

## IHS Trains Physicians in South Africa

**June 2006, South Africa**—Christian Medical Fellowship-South Africa invited IHS to hold an INTERNATIONAL SALINE SOLUTION training conference for 20 Christian medical professionals from the South African region this past June. The participants ranged from medical students to an 87 year-old medical professional, all of whom want to integrate their faith into their medical practices. Master Trainers, Dr. Bob Snyder, IHS, and Dr. Kevin Vaughn, our ministry partner from Christian Medical Fellowship-UK, jointly conducted the training seminar.

### *Beta Testing of a New Training Tool*

For over a year, IHS and our five global Master Trainers have been developing a new training tool designed for greater simplicity and cultural adaptability. Bob Snyder and Kevin Vaughn presented the new training materials as a beta test at the recent conference in South Africa. Feedback from the conference participants was unanimously positive. Many testified to the way the course radically changed their views regarding meeting the spiritual care needs of their patients.

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*"I now know it is more than OK to speak to patients about spirituality. And I now know I am not alone in meeting this important patient need."*

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INTERNATIONAL  
HEALTH SERVICES



*(Left) Drs. Bob Snyder and Kevin Vaughn team teaching at a South Africa medical conference.*

*(Right) Bob Snyder leads a discussion at ICMDA Board meeting.*



Beta test participant feedback included:

- One medical professional exclaimed that she had been searching for a means to share her faith in her practice. Because of the IHS training, she felt personally encouraged and equipped to become a workplace witness for Christ on a regular basis.
- Another participant mentioned, "I now know it is more than OK to speak to patients about spirituality. And I now know I am not alone in meeting this important patient need."
- Another doctor, having previously taken the original version of the training course, expressed that the new course is "simple, practical, and more realistic."

By the power of God, this beta test training seminar encouraged and moved the South Africa conference participants to a stronger personal commitment to live daily for Christ.

### *Solidifying an Important Ministry Partnership*

While in South Africa, Bob Snyder also had the opportunity to present a ministry partnership vision and model to the Board of Directors of International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA). ICMDA leadership shares a common vision and passion for ministering the Gospel around the world through properly trained and equipped medical professionals. The scriptural theme used by Bob Snyder in his presentation was, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12

ICMDA, with a reach to 90 countries, and IHS will now efficiently train and mobilize the ICMDA staff trainers. We praise God for ministry partners, such as ICMDA and Christian Medical Fellowship-UK and South Africa, who are committed to share capabilities and resources aimed at more effectively furthering the Kingdom of God.

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## The Patient...Our Primary Concern

What might a patient under the care of an IHS-Trained physician experience?

Participating physicians look for opportunities to:

- Identify themselves as followers of Jesus to their patients.
- Plant "faith flags"—initiating conversations about the Lord.
- Tell "faith stories" of their own experiences with Jesus.
- Give "faith prescriptions"—scripture to read and consider.
- Take patient "spiritual histories."
- Pray for and with patients, as appropriate.

Spiritual encounters with patients are based on the physician's desire to provide compassionate care, opportunities for prayer and non-confrontational moments to consider the claims of Christ.



*A bedside encounter at a clinic in India. (Pictured)*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for the partnerships with like-minded international ministries.
- Pray for the participants who recently attended an East Asia medical conference:
  - Pray for the right moments for physicians to share their Faith Stories with patients.
  - Pray for patient openness and receptivity.
  - Pray for boldness on the part of the physicians.
  - Pray for protection for all; some will share at great risk, some will listen with equal risk.
  - Pray for Bob Snyder and the other IHS master trainers as they teach and mentor.
- Pray for the IHS team of Master Trainers which is developing new training materials.
- Pray for Bob Snyder and fellow master trainer, Dr. Gabor Györi, as they prepare to present an International Saline Solution seminar at the end of October in South Africa. Also, pray that God will prepare the hearts and minds of those professionals who participate.
- Pray for the IHS website development project. This will dramatically improve communications with trainees and participants.
- Pray God will continue to supply the financial resources to meet current needs—the summer presented special challenges, even though giving historically slows. You need to know IHS summer giving is down 38%. We are grateful to all those who support IHS financially.

*How does one thank another for the gift of prayer? It is an eternal gift with eternal consequences. It empowers our feeble efforts and keeps us on the right path. You are appreciated beyond measure.*

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