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# Life for All

A Quarterly Newsletter of Christian Medical Association of India



Featuring 12 CMAI Regional Facilitators (RFs) who took an initiative to come together alongwith doctors, nurses, healthcare workers across CMAI network to salute the selfless service and dedication of all the Frontline Warriors working tirelessly in times of Covid-19.



**A Word from the  
General Secretary - Dr Priya John**

## **Connecting during a Pandemic**

By definition, a pandemic obliterates geographic boundaries and blurs any kind of possible containment. These now non-existent boundaries have made partnerships and connections possible at a speed not experienced before. Roll out of action plans have dramatically changed gears and are challenging the decision-making processes of organisations. CMAI too is challenged in this aspect and keeping up with the constantly changing ground reality and the new Government policies which are not supporting the stark obvious need is difficult.

As CMAI we are trying to keep the connect. This has taken priority. The CEO meetings with our Member Institutions have opened our eyes to our relevance and the key issues that need to be addressed. **The message we want to deliver to our members is simple – we want to accompany you on this journey and bring with us whatever support we can. To this end we trust that the good Lord will provide.**

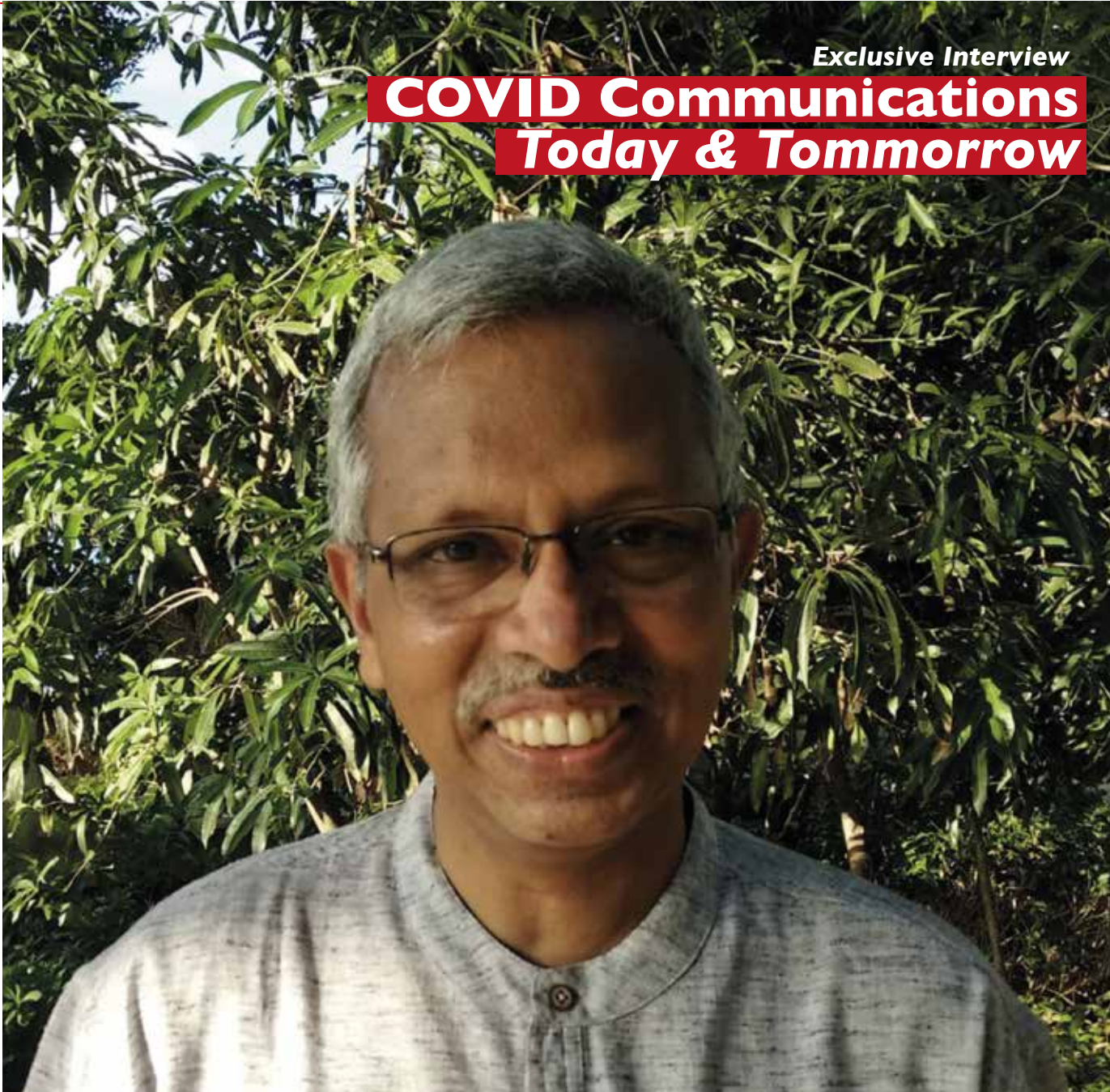
Connections with our national partners has shown us the immense strength each one brings and the importance of harnessing all that energy into a common effort to help our fellow sojourner. Local donors have shown interest in our mission hospitals particularly because they have been the only ones open, apart from the Government health facilities, to serve the poor and marginalized during the lockdown period.

The National Council of Churches in India is ensuring the preparedness of churches in implementing their key responsibilities towards their congregation members. CMAI has partnered with NCCI in conducting webinars on Covid 19 as well as Mental health challenges among the youth. Connecting with the church and through them to the community is crucial at this time.

Connections with international partners have given us opportunities to share experiences of our mission hospitals in various platforms with the World Council of Churches, ICMDA, Christian Conference of Asia, Christian Connections for International Health and the Edinburgh University through Christian Medical College - Vellore.

The connect we have every day from 9 to 9:30 am as a family in CMAI devotion time gives us the strength and mandate for the day. We have been privileged to have stalwarts from our membership lead us in our daily devotion. There is a clear message for us every day and when we submit in obedience to His will, we hear Him speak. This is the connect that will make every other connection stronger and meaningful. As we look to the next few months of this very unique 2020, we will hold on to His hand, keep the connect with Him and allow Him to lead.



**Exclusive Interview**

## **COVID Communications Today & Tomorrow**

**Rev. Dr. Arul Dhas T. is associated with CMAI as the Editor**

**and in an interaction with LFA's editorial team he shared his views on COVID and Communications.**

**LFA: Sir, please share how in your opinion Corona has effected the field of communications?**

Dr.Arul Dhas: Communication has three components. Sender, medium and the receiver. Both the sender and the receiver are affected by Corona. Therefore, the medium has to adapt to the changes. Our attitudes, approaches and the total life style has changed. There is a significant change in the way we trust one another, the way we relate and interact with one another. On the one hand, it is scientifically and medically required to have 'distance' and 'safety'. On the other hand, this setting has questioned some of the fundamental tenets of life on which we have been leading our lives.

Now there is a tendency to consider every other person as a potential carrier of the virus and therefore take all precautions to avoid transmission of the virus. Inadvertently, this has corrupted the normal trust we used to have among one another. To some extent this is something like considering every other person as a thief (someone who might potentially steal from us).

**LFA: How CMAI has embraced and positively adapted the changes in communications?**

AD: CMAI has conducted many webinars for the sake of the members and institutions. Positively, many people have made use of this facilities for the sake of healing ministry.

It has benefitted both the providers and recipients socially, spiritually and scientifically in their professions. The daily devotions for the CMAI staff had been a pattern for each office separately. Now it has become a common one and all are able to connect to this time with the united spirit. Even in terms of the essential daily communication to the staff has been probably simpler and easier, more organised due to this common time together. Thankfully, CMAI was technologically prepared and ready to launch into this pattern of communication.

**LFA: What are the new initiatives and processes have been introduced in CMAI?**

AD: Daily devotions and Events of the day have become so organized and effective because of the online meetings. Approximately 45 staff members meet every day in this manner. So many webinars, consultations and meetings with online media are being conducted efficiently benefitting so many people.

**LFA: We have heard about CMAI reaching out to its member institutions and their respective CEOs. How has been the experience?**

AD: In earlier times, CMAI staff or officials visited the institutions and their CEOs with lot of efforts. It took time, energy and resources to travel and to physically meet people. However, with the advent of online meetings, the networking and partnership among the institutions and CEOs is becoming a strong reality. I gather that in this short time more than 30 meetings have been held for the CEOs of institutions, or more by this time. One additional benefit is the links with CCH, EMFI and CMC Mission office which is helping in different aspects of healing ministry.

**LFA: How CMAI has used the change to encourage the individual members of the association? Webinars and e-journals are going on but how far it has enhanced our communications? The aspect of fellowship?**

AD: Of course, we admit that there is no alternative to the physical meeting which helps us in fellowship. Webinars and e-journals are less expensive than the conventional modes. By these we are able to meet and reach more number of people. However, all of us would admit that we are waiting for the day we can meet face to face.

**LFA: On the aspect of fellowship and with the spiritual dimension how communications have helped CMAI?**

AD: Spiritual dimensions and fellowship cannot be faked in true sense. Because these areas are seen by our Lord who cannot be fooled. I was part of a virtual memorial service where I experienced similar feeling and impact which I might experience in a real meeting. As individuals, groups and communities, are we able to grow spiritually during this changed scenario? Online messages have become more. Some of them are very useful in our spiritual wellbeing.

**LFA: While communications is a source of healing and this changed scenario is impacting?**

AD: We admit the fact that this is a new normal which we need to accept. Within this present setting we do experience healing. Mouth cannot be seen, lips cannot be seen, inner emotions cannot be noticed in a traditional observation. But we are able to see the eyes of the hurting person. As a counselor, I was asked many years before whether I could train a visually challenged brother in counseling. I was stumbling to say a positive 'yes' at that time. Now I believe that there is a way to counsel even with the mask. We draw close to the source of healing which is God himself with our own limitations. We can help one another even without physically touching the shivering hands of the other.

**LFA: The hurdles of communications. The message of fraternity goes through various channels and how does the aspect of communications support?**

AD: First hurdle we face now is the distance between us. We need to find out what measures we can take to overcome distance – physically and metaphorically. Hiding some parts of the body which have been traditionally used for communicating emotions and feelings is another major hurdle. Above all, I feel the seeming loss of trust among one another is the major aspect of challenge.

**LFA: How does CMAI plan to capitalize the strengths of the new scenario towards its mission?**

AD: CMAI has been providing leadership at the national level to provide Christian witness in the healing ministry. It is also providing inspirational leadership at the global level. In a regional and local level, we experience CMAI providing many practical guidance and direction for the healing ministry. When we see that there are many changes in the communications these days, I am sure we can use the challenges as stepping stones for further fellowship and witnessing. Sharing of success stories through varied media is another wonderful method by which we can continue our mission in CMAI.

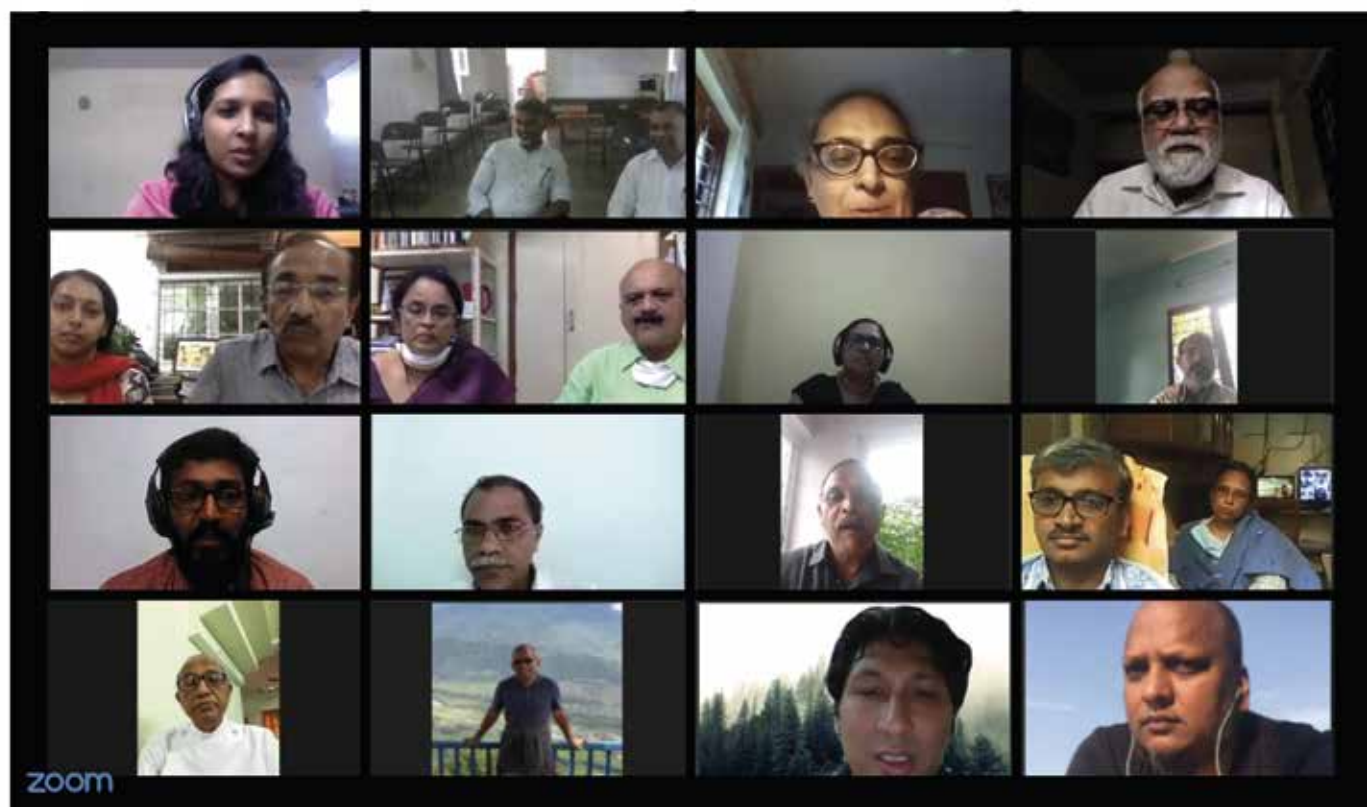
**LFA: People can hide behind the communications medium and try to make excuses. What are the precautions we need to take and help reduce the gap between the person and the message.**

AD: This is not a new challenge. There has always been this trouble of dichotomy between the communicator and the message. We are entering into the realm of integrity. Do my words coincide with what I am and what I do? The communication media may be different. The willingness and desire to communicate comes from within. The gap between the message and the person can be removed only by genuineness and love. More we come close to God, the source of healing, the more efficient we can remove this gap. Communication with compassion is what we see in our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Success Stories and Solidarity

### CEO Meetings with Member Institutions



The current pandemic situation continued to spread but so did the positive attitude of solidarity and support. Many hospitals across India, also member institutions of CMAI have faced infrastructure, material and financial difficulties along with inherent HR related and regulatory issues. Therefore, it became critically important to schedule time and objectively listen to the hospitals' issues and concerns. Assessing the situation, while real-life interactions are still off-limits, online meetings via Zoom with the CEO's of various member institutions region-wise were held during the reporting period. It also became an opportunity for the CEOs and Christian sister organizations to meet and explore possible solutions for challenges faced by the CMAI member institutions.

These CEO meetings made the member institutions a priority and to show that CMAI is willing to do whatever it takes to continue a discussion with them and assist them along their journey and out of this challenging period. During these sessions, interesting stories as well as unique experiences of the hospitals, their different styles of management and learnings were shared. CMAI team also invited network partners like EMFI, Christian Coalition for Health and CMC Vellore.

A total of nearly 26 such meetings with 150 institutions spanning over 60 hours of discussions and presentations were held.

***"It is always a delight to hear such interesting stories and to be encouraged how the hospitals and their teams have displayed their agility, adaptability and resilience."***

– Dr. Sam David, Missions Network, CMC Vellore

***"Even though more challenging days are ahead, yet I believe, that these hospitals will continue to protect and safeguard the health of the needy."*** – Anuvinda Varkey, ED, Christian Coalition for Health

## Hope During COVID-19

*Ms. Elsy John, Secretary - Administrator's Section*

Psalms (90:12) "Lord, teach us to number our days." honest reflections about life and its currently harsh circumstances, pleading God to rescue us, troubled by the circumstances around us and, as the Psalmist reminds us, we too need perspective. Sudden changes in our daily routines, and the necessity of developing new skills—all these things require thinking and work towards both the realities around us and the purposes of the God we serve.

### Health & Facing Fears

Fears some times are paralyzing. There are dangers around us that need to be properly and fearfully respected. The virus that plagues the world is real. Better off by planning for things than being caught unprepared. We owe it to one another to pay attention to each other, to advise one another, to check on one another, and serve one another. It's what we believe and confess as Christians, and these days test us to live out our faith.

### Finances & Facing Fears

Financial fear that goes with this crisis. It has already begun to produce financial havoc that has not only hit the Health care institutions but will have an impact for months and months to come. We must be prepared to face up to these financial issues, to be alert to the needs of one another and be willing to share our resources.

Challenging the health care crisis, Employee safety and Economic challenges. High functioning are already in the frontline to respond to the crisis. Resolving to manage the immediate need to care for the COVID – 19 patients.

The time for CEOs and Boards to have opportunity to impact their organisations and the community they serve, priority to be given to create factual decisions being calm.

The ability to act, innovate and execute.

***"He is worthy of our trust, and He can aid us in conquering our fears. "Be of good cheer," our Lord said, just before his own horrific death on our behalf, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).***

## CMAI & ICMDA

*Dr. Santhosh Mathew - Training Coordinator & South Asia Regional Secretary - ICMDA*

The International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) exists to start and strengthen Christian national medical and dental movements. A key part of ICMDA's work is to train leaders and encourage national meetings and conferences. They hold regional leadership training events, conferences for specific language groups and regional congresses. CMAI is a member of ICMDA and the training unit of ICMDA is supported through a CMAI - ICMDA project.

The training unit of ICMDA shared the following updates with LFA team:

**The Family Medicine division – IPGDFM:** takes forward the blended model of International FM programs that was initiated in partnership with CMC and Loma Linda University. Currently, 32 candidates started the course out of which 19 candidates were awarded scholarships.

**The Online Training Unit:** has five ICM DA video resources, three partner-provided formal courses and other resources on Governance, Evangelism, Worldviews, Bioethics and Gender ideology. Resources on Missions, Vocation, Work and calling is in the pipeline while the ones provided through the partners would be on Leadership, Mentoring and Spiritual formation and an upcoming one on Strategic planning.

**Face to face training of trainers:** is an initiative wherein many more trainers can be trained for each nation and region, who have the potential to impact larger numbers across the globe. However, due to current pandemic situation online ToTs have been initiated.



Success Story

## Ambulances find their way to people hearts.

Metas Adventist Hospital in collaboration with the Surat city police department organised a unique medical check-up camp serving the police force which is deployed to serve the local citizens around the clock. Police Commissioner Shri. Rajendra Bhrambhett was present at the flagging off Metas Adventist Hospital Ambulances especially created for the initiative. These ambulances were used as the Police Medical Check-up Vans. Every policeman on duty was examined and cases found were referred to the Metas Adventist Hospital Cough OPD. Face Masks were also distributed to the police staff.

This initiative by Dr. Eliah Srikakolli, President & CEO, and executed by Dr. Anil Kumar Chillimuntha, Vice President, Staff & Doctors of Metas Adventist Hospital, Surat is hugely appreciated. The hospital recognized the excellent dedication of Mr. Sanjit, Sr. Manmaya, Sr. Jayashuba, Sr. Asha, Dr. Santosh, Dr. Jigisha, Dr. Swity, Nani, Swarna Kumar, Laxman, Binoy, Jatin, Joshua, Sunil Manda, Benjamin, Ram Babu and many more dedicated employees who kept their commitment to serving the citizens despite facing many risks to their own lives.

***“We are humbled to receive such a positive and a heart-warming response from this initiative. We have also prepared 100 beds for treating Covid-19 positive patients with staff and doctors well trained and confident to deal with patients. This other initiative today is a step towards a positive direction of working together with the administration.”***

— said Dr. Eliah Srikakolli, President & CEO, Metas Adventist Hospital.



## Mid India Board of Education of NL of CMAI

Preparation of supplementary exams, results thereof, audit and other significant operations have always continued to infuse action and liveliness amongst the team members of MIBE of NL in this part of the year. However, the COVID-19 altered the activities as the scheduled dates for the exams and related material were dispatched in the month of March, But the exams could not be conducted.

Even though these are early days, but the team quickly have come together and created plans and outcomes for the examinations and new academic year. MIBE in collaboration with VIGEO International conducted an online training for its Faculty on 'Teaching Gen Z- Online tools for teaching and learning', so that virtual Teaching and learning can be made effective during this pandemic.

122 Faculty participated in the training. God has been faithful and they have been able to find ways to overcome the challenges and are focused on their mission.

## Christian Coalition for Health (CCH) Response to Covid 19

A letter by the Christian Coalition for Health (CCH) to the Prime Minister of India was sent on the 25th of March 2020 as a gesture of support and solidarity with the Government in its preparation for the pandemic. The letter was signed by the President of CCH, Fr Dr Mathew Abraham (*Director of CHAI*) the CCH Vice President, Dr Priya John (*General Secretary of CMAI*) and Treasurer of CCH Dr Sunil Gokavi (*EHA Executive Director*) gaining a nationwide visibility and generating interest from various authorities and other sectors. As a result of this initiative, **CCH represented by Dr Fr Mathew was exclusively invited by the Honorable Prime Minister of India for a discussion on COVID-19** response by Faith based organisations on the 30th of March 2020.



To view the full letter, visit our website [www.CMAI.com](http://www.CMAI.com) under Covid-19 initiative

## Annual Meeting of CMAI's Central Education Board

*Lyric Abraham, Secretary - AHP Section*

With a strong track record in executing successful Allied Health Professional courses, CMAI's Central Education Board has enrolled a total of more than 670 students in the academic year 2019-2020. It is heartening to witness that the next generation has enrolled for around 27 different professional courses. During the annual meeting (virtual) held on 27th June 2020, more than 35 participants discussed about the domain knowledge, objectives and plans.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Shaloo Ipe, Chairperson of CEB in presence of 14 conveners who presented their respective training committee reports to the board.

After an impressive implementation of various plans and schemes, finally, the term of Dr Shaloo Ipe as chairperson got over this year.

The board members successfully elected Dr Raboraja Singh as the new Chairperson of the Central Education Board. It was acknowledged that Dr. Raboraja is an active member of CEB. He has always taken ownership and come up with new ideas to deliver effective outcomes while supporting structures and processes. The board congratulated the new chairperson promising to remain closely connected and offer support.

Dr Shaloo also wished the new Chairperson the best while handing over the charge and extended blessings in order to take CEB leaps and bounds with his leadership.

Currently, 90% of CMAI training centers exist in South of India. During the report presentation, Dr Raboraja Singh shared his vision to spread the presence of CMAI courses across India and in each state. He is at present, Senior Professor of Radiation Physics in Department of Radiation Therapy, CMC Vellore.

***“Dr. Shaloo's leadership and commitment is commendable. She has brought a deeper understanding of the purpose and a passion for innovation towards the shared values of the board. We shall continue to maintain higher standards and significantly invest in excellence.”***

– Dr. Raboraja Singh, Chairperson-CEB



## Telehealth - Expanding our reach during the COVID-19 Times

Dr. Abhijeet Sangma, Secretary - Doctors' Section

The COVID-19 Pandemic so far has been the greatest challenge to the healthcare system in the world till date, which may be remembered for centuries. The Pandemic has disrupted the practice of medicine and delivery of healthcare.

Amidst the lockdown, the Government of India has given legal status to Telemedicine in India, making Consultation through Telemedicine by the Registered Medical Practitioner under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 permissible through a notification published on March 25, 2020. The Board of Governors under the supersession of Medical Council of India (BOG-MCI) along with the NITI Aayog also released the Telemedicine Practice Guidelines.

In a country like ours, which is resource constrained, the distribution of healthcare delivery infrastructure is really skewed. Although a large percentage of the population lives in rural areas, healthcare institutions are mainly in urban settings. Telemedicine has the potential to play the bridging role in overcoming these infrastructural challenges.

With around 70% of our Mission Hospitals present in Rural and Semi urban area and constantly facing Human resource shortage especially in the area of Specialists, Telemedicine can really help in overcoming the situation.

On June 26, 2020 CMAI organised a Webinar on "Telehealth for Mission Hospitals" with the purpose of decrypting the nuances of Telehealth and what it would mean for our Mission Hospitals. During this time of lockdown, we have been able to connect with several of you to understand the challenges that you are facing the opportunities that the situation presents. Many of you have been using some form of telehealth services and we at CMAI would like to support and assist you in this area. We would like to hear from you in what ways we all can come together and what form of support we can provide as a network of mission hospitals serving the one that need us the most. Kindly send your recommendations and suggestions to [a.sangma@cmai.org](mailto:a.sangma@cmai.org) and we will together do something wonderful.



We, at CMAI, are humbled by your efforts in the eye of the storm, braving each day and facing each challenge. We will continue to uphold you in our prayers every day.

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

May you find encouragement in Him as you continue to shine for His glory during these dark times.

***“Many of you have been using some form of telehealth services and we at CMAI would like to support and assist you in this area. We would like to hear from you in what ways we all can come together and what form of support we can provide as a network of mission hospitals serving the one that need us the most.”***

## Webinar on Youth and Mental Health in Times of COVID 19

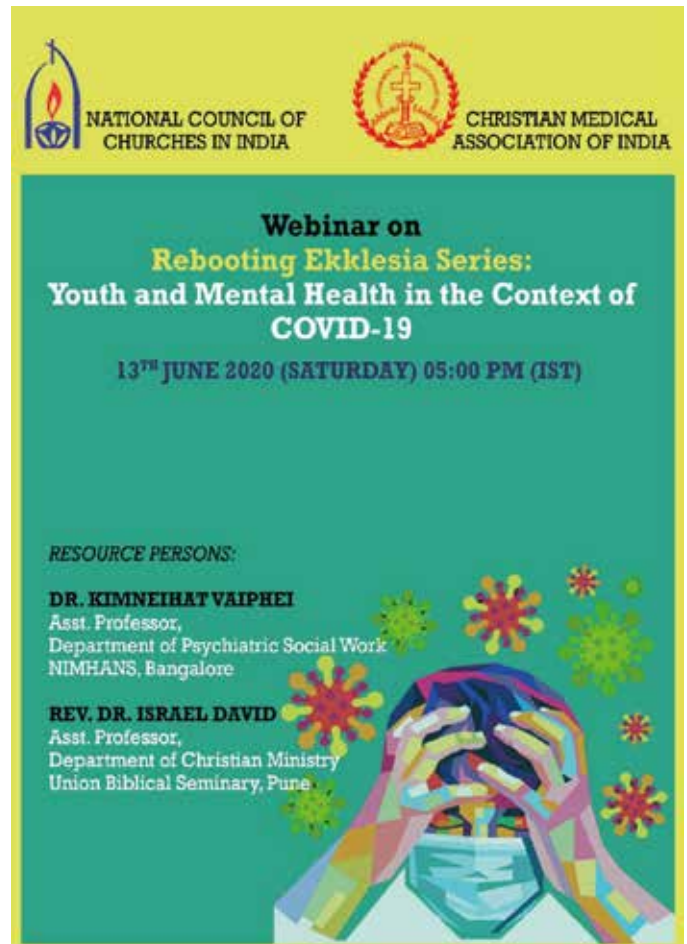
Ms. Imtinenla Aier, Secretary - Chaplains' Section

In India, 65% of the population is less than the age of 35 years and 50% below 25 years of age. These young people are the backbone of the country and at this moment in time of pandemic many of them are undergoing untold mental breakdown. The social and economic fissures exposed by the pandemic have already caused in unemployment, depleted social safety nets, starvation, among other things among the young people.

CMAI and NCCI Youth Concerns Department jointly organized a webinar on 13th June 2020 targeting the youth population which is making all efforts to go through a new normal in their life at present. Dr. Kimneiath Vaiphei, Asst. Professor - Department of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS in Bangalore and Rev. Dr. Israel David, Asst. Professor - Department of Christian Ministry at Union Biblical Seminary in Pune were the resource persons.

Rev. Dr. Israel David talked about the problems of two categories of today's youth groups. Firstly, the youth which is able to work outside home and secondly, the youth which is now working from home. To the former, he brought aspects of the fear of losing opportunities, the need of belongingness, the uncertainty to perform and the question of ability, the anxiety of losing the youth-hood, the physiological impact of eating disorders, sleeping pattern and the issue of productivity. The problem of youth working from home is the need of security, being neglected, unnoticed, and spirituality factors. Both the resource persons emphasized on the need of good support system and to look out for each other for help and to help in such unprecedented times.

***"This post-COVID landscape becomes a fertile breeding ground for an increase in chronic stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol dependence, and self-harm in which the young people have fallen victim."*** – said Rev. Dr. Israel David



***"The impact of COVID on youth from a psychiatric perspective calls for careful attention. They carry a significance for mental health and sadly, COVID has affected a large number of youth in India."*** – said Dr. Kimneiath Vaiphei

## NL Core Committee Meeting

A virtual NL core committee meeting was held on 12th June 2020 to discuss the conversion of the existing Ward Manager's training into a blended model. Nine Nurse leaders participated in the meeting. Committee suggested for the amendment of the existing module in the light of COVID pandemic. Modules have been assigned to different authors for the needed modifications. The new batch will start by the first week of August 2020. The visit to Institute of Excellence for hands on skills will be scheduled in the aftermath of the pandemic.



Success Story

## Awareness programme towards Covid-19



Salvation Army Evangeline Hospital in Andhra Pradesh organized an awareness program for the staff and communities at various locations in and around surrounding areas of the Guntur district. Major. Roy Joseph, Administrator of the hospital initiated the awareness program towards COVID 19 and the distribution of sanitation materials for the community. The hospital staff and Nursing students involvement with the local government departments and officials was appreciated.

***“We have extended awareness during these days and also provided masks, soaps, sanitizer for the municipal workers, local policemen and for people residing in the slums.”*** -shared Major. Roy Joseph, during the program.

Salvation Army EB hospital also organized and distributed food packets to the needy in and around areas benefiting many people.

Success Story

## COVID Nineteen Negative Inmates

The State Government officials in the month of March 2020, had selected Emmanuel General Hospital at Narsipattinam as a location for the quarantine inmates of Delhi returnees. 19 inmates were sent to the hospital by Vishakhapatnam District Medical officer. Regular care and check-ups, tests for COVID 19 was extended to all the inmates.

Finally, all 19 inmates were declared negative for COVID 19 and relieved on 9th April 2020 by the hospital.

***“Safety precautions, hygienic food and accommodation to all the inmates has been provided for the entire duration of fourteen days quarantine period as a support by the hospital for the State Government department.”*** said an Hospital staff



## The Regional Committee Meetings

*of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Gujarat & Rajasthan and North-West & Kashmir Regions were held in the month of May 2020. All these meetings and interactions were conducted virtually via Zoom.*

**Region:** AP & Telangana | **Date:** 21-05-2020

**Attended by:** Dr. Priya John, General Secretary, CMAI, Dr. Sunita Abraham, Head of CHD, Mrs. Elsy John, Administration Secretary & Staff Nominee for the region, Rev. K. Jeevan Roy-Regional Secretary, Dr. Stanny, Doctors Regional Sectional Secretary, Mr. Frankalin - Administration Regional Sectional Secretary, Rev. Percy, Chaplain Regional Sectional Secretary, Mrs. Christina Johnson AHP Regional Sectional Secretary and Mr. Vijay Kumar-Regional Facilitator.

### Main discussion points:

- The regional facilitator shared about COVID responses from CMAI, MI, Churches and individuals.
- AMC is TB sanatorium most of the patients are having same symptoms as same for COVID hence, the necessary need to distribute PPE's.
- CMAI trainings for the retired pastors to be conducted.
- Hospital CSI St. Mary's Hospital has started the work from 1st May 2020.
- The participants were requested to share their contacts region wise for raising support and the members to contact embassies for the same.
- CMAI responses to member institutions with regards to trainings on need basis, counselling, innovations, plans for fund raising and protocols to follow as per Local Government was shared.
- The delivery of 120 PPE materials was highly appreciated.

**Region:** Gujarat & Rajasthan | **Date:** 23-05-2020

**Attended by:** Dr. Deva Japa Ajith, Regional Secretary - Meeting Chair, Rev. Esha Muthiah, Regional Sectional Secretary, Chaplains, Mr. Ashish Christian, Regional Sectional Secretary, Nurses, Mr. Daniel Ashok Kumar, Regional Sectional, Secretary, Administrator, Mr. Nilesh Mecwan, Former, Regional Secretary, AHP Section & Invitee, Mr. Hemant Vaghela, Member Invitee from the Region, Dr. Priya John, General Secretary, CMAI, Dr. Sunita Abraham, Head, Community Health Department, CMAI, Dr. Lyric Abraham, Staff Nominee to the Regional Committee and Mr. Rajesh Lal, Regional Facilitator.

### Main discussion points:

- Report of the region was presented from an overview of the annual activities (December 2019 to March 2020).
- All the committee members accepted regional activities plan and given assurance they will help as and when required
- Creation of a special certificate for all the Corona warriors
- Students retreat-SEED Workshop for Medical Student in November 2020 at Nadiad Catholic Centre, Gujarat
- To explore conducting a tribal health camp as conducted in 2019
- Updates on current situation in Gujarat, on COVID -19 pandemic was shared along with sharing experiences during these situations.
- To explore opportunities for CSR Funding.
- To recognize those families who have lost their beloved health professionals and family members during their service for the COVID-19 patients. Few members shared their experiences post interacting with such families.
- Introduce medical students and their challenges to the EMFI in the region.

**Region:** North-West & Kashmir | **Date:** 13-05-2020

**Attended by:** Dr. Ranjit Injety - Regional Secretary, Dr. Rajeev Joy Nathan - Doctors section secretary, Mr. Stephen Levi - Administrator Section Secretary, Mr. John Manohar - AHP Section Secretary, Mrs. Levis Murray - Nurses League Secretary, Rev. Raju Abraham - Chaplain Section Secretary, Mrs. Jancy Johnson-Staff Nominee, Dr. Priya John, General Secretary, CMAI, Dr. Sunita Abraham - Head CHD, Mr. Lyric Abraham - AHP Section Secretary, Dr. Abhijeet Sangma Secretary Doctor's Section and Mr. Rajesh Lal - Regional Facilitator.

### Main discussion points:

- The member institutions shared their experiences and updates during COVID-19
- Updates on the region were shared along with initiatives related to fundraising and on mental health awareness.
- Initiatives towards fundraising methods were discussed and the regional committee was encouraged that the same should be taken forward.

## Webinars organized and attended by CMAI

Today, all meetings, seminars, conferences and interactions have gone online. Organising an event or even attending one is possible creating unlimited opportunities to share, learn, build networks and be social. This is a list of few webinars that the CMAI team organised for its members and also was invited to attend during the reporting period April-June 2020.

1. Webinar on "TeleHealth for mission hospitals" was conducted on 26th June 2020. The objectives were to help member hospitals formalise what they're already doing, share ideas on keeping the communities around them on board, be able to provide a higher level of consult through interaction with other known service providers which could contribute to their income, help institutions to run existing courses more efficiently through a distance platform and provide an opportunity to members to address doubts and queries. The panellists were Dr. Joy Mammen/Dr. Balu – CMC Vellore, Dr. Rebekah HOD –Distance Education Department CMC, Vellore, Dr. Santhosh Mathew and Ms. Anuvinda Varkey – ED CCH

2. Webinar on "Youth and Mental Health in COVID Times" on 13th June 2020 in collaboration with NCCI Youth Concerns Department was organised. Resource persons were Dr. Kimneihat Vaiphei, Asst. Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bangalore and Rev. Dr. Israel David, Asst. Professor, Department of Christian Ministry, Union Biblical Seminary, Pune. Dr. Kimneihat mentioned about the impact of COVID on youth from a psychiatric perspective and Rev. Dr. Israel David focussed on the needs of youth from a pastoral care perspective.

3. Two webinars were organised on the topics: **Protocols to be followed for COVID** and on **Prevention of dehydration**. A separate Zoom meeting was organised for the NMS along with Care team, General Secretary of CMAI and AMANAT project staff of CMAI during which the challenges faced by the NMS at their field were discussed and decisions for effective solution were taken. The main challenge was on the scarcity of quality PPEs for the NMS and CMAI has addressed this issue by supplying adequate numbers of quality PPEs to all 110 NMS in 38 districts.

4. The AHP team attended the webinar from **Healthcare Sector Skill Council on Emotional wellbeing during Covid 19** on 22nd May 2020.

5. Nurses league had organised two webinars on the topics: "Protocols to be followed for COVID" and on "Prevention of dehydration."

## Hospitals Initiatives during COVID-19

1. Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore became Government Designated Private Hospital with 600 Beds for COVID Patients which is at par with the Government Hospitals.

2. Mure Memorial Hospital (Miraj) successfully conducted a health check-up camp at Old Kamptee / Sadat Police Stations for the police force working 24 hours during the pandemic period.

3. Jalna mission hospital reached out to the local administration setting up a 120-bed COVID-19 hospital in Jalna, Maharashtra.

4. Emery Hospital Anand and The Salvation Army in the Gujarat and Rajasthan region distributed 34- Grain kits to the needy families.

5. Arogyavaram Medical Centre at Madanapalle, Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh distributed groceries for 200 families to Arogyavaram village. Provisions were also provided to all the staffs of AMC.

6. The Leprosy Mission Vocational Training centre, Vizianagaram supported 50 families affected with leprosy in bhoolbagh leprosy colony. Daily essential supplies were provided with support from Vizag Steel Factory.

7. In AP, CSI church distributed groceries consisting of more than 800 food packets.

8. Emmanuel Ministries gave similar support to 1000 members. In Telangana, Assembly of God, Prayer Power and Bethel Gospel Church distributed a total of 1400 food packets.

9. Madhipura Christian hospital distributed food grains to the needy families and ordering 200 meters of clothes for mass production of face masks, since it is mandatory for patients and relatives visiting the hospital for treatment.

10. Theodori Christian hospital through its social wing Theorodi Rural Dev. Project (TRDP) distributed 310 ration kits to the migrant labourers' families with support from CASA.

11. YMCA health clinic at Ranchi, distributed 1-month food grains packets to 125 families.

## Updates and Activities from Sections and Departments

1. Under distance education on **Laws on Hospital Administration** through CMAI/National Law School, the examination for batch 2019-20 for Post-Graduate Diploma in Medical Law and Ethics will be conducted by NLSU from July 24th -28th in 2020. Eleven candidates have registered.

2. An initiative to train Individual Members from CMAI institutions on "Medical Law and Ethics" is planned.

3. More than 100 member institutions shared need for COVID-19 related medical supplies. Promptly, those deliveries were made to all of them with 24 hours support for logistics and vendor related information.

4. Ability to provide high quality PPEs to the Member Institutions and that too in a time scarcity brought joy and camaraderie.

5. **SHILOH - Annual Students' Medical Missions Conference** organised by CMC Vellore for the year 2020 is planned to be held in October 2020. This is the 13th year of Shiloh and the 150th birth anniversary of Ida Scudder.

6. **ICMDA SA Regional Conference:** The Regional Conference of the South Asia region of ICMDA is scheduled for Nov 13-15, 2020 virtually due to the Covid pandemic situation. This year Nepal network partners, NCMDA and NHCF are also taking the lead in organising this conference.

7. MIBE organized an Online training on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace' for the staff of MIBE, GSN and members of Internal Complaints Committee of GSN on June 11, 2020. Ms. Deepti Singh, presiding officer of ICC of CMAI was the resource person.

8. Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet has received accreditation of both NABH and NABL.

## Churches Initiatives during COVID-19

1. Logos Faith Foundation supported 700 people with food supplies and few families with dry ration. A Medical Camp was also organised, just before lockdown, benefiting a total of 86 patients with medicines and treatment.

2. Utkal Christian Council provided food items to the needy in Behrampur.

3. Ulanad Marthomma Bethel Church supported 35 families with food supplies.

4. Ezhaikku Iranguvom Trust, Trichy supported nearly 1000 families consisting of people from homeless living on the streets, differently abled community and for those residing in old-age homes.

5. Glorious Christ Mission, Tiruchy supported 500 families and old-age homes residents and staff.

6. Alliance Church, Maninagar, Gujarat provided 1500 essential ration items to people in need.

7. Hoskote Mission Hospital, Hoskote supported a total of 450 families.

## Being the voice of CMAI

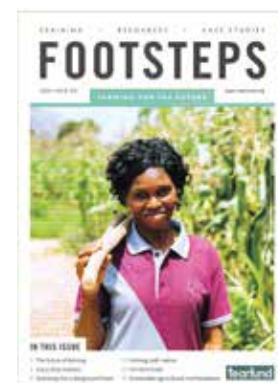
The main function of CMAI's Communication Department is to disseminate information to the CMAI membership. It informs members of the past and prospective activities, discusses views on various issues related to health and healing ministry. It speaks on behalf of CMAI to people who are interested and committed to promote holistic healing to all. The regular CMAI publications related in this period were:



Publication: Christian Medical Journal of India.  
CMAI's official publication, which has a readership in India as well as abroad.  
Released edition: No. 35.1  
Theme: "Let us Consider"  
Hebrews 10:24-25



Publication: Life for All  
LFA is the quarterly newsletter of CMAI that knits our network together with news, reports from the field and important announcements.  
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