a good society and successful nation. It then required **good leadership** by able people, fearing God, following truth and not seeking personal gain. (Exodus 18:21, Deuteronomy 17:14-20). The third requirement is **right education** for its citizens built on fundamental truths and values. The Bible points out that the goals of education should be to gain useful knowledge to serve others (Mathew 20: 26-28), grow in wisdom (Proverbs 4:7) and develop the mind and

character of God (Philippians 2:5-11). Then we will be able to test and prove what is really true (1 Thessalonians 5:21) akin to the scientific approach.

Let us reflect on our role in the modern social and work environment of the country; harmony with our fellow citizens of diverse ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds, our relationship with God, good leadership by God’s standards and the right education for our young citizens.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What is CMC’s role in nation building?
2. How best can I prepare myself to contribute to the building of my nation?

*Pray for:*

**Physical Medicine  
and Rehabilitation**

**Rehabilitation Institute**

Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Hospital :* St. Joseph Eye Hospital,  
Trichy and others.

Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church

India Evangelical Lutheran Church.



## Honor God

1 Samuel 2:1-10

**Key verse:** "...those who honor me, I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained"  
1 Samuel 2:30

It was the Olympics of 1924. England's Eric Liddell was to run the 400 meter race but he wasn't a 400 meter runner. He was Scotland's fastest 100 meter sprinter. He was an all time favourite to win the 100 meter in the Olympics. There was only one problem, the finals for the 100 meter was scheduled on a Sunday. Eric could not run on the Sabbath- Eric said he would not run. The entire nation was in uproar.

With the Olympics just around the corner, he decided to run the 400 meter on the Monday. It is not an easy run for a 100 meter sprinter to run well in 400 meter race let alone get a medal. But after running not one but two races that very day, Eric ran the 400 meter final. Everyone expected him to tire, but he just kept going. He went on to win and even set a new world record. He said "God has made me fast and I feel his pleasure as I run". Was it Eric's strength that got him the gold? We can only imagine a still small voice saying "Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit".

The Bible has many examples- the old Abraham, the fleeing Jacob, the youngest Joseph, the stammering Moses, the praying Hannah, the shepherd boy David, the denying Peter, the doubtful Thomas, the persecuting Paul- the list goes on but one thing seems to remain constant through it all. Those who honor God, God will honor them and He gives them power and strength to accomplish His tasks.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do we honor God as individuals and as an institution?
2. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (Exodus 20:8). Discuss.

*Pray for:*



**Principal's Office**

**Medical Students**

**Allied Health Students**

**Men's Hostel, Women's Hostel**

**DJ Hostel, Fitch Hostel**

**CMC Alumni Association**

**Registrar's Office**

**Medical Education Department**

**Continuing Medical Education**

**Bioethics**

**Distance Education**

**Inter Ashram Fellowship**

*Hospital :* Christian Fellowship Hospital, Oddanchatram and Ambilikai

Christian Fellowship Hospital, Rajnandgaon and Khariar Road.

Bishop Walsh Memorial Hospital, Tadakam.

## Carry Each Other's Burden

Galatians 6:1-10

**Key verse:** "Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2

A common reason of stress in the novice is inadequacy. The inadequacy is because of the fear that they may not be found wanting compared with their peers. The experienced often have to work harder to compensate. Some resent it and make life miserable for the novice who is plagued by their inadequacies.

Here Paul invites the strong to introspect and check within themselves and against what they have received; not compare with another person with different abilities and gifts. He invites us to carry each other's burden.

Jesus teaches us **how to** carry each other's burden in Matthew 11:29,30. A farmer often yokes a seasoned ox with a young one until the rookie learns the ropes. The seasoned ox literally pulls all the weight until the young learns to carry its load. Jesus invited us to take His yoke and learn from him.

Jesus also teaches us **the attitude** while doing so. He calls us to be gentle, meek, mild and humble in heart, not by lording it over the weaker person. Walking alongside, the young ox learns over a period to carry the load along with the seasoned ox.

Jesus carried our burdens of sin, guilt and shame on the cross when He died for us. He carried it on our behalf. He has set the example of how we need to carry each other's burden.

While excellent care is our mission, unless we acknowledge our inadequacies and ask for help from others we can never move forward. How we treat others determines what we receive in our times of need. What we sow we will reap.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do we carry each other's burden in our homes, work place and society? What are the justifications we make for not carrying other's burden?
2. Do we ask for help when we feel inadequate? What keeps us from acknowledging our weakness?

*Pray for:*

**Ophthalmology**

**Low Cost Effective Care Unit**

**Family Medicine**

**Shalom Family Medicine Centre**

Van Allen Hospital, Kodaikanal

International Service Fellowship (Interserve)

Christoffel Blinden Mission



## Generosity

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**Key verse:** “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Apostle Paul writes in Romans 12:6-8, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully”

Each of us has something to offer. We can give our money and our time to charity; be a friend to someone who is sick or lonely, do volunteer work, or be a peacemaker, teacher or minister. We may give unselfishly of our time to our family, or our patients in the hospital or colleagues at work. We may choose a service-oriented occupation, or we may just do our everyday jobs with integrity and respect for others. In all these things, there are opportunities to give generously and to serve others.

There is often the belief that when we give something that belongs to us, we have less of what we have given out. For example if we have one hundred rupees and we give fifty rupees away, we naturally have less with us. This is true from a monetary perspective. However from a Biblical perspective of giving, there are two dimensions to giving. First, when we are generous and give to the least of our brethren, we give unto God (Mathew 25:40) who is our creator and our preserver, who is worthy of all that we have, particularly the first fruits (Proverbs 3: 9). Second, God is not a debtor (Hebrews 6:10), he gives back to us, beyond measure what we have given to Him (Luke 6:38).

There are some cautions on giving. What and ‘how we offer’ to God and to His people is important. Remember that Abel’s offering was preferred by God rather than Cain’s. God expects us to ‘give the best’ for his purposes. The Israelites were called to dedicate their first born to the work of the kingdom of God. Finally God does not appreciate a public display of such generosity; let your ‘giving be in secret’ and God will reward you openly (Mathew 6: 3-4).

Generosity can be summed up in the words of John Wesley, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can”. “For no one has ever become poor by giving” (Anne Frank).

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How often have we consciously said, “What can I give to our God, our institution and to our fellow workers?” rather than saying, “What can I receive?”
2. What are the things that we can generously offer to God and people?

Pray for:

**Orthopaedics**

**Hand and**

**Leprosy Reconstructive Surgery**

Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

Hospital : MBM Mission Hospital,  
Kothamangalam

St. Mary’s Hospital, Manarcadu

Christian Charitable Mission Hospital,  
Manganam and others.



## The Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:10-15,31,32

**Key verse:** “Seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness...” Mathew 6:33

How did the one bed clinic started in 1900 by a 30-year-old, foreign, single woman called Ida Scudder grow today into CMC Vellore that serves about 25 lakh patients annually? The answer is obtained by understanding the principle of the power that is packed in a tiny seed.

Jesus was talking to Jewish people who have been eagerly waiting for the arrival of the promised Messiah. Though the seed of the orchid shrub is the smallest of the seeds, Jesus spoke of the mustard seed since it was the smallest of the seeds familiar to his audience. When Jesus said that the Kingdom is like a small grain of mustard, His listeners would have been shocked as they were dreaming of a King with a mighty army to establish the Messiah’s Kingdom. His listeners would have also been doubtful about how it was possible for birds to find rest or build nest in the delicate branches of the mustard shrub. But Jesus used the parable for two reasons: to reveal the mystery of the Kingdom of God to those who believed in him, and to hide it from those who did not believe (v 13).

The seed refers to the Word of God and the Kingdom of God is established in our hearts as we listen to the Word, repent of our sins and enthrone Jesus as the King of our lives. We live

in a world where small things are despised but God’s Kingdom is not built using resources like money and power but by His Word. Everyone is welcome to be citizens of Jesus’ Kingdom irrespective of their educational, financial, cultural or social status. As we live according to Jesus’ words, our lives will bring healing and reconciliation to those who are around us. It is impossible by ourselves but possible with God.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Share examples of the mustard seed in your life and ministry.
2. How do we continue to sow mustard seeds?

*Pray for:*

**Hospital Choir**

**College Choir**

Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Washim

Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Churches

Reformed Church in America

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



## From Mammon to God

Matthew 6:19-24

**Key verse:** "...You cannot serve both God and Money." Matthew 6:24

We are all governed by certain 'guiding principles' in our lives that influence and shape the way we think, act and perceive the world around us. We are often aware of these influences as we carefully consider the various implications of important decisions that we make. However, they also affect us when we are not consciously thinking of these principles because they are at the core of the fabric of what we are made of, our conscience, personality, outlook and attitude.

'The eye is the lamp of the body' and the reference to the 'health of the eye' which leads to 'light' in Matthew's gospel illustrates how our eyes, i.e. what we see and how we see, determines our whole selves and our behaviour.

'You cannot serve God and wealth'. If 'wealth' is the guiding principle of one's life, the eyes with which one perceives and responds to the world, s/he will organize, prioritize and live life in a certain way. But if we shape our vision through God's eyes, God's vision for ourselves and for the world then we see opportunities for God's compassion to flow. Not only we ourselves, but the world around us will be guided to live in the light.

In a world where competitiveness is the norm and one is almost forced to see oneself over others, it is hard not to think of life without being guided by success, fame and wealth. At the centre of all these is 'the self' and they lead to service to ourselves. The challenge is to rise above these popular and seemingly acceptable principles and to ask ourselves constantly: 'am I seeing my life, the world and specific situations through God's vision for me and for the world'.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How do we have a right perspective about money?
2. What makes us good stewards of money?

*Pray for:*

**Pharmacy Service**

**Pharmacology**

**Clinical Pharmacology**

Poona Christian Medical Association

*Hospital* : N.M.Wadia Hospital, Pune

Jalna Mission Hospital, Jalna and others.



## Laborers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16

**Key verse :** “And so it is, that many who are first now will be last then; and those who are last now will be first.” Matthew 20:16

“That’s not fair”- This is a common phrase that all of us have used at some time to express distress over a sense of inequality, either during patient care or within our workplace. The only problem with this sentiment is that this sense of fairness tends to be somewhat ego-centric. We tend to measure fairness in terms of our own wants, hopes and expectations, often with secondary regard for the wants and needs of others.

The labourers were chosen at different times of the day. No doubt, those chosen last were pleasantly surprised by their good fortune when they received a full day’s wage for an hour of work. This was not because they hadn’t wanted to work all day (Matthew 20:7). After all, they’d been there like the others but they had been passed over until right near the end. The labourers who worked from the morning were also given what they had been promised by the landowner – a full day’s wages. In reply to their anger, they were told that nothing unfair had been done as they were given their due.

From this passage, we learn that it is common for us to assess our lives not through the abundance we have been given by God but instead by what we feel we still lack. Jesus tells this parable to illustrate the hardness of heart with which those who deemed themselves righteous considered those who were not, begrudging them the grace and mercy of God and the attention of God’s Son.

This parable lays a choice before each and all of us. When we look at our lives and our workplaces, do we count our blessings or our misfortunes? Do we look to others in solidarity and compassion or see them only as competition? While we accept God’s gracious benefits towards us, let us also acknowledge God’s generous acceptance of others. It would help to remember that it is difficult to be grateful and envious at the same time.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Have you been in a situation which you thought was unfair? Please reflect on how you felt at that time.
2. How can we encourage each other and ourselves to be generous in thought and spirit in the workplace?

*Pray for:*

**Staff and Students’ Health Service**

**Outpatient Service**

**Medical Records Department**

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Catholicate of the East

Hospital : M.O.S.C Medical Mission Hospital, Kolencherry and others.



## Care for the Elderly

Isaiah 46:3-5

**Key verse:** “Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who sustain you...” Isaiah 46:4

Old age is an integral part of human life. It is an unavoidable, natural and inevitable process. For some it is an unwelcomed, problem ridden or declining phase of life. Others see this period as the winter / autumn of one’s life. It is interesting that everyone wants to live a long life but not to be old. Old age marks life with wisdom and respect.

Life is often about being cared for. Taking care of the elderly can be difficult as they go through physical, emotional and spiritual problems which requires lot of care. Every person needs love; no matter how old we are, who we have become, who we are with or what we do.

Most people take care of the elderly, because they don’t have any other option. Caring for the elderly requires patience, empathy and understanding. It is our responsibility with kindness that moves us to take care of them. The elderly teach us wisdom, respect, perseverance, long suffering and wisdom. By being with them and caring for them we establish relationships and growth. The little things that we learn through caring strengthens us and help us to live life in fulfillment and satisfaction.

Isaiah 43:4 clearly indicates God’s care for the elderly. He is an unchanging God, whom everyone can trust without age restrictions. In Psalm 92:12 it is said that the righteous will flourish like a palm tree and they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon ...they will still bear fruit in old age. Here, old age is seen as a time of wellness and productivity.

One of the Ten Commandments is to honor our father and mother. May the care for the elderly bring healing and wholeness among the elderly. Moreover, those who care for the elderly need not fear that they themselves will be abandoned in their later years. God’s Word assures us: “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25).

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What do we learn from the elderly?
2. How do we share the love of God to the elderly?

Pray for:



The Salvation Army India South Western Territory

The Salvation Army India Western Territory

*Hospital* : Evangeline Booth Hospital, Ahmednagar

The Salvation Army India South Eastern Territory

*Hospital* : Catherine Booth Hospital, Negercoil.

## Jars of Clay

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

**Key verse:** *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7*

Valued and cherished objects have a special place in the house. They are kept away from public eye or displayed appropriately depending on their value. Does the object or box in which it is stored become more precious than the treasure it holds? A water tank is not of much value without water in the dry season.

We are held together by a scaffolding or framework of bones, filled in with flesh. Each of us knows that we are mortal — prone to injury, hurt, failures, illness, decay. Yet into this fragile framework God chooses to impart life - not just the ability to breathe, grow, move, think, plan, reason and learn but also wisdom to make choices, a capacity to love, forgive, hope, trust, encourage and many such things that cannot be measured easily.

The Bible talks of the knowledge of Jesus being a treasure (Matthew 13:44). This treasure is put into earthen jars (us) so that "the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." Let us therefore recognize that our excellence and skill is limited unless empowered by God himself.

When a potter works at a lump of clay, the clay can be skillfully crafted into useful, elegant pots. The treasure within the pots transforms its value

and use. Let us be mindful about what treasure we store in ourselves. When we are "hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down" or in any situation that is overwhelming, whatever is within us comes out into the open just like squeezing a tube of toothpaste brings out the paste. May people see the treasure of Christ in us when we are cracked, broken, pressured or struck down. Let it be a display of God's splendor, knowledge, excellence, wisdom, counsel, compassion, strength as against our abilities or personalities.

### **For reflection and discussion:**

1. What are my treasures?
2. How do they influence my everyday living?

*Pray for:*

**Transfusion Medicine and  
Immunohaematology**

National Council of Churches in India

North Bank Baptist Christian Association

*Hospital* : Baptist Christian Hospital, Tezpur.



## Person of Prayer and Action

## Nehemiah 2:1-18

**Key verse:** “When I heard these words, I sat down and cried. I spent the time in prayer to the God of Heaven.” Nehemiah 1: 4

The Book of Nehemiah is a rich store house of scriptural and practical insights on leadership, teamwork, prayer, handling opposition etc. Many lessons can be learned about Nehemiah as a man of prayer and action by from this book. The above passage speaks about the sensitive mindset of a man who was a captive and a cupbearer for the King. Yet he was willing to build the broken walls of Jerusalem through prayer and collective action.

Nehemiah teaches us vital principles on prayer and action:

- Never give up on prayer – No situation is too bad for God to interfere and handle. Nehemiah prayed with fasting and weeping for four months (1:4, 6, 7)
- Wait on the Lord; Don’t rush–Be Still and know that God is God (v:1)
- Remind yourself of God’s promises and claim them. (1:5,8)
- Confess your sins before claiming victory (1: 7)
- Honoring God should be the motive behind claiming victory. (1:11)
- Kneel before the Almighty before you bow before any earthly Kings (1:11)

Having done all, the Scripture tells us to stand; because your answer is on the way. “God always answers our prayers, sometimes it is yes, sometimes it is no, and sometimes it is wait”, says A.W. Tozer.

Nehemiah teaches us another lesson in faith. Faith without action is futile. Having found favor in the sight of God and the King, he plunged into action. He was so natural in assuming the leadership in rebuilding the ruins. He planned the strategy, ordered for the necessities and marched forward in faith. Prayer is needed but God is looking for people who will move out in faith. If prayer is the source of strength it has to flow through your actions. However large may be the extent of the broken walls, let us rise up and start to rebuilding it. God will strengthen our hands as we pray and participate in the work of God’s Kingdom.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How can the broken walls be built in families, churches and institutions?
2. What are the hurdles that prevent you from getting into action?

*Pray for:*

**Psychiatry**

**Radiotherapy**

**Palliative Care**

Marthoma Syrian Church of Malabar

*Hospital* : Fellowship Mission Hospital, Kumbanad

Marthoma Mission Hospital, Chungathara and Kattanam.



## Togetherness

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

**Key verse:** “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:4

There is an Irish Proverb which says “In our togetherness (as a team), castles are built.” This proverb helps us to understand the power of togetherness.

Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian Church to confront them and correct them with matters of disunity, sexual immorality, jealousy and immaturity. The church is composed of many types of people from a variety of backgrounds with a multitude of gifts and abilities. It is easy for these differences to divide people; as was the case in Corinth. But despite the differences, all believers have one thing in common- faith in Christ. On this essential truth the church finds unity. As an institution, we may have different interests and gifts, but we have a common vision and goal.

Paul compares the body of Christ to a human body. Each part has a specific function that is necessary to the body as a whole. The parts are different for a purpose and in their differences they must work together. Instead of comparing ourselves to one another, we should use our different gifts, together, to fulfil the motto of the institution, ‘not to be ministered unto, but to minister’.

Using the analogy of the body, Paul emphasizes the importance of each member. If a seemingly insignificant part is taken away, the whole body becomes less effective. If I think that my gift is

more important than someone else, then this will be an expression of spiritual pride. We should not look down on those who seem unimportant, and we should not be jealous of others who have impressive gifts. Instead, we should use the gifts we have been given and encourage others to use theirs. If we don’t, the members working in an institution will be less effective. We are called to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. God gives gifts that make members different in their function, but not independent. How important it is to depend upon God and each other?
2. Share an incident about how togetherness made a difference in your work-place.

*Pray for:*

**Division of Surgery**

**Endocrine Surgery**

Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod

*Hospital :* Synod Hospital, Durtlang, Mizoram

Marathi Mission

*Hospital :* Fairbank James Friendship Memorial Hospital, Vadala Mission and others.



## Thankfulness

Luke 17:11-19

**Key verse:** “Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” Psalm 103:2

Charles Spurgeon said, “we write our blessing in the sand, and we engrave our complaints in the marble”. The above Bible passage tells us about 10 lepers approaching Jesus outside a village, loudly pleading with Him to heal them. He restored them all to perfect health. But only one came back and thanked Jesus. All the rest left without a word; their minds were preoccupied only with themselves.

This story teaches us about the importance of thankfulness towards God. The first step in giving thanks is remembering and recognizing the blessings. The man who returned to Jesus Christ remembered to thank Jesus for the healing received. Verse 15 says “He saw that he was healed.” He knew a great blessing had taken place in his life. The old hymn says, “Count Your Blessings.” But too many focus their attention on their burdens, rather than their blessings. Some of us can see no blue in the sky if a small cloud appears. Human memory is selective – we tend to remember only the negatives, not the positives.

There is an old Chinese proverb that says: “When you drink from the well, remember the spring.” Leslie Flynn tells the story of a farmer who was sitting on the porch with his wife. He was beginning to realize how much she meant to him in forty-two years of living together. One day as they sat together, he said, “Dear, you’ve been such a wonderful woman that there are times I can hardly keep from telling you.” Remember

that all that we have, all that we are, and all that we will ever need, God provides without fail. God is everything in our life. Thanksgiving begins with remembering from whom it all comes. Psalm 34:1 says I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. Therefore, we are called to realize the great blessing in our life and acknowledge gratitude to our God. It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are the reasons for not being thankful?
2. How do we cultivate a culture of thankfulness?

*Pray for:*

**Purchase**

**Stores**

**CRS**

Southern Asia Division of Seventh day Adventists

*Hospital* : Aizawl Adventist Hospital

Pune Adventist Hospital

Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital, Punjab

SDA Medical Centre, Bengaluru and others

General Conference of Seventh Day Adventist, USA.



## A Call to Persevere

Matthew 5:43-48

**Key verse:** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Think about a 6 year old boy whose heart was broken when he was told by a store owner that he could no longer play with his dearest friend. The year was 1935 and the problem of racism against African Americans was wide spread in America. This boy was Martin Luther King Jr. He grew increasingly depressed and resentful of his white neighbor. Yet his father admonished him, “we must never hate our white brothers, we must love them.”

Early in his life he received the call to serve God. He entered the seminary and became a minister of Christ. His heart was restless for the plight of his fellow men. Thus he became a bold and fearless civil rights activist who did not believe in violent bloodshed but felt that Christ’s love could win over hatred and darkness. He expressed eloquently the principles of freedom, justice and equality. On the day before he was assassinated he said in his famous speech, “I don’t know what will happen now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead. Like anybody, I would like to live long life. But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will.”

What made Martin Luther King Jr., to persevere against all odds?

### 1. Fear of God

It is not the fear toward a God who is a tyrant Master waiting to punish us, but a deep reverential respect toward a loving and patient God. We all ought to demonstrate the right attitudes and accountability towards such a great God. We want to do what is right because we love Him and because He loves us! We want to give Him our BEST!

### 2. Obedience

Jesus was obedient to the heavenly Father by the things he suffered (Hebrews 5:8) - even to the point of death on the cross. If the Son of God was so obedient then how much more must we also be? Martin Luther’s obedience to God paved the way for freedom and equality of rights for the African Americans today.

### 3. Love

Despite all the injustices they had experienced, Martin Luther’s parents always told him to show Christ’s way – to love the white man. Jesus told: “Love your enemies and pray for them”. Martin Luther realized that God’s love for him was everlasting. There are no words to describe the relentless and persevering nature of Martin Luther King Jr. He was passionate about God’s purposes in his life especially for the cause of the mistreated people.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How did Martin Luther Jr. persevere in his life?
2. In what ways do we persevere in our call?

Pray for:

**Paediatric Surgery**

International Mission Board,  
Southern Baptist Convention

*Hospital* : Bangalore Baptist Hospital.



## Children - The Heritage of the Lord

Psalm 127:1-5

**Key verse:** "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it"  
Proverbs 22:6

The Bible says that children are the heritage of the Lord given to the parents. When a mother conceives a baby it is seen as a blessing or a reward from God. The term reward is used in a sense that the one who receives is so blessed. But it does not mean that they are worthy to receive the blessing. Looking from the biblical perspective, every blessing was through the grace of God. Even this blessing of children is also a part of grace from God. If given by grace, shouldn't it be received with responsibility and respect?

Jesus said: "Let the children come to me". Jesus recognized the value of children and teaches us to learn from them. Unless one becomes like a child he shall not inherit the Kingdom of God". We are also given responsibility to train them in the fear of God. When God led the Israelites out of bondage, He commanded them to teach their children all He had done for them. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). He desired that the generations to come would continue to uphold all His commands. When one generation fails to instill God's laws

in the next, a society quickly declines. That is why Proverbs 22:6 says the importance of training our children at an early age so that they will know how to face even in the older age. So let us do our God given responsibility to train our children in the ways of God.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What do we understand by the invitation of Jesus to the children?
2. What do we have to offer to our younger generations?

*Pray for:*

**Paediatrics**

**Developmental Paediatrics**

United Mission to Nepal

*Hospital :* United Mission Hospital, Tansen and Okhaldhunga Community Hospital.



## From Self-harm to Life in Abundance

John 10:1-10

**Key verse:** *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10*

India is in crisis! According to the 2016 Global Burden of Disease statistics, deliberate self-harm (DSH) is the number two cause of death after ischemic heart disease for our most productive age group of 15-49 year olds. It is the number one cause of death for women in this age group! In 2016, 837 patients were admitted to our casualty at CMC with the diagnosis of DSH. That is an average of 16 patients per week.

The world is in crisis! Deliberate self-harm is the number one cause of death for this same age group in the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Finland, Greenland, Sweden, Switzerland, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and more!

Self-harm breeds in despair. It may be brought on by relationship issues, economic difficulties, unrealistic expectations, the sense of pressure to perform, loneliness, and physical and mental illness. Ultimately the individual has a feeling of being boxed-in, a sense of hopeless despair and/or a loss of meaning, purpose, or sense of being valued. The individual is enveloped in darkness.

What can we do to make a difference in the lives of people who are contemplating self-harm, have attempted self-harm, or the family members of those who have succeeded in self-harm? Despair is like poison. Fortunately, there is an antidote to this poison - Hope! We have hope because Christ has conquered the world and its powers of darkness.

Perhaps the patients who present to us in our hospital are here for a divine encounter – an

opportunity to meet the Great Health-giver through His agents of hope – you and me. Like Jesus, we need to show love and not a judgmental attitude. Our care, demonstrated by a look of compassion and interest, a listening ear, an encouraging word, a gentle touch, and a point toward the Source of strength and healing. It will give the patient an opportunity to move toward wholeness of Spirit and body.

We also need to be honest. We are not immune from feeling so bad at times that we may want to cause ourselves harm. Moses, Elijah, and Jonah asked God to kill them when they were in despair. When you start to feel discouraged, for whatever reason, read the book of Ecclesiastes, written by a discouraged King Solomon. This book doesn't run away from the issues. Instead it points us to Hope. Then read the book of John. There you will find the one who wants to bring hope to all.

### **For reflection and discussion:**

1. Why do people attempt self harm?
2. Christ promises life in abundance to all. Share about the possibility of a '30 second intervention' that point a person contemplating self harm to the source of Life.

*Pray for:*

### **Urology**

The Leprosy Mission

*Hospital :* TLM Hospitals, Chandkhuri, Faizabad, Naini, Purulia, Kothara and others.



## Noah: Grace Alone

## Genesis 6:8-21

**Key verse:** “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.” Genesis 6:9

Most of us will have heard the story of Noah; a man found righteous before God and asked to build an ark, fill it with every kind of animal and live on it while the earth was flooded for 40 days and 40 nights. Imagine being chosen as the only righteous man in all the earth!

In the face of likely opposition and mockery from his neighbours, “Noah did everything just as God commanded him” (Genesis 6:22). Noah was completely obedient to God’s calling and fulfilled each of the Lord’s commands. Then, after roughly 360 days on the ark, his first response was to praise God. God blessed him and a covenant was established for all the generations to come.

Everything seemed to be going so well! Then we read in chapter 9:20-21 that Noah became too comfortable. Perhaps he began to take life too much for granted and stopped looking to God for guidance and satisfaction. He gave into temptation, drinking the wine he had made and he became drunk. In contrast to the rest of the story, this act seems out of character for Noah but it shows that Noah was human just like all of us and but by the grace of God was he chosen.

Let us check our walk with God. Proverbs 16:18 says that pride goes before destruction. Do we take too much pride in our work and in our personal lives and not depend upon God? Do we succumb to lying (Proverbs 12:22) - telling our boss we have completed something we have not? Do we cheat

our patients out of the time they have paid? Do we show favoritism to our friends or those who are more important (James 2:9)? Do we realize that we are entirely dependent on the grace of God? Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... not by works, so that no one can boast.”

If we have become great in our own eyes, let us ask God for his grace and seek humility in case we fall into temptation. If we have given into temptation, we can confess and ask God for the wisdom and strength needed to lift ourselves back to a place of humility and dependence on God’s guidance.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are the factors do we ascribe to the growth and achievements of our institution?
2. In what ways do you see yourself taking grace and forgiveness for granted while you commit “small” sins that seem acceptable yet are contrary to God’s word?

*Pray for:*

### **Plastic Surgery**

Service Association of  
the Christian Church

United Church Board of World Ministries

**MULTILINGUAL CAROL SERVICE**



## Thy Kingdom Come

Luke 9:1-6

**Key verse:** “The time has come,” he said. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the good news.” Mark 1:15

As we celebrate the 148<sup>th</sup> birthday of our founder Dr Ida Sophia Scudder, it is good to remember her visionary words, “I am not building a medical college; I am building the Kingdom of God”. She was able to pray along with Jesus; as he taught us to pray “Thy Kingdom Come.”

The concept of the Kingdom of God is explained more through the words of Jesus in the gospels. When Jesus began His ministry, he started his preaching by saying, “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

Thus the entry into the Kingdom was made very direct and feasible. Anyone who repents of their sins and believe in Christ becomes a member of the Kingdom of God. Once one enters into the Kingdom of God, Christ invites them to grow in Him to actively involve in the advance of the Kingdom of God. When Jesus was sending the disciples for practical training in ministry, he sent them with this message: “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near’. Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.” (Matthew 10:7,8). Jesus says in John 20:21 “As the Father has sent me, so send I you.”

The Christian Medical College Vellore is called to build the Kingdom of God. Let us make sure that all that we are and all that we do will be towards the extension of the Kingdom of God.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What do we mean when we pray “Thy Kingdom Come”?
2. How have you realized the Kingdom of God today?

Pray for:



### **RUHSA**

United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel  
Board of International Ministries of the American  
Baptist Foreign Mission Society

Christian Institute of Health Sciences and  
Research, Dimapur.

### **COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE**

## In His Steps: The Second Generation Scudders

## Deuteronomy 4:32-40

**Key verse:** “Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of”? Deuteronomy 4: 32

Dr. John Scudder and Harriet Scudder with their two year old daughter, Maria, left Boston in June 8, 1819. On reaching Calcutta, little Maria was stricken with dysentery and died. They reached Ceylon in December, 1819. They lost their second daughter and son in 1820 and 1822. Later eight sons and two daughters were born to them. Samuel (born May, 1827) drowned while in theological seminary. The rest of the nine carried their parents’ work in India. All of their seven sons were ordained ministers and five of them were physicians as well.

In April 1932, Dr. Scudder sent his two elder sons, Henry and William, aged ten and eight to America in a ship, under the care of captain. In the next ten years they send their little ones two by two, half way round the world....The following is a brief description of the life and ministry of the two sisters and seven brothers in the Scudder family.

*Pundit Henry Martyn (b. February 1822):* Henry with his wife Fanny came to India in 1844. Seeing the medical needs, he joined Madras Medical College and later received M.D. from New York University. In 1851, he moved to Wallajah in Arcot. He was well versed in Tamil and Telugu. He worked 14-16 hours a day studying, preaching, traveling and practicing medicine.

*Rev. Williams S. (b. 1823) and Rev. Joseph S. (b. 1826):* William, Joseph and Henry started the new Arcot Mission under American Reformed Church. They were involved in the evangelistic services. Vellore was the centre of this new Mission. They opened seminary for training of evangelists and preachers. Mrs. William died of cholera very early. They suffered financial difficulties, ill health in the extreme climatic conditions and lost their loved ones to dysentery or cholera.

*Dr. Ezekiel S (b. October 1828):* In 1857, Ezekiel and Jared came to India. Ezekiel’s first station was Arni. In 1868, he completed his medical course in America and returned to Arni as physician and preacher in 1870.

*Dr. Jared S (b. January 1830):* Jared made preaching tours, while Mrs. Jared was running the boarding

school for girls in Chittoor. Due to illness, they returned to America, when Jared entered Medical College. On his return, Dr. Jared spent time in village preaching and healing. He was also a Tamil pundit. He gave leadership in the formation of South India United Church in October 21, 1901.

*Dr. Silas S.* His cherished hope was to establish a good hospital. His medical work was popular that Madras Government closed its Ranipet dispensary and handed over its buildings and furniture to Dr. Silas. It was known as Ranipet Hospital. (Present Scudder Memorial Hospital). Dr. Silas suffered physically until his death in 1877 at the age of 44.

*Dr. John S. II:* In 1861, Dr. John Scudder II and his wife set off for India at the age of 26. He started an industrial school at Arcot. In 1872, when Dr. Silas left, the Ranipet hospital was placed in Dr. John’s care. He continued his evangelistic activities and village medical works along with Dr. Ezekiel.

In 1876-1877, India experienced one of the periodic famines and one of the worst cholera epidemics of the century. Dr. John and Mrs. John were involved in relief work. 70 nurseries were opened to feed children. In 1884, he took up a new station at Tindivanam. In 1900, John went home to be with his Lord.

*Harriet and Louisa:* The two daughters of Dr. John Scudder I, served with their brothers before their marriage. We need to praise God for the lives of the second generation Scudders. Their commitment to God helped them to return back to India to preach, teach and heal in the footsteps of Christ.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. What are the things we are thankful to God for the Scudder family members?

Pray for:

**Hospital Carol Service**



## Glory to God in the Highest

Luke 2:8-14

**Key verse:** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors"  
Luke 2:14

Shepherds were despised by the orthodox Jewish people because they could not observe ceremonial cleanliness, yet it was to them that the angel and the glory of God appeared. They may well have been in charge of the flocks from which the daily sacrifices at the temple were chosen. In God's plan, it was those called "unclean" who would be the first to see the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The manifestation of the glory of the Lord which shone all around the shepherds is the *Shechinah*, the visible manifestation of the presence of God. In the Old Testament, most of these visible manifestations took the form of light, fire, cloud or some combination of these. In the New Testament, a new form of God's glory appears – Jesus, the Word made flesh (John 1:14). The very glory of God is now tabernacled (living) within human flesh to be touched and seen.

The birth of Christ brings glory and peace. His birth is to bring praise and honor to God. The plan of redemption in Christ reveals God's glory on earth as well as throughout the universe and among the highest created beings, the angels.

Peace (Shalom) as used here refers to Peace with God and the Peace of God, which is the inner peace and tranquility of friendship and quiet rest we experience in walking with God. All peace is the product of God's gift of His Son. Jesus the Peacemaker, the Savior of mankind.

In the Old Testament, the Shechinah or glory of God was made visible in a human being. Now, we who have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, can also reflect God's glory to others by living lives of obedience to God. The birth of Christ and acceptance of Him as our Master, should result in glory to God on earth as well as in heaven. Our lives should be ones which are devoted to bringing glory to Him as it is said in 1 Corinthians 10:31b, "whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God".

### For reflection and discussion:

1. How can we bring glory to God through our involvement in our work and in the community life of CMC?
2. How do we make the peace of God visible to others?

*(Taken from Maitri 2011)*

*Pray for:*

### **Pulmonary Medicine**

Methodist Church in India

Methodist Hospital, Nadiad

Nur Manzil Psychiatric Centre, Lucknow

ETCM Hospital, Kolar and others.

Methodist Church Overseas Division (UK).



## Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-25

**Key verse:** “Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel which means, ‘God is with us’. Matthew 1:23

The festivities of the Christmas season convey a sense of serenity far removed from the turmoil that followed the divine announcement of the virgin birth.

The turmoil in Mary’s heart is recorded for us in the Gospel narratives. Though troubled by the angelic greeting regarding the incarnation she was quick to accept her role but she did have a problem: how can this be since I do not know a man? The physical impossibility was quickly solved by the sign of another miraculous conception involving her married cousin who was barren for many years and a convincing explanation (Luke 1:35,36).

The swirling thoughts going through Mary’s mind as she tried to convey the news of her pregnancy to Joseph, even before they had lived together was natural. She could expect rejection and hatred for the trust betrayed. In their contemporary society, the consequences were more than condemning; it would result in tarnished reputations and stoning of Mary. It was in such a scenario that the angel pronounces the name of that yet unborn child Immanuel,’ meaning ‘God with us’. The name held a cryptic message.

There is no feverish activity on Mary’s part to secure her relationship with Joseph, yet God brings about the cementing of this marriage, through came divine messenger (Mathew 1:20-22). However stigma of the unwed mother did

remain and Joseph chose to share the stigma as he publicly stood by Mary accepting her as his betrothed. Mary found new strength.

The cryptic message in human form, Immanuel – ‘God with’, may be found in the most unlikely situations: in the midst of our fears and turmoil.

Mary and Joseph were willing participants in the divine plan foretold many centuries before through the prophets (Isaiah 7:14). The problem then assumes a rare brilliance when God gives us a handle to His perspective and His mind.

### **For reflection and discussion:**

1. How can we make our difficulties and problems benefit us the most?
2. How do you understand the message of Christmas?

*(Taken from Maitri 2013)*

*Pray for:*

**Vellore Good Samaritan Canteen**

**MIQ**

**LIQ**

Kolhapur Church Council

Miraj Medical Centre, Maharastra

College Stores and College Canteen.



## Learning From the Past

## Philippians 3:7-14

**Key verse:** “Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you...” Deuteronomy 32:7

A popular saying which goes like this, “Forget the past, do not worry about the future, live in the present”. When we analyze this saying we may not agree with it. The reason is that no one can live perfectly without looking back at what has been done in the past. William Wordsworth, a notable poet said, “Life is divided into three terms - that which was, which is, and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present, to live better in the future”. All events in the past are the best lessons for the present as well as for the future.

As we look at this particular topic let us keep in mind that each of us have various past life experiences. For instance, Peter who was the closest disciple of Jesus denied him thrice. But at last he realized his mistake and found the true meaning of discipleship. In Philippians 3:7-14, Apostle Paul reminds us how to think for the future by looking at the past. “... but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead...” (v.13). He compared his own past life journey without Christ and the present life with Christ as a different life altogether. Hence, by looking back at the past he learns a great lesson how to lead a life centered in Christ.

When we observe the work and development of our institution, the Christian Medical College Vellore, we cannot deny the fact that we are progressing day by day - from a single bed to thousands. Being a premier healthcare institution of the country, let us learn from the past and focus towards building the Kingdom of God as able ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### For reflection and discussion:

1. Why should we learn from the past?
2. How do we prepare for the future based on our past?

*Pray for:*



ELS Book Shop

Central Bank of India - Hospital Campus

State Bank of India - College Campus

Post Office (College & Hospital)

Karpagam Co-operative Store.

# MAITRI 2018

Bible Studies



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Christian Medical College  
Vellore 632004