

World Christian doctors end Mexico summit

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There is a lot of hope for the recognition of spiritual healing all over the world as 350 Christian doctors and medical professionals from 23 countries, including Africa and Latin America, ended their conference in Mexico penultimate Sunday. During the summit, the doctors were challenged on the acceptance of spiritual healing through prayer as they carry out their profession. They were also charged not to shy away from sharing the message of Christ with their colleagues.

This came as the participants of the conference examined actual case studies of miracles presented by various doctors.

Addressing participants at the conference, which began on Friday, June 14, President of the World Christian Doctors Network (WCDN), Dr. Gilbert Chae (Korea), welcomed attendees on the first day of the 10th Annual WCDN Conference in Toluca City, Mexico.

He said: "Through this conference, I hope all of you Christian medical doctors will be united as one in faith and awakened so many health professionals and intellectuals who do not know God.

"I hope you will also give out the light of the Christ in your lives and give glory to God in whatever you do".

Dan Wooding, Founder of ASSIST News Service, who attended the event held at Del Ray Inn Hotel, Toluca City, Mexico, said the theme was "Spirituality in Medicine".

Each of the speakers, many of whom presented case studies, believes that "spiritual healing" is an answer to sickness in the 21st Century and agreed that medicine alone cannot deal with some of today's worst illnesses.

Dr. Daniel Fuentes Acosta, Chairman of this year's Organising Committee, and a leader of WCDN Mexico, said this was the first time the conference had been held in a Latin American country.

He stressed: "Jesus Christ is the same today and forever. He will continue doing miracles and showing His love to the world. And we as physicians are being witnesses of that amazing love and power.

"Unity in the Body of Christ is necessary, it is here the love and power of our God is showed, that is the reason why we are here, celebrating a WCDN Conference. We are from different countries and continents, doctors and health workers who share the same faith".

He added: "This conference is a beautiful way to see how God brings his children from different latitudes, where I am sure each one of us is making a great work in his country and is being used by the power of our God.

"We will see medical amazing cases with evidence of divine healing, lectures that fill our spirit, anointing filled moments praising and worshipping our God together.

"This event has brought to Mexico and to our city a special touch of the Holy Spirit. We believe that even though our country is going through difficult times, God's mercy, love, peace and forgiveness come to our beloved Mexico as rivers by his grace. Medicine is a vocation to create living conditions, health and hope for every human being.

"The medicine should be approached from a much broader framework which covers the whole human being as spirit, soul and body.

"Our resources come from God who gives gifts and enable us with skills such as the discernment, wisdom and intelligence to the proper practice of our profession. "To provide information and inspiration is considered the most important role of a doctor. Let us be health professionals, of hope who can inspire a deep change in life for those who need it most".

But besides the lectures and discussions, a highlight from them on the first day was when they dropped the formality of being medical doctors, took off their stethoscopes, and whole-heartedly joined in worship songs as rendered by local worship bands and a Korean worship group. It was indeed a pleasure to see the doctors lifting holy hands in praise and some even dancing along to the music.

One doctor said, "This is a wonderful time for each of us to worship our Lord and became 'normal Christians' for a while. Often, our patients put us on a pedestal, but we are all just people and a conference like this is such a time of refreshing for us."

A doctor, who attended last year's conference in Nairobi, Kenya, said, "This has been like a refreshing rain for me. Meeting with doctors who believe in divine healing from around the world has been such a blessing. There have been times when I thought I was the only doctor who believed in miracles, but now I know that I am not alone, and there are many more who also believe".

What is unusual about this conference, that the doctors believe that miracles should be well documented and each one put on a large screen their evidence and then look at questions from their colleagues, asking questions about the evidence.

A highlight on the second day of the conference was when Dr. Chauncey W. Crandall IV, a renowned heart doctor, who serves at the Palm Beach Cardiovascular Clinic in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, made a dramatic presentation about how, after he had prayed for a patient who had died and was being prepared for the morgue, was brought back to life after prayer.

He also talked about a patient who was clinically brain dead that came back to life after prayer.

A female attendee, Dr. Zipporah W. Ngumi, a respected Kenyan doctor, who believes in praying for her patients, on her own, said she has seen many healings during her work.

"I have prayed and God has answered those prayers and intervened very specifically in the hospital where I work," she told a correspondent in an interview.

"God, though Jesus Christ, is the healer of His people from spiritual, physical and emotional sickness.

"He forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases – Psalm 103:3 – and Christian doctors will witness the healing and saving power of Jesus Christ as they pray with patients in their surgeries".

When the conference was held last year in her home city of Nairobi, she chaired the well-attended event, with people coming from all over Africa.

During that gathering, two fascinating cases were presented. One was of a lady healed from a fractured femur and another concerned a man in a wheelchair who, after prayer, stood up and walked.

Dr. Ngumi, currently a lecturer in the University of Nairobi School of Medicine in Anesthetics and Critical Care Medicine and practices at Kenyatta National Hospital, was asked to share her own personal story.

She said, "I am a Christian who came to salvation as a teenager in high school. I grew in my faith through mentorship in the Medical School Christian Union and Nairobi Baptist Church where I continue to worship".

Then, talking about her continent, she said, "Africa needs to hear more about divine healing to counteract deep rooted witchcraft in many communities. Pastors and doctors are indeed custodians of healing through the word and power of God and they should be encouraged to pray for the sick wherever they are, in churches, hospitals and homes.

"Africa's doctors need to learn more about divine healing so that they can be reminded that they are partners with God in the ministry of healing. Doctors treat patients, but healing comes from God alone".

A Korean doctor who attended the conferences revealed to fellow Christian doctors why he believes that so many patients that are prayed for do not get healed.

Dr. Alvin Joonha Hwang, Vice President of the World Christian Doctors Network (WCDN), one of the speakers, tackled this confusing topic under the title of "The Principles that We Need to Know to Get Divine Healing".

Hwang spoke on the thorny topic of why not all prayers for healing result in miracles.

He began by saying, "It is said that only 10 per cent of prayers translate into healing. Some say, "If God does not answer us the way we insist He should, we must rest in His all-knowing sovereignty." Others say that 'we need to rethink God's principles and apply them differently if we are to see different results'"

"So, I'd like to discuss our sovereign God's principles of divine healing with practical examples.

"First, if we do not have enough faith to continue to depend on God, we would give up before getting answer from God. The WCDN helps us to increase our faith. The delegates get empowered by the Holy Spirit. When they return home, they share that experience with other people. They spread and spread (the message) of God's power!"

The South Korean doctor, who is also Professor of Science and Spirituality, Alliance Holiness Theological Seminary, Seoul, then turned to his second point and stated that "intense repentance is effective to remove the barrier to divine healing".

He added, "Third, until we receive the kind of faith by which we can receive God's answers, we must pray on and accumulate the necessary sum of prayer.

"Fourth, we need to earnestly continue to imitate Jesus Christ and share deeper spiritual understanding and love with Him".

He talked about spiritual love (1 Cor. ch.13), the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. ch.5), and the beatitudes (Mat. ch.5) which he said 'may be the principle pillars of our spiritual growth. God cannot heal unless we measure up to sovereign God's standard of holiness.

"It is very difficult to throw away our sins on our own, but it is very easy if we receive God's strength and grace and the Holy Spirit's help. But even though one repents earnestly, loves God, is faithful, does his best to be a good Christian, prays fervently and is prayed over also, sometimes one does not get divine healing, finally to die or be weak for years.

"This is not because of lack of love or faith, but because of the delay of the answer from God caused by some special reasons according to God's justice and love. One may be spiritually linked with the sins of other people. That may be the fifth principle.

Dr. Hwang also said, "Of course there may be many other principles. The spiritual laws or principles originating from sovereign God's justice are so complicated that we human beings cannot fathom all of them. But we need not be discouraged because our Father God says, "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has born? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"(Isaiah 49:15)"

Following the talk, a doctor from Asia told me, "This has been a question I have wrestled with for a long time. I have prayed for many patients and many didn't get well, while others did. So I found this explanation most helpful".

The entire conference had live streaming on the internet, and also simultaneous translation into various languages for those watching it. The Mexican organisers released a Spanish Language video about the conference.

The "Spirituality and Medicine" conference was the brain child of World Christian Doctors Network with headquarters in Seoul, Korea. At the end of the event, it was announced that next year's gathering will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, at a date to be made public later.

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