

## IHS Heartbeat

### Partners Keep Seeking First the Kingdom of God

"We are strongly committed to a partnership with the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA)," says Dr. Bob Snyder. He traveled to England in May to spend time with association members. Already, a session to train INTERNATIONAL SALINE national trainers from among ICMDA members is planned in September 2008 in Austria. More ICMDA trainers will be added "Down Under" in Australia in 2009.

ICMDA first encountered the International Saline approach to witnessing at an envisioning conference during the ICMDA board meeting in Durban, So. Africa, in 2006. Several years later, Bob and Dr. Daryl Hackland, general secretary of ICMDA, discussed closer cooperation, and then recently finalized a joint memorandum of understanding.



Daryl Hackland, M.D.,  
general secretary of ICMDA  
(United Kingdom, May 2008)

"There ought to be no space for duplication of strategies," says Dr. Hackland. "Each organization engaged in expanding the boundaries of God's Kingdom has a specific calling, skills, and strengths ... [to enhance] witness, mission, and service for Christ." He sees that each organization strengthens the unique gifts of every other partner as they work in unity. He further notes that a partnership sidesteps the pitfall of building organizational empires, a powerful temptation to move away from seeking first the Kingdom of God.

Dr. Hackland envisions a future when healthcare institutions and structures around the world will experience the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, because "trained and skilled facilitators and motivators are opening up channels of outreach both to fellow colleagues ... and to patients in 'making Jesus known.'"

## Saline Supply

### Follow-up e-mails reinforce International Saline principles

Following the session for national trainers in India in April, Bob sent weekly e-mail messages to remind participants of key points and encourage them to take steps toward training others. Each message gave a brief synopsis of a topic: the importance of faith in healthcare, opportunities and barriers to witnessing, tools for sharing one's faith, the health worker's role, and putting new skills into practice. The messages included a personal action for the trainer, as well as an action to prepare to train others. Some said they found the messages motivational. And one participant was encouraged enough to conduct the training



with a small focus group to gain confidence, while also receiving feedback. A monthly e-mail will give further reinforcement, as will other regular communication and follow-up training sessions.

## Vital Signs

### Newly trained healthcare workers in India tell about their experiences with International Saline:

- "I gained an understanding that the workplace becomes a mission place."
- "It was timely, crisp, and motivating."
- "I liked the practical aspect the most."
- "It revitalized my personal faith and fellowship with Christian doctors."
- "I'm encouraged to be a witness with passion."

## For the Record

“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

(2 Corinthians 5:20, NIV)

## Pray with Us

- ▶ **For International Saline training sessions to be held:**  
July 4 Bogota, Colombia, HCFI Latin American Meeting 2008  
Sept. 7 to 14 Schladming, Austria, ICMDA
- ▶ **For an International Saline envisioning conference** to be held at the Nurses Christian Fellowship World Congress in Jos, Nigeria, September 14 to 19.
- ▶ **For continuing positive outcomes** from the training sessions held in the Ukraine, India, Switzerland, Denmark, and the United Kingdom, in spring 2008.
- ▶ **For work during the summer months** on the website that is being developed to meet the needs of International Saline graduates ([www.internationalsaline.org](http://www.internationalsaline.org)).
- ▶ **For progress of the translations** of International Saline training material into an East Asian language, Castilian Spanish, French, Norwegian, Russian, Hungarian, and Latin American Spanish that are underway.

## Praise God!

- ▶ **For good fruit evident in India in answer to prayers**
  - Latha Mathew alone taught healthcare workers in Hubli, because Bob's travel plans were delayed, and the session was a powerful experience of God's presence for those attending
  - Kiruba Daniel, Latha, and Bob taught 158 healthcare workers at Mysore Mission Hospital
  - Kiruba, Latha, and Bob trained 33 national trainers in Bangalore
- ▶ **Bob observed**, "India was clearly the most difficult trip I've ever taken. Your prayers were needed and appreciated!"

### Board of Reference

Russ Cadle, D.Min., *Friendship Ministries Foundation*  
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### International Saline Partnership

Christian Medical Fellowship—UK  
Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India  
Healthcare Christian Fellowship International—  
The Netherlands  
International Christian Medical and Dental Association—  
South Africa  
Nurses Christian Fellowship International—UK  
Ukraine Medical Outreach

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A higher purpose.

— Dr. Peter Saunders, General Secretary, Christian Medical Fellowship

“It has been a delight and a joy to see the impact that this training is having on our members as they begin to put these principles into practice, and we greatly value our ongoing partnership with the IHS team.”

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A newsletter of  
International Health Services  
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