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Life for All

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Human Touch at the Heart of Healthcare

In today's fast-changing healthcare environment, one of the most important priorities is raising the standards of care through ongoing education and continuous improvement. Over the past months, we have successfully organized workshops focused on understanding and implementing these standards. By blending theory with hands-on training, the workshops have equipped mission hospitals with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve and maintain NABH accreditation, resulting in safer and more efficient patient care.

This effort highlights a simple yet powerful truth: healthcare quality is not just about meeting standards—it's about a culture of excellence that keeps patient safety and well-being, first. Through initiatives like these, we are not just following guidelines; we are enabling our members to transform healthcare delivery and align with the highest levels of care.

At the 1st Graduation Ceremony of the Dialysis Technology Tutors Course, I shared a personal story of how compassionate care made a

difference when I had a dislocated shoulder. The radiographer's technical skills, combined with their comforting words and gentle approach, greatly eased my discomfort. This experience is a reminder that while standards and protocols are essential, the human touch remains central to healthcare. Effective communication and empathy are not just desirable—they are critical to patient recovery and satisfaction.

As we celebrated International Nurses Day, we were reminded of the importance of resilience and adaptability in a time of uncertainty. Our ability to grow, innovate, and lead with compassion will shape the future of healthcare. The strength of healthcare systems relies on us—professionals who are not only skilled but also adaptable, empathetic, and deeply committed to patient care.

Let us continue to champion both quality and compassion as the core pillars of healthcare excellence. In doing so, we will create a future where patients benefit from both clinical expertise and genuine care. ■

Dialysis Technology Tutors Course

~ Mr Lyric Abraham | Allied Health Professionals' Section ~



The Dialysis Technology Tutors Course celebrated its first graduation day on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. at the CSI Retreat Centre in Kanyakumari. The dignitaries of the ceremony included the General Secretary of the CMAI, Dr. Priya John; Chief Guest, Dr. Ninoo George, Convenor of DTTC; Mr. Lyric Abraham, AHP and CEB Secretary; Mr. Paul Patrick, Chairman of AHP; Mr. Santhosh, Regional Coordinator for Tamil Nadu; and Mr. A.P. Berry, Course Coordinator.

The celebration began with a prayer by Rev. Abel Vethamani, followed by a song. Ms. Priya read a Scripture passage. After the customary invocation, Mr. Lyric Abraham, AHP and CEB Secretary, welcomed the dignitaries and graduates. He felicitated the guests with bouquets and introduced them to the gathering.

A brief introduction to the DTTC program was given, followed by the introduction of the graduates and a short report by Mr. A.P. Berry, the Course Coordinator. In his address,

Dr. Ninoo George, Convenor of the DTTC Course, emphasized that learning is a continuous process requiring hard work, dedication, skills, and commitment.

Chief Guest Dr. Priya John shared a personal experience from when she was admitted to a hospital with severe shoulder dislocation pain. She recounted how the comforting words, caring touch, and smiling face of the radiographer helped her relax, and how the technician skillfully relocated her shoulder with minimal strain and pain. Dr. John emphasized the importance of good communication in the medical profession and urged tutors to impart values to their students.

Ms. Reena Mathew shared her joyful study experience, and six tutors attended the ceremony to celebrate their success. The dignitaries then distributed certificates to the graduates. Of the 10 students in the 2022 batch, six were awarded their Tutor Diplomas that day, while the remaining four collected theirs from the administrative office.

Following the certificate distribution, AHP Secretary Mr. Lyric Abraham appreciated Mr. A.P. Berry for his efforts in launching the Dialysis Diploma Course in 2013 and initiating the Tutor Diploma Program in 2022. On behalf of CMAI, Dr. Priya John and Dr. Ninoo George honored Mr. A.P. Berry with an appreciation memento.

The course coordinator then declared the graduation day closed. Mr. Lyric Abraham delivered the vote of thanks, and the event concluded with a prayer, followed by a cultural program, a photo session, and dinner. ■

Mission Hospitals – “Resilience and Relevance”

CMAI creates opportunities to provide a platform to connect with Member Institutions and individual members of the region and engage with fellow Christian health workers at hospitals. In the view of phase 2 of the #GrowwithCMAI initiative, focuses on growing with all the opportunities given to become sturdy, resilient, and adaptable in the wake of several challenging situations faced by many mission hospitals in the present times. The webinar brings all the healthcare professionals' team and students together with participants across the region and India, thereby creating an opportunity to learn, encourage each other, and acknowledge the work progress through the healing ministry in the present times.

The CMAI Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Regional team organized an educational webinar on 17th May 2024 for healthcare professionals on “Mission Hospitals - “Resilience and Relevance” by Dr. Vinod Shah, Senior Paediatric Surgeon and Medical Mission Leader. As a beacon of light brought together a time of sharing experiences, inspirations, and action/suggestions.

In addition to an inaugural session, the educational session focused on how to equip and motivate healthcare professionals for commitment and empowerment of CMAI network hospital non-member institutions, and individual members in the webinar.

Participants from 112 mission hospitals (from 23 AP & TS and 88 from other states, 08 non-member institutions from the AP region, and many healthcare teams and students from the government / private institutions from across AP and Telangana attended the webinar. Most of the institutions/ nursing and medical students participated in groups.

Among the total attendees were 374 CMAI Andhra Pradesh and the Telangana region hosted the webinar. The webinar began with an opening prayer by Ms. Elsy John, Secretary, Administrators section, CMAI, followed by Dr. Jyothsna who delivered a welcome note and introduced the speaker of the day. ■



Dr. Christopher Moses and Dr. Shobha Moses received the Jeevan Gaurav Award by Christian Medical College and Hospital, Louis Valley, Kentucky, in the USA for providing better health services to the people of Jalna and rural areas.

Asia Regional DRRM Platform

~ Dr Abhijeet Sangma | Doctors Section ~



A planning meeting was organised for the Asia Regional DRRM Platform, a collaborative initiative spearheaded by Tearfund to strengthen disaster response, risk reduction management (DRRM), and climate change adaptation efforts across Asia. The platform aims to create a space for Christian NGOs (Tearfund partners) to share knowledge, resources, and expertise, ultimately building regional resilience in the face of escalating disasters.

The Asia region is particularly susceptible to natural hazards due to its geographic makeup. From transboundary rivers and the Ring of Fire to sandstorms and typhoons, these events often cross-national borders, causing widespread devastation. While national partners demonstrate capable responses, a lack of collaboration and knowledge exchange hinders the effectiveness of disaster management efforts.

The proposed Asia Regional DRRM Platform seeks to address this critical gap. It envisions a

collaborative space where Christian NGOs can leverage their collective experience and resources to improve disaster preparedness, response, and risk reduction across the continent. The platform aims to:

- **Facilitate Joint Action:** By promoting collaboration, the platform will enable a more coordinated regional response to large-scale disasters, optimizing resource allocation and maximizing impact.
- **Enhance Knowledge Sharing:** Through a dedicated platform for knowledge exchange, partners can learn from each other's successes and challenges, continuously improving their DRRM practices.
- **Build Cross-Border Resilience:** The platform will encourage collaboration on capacity building initiatives, strengthening local churches and communities' ability to withstand disasters.
- **Advocate for Effective DRRM:** By working together, platform members can advocate for

improved national and regional DRRM policies and practices.

The platform proposal received enthusiastic support from participating partners. However, crucial considerations were raised to ensure its long-term success:

- **Uniqueness and Value Proposition:** Partners emphasized the need to clearly define the platform's unique value proposition compared to existing DRRM networks.
- **Holistic Approach:** While disaster response is crucial, ensuring preparedness through capacity building and risk reduction strategies was also highlighted.
- **Sustainability:** Partners stressed the importance of establishing a sustainable funding model and governance structure for the platform.
- **Knowledge Sharing Mechanisms:** Developing effective mechanisms for knowledge exchange and capacity building across the platform was deemed essential.
- **Inclusivity:** The need to foster inclusivity with other faith-based organizations working in DRRM was recognized.
- **Alignment with Existing Initiatives:** Ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication of efforts with existing DRRM networks was considered critical.

Hospital Management and Nursing Challenges

A one-day seminar on mission hospital management and nursing challenges in mission hospitals was organized for Mohulpahari Christian Hospital, Dumka, on May 25, 2024. Dr. Philip Stokoe, MD, from Shanti Bhavan Medical Centre, was the resource consultant for the seminar. The seminar was found to be useful for the entire MCH team and the administrator of FMPB – Snahalaya Health Centre, Darlingi, Pakur. A total of 38 participants attended the one-day seminar.

To guide the platform's development, a Governance ToR Drafting Committee was established. Representatives from India (EFICOR), Indonesia (YAKKUM/YEU, Jakomkris Network), Nepal (UMN), Bangladesh (LAMB), Philippines (PHILRADS), and Tearfund Netherlands will collaborate on drafting a comprehensive ToR document. This document will outline the platform's governance structure, operational framework, and key activities.

The Asia Regional DRRM Platform has the potential to be a game-changer in disaster management across Asia. By fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building, the platform can equip Christian NGOs and local communities to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The success of this initiative hinges on a collaborative approach, active participation from partners, and a well-defined ToR that addresses the key considerations raised during the meeting. As the platform takes shape, its potential to contribute to a more disaster-resilient Asia becomes increasingly significant. ■



Inauguration of Palliative Care Unit by Lombard Mission CSI Hospital, Udupi (Karnataka)

MANIPUR BAPTIST CONVENTION PASTOR'S TRAINING PROGRAM

~ Rev David Ebenezer | Chaplains' Section ~



The Manipur Baptist Convention, comprising over 1,257 churches, organized a Pastor's Training Program to enhance skills in counseling and administration. This event took place from June 25th to 27th, 2024, at the Manipur Baptist Convention Centre in Imphal.

Rev. Losii Mao, General Secretary of the Manipur Baptist Convention, invited the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) to provide a resource person for the training. CMAI responded by sending Rev. David Ebenezer, who conducted six sessions on counseling.

The sessions covered the following topics:

- Multiple Intelligences
- Pastoral Psychology
- Jesus' Attitudes to Counseling
- Growth of the Therapeutic Relationship
- Church-Related Counseling
- Adapting to Change in Pastoral Care

Each session involved practical brainstorming discussions. Additionally, Rev. Remember Rimai, Senior Pastor of Union Baptist Church

in Ukhrul, Manipur, led four sessions on administration. Rev. Losii Mao, the General Secretary of the Manipur Baptist Convention, also conducted two sessions on emotional intelligence.

Pastors from Imphal and surrounding areas participated in the training. After a prolonged gap, they had the opportunity to reconnect, share their challenging experiences, and support one another in their ministries. This gathering provided a platform for pastors to share their stories and find comfort, reinforcing their commitment to their ministry despite difficult circumstances.

The impact of the sessions was profound, renewing the participants' strength and resolve to face challenges and spread love in the face of adversity. This training aimed to strengthen the pastors and encourage them in their mission to extend the Kingdom of God. ■

Inter-State Level Workshop On Implementation Of Quality Standards in Mission Hospitals

~ Ms Elsy John | Administrators' Section ~

The Inter-State Level CMAI Workshop on Implementation of Quality Standards in Mission Hospitals, held from June 13th to 15th, 2024, at CSI Diocese of Vellore's Scudder Memorial Hospital, brought together 31 participants from 12 institutions. The inaugural session featured an opening prayer and song by Bro. Suresh and the SMH Choir, followed by a welcome speech by Dr. Anbu Suresh and a devotion by Dr. Sam Raj. G. Ms. Elsy John delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the workshop's objectives, while Mrs. Asha Noble provided felicitations. Mr. Nirmal Jerome L introduced the program and sessions, and the session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Cecil Daniel and a closing prayer by Mrs Suganthi J.

Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in comprehensive sessions covering various NABH accreditation standards, including AAC, COP, MOM, HIC, PRE, CQI, ROM, FMS, IMS, and HRM chapters. Practical insights were gained through hospital rounds and hands-on training sessions. Key highlights included an enhanced understanding of NABH standards, improved competency through practical demonstrations, and a shared commitment to healthcare excellence. The workshop successfully empowered mission hospitals with the knowledge and tools needed to achieve and maintain NABH accreditation, ultimately leading to improved patient care and safety. ■

Implementing Quality & Safety Standards

From June 13 to 15, 2024, the Tamil Nadu & Puducherry Region and Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet, jointly hosted an Inter-State Level Workshop on Implementing Quality & Safety Standards in Mission Hospitals, focusing on the NABH Entry Level Standards.

The workshop, part of the CMAI NABH Support Series, brought together 31 healthcare professionals from 11 mission hospitals in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to foster a collaborative approach to quality improvement. Participants engaged in various sessions, drawing on the extensive resources and expertise of Scudder Memorial Hospital, which was showcased as a model for successfully adhering to NABH standards.

This initiative highlighted the commitment of mission hospitals to support each other in enhancing healthcare quality and safety across their institutions. ■



INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY CELEBRATIONS 2024

~ Ms Shimy Mathew | Nurses League ~



CMAI along with its network partners celebrated the International Nurses Day on 15th May 2024 from 3 to 4.30 pm. Representatives from network partner organizations like CBCI, NCCI, ENFI joined the programme. The programme started with a prayer song and prayer by Rev. David Ebenezer, Chaplains Section Secretary of CMAI. Mrs. Mercy Quila welcomed the gathering. Mrs Rosaline Jayakaran, Secretary of the Evangelical Nurses Fellowship of India offered felicitations on behalf of ENFI. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mathew, Executive Secretary from NCCI offered felicitations on behalf of NCCI.

Dr. Vathsala Sadan, Vice President of CMAI and former Dean of College of Nursing, CMC Vellore gave a brief presentation on this year's theme- . A short video on CMAI and membership promotion was played. Dr. Priya John shared felicitations on behalf of CMAI and Dr. Abhijit Sangma on behalf of Christian Coalition for Health and briefed the involvement of CCH for Nursing. Fr. Santhosh Dias offered a special dedication prayer for Nurses. Mrs. Madhukala Mishra , National Florence Nightingale Awardee from Sikkim shared her journey in nursing and her involvement with

government and development of nursing in her state. The programme also had some interesting, recorded programmes from Member Institutions. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Mrs. Shimy Mathew, Secretary, NL of CMAI. Closing

prayer and benediction was done by Rev. Anilal M Jose, Director, Department of Pastoral concerns, CSITA. After the programme there was open interaction among participants. The programme was well appreciated by all who attended. ■

EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP: ENHANCING CARE IN MISSION HOSPITALS

~ Ms Elsy John | Administrators' Section ~

The Workshop on NABH & NABL Entry-level Accreditation, held from April 29th to May 1st, 2024, at Kurji Holy Family Hospital (KHFH) in Patna, Bihar, was a significant event organized by the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)—the workshop aimed to enhance the understanding and implementation of NABH and NABL standards among healthcare professionals. The event began with an opening prayer and welcome address by Mr. Yuhanna Pradhan, followed by greetings from Sr. Princy Mathew and an introduction of the resource persons by Mrs. Elsy John. Dr. Manju Chacko, Quality Manager at Bangalore Baptist Hospital (BBH), Karnataka, led sessions on Quality and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), and NABH standards, and facilitated hospital visits for practical insights. Dr. Sindhulina Chandrasingh, HOD of Laboratory Services at BBH, conducted sessions on NABL standards and a laboratory visit. The participants engaged in detailed discussions and hands-on experiences, reinforcing the application of quality standards in healthcare settings.

The second day of the workshop continued with a recap and open discussion, followed by

sessions on pending NABH standards and practical work in the hospital. Dr. Manju Chacko and the hospital team provided invaluable guidance, helping participants gain a comprehensive understanding of quality implementation.

The workshop concluded with an online NABH training session for nursing staff, conducted by Sr. Reena from BBH, ensuring that all levels of hospital staff were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet accreditation standards. Overall, the workshop successfully provided in-depth training on NABH and NABL entry-level accreditation, fostering a collaborative learning environment and promoting excellence in healthcare administration. ■

St Stephens College of Nursing was ranked number 1 in North India and number 2 in the country by IIRF.

The Economic Power of Care.



On the occasion of International Nurses Day on May 12, 2024, a seminar for nurses was organized by the CMAI Gujarat & Rajasthan Region at DDMM Heart Institute, Nadiad, Gujarat. The theme was "Our Nurses, Our Future: The Economic Power of Care." A total of 96 nurses, nursing students, and other health professionals from Nadiad, Ahmedabad, Anand, and Karamsad attended the seminar, along with regional committee members. Many health professionals participated, thanks to the follow-up efforts of the regional committee. Mr. Vivek Khristi, Regional Sectional Secretary for Nurses, and Ms. Rosabella were the masters of ceremonies (MCs) for the program and hosted the event efficiently.

The seminar began with registration, followed by praise and worship led by the DDMM Hospital Nadiad team. Opening prayers were offered by D.S. Rev. Simon Bernard, Senior Pastor at Elim Methodist Church and Director of Methodist Hospital & School of Nursing, Nadiad, with a prayer song by students from the Methodist School of Nursing. Mr. Nilesh M. Mecwan, Regional Secretary for Gujarat & Rajasthan, delivered the welcome address. All guests and resource persons were honored. A powerful skit was presented by students from the Methodist School of Nursing, Nadiad.

1st Session: "Introduction to the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)" was

presented by Mr. Lyric Abraham, Staff Nominee, GJRJ & Secretary, AHP Section, CMAI. He also conveyed greetings from CMAI HQ, New Delhi. 2nd Session: "The Economic Power of Care" was presented by Ms. Sanjana Bhatia, Principal of R.H. Patel Institute of Nursing Education & Research Center, Borsad, Gujarat. 3rd Session: "Quality of Nurses" was led by Mr. Nickson Das, Principal of Methodist School of Nursing, Nadiad. 4th Session: "Challenges of Nursing Care," an interactive session, was facilitated by Dr. Sanjeeth Peter, Director of DDMM Heart Institute, Nadiad, who also invited participants to share brief reflections on their experiences.

At the end of the sessions, participants were presented with flowers, pens, and keychains as tokens of appreciation by CMAI members. Twelve nurses participated in an essay writing competition on the topic "Why I Became a Nurse," and three winners were awarded certificates and special gifts. The young nurses were guided and encouraged by the guests and session speakers.

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Vivek Vishwasbhai Khristi, Regional Sectional Secretary, GJRJ, and a group photograph was taken by the regional team members. The meeting concluded with a closing prayer by Mr. James Macwan, Manager of DDMM Heart Institute, Nadiad, followed by a fellowship lunch. ■

Dear Members and Readers,

Life for All (LFA), as a quarterly newsletter of CMAI is a great opportunity to connect directly with our membership. We put together news, highlights of events, reports from the field, a notice board of future activities, important announcements and regular columns by the Secretaries of 5 Sections of CMAI.

Being the Voice of CMAI: I encourage you to come forward and give feedback, ideas and views, in order to further share CMAI's vision and mission in action.

We have uploaded the e-versions of LFA along with Christian Medical Journal of India and TearFund's magazine Footsteps. Kindly visit our website (www.cmai.org/publications.html) to view and download these publications of CMAI.

Write to us: As we continue to disseminate information on behalf of CMAI, connect with us via email (communication@cmai.org) to help our commitment to promote holistic healing to all.

Regards,

Christopher N Peter, Lead - Communication Department



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