



smrti
A Tribute to a Trailblazer

Rev. Fr. Mathew Abraham, C.Ss.R.
Director-General, CHAI (2016–2026)

Honouring a *Visionary Leader*

Rev. Fr. Mathew Abraham, C.Ss.R., was born on August 17, 1969, in Kumarankary, Kuttanad, in Alappuzha district, Kerala, to Abraham (Ouseph Abraham) and Amminikutty Puthenchirayil. He has an elder brother, Joseph Abraham, who lives in the United States with his family. Fondly called Sony Kuttan at home, Fr. Mathew grew up in a family shaped by resilience, sacrifice, and deep values.

His father served in the Indian Army and was often away on duty, while his mother took responsibility for raising the children. Amminikutty ensured both sons received a proper education and sent them to Sacred Heart High School, an English-medium school in Fathimapuram, Changanassery. In those days, sending children to an English-medium school—especially one far from home—was a bold decision, often criticized by family members. Still, she provided them with the best opportunities. A homemaker with a poet's heart, Amminikutty carried the family through many challenges with courage and compassion.

Fr. Mathew excelled academically, completing his schooling in Changanassery, followed by higher secondary studies at St. Berchmans College. He then pursued medical education at Government Medical College, Kottayam, earning his MBBS from 1987 to 1993. After graduation, he served for a year in a mission hospital in Kerala while preparing for postgraduate studies.

During his medical training, particularly at Kottayam Medical College, witnessing the travails of people, specially young mothers during pregnancy, he experienced a profound spiritual renewal that transformed his understanding of life and vocation. What began as a pursuit of professional success gradually evolved into a deeper calling to serve. Inspired by the healing ministry of Jesus, he specialized in Community Medicine at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, completing his MD in 1998. This choice reflected his desire to serve not just individual patients, but the wider human community—especially those most in need.

While at CMC Vellore, Fr. Mathew discerned a further call to dedicate his life entirely to service. Choosing to forgo conventional family life, he embraced priesthood in the Redemptorist congregation. His formation included studies in psychology, philosophy, theology, and spirituality, culminating in his ordination in April 2007. He is one of the very few people in the Church who combines the vocation of a priest with the training of a doctor, making his ministry a rare blend of spiritual care and medical healing.

Following ordination, he served briefly in a parish in Thiruvananthapuram before his 2008 appointment as Executive Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) Health Commission—a role he held until 2015. During this period, he also served as Project Director for major Global Fund initiatives, including HIV PACT (Prevention and Access to Care and Treatment) projects across five states and the IMPACT TB (Integrated Measures for Prevention and Care in TB) project across eleven states. He additionally held leadership roles as officiating Executive Director of Catholic Bishops' Conference of India–Coalition for AIDS and Related Diseases (CBCI-CARD) and Chair of the Technical Resource Group (TRG) for Care, Support, and Treatment under the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Government of India.

Fr. Mathew has been actively involved in national and international health and development platforms. He has served as Vice President of the Christian Coalition for Health since 2013 and continues as a member of the Steering Board of the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) at the Vatican, where he leads the Healthcare Working Group. He has held leadership positions for international networks such as Engage

Disability and LINC Asia which reflect his commitment to inclusive and equitable healthcare for the differently abled.

In 2016, Fr. Mathew became Director General of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI). Under his leadership, CHAI strengthened its position as one of India's largest faith-based healthcare networks, reaching more than 21 million through healthcare and community health programs. He consistently emphasized that healthcare must be understood not merely as a service, but as a ministry rooted in compassion, dignity, and justice.

He encouraged enhancement of professional standards across the network while preserving its mission identity. He re-organized programs to focus on optimization of resources, be technology-enabled while still retaining their roots in compassion. The COVID era was a tremendous challenge to both the functioning of the directorate and the healthcare situation in the country. Not only did Fr. Mathew overcome the challenge that was posed, with numerous COVID initiatives, he ensured that essential healthcare services continued to flow through the network and the impact of the programs increased. His steady, courageous leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic inspired many to serve with dedication, solidarity, and hope. Through capacity-building initiatives, training programs, and strategic collaborations, he enabled institutions to respond effectively to evolving healthcare needs. Under his leadership, CHAI deepened its collaborations with key partners such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS), whose ALLRight project strengthened CHAI's monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning systems and helped digitize flagship programs.

Alongside the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most significant hurdles during his tenure was the FCRA Amendment of September 2020. This change created uncertainty for many institutions, often without clear guidance on compliance. However, under the able and steady leadership of Fr. Mathew, CHAI successfully navigated these changes, aligning its systems and processes with the new regulations and continuing its service to the nation without disruption.

We would also like to gratefully acknowledge that CHAI successfully secured the renewal of its FCRA registration during his period. This was achieved through Fr. Mathew's meticulous leadership, ensuring that all required formalities were completed with the highest standards of professionalism and transparency.

This accomplishment stands as a testament to his committed leadership, strong adherence to regulatory compliance, and the organization's unwavering dedication to accountability and integrity in all its operations.

A significant milestone during his tenure was the comprehensive renovation of the CHAI Directorate from 2023 to 2025, undertaken under National Presidents Sr. Victoria Narichiti, JMJ, and Fr. N. L. Thomas. The renovation revitalized key spaces—including the office, chapel, Mary Glowrey Museum, auditorium, meeting rooms, and common facilities—enhancing functionality and accessibility for the organization's diverse activities.

At the heart of Fr. Mathew's life and work lies a deep commitment to compassionate, affordable, quality healthcare—especially for those on society's margins. His core values—compassion, simplicity, efficiency, and a strong sense of mission—continue to guide his leadership. CHAI is an organization in which 80 percent of those working at the grassroots level are women, yet for the past 82 years it has been led by male leaders. It was his vision to see a woman lead the organization, and as part of the succession plan, Fr. Mathew has intentionally nurtured and mentored a woman leader to succeed him.

Through his unique journey as doctor, priest, and visionary leader, Fr. Mathew Abraham has inspired countless individuals to see healthcare as a mission of healing—for body, mind, and spirit—and as a path toward justice and human dignity.

We admire and appreciate his invaluable contribution and dedicated service to the organization.

Sr. Dr. Helen Mary A, SAB

Director-General, Designate

Messages



Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC

Ecclesiastical Advisor

As we bid farewell to our dear Fr. Mathew, I do so with deep gratitude, admiration, and respect for a leader who has guided CHAI with wisdom, integrity, and remarkable generosity. I have witnessed that his generosity has not been confined to words but has been expressed through meaningful action—through initiatives launched, individuals mentored, and standards elevated.

I have known Fr. Mathew for a long time. I have always experienced him as a warm, affectionate, and people-centered person. Besides having a very charming personality, I have found him to be a talented leader with qualities of both mind and heart. In my experience, he has led CHAI not simply as an administrator, but as a steward leader. I have seen that his leadership has been anchored in faith, shaped by compassion, and strengthened by an unwavering commitment to service. In the decisions he made, I could often discern not only prudence and foresight, but also a deep concern for the dignity and well-being of every person entrusted to his care.

I have also seen that he is a leader who believes in taking everyone on board. His principle that “together we can achieve more” has been evident in the way he has guided the organization.

I have admired the way he has consistently demonstrated that true leadership is measured by one’s willingness to uplift others. I especially appreciate his farsighted decision to transition the reins of leadership at CHAI from a priest as Director General to a religious sister as the head for the first time in the history of CHAI.

On a personal note, I consider it a blessing to call him not only the Director General of CHAI, but also my priest-friend. Beyond the responsibilities of leadership, I have witnessed his sincerity, his humor, his humility, and his unwavering faith. His friendship has been a source of strength and inspiration for me, and I know many others share this sentiment.

As he moves on, I do not say farewell with sadness alone, but with gratitude and confidence. I believe that the seeds he has sown will continue to bear fruit, and that the lives he has touched will carry forward his example. The faith he has strengthened within the CHAI family will remain his enduring legacy. I extend my sincere appreciation for his dedication, his integrity, and his generous heart.



Rev. Dr. Tomi Thomas, IMS

Former Director General of CHAI and Ordinary Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Vatican

Rev. Dr. Mathew Abraham – A Legacy in the Annals of CHAI

I wish to place on record my deep appreciation for the distinguished service rendered by Rev. Dr. Fr. Mathew Abraham, C.Ss.R., during his tenure as Director General of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI). As a medical doctor and a priest, he brought together professional competence, public health vision, and pastoral commitment in strengthening the Church’s healing ministry in India.

During his leadership, I witnessed CHAI continue to grow as one of the country’s largest faith-based healthcare networks, reaching millions through hospitals, dispensaries, community health programs, and outreach initiatives. I have always admired how he emphasized that healthcare is not merely an institutional service but a ministry rooted in human dignity, especially for the rural, tribal, and marginalized communities.

I also observed his commitment to strengthening professional standards while preserving CHAI’s mission identity through capacity building, training, and collaborative partnerships. His steady guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic inspired many institutions to respond with compassion and courage.

As he concludes this chapter of leadership, I sincerely thank him for his dedicated service. I also congratulate and assure my support to Sr. Dr. Helen Mary, SAB, as the successor.

I wish Fr. Mathew God’s abundant blessings in his future mission.



Fr. Edward Joseph, C.Ss.R.

Provincial Superior, Redemptorists, Province of Bangalore

I have experienced Fr. Mathew Abraham, C.Ss.R., in his role as Director General of CHAI, as a remarkable leader—simple in his lifestyle, serene in his demeanor, and systematic in his approach to people and administration. Through my association with him and the generous sharing I have received from him, I have come to recognize him as a person of exceptional calibre, whose deep sense of commitment flows from

a profound faith in God and a sincere dedication to the responsibilities entrusted to him. I have admired his thoughtful planning and strong organizational abilities, which have guided CHAI with clarity, vision, and purpose.

What I find most distinctive about him is his deep pastoral heart and his genuine love for the poor—a true mark of being a Redemptorist at heart. In the spirit of the Redemptorist charism, I have seen how he shows a special concern for those on the margins, allowing compassion to keep him grounded and attentive to the cries of the most vulnerable. This spirit has inspired him to encourage and promote community initiatives that bring hope, dignity, healing, and life to those most in need. In his quiet and humble way, I believe he has lived out the Gospel values, reminding us that authentic leadership is always rooted in service. Through his presence, wisdom, and gentle guidance, I have seen him strengthen the mission of CHAI and touch many lives with faith, humility, and compassion.

As Fr. Mathew Abraham, C.Ss.R. now concludes this significant chapter of his ministry at CHAI, I offer my heartfelt gratitude and prayers for him. I pray that the Lord, who has faithfully guided him thus far, will continue to lead him gently into the new phase of his journey that now unfolds before him. May the same faith that has been his strength, the wisdom that has shaped his leadership, and the compassion that has inspired his service continue to bear abundant fruit in the days to come. I pray that God blesses him with good health, deep peace, and renewed missionary zeal, so that wherever he is called to serve, he may continue to proclaim hope, especially to the poor and the most abandoned, in the true spirit of a Redemptorist.



Fr. Santhosh Dias

National Executive Secretary, CBCI Office for Healthcare, Bangalore

I believe that Fr. Mathew Abraham brought remarkable innovation and creativity to the Catholic Health Association of India, reshaping its vision and mission. His tireless dedication to the healing ministry of the Church stands as a truly praiseworthy example of servant leadership. At a crucial moment, he proved to be the right leader to carry forward the baton of responsibility in CHAI.

Under his guidance, the network expanded its reach and strengthened its ability to deliver compassionate, quality healthcare to those in need. I feel that his leadership not only elevated the organisation but also left a lasting impact on communities across India, setting new benchmarks in faith-driven service.

CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



Fr. N. L. Thomas

President-CHAI, CHAW Region

Fr. Mathew, thank you for leading us with both a sharp mind and a kind heart. Under your guidance, we haven't just reached our institutional goals; we've grown as professionals and as a community. While we are sad to see you go, your influence will remain in the hallways and the lives of the people we serve. Congratulations on a remarkable career!



Fr. Binu Thomas

I Vice President, CHAKE Region

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the inspiring leadership of Rev. Fr. Mathew Abraham, Director General of CHAI. Through his visionary guidance, dedication, and creativity, he has strengthened the mission of CHAI and renewed its commitment to compassionate healthcare.

His leadership reflects the true spirit of the healing ministry of the Church, reaching out especially to the poor and the marginalized. With a forward-looking vision and deep concern for people, he has guided the organization to new heights of service and innovation.

Personally, I have experienced his warmth, openness, and encouragement, which continue to inspire many who are engaged in the healthcare ministry.

As the Scripture reminds us, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26). His life and leadership beautifully embody this spirit of servant leadership.

May God continue to bless him abundantly as he leads this noble mission of healing and service.

Thank you, Fr. Mathew—you are my brother...



Fr. T. Devadoss

II Vice President, CHAT Region

I have experienced Fr. Mathew as a very simple and approachable person. I have always found him to speak with conviction and to be very clear in his presentation

of any topic, whether related to CHAI or to the medical field.

Sr. Shiji Jacob, SSpS

Secretary, OCHA Region



I first met Fr. Mathew Abraham in 2014 when he was the Secretary of the CBCI Health Commission. During that time, he visited our community as well as our hospital in Bhubaneswar.

During his visit, he spoke to us about online discussions and virtual meetings. In those days, we had only small keypad mobile phones. However, he encouraged us to buy a device that could be used for group meetings. After COVID, virtual meetings became common everywhere, but he had this vision much before the pandemic.

Later, when he became the Director General of CHAI, I was serving as the Regional President. This gave me the opportunity to visit the CHAI office and interact with him more closely. Through my interactions with him, I experienced him as a very caring, warm, and welcoming person to everyone who came to the office. I have also seen that he enjoys life to the fullest. He is technologically inclined and has brought significant positive changes to the CHAI Directorate through his commitment and dedication.

From my experience, Fr. Mathew is a people-oriented, passionate, and compassionate person, deeply committed to serving those on the margins of society.

Sr. Dr. Preeti Margaret, BS

Joint Secretary, RUPCHA Region



With deep gratitude, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for your inspiring leadership.

Your commitment to holistic health and gender equality is not just a principle you speak about—it is something you courageously live. By entrusting responsibility to a woman, you have created a historic moment in the Catholic Health Association of India. What remained only a discussion for many years has become a reality through your vision and conviction.

What touches me most is your warm and gentle presence. In your company, anyone can feel at home, valued, and accepted. You have a beautiful way of recognizing the potential in others, encouraging them, building their confidence, and trusting them with responsibility. I

personally carry the grace of this experience—you believed, you guided, and you empowered.

Your life speaks of compassion, trust, and true leadership. Thank you for being a light of hope and a source of strength for so many.

With deep respect, gratitude, and prayers.

Fr. Siby Kaitharan, MI

Treasurer, CHAKA Region



I have experienced Fr. Mathew as an elder brother throughout my association with him. I have found him to be a person full of creative ideas who always helped us understand and live the depth and spirit of CHAI's mission. I have seen how deeply he has taken the mission of CHAI to heart and how he has spread it with great dedication and commitment.

I have always known him to be ready to support at any time, without hesitation. Whenever I met him, I felt very much at home, as if I were returning home. I have also experienced the personal care he shows to everyone, which makes his presence deeply comforting and inspiring.

Fr. P. A. Thomas

Councillor, CHAMP Region



Fr. Mathew is a person who leads others in decision making while keeping his vision clear. His capacity in taking the team towards realizing the vision and mission of CHAI is tremendous and always an inspiration for us. In short, he lives the vision and shapes the mission.

Sr. Vijaya M. Udumala, JMJ

Councillor, CHAAPT Region



As Fr. Mathew completes his tenure, I wish to personally express my deep gratitude and admiration for the transformative leadership he has offered to the Catholic Health Association of India.

I have seen how, with remarkable foresight, courage, and innovation, he has strengthened the organization, revitalized its regional networks, and inspired greater collaboration among member institutions, taking CHAI to a new level of excellence. His calm wisdom, strategic

clarity, and unwavering commitment to the mission of serving the most vulnerable have been a source of confidence and encouragement to many of us who have journeyed with him. In my view, he has not only administered the organization but has truly animated it with purpose and direction, leaving behind a strong foundation for the future. I remain confident that his contribution has made CHAI stronger, more credible, and more mission-focused.

As he moves forward to new avenues of service, I pray that he may remain assured that his leadership has created a lasting impact. May God continue to bless him abundantly in his priestly ministry.

With deep gratitude and admiration, I thank Fr. Mathew for his dedicated service as the Director General of CHAI. His visionary leadership, compassionate heart, and unwavering commitment have inspired many and strengthened the mission in countless ways. As he completes his term, I wish him God's abundant blessings and success in all his future endeavours.



Sr. Teena Pappachan, SD

Councillor, NECHA Region

With a heart filled with deep gratitude and love, I sincerely thank you for your loving and dedicated service as Director General of CHAI over these past years. Your leadership has been far more than administrative guidance; you have been like a loving mother and a caring elder brother to each one of us.

Your warm welcome whenever we arrived at CHAI always gave us a sense of belonging and made us feel truly at home. Your genuine concern for every individual, your attentive listening, and your ability to understand each person in their own unique way have made us feel valued and cherished. Many times, I personally felt my heart grow lighter the moment I reached the CHAI family, because your presence radiates comfort, encouragement, and reassurance.

I have often felt that you are one of my own family members. In fact, I have always wished for such a kind and caring elder brother in my life, and through you, that wish seemed fulfilled. Your loving concern, personal attention, and compassionate approach have touched my heart deeply.

Your great vision, dedication, and unwavering commitment have always been a true inspiration to me. Your tireless efforts and many sleepless nights have borne beautiful fruit in the growth and strength of CHAI today. Your leadership has strengthened not

only the organization but also the spirit of unity, service, and compassion within each of us.

I am truly proud of you and hold you dear as my elder brother. Thank you for being such a blessing in our lives. Your life and service will continue to inspire us always. With much love, respect, and gratitude, I offer my heartfelt thanks.



Sr. Princy Mathew, SCN

Councillor, CHABIJ Region

With deep gratitude and admiration, I thank Fr. Mathew for his dedicated service as the Director General of CHAI. His visionary leadership, compassionate heart, and unwavering commitment have inspired many and strengthened the mission in countless ways. As he completes his term, I wish him God's abundant blessings and success in all his future endeavors.



Sr. Chinnabathina Velangani (Late)

Councillor, WBCHA Region

Everyone we meet teaches us something; some teach us how to love, and some teach us how to let go.

I wholeheartedly thank you, Fr. Mathew, for the support, love, and help that I have received from you since the time I joined CHAI. I am glad to be a National CHAI Board Member, where I had the opportunity to experience your guidance, ideas, and suggestions in carrying out my responsibilities.

I have been inspired by your hard work, the way you handle situations, and the way you deal with people, especially during times of uncertainty. Your dedication and passion have inspired me to strive for excellence. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work with you and to witness your achievements.

I pray to God that whatever you do and wherever you go, the Lord may accompany you and grant you good health, strength, and courage to do His will for the rest of your life.

Sr. Victoria Narisetti, JMJ

Ex-President of CHAI



A Tribute from My Heart to Rev. Fr. Mathew Abraham CSsR.

When I speak of Rev. Dr. Fr. Mathew Abraham,
I speak not from memory... but from my heart.

I have felt his love,
been strengthened by his presence,
and quietly transformed by his life.
In my journey, he was my light—
in confusion, my clarity...
in weakness, my strength...
in silence, a listening heart.
He did not just guide me—
he shaped me.
He taught me to hope, to love, to rise.
To me, he is more than a leader—
he is my beloved brother,
a precious gift God placed in my life.
Fr. Mathew, thank you...
for walking beside me,
for believing in me,
for holding me in your care.
I carry you in my prayers with joy,
and in my heart with gratitude.
With love and gratitude.

Sr. Bhavya Scaria, CHF

Former Executive Board Member



As Fr. Mathew completes his term as Director General of CHAI, I find myself filled with deep gratitude, admiration, and heartfelt emotion. His journey with CHAI has left an unforgettable mark on the institution and on each of us who had the privilege of walking alongside him during this meaningful chapter.

I have experienced compassion as the hallmark of his leadership, reflected in every initiative and decision he took. I have also seen his ability to look beyond immediate challenges and plan thoughtfully for the future, which strengthened the foundation of the

organization and inspired confidence in all those who worked with him. Every decision he made reflected wisdom, balance, and a deep sense of responsibility, always keeping the larger mission and the people at its heart.

I see him as an example of selfless service, visionary leadership, and deep compassion. Every step he took and every choice he made carried a tenderness that touched us all deeply. I have always experienced him as a genuine visionary who looked ahead, carefully planning for the future of CHAI while remaining faithful to its vision and mission.

I have also witnessed how his sincerity, unwavering honesty, and the quiet strength of his principles built a trust that still echoes in every corner of CHAI. Under his gentle and steady leadership, I saw CHAI grow into a name synonymous with integrity among NGOs and partners alike.

As my mentor and guide, he has left an imprint on my life and on CHAI that time can never erase. His legacy continues to inspire us and urges us to carry forward the same spirit of dedication and service

I sincerely thank him for his selfless service, thoughtful leadership, and gentle guidance. I wish him God's abundant blessings, good health, and continued fulfilment in all the paths ahead.

With deep respect and gratitude.

Fr. George Kannanthanam, CMF

Former Executive Board Member



Fr Mathew:
Is a close friend to all.
He calls them by name.
Shows his affection and love very lavishly.
He can give a heartfelt hug.
Listens to you and everyone.
He grasps before he talks.
Expresses with clarity his thoughts and ideas.
It is a joy to listen to him.
Dreams globally. Thinks nationally.
But capable to break down to operations locally.
Took CHAI to better visibility and strength.
We are equipped for future and resourceful.
Thanks Mathew.
Ever grateful.
You will always be remembered with pride and love.

Sr. Mercy Flora, ICM

Former Executive Board Member, CHAT



As Rev. Fr. Mathew completes his term as Director General of the Catholic Health Association of India, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for his inspiring leadership and dedicated service. A man of God, intelligence, and vision, Fr. Mathew has guided the Association with wisdom, clarity, and a deep commitment to the healing mission of the Church. His knowledge, simplicity, and humility have earned the respect and admiration of all who have had the privilege to work with him.

Fr. Mathew's compassionate heart and profound sense of solidarity with the poor and suffering have been the hallmarks of his leadership. Relational, friendly, and kind-hearted, he has been a true animator, encouraging many to serve with greater commitment and love. As he concludes his tenure, I gratefully acknowledge the lasting impact of his leadership and pray for God's abundant blessings upon him in his continued ministry.

Fr. Kiran Olakkengil

Former Executive Board Member



I have had the privilege of witnessing in Rev. Dr. Mathew Abraham a beautiful harmony of faith, medicine, and social commitment. His vision goes far beyond clinical care to strengthening healthcare systems that serve the poorest and most marginalized.

For him, the care of vulnerable and marginalized people is not merely a social responsibility but a profound mission of life. By restoring dignity, promoting wellbeing, and advocating for compassionate healthcare, he offers a living testimony to the Gospel's call to heal, serve, and uplift humanity.

Sr. Lizzie Mathew, SCCG

Former Executive Board Member



I had close collaboration with Fr. Mathew for seven years as a National Board Member representing NECHA. It was a wonderful experience of collaboration and cooperation, and during this time I experienced his

special interest in and love for NECHA. For everything, I say thank you to him.

Fr. Mathew, in my experience, is:

- A person of unwavering faith, courage, and clear vision.
- A masterpiece of God, chosen and moulded and entrusted with a mission, which I have seen him carry out with extraordinary fidelity.
- A person deeply rooted in God and purposeful in action.
- A leader through whom I witnessed remarkable growth and visible transformation in the CHAI family.
- A person whom I saw pursue every goal with diligence and determination.
- A person of great zeal and enthusiasm for CHAI, with far-reaching vision, foresight, and networking capacity, which I believe made CHAI more popular and well known.
- A leader whose leadership, in my experience, brought a true shift of mind-set, spirit, and mission far beyond what words can fully express.
- A leader who could be firm when moments demanded it; yet his smile and welcoming attitude always gave hope. For me, this is not merely the completion of a mandate, but the beginning of a legacy, a legacy of faith, expansion, and love.

Thank you, dear Fr. Mathew, for making CHAI stronger and more vibrant, wider in vision, deeper in spirit, and more alive.

Sr. Anthonia Arulandu, FC

Former Executive Board Member



I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Fr. Mathew, who has been a vibrant leader and has accomplished remarkable things during his tenure at the CHAI office. His sincerity, hard work, and strong sense of responsibility have made a meaningful difference to the CHAI family and to everyone who had the privilege of working with him.

I sincerely thank Fr. Mathew for everything he has done and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

SDFI AND MARY GLOWREY SCHOLARS



Sr. Dr. Beena D. Madhavath, UMI

Executive Director, Holy Family Hospital, Mumbai

Dear Rev. Dr. Mathew,

It is difficult to put into words the depth of gratitude and admiration I feel as this chapter comes to a close. You have been far more than a leader—you have been a guiding light, a steady presence, and a source of inspiration to so many of us.

Your journey reflects a rare and beautiful blend of compassion and competence. With quiet strength and unwavering faith, you have led not just with vision, but with heart. Over the years, you have nurtured not only institutions, but mentored people—touching lives in ways that will be remembered long after roles and titles fade.

Under your leadership, CHAI has not only grown stronger in its systems and collaborations, but richer in its spirit. You have shown us what it means to lead with integrity, humility, and a deep sense of mission. What stands out most is your deeply humane approach—how you listened, encouraged, and believed in others.

Personally, your support in nurturing leadership, especially among women within the CHAI network and SDFI, has been transformative. Your trust gave many of us the courage to step forward, to discover our strengths, and to lead with confidence. That gift will continue to ripple forward in ways even we may not fully realize today.

As you move into the next phase of your journey, please know that your legacy lives on—not only in the work you have strengthened, but in the countless hearts you have uplifted and inspired. With heartfelt gratitude, I thank you—for your leadership, your kindness, your faith, and your unwavering belief in us.

Wishing you peace, joy, and deep fulfillment in all your future endeavours.



Sr. Blanch Ancintha Rosario, FdCC

President, SDFI

We remember with profound gratitude the patient and growth-oriented steps you have taken alongside the Sister Doctors Forum of India (SDFI), contributing

greatly to its visibility and development today. Thank you, dear Father, for encouraging us to dream big, for guiding our vision, and for helping transform our ideas into meaningful realities while fostering the constructive growth of our Forum. SDFI gratefully acknowledges your generosity, wisdom, and visionary leadership that have strengthened our mission. With heartfelt thanks, we assure you of our sincere prayers and best wishes for your continued journey ahead.



Sr. Maria Vasantha, SCC

Senior Consultant, Leonard Hospital, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation as you complete your term as Director-General. I deeply value the person you have been to all of us. Your compassion and your special concern for those serving in the peripheries have always touched me.

I particularly remember the COVID times, when you took great initiative to organize donors and mobilize support for the hospital associations. Your efforts helped many institutions continue their service during a very difficult period.

I have experienced your leadership as one marked by generosity, sensitivity, and a sincere desire to support those who serve others. I thank you for all that you have done. Your contribution will always remain in my memory with gratitude.



Sr. Sally John, SJB

Director, Jeevadhara Psycho-spiritual centre, Sewagram, Wardha, Maharashtra

My first acquaintance with Fr. Mathew was through his presence at the SDFI conferences, where I came to know him as a priest who embraced religious life after completing his medical graduation and post-graduation in Community Medicine. This unique integration of medical professionalism and priestly vocation itself commanded deep respect.

Observing him at these conferences and listening to his scholarly presentations, I perceived him as a person of remarkable intellectual depth and clarity. His

articulation, vision, and confident engagement reflected an inspiring level of academic and leadership excellence.

Through the Impact Square programme organized for sister doctors, I had the privilege of encountering his deeply humane and compassionate dimension. Beyond his intellectual stature, I discovered in him a person of genuine warmth, simplicity, and sincere concern for the wellbeing of sisters. His attentiveness, approachability, and quiet encouragement revealed a shepherd's heart committed to nurturing others.

Subsequent interactions, especially during a leadership formation programme, further deepened this understanding. I became more aware of the far-reaching vision and initiatives he has fostered through CHAI, particularly in promoting the wellbeing, capacity-building, and empowerment of sisters. It has been a joy that our Province became part of the ELLSCI project and that our Provincial Team and I could participate in several of these meaningful initiatives.

Through these engagements, CHAI, and even more personally, Fr. Mathew has come to signify far more than an institution. It has become a space of belonging and shared purpose. His authenticity, humility, and dedication to human dignity and holistic wellbeing have deeply influenced me and many others.

As Fr. Mathew transitions to new responsibilities, I express my heartfelt gratitude for his visionary leadership, personal encouragement, and dedicated service. I invoke God's abundant blessings upon him as he continues his journey of faithful and transformative service to humanity.

Dr. Anwar Hussain

Palliative Care Expert



Fr. Mathew Abraham has two dimensions of relationship with me. First, as classmate and close friend in Medical School started some 40 years ago and now as the DG of CHAI as my employer since 3 years. In both roles the most important quality I experienced in him is the humaneness and warmth in dealing with situations and people. He tries to understand and handle both from a heart perspective. The wetness in his eyes whenever he visits the suffering patients in Pratyasha is ample proof of his compassion and empathy which is his greatest strength and which made him what he is today and touch thousands of lives as a missionary. Another thing which impressed me off late is his approach to ministry which is more spiritual than religious.

All the best dear friend for your future endeavours and your pursuit of a meaningful life.

John Santhosh

Technology Consultant



I was introduced to Fr. Mathew through my cousin, who was his classmate in medical college. From the very beginning, he treated me like family, far beyond the professional association between CHAI and BillionLives.

I wish him God's blessings and all the very best in his new journey!

George Paul

Communication Consultant



Fr. Mathew and I go back a long way, and it has been a privilege to work for CHAI alongside him since 2018. He had a natural instinct for how good design could transform communication. I have watched him evolve into someone with a truly sophisticated eye for visual language. He hasn't just appreciated good design; he has applied it, making tangible improvements to everything CHAI does. I have always been impressed by his leadership skills, specifically his ability to bring people together for a common cause, and the tireless energy he brings to CHAI. I wish Fr. Mathew the very best in all his future pursuits as he continues to make a meaningful difference wherever he serves.

Rosemary Thomas

Consultant-Network Support



I am very grateful for the time I spent working with Fr. Mathew, as he introduced me to the work of the Sisters and gave me the opportunity and freedom to work with them and for them. It has been an extremely enriching experience for me.

I also appreciate Fr. Mathew's vision for the future and his sincere desire to work for the development of the Catholic Healthcare Ministry. Another admirable quality I have observed in him is his openness to and encouragement of working with lay people. I have often heard him highlight the importance of including the contribution of the laity in the Church and her ministry. In our present times, I believe this is a crucial aspect that Fr. Mathew recognized early. On a more personal level,

I have enjoyed seeing how he appreciates the gifts of God in simple moments, during a shared meal, in music, and in the beauty of nature.

Sr. Rani Poulose, CSJ

Providence



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Fr. Mathew for his dedicated service to CHAI and for strengthening our collaboration with Providence in advancing leadership development and a culture-based health system. I have deeply valued his simplicity, cordiality, and gracious support. I sincerely thank him for his significant contributions and wish him God's abundant blessings in the years ahead.

Ms. June Michael

Former Employee



I have worked in CHAI for almost 25 years, under the earlier directors, however, unfortunately, I did not get an opportunity to officially work with Fr. Mathew, as I retired in the year he took over as Director. Having said that, I would still like to make a mention that he never failed to remember me and invited me to CHAI on various occasions. That in itself, showed how hospitable and friendly he is.

May the Lord continue to bless him and his future endeavours.

Ms. Jessy Joy

Former Employee



Fr. Mathew Abraham, is a calm and composed leader who trusts his team and inspires us to give our best. His faith in my abilities has always motivated me to work well and succeed. He encourages brainstorming and warmly welcomes ideas and feedback, creating a collaborative and positive work environment.

When I was first offered the opportunity to take up the job at the directorate, I felt anxious and even declined the role a couple of times. However, with Fr. Mathew's constant encouragement and support, I gradually grew

into the position and eventually began to enjoy the work and responsibilities.

Even after my retirement, he continues to reach out and include me in celebrations and gatherings, which shows his warmth and the strong sense of community he fosters. His leadership is defined not only by professionalism and vision, but also by genuine care for people.

David Skinner

Former Employee



During my post-retirement tenure, I had the rare privilege of serving under Rev. Fr. Mathew Abraham, whose leadership left a lasting impact on my life. Warm, wise, and deeply grounded in values, he combined professional excellence with emotional intelligence, making him not just a Director General but a true mentor. He fostered a culture of disciplined time management, believing that respecting time was respecting people, yet his firmness was always guided by fairness and purpose.

Despite my many responsibilities, he treated me with profound dignity and affection, addressing me as "David Ji," a gesture that reflected his sincerity and respect. An inspiring orator and a lover of nature, he nurtured both people and surroundings with equal care. At my send-off, his words "There will always be a table and chair for you at CHAI for life", became a lasting assurance of belonging that I continue to cherish deeply.

Dr. Anto Maliekal

Former Employee



I would like to thank you personally for your encouragement and friendship while I worked with you. I learned a lot from your insisting on the shortest possible but lucid articulation of concepts and arguments.

Fr. Mathew, I vividly remember your visionary approach that combined strategic planning with a practical, long-term roadmap for CHAI's future. Also, ensuring

its sustainability by engaging an expert team – stressing transparency and accountability factors.

Indeed, you have left an indelible mark on CHAI's infrastructure, renovating a dilapidated building into a grand, corporate-standard, and welcoming space.

Thank you, Father, for leading the CHAI team for a decade, with your transformative leadership and dedicated service.



Dr. Sameer Valsangkar

Former Employee

I have had the privilege of working closely under Fr. Mathew's leadership and witnessing firsthand how he transformed our organization. His leadership was marked by clarity of vision, humility, and a deep sense of mission—he never saw healthcare only as a service, but as an expression of compassionate care.

Despite his own challenges, Fr. Mathew inspired us to reach beyond the usual boundaries, to step closer to those who were marginalized and unreached. Under his guidance, we were able to reorient our programs, strengthen our teams, and expand our impact in ways that profoundly touched the lives of countless people. His door was always open, his ear always attentive; he listened with empathy, supported with generosity, and led with quiet courage.

I will always remember his compassionate care—for his team, for the community and for the mission—and I am deeply grateful for the example he set and the support he gave me personally. I thank him sincerely for his guidance and wish him all the very best in the new chapter of his mission.



Sundar Bunga

Former Employee

I would like to express how deeply you value relationships, always cherishing the joy of togetherness. I still fondly remember the early Christmas celebrations when you personally served food to all of us. It was such a pleasant surprise for me to witness the Director General embodying such simplicity, grace, and approachability, joining us as one among us. I truly loved those moments, your singing with us, sharing time together, and building a genuine sense of camaraderie.

I also admire your remarkable diligence and attention to detail. The way you approach challenges consistently

reflects depth, discernment, and fairness, always striving to arrive at solutions that uphold the well-being of everyone involved.

Father, if I may respectfully say, I have experienced you not only as an exemplary teacher but also as a true brother in Christ.

I am certain that you will continue to be a blessing wherever you are called to serve. May God guide and use you abundantly in His kingdom.

To me, Fr. Mathew, you are a man of peace, serenity, and contentment - a true servant of God.



Shalini Prabhata Ravi

Former Employee

I have known Fr. Mathew Abraham as a person with a serene nature and thoughtful leadership. During my time at CHAI, I had the privilege, along with others in the Senior Management Team, of spending long hours with him in discussions on planning and the implementation of new initiatives.

I have experienced that he listens deeply, seeks to understand thoroughly, and consistently encourages innovative thinking. I have also seen his strong commitment to strengthening the Catholic Health Network and ensuring its sustainability, which I find truly inspiring. He always strives for excellence in every initiative and places great value on quality presentation. It has been a privilege for me to work with Fr. Mathew in strengthening the mission of CHAI.

STAFF



Sr. Siriyapushpam, SAB

Admin Manager

Dear Father,

Though my time with you has been brief, it has been truly meaningful. In just a short while, I have witnessed your simplicity, dedication, and the quiet strength with which you lead.

Some encounters may be short in time, yet lasting in impact—and yours is one such presence I will always remember. Your words and example have left a gentle imprint on my heart.

With gratitude for these few but precious moments, I wish you peace, joy, and every blessing in the journey ahead.

Maji Manesh

Finance Manager



As Fr. Mathew moves on after ten wonderful years of dedicated service to our organisation, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude.

It has been a blessing for me to work under his leadership. During my association with him, I experienced not only a strong and visionary leader but also a caring and compassionate mentor. His guidance, patience, and encouragement helped me grow both professionally and personally.

I sincerely thank him for his selfless service, his wisdom, and the love he showed to each one of us. He will always remain special to our organisation and in our hearts.

I wish him God's abundant blessings, good health, and peace in his new mission. Thank you, Father.

K.Sreeramulu

Asst Finance Manager



1. Supportive Nature – He supports employees and helps them grow in their careers.
2. Strong Leadership – He guides the team with confidence and clear direction.
3. Motivating Leader – He inspires and encourages employees to give their best performance.
4. Honesty and Integrity – He builds trust within the organization.
5. Good Communication – He clearly explains goals, listens to suggestions, and encourages open discussion.
6. Fair and Honest – He treat all employees equally and makes decisions without bias.

Areth Raj

Senior Finance Officer



I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your mentorship, guidance, and constant support. I have grown immensely under your leadership and truly appreciate the many opportunities you have provided to me. I am especially grateful for your steady leadership

during challenging times. It has been both a privilege and an honour to work under your guidance.

As you move on to a new chapter, I wish you every success and God's abundant blessings in your next endeavour.

Sreenivasa Rao Guduru

Finance Officer



- Supportive Nature – Helps employees grow and succeed.
- Motivational Skills – Encourages and inspires the team to do their best.
- Good Communication Skills – Clearly shares ideas and listens to employees.
- Responsibility and Accountability – Takes responsibility for actions and outcomes
- Vision and Planning – Sets clear goals and plans for the future success of the organization.
- Fairness – Treats all employees equally without favouritism

Venkat Vanguri

Accounts Officer



As we bid farewell to Fr. Mathew our Director General, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for his outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication to our organization. His visionary guidance and strategic thinking have laid a strong foundation for growth and progress.

His approachable nature and inspiring presence made everyone feel valued and supported. He has always shown a warm and friendly spirit that made everyone feel comfortable and confident in their roles.

He consistently encouraged each one of us to give our best for the growth of the organization. His positive attitude and motivating words inspired teamwork, unity, and a shared sense of purpose among us.

I am truly grateful for his remarkable leadership and guidance. I prayerfully wish him continued success and abundant blessings in all his future endeavours.

Ajay Madamshetty

Finance Officer



I sincerely thank Fr. Mathew for his inspiring leadership and unwavering dedication to our organization. I have seen how his vision and guidance have made a lasting impact on all of us. His leadership has motivated the team and contributed greatly to the success of many projects. Through his dedication, I have also witnessed how he strengthened networks and built strong collaborations. I wish him continued success and happiness in the next chapter of his journey.

Rakesh Vemula

Asst. Finance Officer



I would like to thank Fr. Mathew for his dedicated service and strong leadership. I have experienced how his guidance and kindness have made a lasting impact on us. I truly appreciate all that he has done for our community. I will always remember him with respect and gratitude.

Prasad Jakkampudi

Accountant



I sincerely thank Fr. Mathew for his dedicated service and guidance. I have been inspired by his kindness and leadership. I will always remember him with gratitude.

Vishal Gupta

Senior Programme Manager



I sincerely thank Fr. Mathew for his inspiring leadership and cheerful presence. I will always value the lessons he taught us about priorities, perseverance, and thoughtful decision-making.

Priyanka Prasanna Latouche

Liaison Officer



I am deeply grateful for the clear vision you have set for all of us, steering this ship with a steady hand and an inspiring sense of purpose. Beyond your leadership and vision, it is your compassionate heart that truly defined your time here. You didn't just manage us Father, you led by example, showing us what it means to be both professional and profoundly human. While your high standards and occasional strictness kept us on our toes, I recognize now that it was your unwavering demand for excellence that pushed us to achieve a level of perfection we never thought possible. Your words of encouragement, energy and fun-loving spirit turned even the most stressful days into moments we could actually enjoy. As you move on to your next chapter Father, may it be as rich and as rewarding as the finest dark chocolate and filled with as much joy and success as you have brought to CHAI. Thank you Father for giving me a stronger roadmap for the future and a much higher standard for what a leader should be.

I wish the very best for you and will certainly miss you Fr. Mathew.

Daggumati Venkata Rao

Liaison Officer



I consider Fr. Mathew Abraham to be a great visionary. Under his leadership, I have seen CHAI grow to new heights as a network organization and as a non-governmental organization (NGO).

I have experienced him as a very inclusive and gender-balanced leader who gives equal opportunity to everyone. I see the appointment of Sr. Helen as a living example of his vision and mission.

I also see Fr. Mathew as a leader who values quality. I have noticed that he always encourages the team to strive for qualitative outcomes rather than merely focusing on quantitative numbers. For me, it has been inspiring to work under his leadership.

As a dynamic leader, I believe his remarkable contributions and services in bringing change to lakhs of people in India through the CHAI organization over the past decade will never be forgotten.

On this occasion, I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for giving me the opportunity to work in such a great organization that

upholds strong values and ethics. I wish Fr. Mathew all the very best in his future endeavours.

Shanti Kamala

Programme Executive



I consider it a privilege to share a few words about our Director General, Fr. Mathew. When I think of leadership, I often think of strategy and vision, but with Father, I think of heart. I have experienced his immense kindness and generosity, but what truly stands out to me is his spirit. There is a beautiful, childlike joy within him, a sense of wonder and purity that reminds me to approach my work with sincerity. He doesn't just lead me; he supports me with a loving grace that makes every challenge feel manageable. To me, he is simply a good man who leads with love.

Mohammed Mateen

Programme Manager



Dear Fr. Mathew, the knowledge and discipline I gained under your leadership will continue to guide me moving forward.

Thank you for being such a calm and steady leader. I will always remember the way you handled even the toughest days with poise. Your tenure has been defined by clarity, fairness, and a strong sense of purpose. I wish you good health, happiness, and success in everything you pursue.

Deepthi Indupally

Assistant Programme Manager



I sincerely thank Fr. Mathew for believing in me and guiding me with generosity. I have experienced how his leadership and vision shaped the organization in

remarkable ways, making him not just a great leader but also a truly admirable person.

What I have always observed and appreciated is his depth of knowledge and the clarity with which he understands and responds to matters during meetings.

I must also say that he carries himself with great elegance, and I have always admired how handsome he looks, especially in black. I will always cherish the love, care, and concern he has shown towards me.

With heartfelt gratitude and deep respect.

Dr. Kanupriya MD

Program Manager, CRS ALLRight Project



Let me express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Mathew, whom I have experienced as both a mentor and a guide. At first, he seemed distant to me, until I came to know him better. I have come to see him as a thoughtful strategist who has honed his leadership through rich lived experience. I have deeply appreciated his generosity and courage in openly sharing his leadership journey with us. I have also admired his remarkable ability to distil those experiences into powerful and practical life lessons.

I feel genuinely fortunate to have had the opportunity to step into his sphere, even for a brief time, and to learn from him first-hand.

Vipin Joseph

Manager, MEAL



Over the past two years, I have been fortunate to work under the leadership of Fr. Mathew Abraham. From my very first interaction, I could sense how deeply he is connected to the mission of CHAI. When he spoke about the human suffering we strive to alleviate through our palliative care work, I remember seeing his eyes fill with tears. His compassion and humanity are evident in the way he listens with genuine empathy and shares in the emotions of others.

A visionary leader and supportive mentor, he brings thoughtful perspectives and clarity to difficult situations, while encouraging new ideas and initiatives, including the organizational system strengthening efforts I have

been part of. His trust and unwavering support have been invaluable.

I sincerely wish him all the very best in the journey ahead. May his wisdom and compassion continue to inspire many more people in Catholic healthcare and beyond.

Bharti Waghmare

MIS Assistant



Five years have passed under your gentle guidance, with patience and wisdom always by my side.

You shaped my path with care and grace, and your efforts in my growth I can never replace.

As you begin a new chapter ahead, I pray that God's blessings follow every step you tread.

With lots of love from your little one, Father.

You will always remain in my heart.

Vinay Kumar

Programme Manager



When I joined CHAI three years ago, I carried with me both hesitation and hope. Yet I trusted that my ability to build relationships would guide me along the way.

Today, I can say with certainty that whatever success I have experienced has been made possible through Fr. Mathew's leadership and encouragement. Without his guidance and support, my efforts alone would not have brought me this far.

I remain deeply grateful for you, Father.

Ramesh Raparthy

Asst Programme Manager



I have experienced Fr. Dr. Mathew Abraham as a truly visionary leader. During his tenure as Director General, I have seen CHAI grow remarkably, strengthening its identity as a vibrant NGO and building strong

networking among member institutions across the country.

One of the qualities I greatly admire in him is his ability to recognize the strengths and skills of his team members and guide them in using those talents effectively. Through his encouragement, support, and clear vision, I was able to see many of us contribute beyond our defined roles.

As an Assistant Program Manager at CHAI, it has been a great privilege for me to work under his leadership. With his guidance, I had the opportunity to contribute beyond my job description, which helped me grow both professionally and personally.

During these ten years of his leadership, I have learned many valuable lessons from him. His dedication, vision, and commitment to service continue to inspire me.

As Fr. Dr. Mathew Abraham completes his term, I sincerely thank him for his outstanding service and wish him the very best for the future.

P. Indira Rani

Programme Manager



A Leader with Vision. A Heart with Compassion...

Through his visionary leadership, our mission becomes meaningful action and our challenges become opportunities. An exceptional leader who combines clarity of vision with compassion in action.

He leads with:

- Wisdom and Foresight – Planning today for a better tomorrow.
- Deep Compassion – Always prioritizing people and purpose.
- Efficiency and Integrity – Ensuring excellence in every initiative.
- Passion for Service – Inspiring teams to give their best.

His leadership is not just about direction —it is about empowerment, encouragement, and transformation.

M. K. Raju

Programme Manager



I sincerely thank Fr. Mathew for his inspiring leadership and guidance during his time as Director of CHAI.

I have always experienced his calm and composed nature, which created a sense of reassurance. I have seen how he observes people and situations thoughtfully and understands them with great wisdom. The observations he makes in projects are always insightful and help us improve our work.

His encouragement has always motivated me to do my best. I truly appreciate the way he acknowledges the efforts of others and the opportunities he gives by trusting people to grow.

I wish him God's abundant blessings in his future mission.



Manesh Thomas

Manager, ICT

Dear Fr Mathew, with deep gratitude, I thank you for your constant support and encouragement throughout my journey in CHAI. Over the past ten years, your leadership has not only strengthened the organization but also shaped my career and personal life in profound ways. Your compassionate care, wisdom, and trust lifted me during challenging moments and inspired me to grow with confidence.

I have been truly blessed to witness the remarkable growth of CHAI under your guidance. As you move forward, may God reward you abundantly and continue to guide your mission. You will always remain in my prayers and gratitude.



M. S. Nanda Kishore

Graphic Designer

With deep gratitude, I thank Fr Mathew for the ten blessed years he dedicated to our organization. His calm spirit, kind heart, and visionary leadership have guided us with wisdom and inspired many lives. With great faith and courage, he took the first meaningful steps that have now grown and are bearing beautiful fruits in our work and community.

For me, working under his guidance has truly been a blessing. I will always remember him with deep gratitude and keep him in my prayers as he begins a new chapter in his mission.



C. Sunder Raj

Driver

Dear Father,

You are the fifth Director General I have had the privilege of working with during my 36 years of service in the organization. I feel truly blessed to have worked closely with you for the past ten years. My time with you has been calm, joyful, and comfortable, and I will always cherish these years.

You have always been a gentle, friendly, and soft-spoken person, guided by wisdom and deep insight. Your humility, realism, and positive attitude created a work environment that greatly benefited the organization and all of us who worked with you.

You are someone who would never even dream of hurting anyone, not even through your words. I fondly remember the times I drove you back from the airport. Even when I felt tired, just a single sentence from you, with your warm smile, would make me forget all my pain.

Your way of introducing me to guests at CHAI always filled me with joy, and the confidence you placed in me was truly encouraging and uplifting.

I am grateful to God and to you for your constant support and kindness, especially in times of need, and for extending my service. Your concern for our families, always asking about each member, meant a great deal to us and helped us fulfill our family responsibilities with greater ease.

You have been a wonderful Director. We will miss your presence, however, you will always remain in our prayers. I wish you all the very best for the years ahead.



Sagaya Mary

Admin Officer

Dear Father,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for creating a positive and homely work environment, always appreciating our achievements and encouraging me to take on challenging roles with confidence.

You are the third Director General I have worked with during my 16 years of service in the organization. Over the past ten years, I have worked very comfortably with

you, as you have always been approachable, calm, and respectful, with a generous and undivided heart.

My family has also been very happy and touched by your kindness, especially as you personally visited them twice. They hold you in a very special place in their hearts as a Director General of CHAI who has tirelessly worked to promote compassionate, affordable, and quality healthcare for the marginalized, all while being a Medical Doctor, Public Health Professional, and a Catholic Priest.

I invoke God's abundant blessings upon you as you continue your mission. May He protect you, guide you, and comfort you in the years ahead.

Wishing you all the very best for your future.

Ms Theophine Venard

Secretary to Director-General



When Fr Mathew took over as the Director-General, I was terribly nervous, as I had absolutely no clue about him or the work of the Directorate. Initially, I went through a lot of ups and downs, struggling to find my way through to overcome this. By God's grace, and gradually over a period of time, I was able to grow and move forward, thanks to Fr Mathew for his constant encouragement, support and appreciation. He stood by me, and entrusted me with responsibilities. I sincerely thank him for the trust he placed in me. I express my heartfelt gratitude and wish him all the very best for his next assignment.

Retty George

Project Coordinator



During the COVID-19 response, working closely with Fr Mathew Abraham allowed me to see, how each programme was carefully designed to overcome the challenges of the pandemic while responding to emerging needs. Observing how he mobilised expertise and resources for CHAI during such a critical time in human history was a powerful learning experience. Fr. Mathew truly exemplifies leadership with a strong vision.

I am inspired by his humility, patience, and deep commitment to compassion. Thank you for giving me a second chance at CHAI.



Sr Helen Mary A, SAB

Director-General, Designate

Mnemonic for Fr. Mathew

- R** Resilient leader who guided the mission with courage and conviction.
- E** Enabler of excellence, encouraging institutions to grow in quality and service.
- V** Visionary, always seeing beyond the present toward a stronger healthcare mission.
- D** Dedicated servant of the Church's healing ministry.
- R** Resourceful administrator, strengthening networks and partnerships.
- M** Mission-driven, keeping the healing mission of Christ at the center.
- A** Advocate for collaboration, bringing institutions together in unity.
- T** Transformational leader, inspiring growth and innovation.
- H** Humble shepherd, leading with compassion and wisdom.
- E** Encourager of people, recognizing and nurturing the gifts of others.
- W** Witness to service, reminding us that healthcare is a sacred ministry.
- A** Architect of progress in strengthening the CHAI network.
- B** Bridge builder among institutions and partners.
- R** Reliable guide in times of challenge and change.
- A** Authentic leader, leading with integrity and faith.
- H** Herald of hope for the future of healthcare ministry.
- A** Agent of renewal, inspiring new possibilities.
- M** Mentor to many, shaping the next generation of leaders.

You will always be remembered not only as the Director General of CHAI, but as a visionary who strengthened the healing mission of the Church and inspired me to serve with greater faith, unity, and excellence.



Dear Father Mathew,

As we write down this heartfelt note, we do so with a heavy heart, knowing that you are phasing out as Director General from CHAI...

Our joint professional journey began on 1st May 2016 when you took over from Father Tomi. During this decade, the partnership between Misereor and CHAI evolved into a deep connection, rooted in shared values, purpose, commitment, and with the best of intentions for the target groups we accompanied. Your professionalism, prudent management of such a huge organization like CHAI, your deep compassion for the people in the communities, not to forget your caringness and charme, will always be remembered by us.

Let us take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank you for the always good and trustful cooperation with you during the past ten years. We are very sorry that our paths are now parting and our good cooperation with you now comes to an end. At the same time, we are quite confident that the close cooperation between CHAI and Misereor will continue also with your successor, Sr. Dr. Helen. We welcome her again very much in her new role.

Dear Father Mathew, we wish you all the best for your future task. We are sure that wherever your new assignment will be, due to your great experience you will manage and will cope with any new challenges.

Once again, on behalf of the India Team and the whole Asia Department we thank you for your support and wish you a healthy and successful future. May God always hold a protecting hand over you!

We hope we will stay connected and meet again – sometime, somewhere...

With warm regards

Brigitte, Edith, Ellen and Mathias

Misereor









smṛti

A Tribute to a Trailblazer

Messages of gratitude and appreciation
from the CHAI community to Fr. Mathew
Abraham, C.Ss.R.



Catholic Health
Association of India