

REPORT

The XVI ICMDA World Congress 2018 was held from 21-26 August 2018 at Leonia Holistic Destination, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. The theme of the congress was “**In The Footsteps of The Great Servant Healer**”, the focus being to “**Reflect-Repent-Renew**”. It was inspired by the verse “**A covenant to the people, A light to the nations. Isaiah 42:6**”. The congress was well attended, with 847 delegates representing 86 countries.

Countries Represented:

NORTH AMERICA Canada United States	Azerbaijan Belarus Czech Republic Denmark France Georgia Germany Greece Hungary Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Netherlands Norway Portugal Romania Russia Serbia Slovakia Spain Sweden Switzerland Ukraine United Kingdom Uzbekistan	Madagascar Rwanda South Sudan Tanzania Uganda WEST AFRICA Benin Burkina Faso Cameroon Congo DR Gabon Ghana Niger Nigeria Togo SOUTHERN AFRICA Botswana Malawi Namibia South Africa Zimbabwe SOUTH ASIA Bangladesh Bhutan India	Nepal Sri Lanka SOUTH EAST ASIA Cambodia Indonesia Laos Malaysia Philippines Singapore Thailand Timor Leste EAST ASIA China Hong Kong Japan Mongolia South Korea Taiwan OCEANIA Australia New Zealand Indonesia Papua New Guinea American Samoa
CENTRAL AMERICA El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Mexico Panama			
SOUTH AMERICA Brazil Chile Peru Uruguay			
METNA Egypt Lebanon United Arab Emirates			
EURASIA Albania Armenia Austria	EAST AFRICA Burundi Kenya		

The Congress was organized by the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA), Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) and Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India (EMFI). It was held together by a 15-member National Organising Committee including Chair - Dr. Bimal Charles, General Secretary CMAI, Co-chair - Dr. Sam Siddharth, General Secretary EMFI, Organising Secretary - Dr. Nitin Joseph, Programme Secretary - Dr. Santhosh Mathew and Prayer Secretary - Dr. Latha Mathew. The 8-member Local Organising Committee facilitated the local arrangements, logistics and other important aspects without which Hyderabad could not have been a successful venue.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE:

The World Congress included the Students' and Junior Graduates' Congress (21-23 August) and the Main Congress (23-26 August).

<u>Students' and Junior Graduates' Congress</u>	
Student Congress Inauguration	21 August afternoon
Bible expositions, Plenaries, Break-out sessions	21- 23 August
Concluding session	23 August pre-lunch
<u>Main Congress</u>	
Graduates' Pre-congress	22 August full day
Family Time (for Leaders)	22 August full day
General Assembly	23 August morning
Main congress Inauguration	23 August afternoon
Bible Expositions, Plenaries, Devotions	23-26 August
Graduate Parallel Sessions	24-25 August morning
Graduate Break-out sessions	24-25 August morning and afternoon
Dedication and Closing	26 morning

The congress offered Bible expositions, devotions, and plenaries, and a wide range of workshops / sessions over the 6 days on 88 topics with 81 facilitators who were experts in their areas of work/mission.

PLENARY SPEAKERS:

For the Students' and Junior Graduates Congress, the plenary speakers were Dr. Daniel Ho (Malaysia) for the Bible Expositions and Dr. Helen Sigua (Philippines) who spoke on Health and Wellness. For the Main Congress the plenary speakers were Rev. Dr. Charles Price (Canada) for the Bible Expositions, Dr. R Rajkumar who took the Devotions, Dr. Peter Saunders (UK) on Ethics & Healthcare, Dr. David Stevens (USA) on Being Bold, Dr. Daleep Mukarji, OBE (UK) on Justice & Healthcare. Their inspiring talks were challenging and sound teaching, encouraged participants to respond to God's calling in their profession of health and healing.

STUDENTS' AND JUNIOR GRADUATES' CONGRESS:

The Shiloh Band led songs of praise and worship to commence the inauguration of the Students Congress on 21st August. During the inaugural, adolescents from families affected by HIV & AIDS presented a classical dance performance to give a touch of India. The Students/Junior Graduates Executive Officers (SJGEOs) were then introduced to the audience who hosted the programme, organized ice breakers, and set the tone for the conference. This was followed by a Bible Exposition by Dr. Daniel Ho and a plenary session by Dr. Helen Sigua on Leadership in Healthcare, after which there were group discussions facilitated by mentors.

Day 2 (22nd August) of the Students Congress started with worship followed by the Bible Exposition, Plenary and group interactions. After this, the students disbursed for two break-out sessions, pre and post lunch, choosing from a rich variety of topics. The evening session began with shouts of joy in the form of praise and worship led by the "Sounds of the Nation" followed by question and answer session and open time for ICMDA regional discussions. The day concluded with an international extravaganza by the students, with cultural performances, choreography, mimicry, songs and lots of fun and fellowship.

The Students Congress ended on Day 3 (the morning of 23rd August) with Bible exposition, breakout sessions and a concluding session which included testimonies, worship and prayer.

MAIN CONGRESS:

The Main Congress was preceded by two programmes for the graduates: the Pre-Congress Workshops and the Family time for Leaders of National Organisations. Four **Pre-Congress Workshops** for graduates were held on 22nd August viz; ‘Saline Process’, ‘Christian Perspective and Christian Response to Mental Health’, ‘Kingdom of God in Health Care’ and ‘Whole Person Medicine Education (Prime)’. The “**Family Time**” on 22nd August was a meeting for leaders of national organizations, organized for the first time to build capacity of, and fellowship among, the leaders of national movements. It started with an ice-breaker, after which the different regions presented their reports and shared concerns of each region. The session concluded with prayer for all regions.

At the **ICMDA General Assembly** on 23rd August morning, the reports of the CEO, SJGEO and Treasurer were presented and accepted, and the members of the ICMDA Board for 2018-2022 were elected. The Assembly also appointed Dr. Peter Saunders as the next Chief Executive Officer of the ICMDA. The ‘Dr Shane Memorial ICMDA Medical Missionary Award’ was launched at the assembly in fond memory of Late Dr. Shane Sam Mathew who served as a dental missionary in Liberia. The first award was conferred on Dr Alexander (posthumously) for demonstrating a sense of God’s calling and responding joyfully and sacrificially in the cause of mission in the developing world. A brochure with details of Dr Shane and Dr Alexander was circulated and a book on life history of Dr. Shane called ‘Firefly’ was introduced.

The formal **Inaugural** of the Main Congress was held on the afternoon of 23rd August 2018. All seated in the hall arose in attention to sing the Indian National Anthem to commence the Inaugural Ceremony. This was followed by Praise and Worship by Shiloh Band. After Dr. Vinod Shah, CEO, ICMDA commenced the Inaugural

Ceremony by saying a word of prayer and delivering his Welcome Address, Dr. Bimal Charles, General Secretary CMAI formally introduced the dignitaries on dais.

The lamp lighting ceremony was led by the Chief Guest Dr. S. Venkatesh, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India along with other dignitaries on the dais. The Chief Guest in his Inaugural Address spoke on the health need of the Indian population, the role of health professionals, the importance of public-private partnership. He emphasized that the future doctors are required to be not only competent clinicians but also good managers, qualified researchers and advocates of promotive and preventive health care. He congratulated the XVI ICMDA World Congress 2018 for its commissioning.

Dr. Mathew George, member of the National Organising Committee, gave a splendid introduction of the 12 regions of the ICMDA and welcomed each delegate representing respective regions. Dr. Rajkumar Songa representing the Local Organising Committee in his vote of thanks extended heartfelt gratitude to the guests from Christian network, churches and government who honoured us with their presence at the august gathering. Dr. Elmer Thiessen, Chairperson, ICMDA concluded the Inaugural Ceremony with prayers and benediction.

Each day of the Congress had a scholarly Bible Exposition by Rev Charles Price in the morning and an inspirational devotion by Brother Mr Rajkumar Ramachandran in the evenings. There was also one plenary session on each day – “Ethics in Healthcare” by Dr Peter Saunders on 23rd, “Be Bold” by Dr David Stevens on 24th and Justice in Healthcare by Dr Daleep Mukarji, OBE on 25th. During the day on 24th and 25th, there were a wide variety of excellent sessions (parallel workshops & breakout) that participants could attend. The eight parallel workshops were on Servant Leadership, Mentoring and Spiritual Formation, Bio-Ethics, Missions, Governance and Strategic thinking, Understanding world views, Care for the Elderly and Palliative Care.

The 18 breakout sessions were designed around three themes:

A: Mission and engagement: (Leadership as Mission; Engaging for Justice;

Protecting and Healing the Broken, Bruised and Burdened; Covenantal Relationships - committed for long term; Other Aspects of Theology of Mission)

B: Building people:

(Building the Next Generation of Leaders to be Missional)

C: Program Design: (Serving for Impact; Engaging for Freedom and Release; Ultimate Purpose; Innovations as Expressions of the Creative Character of God; How to Grow a National Organization in ICMDA)

The time after dinner was kept aside for fellowship. On the 23rd evening, participants who had arrived got to know each other informally and reconnected with old friends. On the 24th evening, the delegates met in their respective regional groups for a time of interaction, sharing and prayer. On the 25th evening, we had the Graduates International Night. The Youth Alive group presented a glimpse of India's rich and colorful culture through fusion of Christian music and dance. Many countries came forward to represent their countries by presenting songs, dances, videos, skits, etc. Many delegates dressed in their traditional attires. There were tables laid presenting cuisine from various countries that delegates could savor, and art & crafts that showcased their culture. It was truly a time of friendship and more. All the delegates stayed back even after the formal programme came to an end, and continued to talk, dance, take photos with each other and enjoy the excitement of fellowship.

PRAYER:

The Congress was surrounded by prayer. Before the Congress, there were 40 days of prayer, each day for a specific aspect. This was circulated to the worldwide ICMDA network - national organizations, student movements, friends and well-wishers - through emails whatsapp and the web. During the Congress, the Prayer Room played a pivotal role. In addition to a 24 * 7 chain of prayer, individuals came on their own to pray singly or together and there were counsellors available to share concerns and pray together. The room also had prayer standees designed for each of the 12 regions mentioning their prayer and health needs and an LED screen that scrolled every minute concern regarding the congress.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

The two indigenous groups did a wonderful job of leading Praise and Worship on all the days of the congress:

The **Shiloh Worship Band** are a group of Medical and Healthcare professionals (Alumni of Christian Medical College, Vellore) who are from various backgrounds with one heart to serve God through music. The larger team comprises of a variety of Doctors, Medical/paramedical staff and students. The band represented at the ICMDA world congress featured an acoustic guitarist, an electric guitarist, a bass guitarist, a multifaceted singer, a talented keyboardist and a skilled drummer and percussionist.

The ministry, '**Sounds of the Nation**' aside from training and resourcing pastors, songwriters and musicians, seek to carry people on a heavenward quest through the medium of indigenous music. The band has toured and performed extensively in and out of home, and shared stage with various celebrated artists. The band conducts schools, seminars, workshops; travels, and performs live; shedding light on the importance of worship, music, and how it can influence a nation and a culture. Some of their Albums include: Balavanthuda, Azaadi, Spandana, Chup nahi rahenge (Release imminent) and Aazadi Remix album (Release Imminent).

Team Uganda CMF consisting of two keyboardists, three guitarists, an electronic drummer and 6 vocalists led African style worship on 2 evenings.

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AND CLOSING CEREMONY:

On 26th August, the concluding morning of the Congress, Rev. Roger Gaikwad, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India, conducted the Holy Communion Service using a meaningful Contemporary Order of service and spoke about reflecting the Life and Work of Lord Jesus. The offerings collected at the Holy Communion Service will be used towards flood relief/rehabilitation work in Kerala.

The newly formed ICMDA Board was dedicated with prayers. The CEO of the ICMDA, Dr. Vinod Shah, delivered his closing remarks while the Chairperson, Dr. Elmer Thiessen, expressed ICMDA's heartfelt thanks to the organisers, delegates and speakers present at the Congress.

The XVI World Congress 2018 came to an end with a striking performance by the North East Choir, a group of 50 vocalists.

In closing, the Organising Secretary, Dr. Nitin Joseph thanked the organisers, volunteers, service providers, partners, special invitees, Government officials and all who contributed to the success of the congress, and also to those who attended the World Congress.

OTHER ASPECTS:

Exhibition and Poster Presentations: The exhibition was inaugurated on 23rd August by Dr. Elmer Thiessen, Chairperson, ICMDA. There were 17 exhibitors who displayed their state-of-the-art technology, projects, software, publications, and work related to health. There were crafts and handicrafts displayed by self-help group women affected with leprosy, HIV & AIDS etc. There were also 10 poster presentations from India and other countries displaying health related work/projects.

Medical Assistance: Unicorpus Health Foundation provided medical assistance on all the days of the conference. The services included free medication, first-aid ambulance service, health check-up and I.V fluids. Several participants availed of the services for minor ailments.

Programmes for children: The volunteers of Child Evangelical Fellowship, Telangana chapter, kept the children of the delegates occupied by teaching them action songs, choruses, bible stories, games and activities. The children also presented their learning on stage to the delegates.

Project visits: 7 projects were identified in and around the city. Delegates took time to visit NGOs, orphanages, HIV & AIDS and other health projects in and around Hyderabad.

Contribution to the environment: The ICMDA World Congress 2018 contributed to the environment by planting trees in the state of Telangana in the name of resource persons to honour them. Each of the certificates presented to the resource persons has a bar code on it with which they can monitor online the growth of the tree planted. We thank SankalpTaru Foundation who supported this initiative.

Leisure: Participants took advantage of facilities offered by the conference venue such as swimming pool, water parks, gym, movie theatre, go carting, bungee jumping, etc. A photography hobby group created among enthusiastic participants took early morning photo walks to indulge their interest and learn from each other. Many delegates went for local sightseeing before and after the conference.

Mockups of Indian monuments such as India Gate and Qutub Minar from New Delhi, Charminar from Hyderabad and Taj Mahal from Agra were available for delegates to pose alongside and take selfies and groupies.

We give all the glory to the Lord Almighty who enabled us to overcome every challenge and hurdle that came our way while planning the Congress for the last 4 years. It is by His power we can rejoice and declare XVI ICMDA World Congress 2018 to be a memorable event to be cherished!

FEW RESPONSES FROM THE DELEGATES:

“I wanted to congratulate you on a tremendous and encouraging conference. An uplifting experience talking to quite some of them over meals and in sessions.”

“Thank you so much to all the organisers of a very successful and graceful event! It was an overwhelming event and glory to God!

Special thanks to connect so many ICMDA members, making it a grand success!

Thank you so much”!

“(gosh! it must have been a really very hectic time for the organisers ;-)). I wanted to appreciate the systematic and professional way you dealt with all matters. The Congress in its entirety was very well run because of all your efforts behind-the-scenes”.

Annexures:

Topics of the break-out sessions at the ICMDA World Congress 2018

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A Lighthouse Amidst Horror: A Mission Hospital Response to The Rohingya Refugee Crisis▪ Addiction and Spirituality in a Secular Context▪ An encouraging report: The Health Insurance system in Nepal▪ An expert system prototype of artificial intelligence for future medical mission, CLAABDS▪ Being Excellent as a Student▪ Bible App▪ Bio-Ethics▪ Care for the Elderly▪ Case Study: Starting Benin's National Organization▪ Challenges in Health care of Senior Citizens in India: Initial experience at a Speciality Polyclinic in Hyderabad city of India.▪ Champions for Life (CFL) & Christian Medical Dental Fellowships (CMDF) 12 year collaboration in providing Christian Psycho-social spiritual support for adolescents living with HIV in Southern & Eastern Africa▪ Changing practices in caring for the older person in a tertiary care Christian Hospital in Bangalore, India▪ Christian Influence at Medical School: Implementation of an academic seminar day to improve student performance▪ Christian Medical College: A Viable Christian Healthcare Model▪ Christian perspective and Christian response to Mental health▪ Compassion Fatigue, Burnout and its Consequences▪ Corruption and conflict of interest - our responsibility?▪ Counterfeit cures▪ Cults▪ Dental mission clinic in mongolia during 25 years▪ Disability: A Christian Response▪ Disaster management and working with displaced persons▪ Discipleship making movements▪ Effect of platelet-rich plasma in patients who had stroke: two case reports▪ Effectiveness of sensory diet through outdoor sensory garden on functional behaviour in children | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leadership Fables from Renaissance Painters that will change the way we lead healthcare▪ Leadership from the Second Culture Chair Lessons learnt during 29 years of Ministry of the Christian Association of Medicine and Nursing in Honduras ACMEH▪ Lessons learnt in Papua New Guinea▪ Let there be Light-Hope for Adolescents with perinatal HIV infection▪ Life Choices▪ Love – Sex – Marriage▪ Medical Missions in a Start-Up Economy▪ Medical Professions as an Effective Entrance in Engaging and Reaching the Unengaged Unreached People Groups▪ Medicine and Idolatry▪ Mental Health Within a Biblical World View▪ Mentoring and Spiritual Formation▪ Millenarian (Biblical) Meditation▪ Missional Choices in Healthcare▪ Missional Kingdom Entrepreneurship▪ Missions▪ Palliative Care▪ Plumb Line: Building life in the world of Relativism▪ Preparing People for Mission▪ Preventing and protecting children and adolescents from sexual abuse.▪ Prime▪ Saline Process▪ Servant Leadership▪ Shalom Creators in Health Care▪ Spiritual Influences Impacting Health▪ Strategy for ICMDA East Asia Regional Executive Committee to promote interaction of National Organizations▪ Teaching Basic Surgical Skills in the ICMDA Institute of Health Sciences Training Program▪ The Call of God to Follow Him and serve Him as part of His big family and for His kingdom |
|---|---|

<p>with ADHD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experiments in transformative learning ; Educating South Sudanese Health workers ▪ Faith in the Fallen world ▪ From mission hospital to sustainable regional health work: experiences from south Ethiopia ▪ Getting the Word Out: Research and Reflection in Global Health ▪ Global Update on Conscience Protection ▪ Governance and Strategic thinking ▪ Healthcare in Papua New Guinea: A search for solutions to provide healthcare access to remote communities ▪ How to set Up Community Projects as Nehemiah's ▪ Hyper-connectivity ▪ Incarnational Ministry ▪ Inductive Bible study ▪ International Care Ministries' Integrated Health Program: Facilitating the Ultra poor's Access to Clinical Service ▪ International Care Ministries' Transform Program: Releasing the Ultra poor from the Bondage of Poverty ▪ Involvement of CMDF students in providing Psychosocial-spiritual Support to adolescents living with HIV in East and Southern Africa: The Champions for Life-CMDF partnership. ▪ Is there a balm in Gilead ? working to increase mental health and social inclusion for people with psycho-social disability in North India ▪ Kingdom of God in Health Care ▪ Know your purpose in Dentistry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Christian Doctor as Leader in Health Management ▪ The development of palliative care services in Tshwane, South Africa ▪ The Hindu World View and what Christians can learn from it ▪ The impact of the introduction of a monitoring and response unit in a rural district in South Africa. ▪ The importance of 'Being Called' ▪ The injustice of inaccessible surgery and anaesthesia ▪ The Institute of Medical Missions: a Program to Produce Missional Doctors and Dentists ▪ The Joys of Organised Christian Healthcare ▪ The new faces of medical missions? ▪ The principles of the Brazilian public healthcare system and the values of the kingdom. ▪ The Science and Spirituality of Clinical medicine ▪ The Sydenham International Conference ▪ Theology of Work ▪ Understanding world views ▪ Vision, Mission and Strategy for Francophone medical world ▪ Why parachute medicine does not work? It's time to re-look at medical camps ▪ Work in a closed nation ▪ Working with HIV - Champions for Life
--	--

