

enabling medical professionals
to share Christ's love
at the time of need,
patient by patient

Life Lines

Winter 2008

 INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH SERVICES
www.internationalhealthservices.org

IHS Heartbeat

Pioneering Ministry in Siberia

The circle widens as INTERNATIONAL SALINE makes inroads east, west, north, and south. In October, the training debuted in Siberia. Alet Uittenbogaard, a Dutch trainer with International Saline partner Healthcare Christian Fellowship International, led the sessions, accompanied by Elisabeth Noel, from France.

While the training is entirely new to them, the Russian healthcare workers understood the eternal significance and wanted to learn. They became enthusiastic about being a Christian in the workplace, despite restrictions against sharing faith in their country.

Participants spoke about their own experiences, which were excellent examples for the training and gave it relevance for their context. It is not a cultural norm for doctors in Siberia to treat patients with care and compassion. However,

participants' eyes were opened to the opportunity of helping patients draw nearer to God, cultivating faith by their caring.

People in need arrive in their healthcare settings daily — these newly trained workers now have tools to share the life of Christ in a natural way. "The training has helped them to relax, to simply 'be' a Christian healthcare worker and to use the contacts with patients and colleagues in a normal setting," Alet said.

Among the 46 participants in four locations, mostly female doctors and nurses, there was one non-Christian psychiatrist. She was open and interested, and Alet and Elisabeth were able to visit her clinic the next day.

Multiplication is happening. A participant in the October training will soon be training medical students in a difficult to reach area of Siberia.



Alet Uittenbogaard in Schladming, Austria
(September 2008).

Saline Supply

Participant interactions after training keep motivation strong

Prayer triplets are an ideal way for International Saline participants to encourage one another to practice principles learned in training. A prayer triplet is small enough to coordinate packed

schedules when making the commitment to meet regularly, whether by phone, Internet or in person. Participants also can meet conveniently at The Forum on the new International Saline website. Here they are encouraged to share stories about raising faith flags or taking a spiritual



history and can explain how they make use of a spiritual referral team, for instance. Creativity is fostered when participants communicate with one another about their experiences. Motivation, creativity, flexibility, perseverance — these count when International Saline principles go into effect. But the most important ingredient is the work of the Holy Spirit welcomed in prayer:

Vital Signs

Reflections on the experience in Siberia echo responses elsewhere:

- Participants felt that the pressure of "having to convert people" was taken away.
- In church and with Christians, they speak Christian jargon, but in the workplace they learned to communicate on the level of the patient, which establishes common ground.
- They learned to be a witness, salt and light, in their workplace — seen as a mission field.
- A burden was taken off their shoulders.

For the Record

“When the surgeons do not know any more what to do, they ask me to pray! Mostly God hears and the problem is solved.” - operating room nurse in Siberia”

2009 ~ Pray with Us

► For International Saline sessions:

- **January 17-24** Healthcare Christian Fellowship International's retreat in Switzerland (using new German translation)
- **February 20-22** Moscow, Agape Medical Center
- **March 7-8** Poland, IHS Foundation–Hungary
- **March 14** Belgium, with HCFI
- **March (TBD)** Bulgaria, IHS Foundation–Hungary
- **March 21** Nepal, HCFI-led with medical missionary organization
- **March 27-29** Singapore – Prayer Alert! *This strategic session will bring trainers together from Australia, India, and South Africa. Training will be led by International Health Services' master trainers, with Bob Snyder's coaching.*

► For Resources:

- Website capacity and usage to support the growing witness to Christ of healthcare workers living everywhere between Bogotá in Colombia and cities in Siberia
- German translation expected completion mid-December

Praise God!

- International Health Services welcomes Scott Camilleri as director for advancement – we anticipate fresh vision and an infusion of energy for the growth of ministry support in both prayer and finances.

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