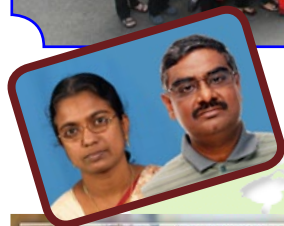


## News, Praise & Prayer



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## What constitutes success?

The question comes to us at different points in our lives.

Doctors love to succeed, and like most Christian doctors, I wanted to succeed both professionally and spiritually. That was not a problem in itself. The problem was defining “success” and what it really meant to me.

Most secular definitions would include – achieving goals, making a major impact, having phenomenal influence and prospering both materially and character wise. It would include recognition from a large audience, at a fast and furious pace.

By all of the above standards, the life of Jeremiah was an utter failure. The introduction to the book of Jeremiah in the Life application Bible says that Jeremiah was:

- ❖ Desperately poor and underwent great deprivation;
- ❖ He had very few friends (20:10) as a result of prophesying against the authorities
- ❖ He was rejected by his neighbors (11:19-21)
- ❖ He was rejected by his family (12:6)
- ❖ He was rejected by the priests and the prophets (20:1, 2)
- ❖ He was rejected by the utterly indifferent religious audience.
- ❖ He seemed to be a depressive personality, who was constantly weeping over the fate of Israel.

The kings tortured him in a dungeon and he was taken to Egypt against his will. No one in the secular world would ever give him a prize for anything he had done or achieved. Yet in God’s eyes, Jeremiah was one of the most successful people in all of history. What was the reason? God’s definition of success is radically different from ours.

I had to therefore relearn the definition of success – Success is obedience to God’s Word and continuing perseverance, so that you not only begin well but finish well too.



Hope you enjoy reading  
and praying,

*Vinod Shah*

## From the National Organizing Committee ICMDA 2014, The Netherlands

**Dates:** 19 to 26 July 2014 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

**Theme:** 'Serve Share Shine', exploring both our professional identity and our vision as Christians in the fields of medicine and dentistry.

**Students and Junior Graduates' Congress:** 19-22 July

**Main Congress :** 23-26 July

**Speakers :** Prof. John Wyatt, Dr. Jorge Cruz and Dr. Florence Muindi.

### **Interactive seminar sessions would focus on important issues.**

The first Congress in 1963 was held in the Netherlands and now it is time to celebrate 50 years of ICMDA during the upcoming World Congress to see what God has done through the ICMDA all these years and look to the future.

We are honored to host this wonderful World Congress and hope to welcome as many people as possible from all over the world, so: Save the date, spread the word and be there in 2014! We look forward to this time of fellowship and celebration.

For more information and registration visit our website **[www.icmda2014.org](http://www.icmda2014.org)**





## EAST EUROPE UKRAINE

From Dr. Jim Peopon

### THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF YOUNG MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN UKRAINE, CHERNIVTSI CITY, KOVELSKA 25

THEME: MEDICINE, CHRISTIANITY, TODAY'S CHALLENGES 26TH TO 28TH OCTOBER 2012



#### POST CONFERENCE REPORT

ICMDA conferences have grown to become an essential fixture in the diaries of Christian medical students studying in Ukraine, medical educators and theologians from the world over!

This year, the conference attracted a total of 300 participants from over 28 countries. These countries included Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroun, India, Ukraine, Pakistan, Romania, Poland, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Congo. The rest were Canada, Australia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Mauritius and Syria.

Over 50 participants were from other backgrounds.

Eighteen speakers from eight countries shared best practices and ideas in four master class sessions, presenting new methodology of practicing

medicine in other parts of the world and how a Christian medic could integrate them in day to day activities. The speakers came from the USA, England, Scotland, Czech Republic, Country of Georgia, Ukraine, Denmark and Sweden.



The conference was held in English but translations into Russian/Ukrainian were also provided for non-English speaking participants.

The Conference participants were delighted with the many speeches, presentations, discussions and special networking events, which demonstrated a new mood of determination to innovate and improve learning for all. They described the event as "invigorating," "inspiring" and "exhilarating."



## From Kristina ACMA

ACMA had its annual seventh National Conference in Armenia, where 104 healthcare workers and medical students participated. We had eight speakers from different countries (Norway, South Africa, UK), who delivered wonderful talks on relevant topics which encouraged our doctors and nurses.



167 patients were operated on by Dr. Jany Haddad, president and founder of ACMA, with help and support from ACMA doctors and nurses both in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

Every year ACMA celebrates the International day of nurses, inviting nurses from different hospitals and providing lectures on ethical and moral Christian issues. It is also celebrated with Christian songs, dances, and gifts shared. ACMA "Hospice at Home" team is very active and around five patients are cared for by ACMA doctors and nurses. The medical students' team in ACMA is growing and meets together every month.

### Prayer requests:

- For the situation in Syria.
- For the leadership in ACMA.
- For ACMA's medical missions.
- For guidance to use the mobile clinic.
- For the new dental department in charge.
- For the future of ACMA international relationships.



# SOUTH EAST ASIA

## INDONESIA

**Dr. Lydia Pratanu, CMDFI**

1. National Medical Conference for Doctors: Wisma Kinasih, East Java; 5-8 July 2012

Theme: Find and commit to your calling.

The conference for doctors is held once in two years. It was attended by around 170 doctors from every part of the country.

The main speaker was Bishop (Dr.) Robert Solomon, from the Methodist Church in Singapore, and the other speakers were from Indonesia. The participants were challenged from an exposition of the life of Moses - from his birth until his fulfilment to God's call. The young doctors were guided to find and commit to God's call; and the seniors were challenged to re-focus and seek God's will in the new challenges within their profession and ministry. It was a blessed event!



**National Medical Conference for Doctors**

2. National Consultation for Campus Medical Ministry: Wisma Kinasih, East Java; 30-31 July 2012.

We conducted this consultation for the first time, to discuss campus' growth and maturity in the ministry among medical students. This event was blessed with the enthusiasm of participants who represented their campuses, through their sharing, presentations, and prayer. The spirit of oneness as the body of Christ, was really beautiful and inspiring. This event was blessed with participants from almost 25 campuses.

3. National Medical Conference for Medical Students: Wisma Kinasih, East Java; 31 July – 5 August 2012.

Theme: Christian Doctors - Devote to doing what is good (Titus 3:8).

This was attended by around 220 medical students from every part of the country. In the midst of difficult conditions and slow progress, economically and politically, medical students were challenged to keep doing good to others consistently and think seriously about giving their profession and faith together as a blessing to the nation. It was humbling and inspiring to see a great eagerness in the young generation - how they struggled to finance themselves in order to join this event; and how they sacrificed their time and went through the process of getting permission from their parents to come to this event and get blessed.



**National Medical Conference for Medical Students**





### CMDF Annual Celebration Dinner 2012 “Off The Beaten Track” 24 November 2012

As a medical student, I frequently ask myself, “What more can I do?”

Aside from managing my academics and the occasional community service project, how could I take a bolder step to live out my faith? This year's CMDF Annual Dinner themed, “Off the Beaten Track”, helped shed some light onto these life questions.



Regardless of your age, or your position in your career, you can always make a change in the lives of others, one life at a time, anytime and anywhere. The opportunities abound as long as you keep your eyes peeled and your hearts open. However, going off the beaten track is not so much about willingly doing something new and radical as it is about radically renewing the willingness of your heart to God's purpose each day. This was the take away message for me!

Being in the company of other Christians and hearing their amazing stories helped renew the radical willingness to submit my life to God and follow Him off the beaten path when He calls. Are you willing to do likewise? - **Joshua Tan (NUS-second year medical student)**

## SOUTH AMERICA

### BOLIVIA

#### Dr. Marcela Zeballos, ACBAS

I am writing as a representative of ACBAS, the Christian Medical Association from Bolivia. We had a visit by Dr. Jorge Patpatian (South America ICMDA regional secretary) who was representing ICMDA, on 6 October 2012. It was a time of reunion. It helped us to share the situation of our organization and get his advice. We as an organization are so grateful to him for the visit.



Please pray for the work in South America, for a meeting of leaders from all the South American countries in October 2013.



# SOUTH ASIA

## INDIA

**Dr. Manoj Jacob, EMFI General Secretary**

### **EMFI Biennial National Conference 2012**

Walking with God, Serving His Purpose brought together over 500 medical students, graduates and their families for a blessed time of fellowship and inspiration at the EMFI Biennial National Conference 2012 near Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu.

Situated by the sea, the beautiful Joe Beach Resort was an inspired choice.

The worship team from the Christian Medical College, Vellore led in praise and singing. Our days were led by powerful teaching in the mornings by Mr.LT Jeyachandran who helped us see God's 'Big Picture' through His revealed Word – and the evening devotional talks by Dr. Arul Anketell who opened up God's heart for us in wonder at His love.



There were break-out seminars for graduates and students covering diverse topics such as Science and healing, Parenting, Sexuality, Medical missions in other countries, Avoiding burn-out- with excellent resource people and lively discussions. The first day's plenary session had Palliative care, Work with HIV in South Africa, Reaching children and Church-based care for the urban poor. The second day had moving testimonies of graduates

who chose to invest themselves in the lives of medical students. Dr.Vinod Shah gave the Dr.Nghakliana oration – choosing to overview what 'personhood' means.

The conference was a time of refreshment. Families had precious times together. The kids and teens had exciting inputs through the Beyond Barriers team.

On Sunday morning we all shared in communion together thanking God.





## Dr. Sam David, Regional secretary, South Asia:

My first travel to Sri Lanka after taking on the role as RS in this region was very encouraging. We could locate student groups with the help of the Hospital Christian Fellowship (HCF) and Fellowship of Christian University Students (FOCUS) there. The leaders of both were very cooperative and we look forward to a meaningful partnership ahead. HCF in collaboration with FOCUS would take on the role of following up the medical/dental students in this beautiful country.

We had a very meaningful and fruitful work among the medical students at Pokhara, Nepal. We had 27 participants attending the retreat with the theme "Puzzles of Life" in a lovely place called Lumle. It is important to recognize the HCF-Nepal staff Dr. Samundra who is always helpful to see that the medical/dental students and graduates are encouraged to grow in the Lord. A few of the college staff team were of great encouragement. In the end almost all committed to live a life pleasing to God. Many came forward to commit themselves to Christ.



I also had time with some young graduates on entry into Kathmandu as well as on my way back. It is encouraging to see many of them willing to re-orient themselves to serve Him. Please do pray that each of them will continue to grow in His love.

The CMAI conference which was held in Chennai was well attended and the devotions were led by Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad. He encouraged the delegates to make "Odd Choices" according to God's Word and not compromising to the world. The delegates comprised of doctors, dentists, nurses, allied health workers and even chaplains from many hospitals.

The EMFI Biennial conference was a blessing to many. There was good representation from many parts of India. We also had a few friends from Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Azerbaijan and Armenia. All of them were routed through the ICMDA. Almost all of the delegates went back with a renewed vision.

Following the conference, two groups of young medicos went on a mission trip to North India. I had a time of briefing with one of the groups before they left.

We, as family hosted and spent meaningful time with a group of students from the neighboring countries of Sri Lanka & Nepal, who had travelled to Chennai for different programs. This was informal, yet a very productive time.



### Plans and prayer:

1. Working on a student's program for Sri Lanka in 2013.
2. Exploratory visit to Pakistan; please pray for a visa.
3. Follow up on the work in Bangladesh.
4. HCF regional leaders are willing to help with contacts in some of the other countries in the region.
5. For the formation of a regional committee.



## REPORT ON CONSULTATION AT HONGKONG FROM 24-27 OCTOBER 2012

The World Prayer Assembly (WPA) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia (May 2012), where I along with Dr Joel Selwyn represented ICMDA for prayer. God has been moving His people wonderfully all over the world. There is greater awareness of God's work among the nations.



The International Prayer Council which is a part of the WPA, under the leadership of Dr. John Robb, called for leaders to gather in Hong Kong for a time of prayer and strategic planning to take this "New Wave" of prayer and evangelism forward.

I had the privilege to be a part of this as an ICMDA representative and could present the need for a prayer movement among the health professionals of the world.

You can log onto the IPC website ([www.ipcprayer.org](http://www.ipcprayer.org)) for more details.

I also had a good time of fellowship with Dr. Leo Poon (ICMDA, AR, in East Asia) and his wife Irene of CMDA, Hongkong.

We [ICMDA and HCFI] would like to take this prayer movement forward.

Please join us as we pray and move in His strength.



# EAST AFRICA

## KENYA

### Dr. Gaitho P.N. East Africa Region ASR

The Eastern Africa ICMDA student's chapter is rolling on well in the spirit of the post Pan-African conference held earlier in the West African region in Lagos. We still prayerfully believe in God for a breakthrough in our oncoming regional students' conference scheduled for April next year in the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo). The unrest, civil wars and security concerns, make us unable to further our plans.

As we closely monitor the situation in DRC we urge the ICMDA world over to join hands in prayers with our brothers.

The national students' conference was held from 27-30 April 2012 at Kenya High School. We brought together delegates from the UK, Uganda and from many universities across the country which offer medical courses. It was such a breakthrough. We expect to hold such conferences biannually.

### National Students' Conference 27th to 30th April 2012 at Kenya High School.



Nurshelle Njoki Njogu

Congratulations: We praise God for the blessing of a baby daughter Nurshelle Njoki Njogu to the Dr. Gaitho P.N family.





# RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## SERBIA

**Dr. Marina Rustovic from Serbia**

### **HISTORIC FIRST SERBIAN CHRISTIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS CONFERENCE**

We had our first Serbian Student Christian Medical Conference from 21 to 23 September 2012. We were blessed to have amazing speakers namely Dr. James and Marianne Peipon from Hungary, Pastor Ron Seck and Jeannie.

We had lectures in medicine and some practical work on how to use an otoscope and an ophthalmoscope. We also had Bible studies, skits and workshops heralding a new approach in Bible reading. One of the delegates led in worship.

At the end, we were helped to form a leading team consisting of visionaries, leaders and administrators. We even shared with each other our roles and the areas we were good at. We had invited many people through emails, Facebook, text messages and phone calls.

Since it was the first Christian Medical Students' Conference, we had only few young medics. On Saturday afternoon some of us went to the city Novi Sad where we listened to a famous speaker called Nik Vujicic, about Life without extremities.

The venue of the conference was beautiful, situated close to Mount Fruska Gora; the food was excellent too. We were richly blessed. We were sorry that many of our medical friends could not make it to the conference. This gathering helped the public to know that we exist as a serious

and public oriented organization. I hope

and trust that many more medicos will join the next Students' Conference.



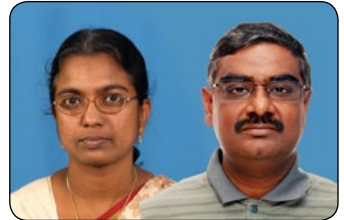
### Dr. Michael Burke

The "Dignity and Right to Health Award" is an activity of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) Leadership in Christian Health and Development Initiative. It is an international award established to address health and development issues including HIV.

The committee this year had been challenged by the difficult task of choosing a winner for the 2012 award. All four nominations had more than adequately met the various criteria for the award. Finally, we chose to announce joint winners for the 2012 Dignity and Right to Health award of the ICMDA Leadership in Christian Health and Development Initiative.

Please join with us in celebrating the outstanding, inspiring and faithful Christian work of our joint winners, both from India - Drs Isac & Vijila David and Dr. Saira Paulose.

Drs Isac & Vijila David have clearly demonstrated visionary and innovative leadership from the time they graduated as family physicians, by stepping out in faith to take on a very difficult, yet rewarding role among a diminishing people group called Maltos in a very remote and neglected area in Jharkhand, India. On their exploration within the context of their call and vocation over fifteen years ago, they found the need to step in to change the course of life for these people.



Let me also introduce you to the wonderful work of Dr. Saira Paulose of India. She leads the SHALOM Delhi HIV/AIDS unit of the Emmanuel Hospital Association of India.



Dr. Saira through her quiet leadership has knit together a team which has significantly impacted many HIV-affected individuals and families, both directly and also indirectly through training of other organizations for home based care and other HIV-related interventions (including clinical care).

The majority of Shalom's home based care program beneficiaries are of migrant origin (neighbouring states) and live in poverty stricken communities in North West Delhi, Shalom's area of focus. Stigma and discrimination are still a very live issue, as attested to by case stories that continue to emerge from its work.



Further details of these inspiring lives can be shared by visiting [www.icmdahivinitiative.org.au](http://www.icmdahivinitiative.org.au)



## Anil Cherian, ICMDA South Sudan Team

Background: In August 2011 an ICMDA team led by Dr. Vinod Shah visited South Sudan to explore the possibility of ICMDA working towards supporting healthcare delivery in South Sudan. During this initial visit ICMDA was invited by the Ministry of Health, Government of South Sudan to start an Institute of Health Sciences in Bor, Jonglei State to train clinical officers and other health personnel, as there was a critical shortage of healthcare personnel in the country.

Dr. Vinod Shah made a second visit to South Sudan in January 2012 during which a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Health, Government of South Sudan, the Episcopal Church of Sudan and ICMDA to start an Institute of Health Sciences and to second medical personnel to support the training needs of the Government of South Sudan.

The purpose of the third trip to South Sudan was to explore available resources for starting the Institute of Health Sciences in Bor but also to explore other alternative locations if starting the institute in Bor was not feasible.

The duration of the visit was from 7 -20 November 2012. Dr. Anil Cherian from India who was part of the earlier team, Dr. Jenny Bell a family physician from Canada who had worked for over a year in South Sudan with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECS) and Dr. Alex Bolek, a physician from South Sudan who is also the General Secretary of Christian Medical Fellowship of South Sudan comprised the team..

The visit to Bor was very fruitful. The Governor of Jonglei State and the Minister of Health of the State have extended their full cooperation and support to ICMDA to start the institute. They are willing to provide the land at no cost to the ICMDA to locate the institute and are willing to raise some financial resources towards the construction of residences for students. There is a greater sense of ownership in Bor both by the State Government and the local medical doctors.

In Juba, I visited the National Health Training Institute, which trains nurses and midwives. It was helpful to see their skills laboratories and to understand all the various aspects of managing a training institute and to interact with some of the faculty.

We have outlined a possible roadmap towards developing the institute over the next 5 years. We also realize training different cadres of staff would have greater impact on the healthcare delivery and also on health outcomes.



Meeting with the Vice-chancellor of the  
Dr. John Garang Memorial University



## WORK A DAY

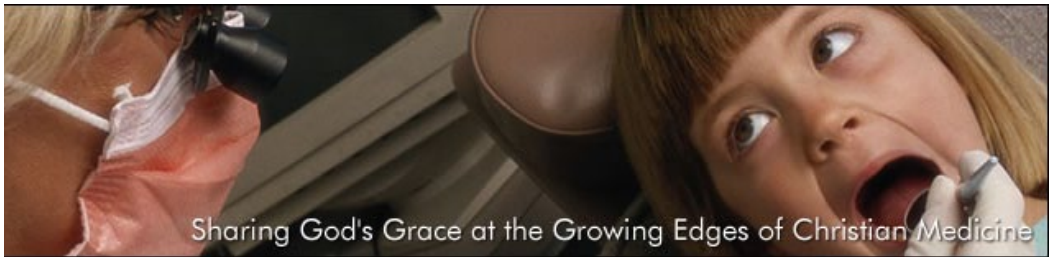
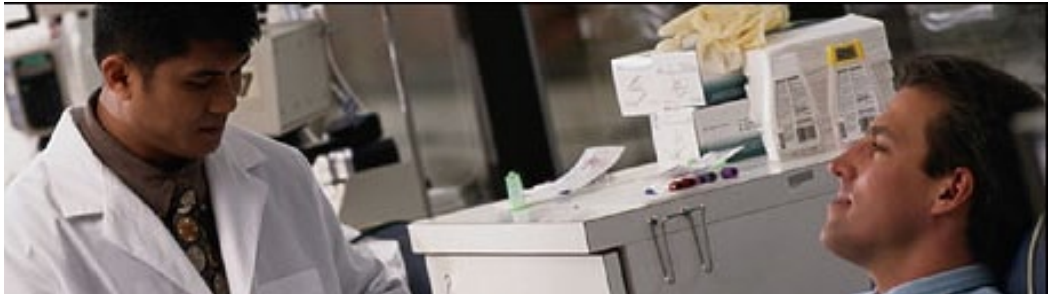
**Dr. James Tomlinson**

### **ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary**

The Friday before St Luke's day (Healthcare Sunday in some countries) is identified as a day of prayer for the ICMDA.

ICMDA encourages prayer for its work, its member movements and all Christian Health care Associations worldwide.

A prayer guide for the same is circulated and 19th October was set aside for the same. We also have a Work a Day for ICMDA initiative on the same day where participants are invited to support the work of ICMDA in Eurasia's regional work by giving the equivalent of one day's salary for the work of the ICMDA. Those not receiving a salary, including students, also participate in giving what they can.



## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

2013	NATIONAL CONFERENCES
08 - 10 February	National Students Conference, CMF, UK.
21-24 March	CMA Bangladesh Annual Conference.
04 - 07 April	National Conference, CMF, Newzeland.
26 - 28 April	National Conference, CMF, UK.
02 - 05 May	CMDs National Conference, Canada.
07 - 09 June	National Graduates Conference Melbourne, Australia
25 - 28 July	Doctors National Conference, CMDA, Nigeria.
06 - 11 August	Tri-Nations Conference, Seoul. Korea.
17 - 20 October	Regional Sectaries Meeting, Bristol USA.
2014	WORLD CONGRESS
19 - 26 July	Rotterdam, Netherlands

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for  
His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great  
is Your faithfulness.*

- lamentations 3:22-23

**PLEASE NOTE:** ICMDA has an international address - office@icmda.net. Please change details to this preferred address. For useful websites and resources, visit the ICMDA website resource bank. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of ICMDA. Translations of NPP are encouraged and permissible

### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE - MAY 2013

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