

9 May 2024

Dear Friends

Not a Sacrifice, But an Honour

Singapore healthcare, a traditionally ultra-stable industry with minimal changes, is in a whirlwind. Still reeling from the deadly COVID-19 pandemic with its uncertainty and ever-changing protocols to follow, we jumped right into the world of teleconsultation, Healthcare Services Act (HCSA) licensing, HealthierSG, and the shift to a capitation model of financing. These constant changes have been hard to keep up with and has pushed many an experienced GP to consider retirement.

In Singapore society too, the pace of change has accelerated. Inflation is at a record high, AI applications appear faster than ethics can keep up with, and mental health issues are on the rise. Internationally, geopolitical flashpoints continue to escalate, and the recent heat wave across Asia has reminded us that climate change is real.

The world is in a mess, isn't it?

Yet it was into such a world that Jesus came, not to be served, but to serve. Similarly, we too, as Christian doctors and dentists, are called into this messy world to serve. We serve not by our own strength or merit, but by the grace and strength that God gives, with our hearts ablaze with God's love.

Numbers 14:24 reads, *'But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.'* Let us consider how we in CMDF can be like Caleb to have a *'different spirit'*, and follow God *'wholeheartedly'*, to look at situations through the eyes of faith. Let us as a community encourage each other to follow God *'wholeheartedly'*, and not be distracted by the material things of this world, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. May our lives be set apart for God's purposes, even to our senior years. I am reminded that Caleb held onto the promise for 45 years and inherited the promised land at the age of 85.

Queen Elizabeth declares her core conviction in one of her final speeches in the Netflix series *The Crown*: "A life in service is not a sacrifice, but an honour." What an honour it is to be able to serve the sick in a broken and messy world. It is not a sacrifice, but an honour. Through the privilege of our professions, may we wholeheartedly seek to be God's agents of healing, restoration, reconciliation and blessing, as we walk this Emmaus road together.

Blessings,
Dr Linus Chua
CMDF Chairperson

