

Doctors advocate prayer

MIAMI: About 120 Christian doctors from more than 50 different countries around the world have prescribed "spiritual healing" as an answer to sickness in the 21st century.

They believe that medicine alone cannot deal with some of today's worst illnesses.

The medics were gathering in Miami, Florida, on July 13 and 14 for the fourth International Medical Conference organized by the World Christian Doctors Network (WCDN). The theme of the event was "Spirituality and Medicine" and they examined actual case studies of miracles presented by various respected doctors and also some patients.

The conference kicked off with a talk by Pastor Charles McKnelly, a veteran mission-

ary to Hong Kong, who said, "The greatest hindrance for healing within the church is tradition."

McKnelly told the medical audience that he had suffered a heart attack some years ago.

"A Christian woman prayed for me and, in two hours, God gave me a new heart," he said amid applause. "There are no impossibles with God."



Armando Pineda-Velez

Honduran-born Dr. Armando Pineda-Velez, United States director of WCDN and a nuclear medicine physician, who helped to organize the conference, said that there were a lot of doctors today who "not only believe in God but believe that God is healing today."

"They are putting their prestige on the line for something that they know; that the truth that the Gospel of power can be manifested in the 21st Century," he said. Dr. Pineda-Velez said the WCDN was a different kind of organization.

"There are a lot of Christian medical organizations, all of which are much respected, and I love them, but we at the World Christian Doctors Network are different in the sense that we are going into the miracle part of the healing. We are not going to stop being doctors, but we are going to use a superior tool, the healing power of God, in order to help our beloved patients."

Dr. Pineda-Velez said that he encouraged Christian doctors to lay hands on their sick patients and pray for their supernatural healing.

"I think that the power of healing and faith has to be used by doctors," he said.

"Anyway, we are not the one who heals - it is Jesus."

When asked what happens when people are not healed Dr. Pineda-Velez said: "Healing resides only in the sovereignty of a merciful and gracious God. It's not only up to us in this equation. There are two involved here, God and you. Does He decide to heal you? I don't know. Does he have a purpose for your disease? Maybe; maybe not. Do you have enough faith? I don't know. Yes, the measure of faith you have is important, but we also have the sovereignty of God. He still rules your life."

Dr. Philip R. Anbarasan, the former state medical commissioner of Tamil Nadu, who came all the way from Chennai, India for the conference, was among the many medical doctors raising their hands in worship as various bands and performers made their spiritual music. Addressing the topic of the conference, Dr. Anbarasan said spirituality in Christian medical professionals would certainly enable them to live a vital Christian life and have an ethical medical practice.

The WCDN recommends that those who have Christian physicians should ask when sick for prayer. ■ -ANS



DR. PHILIP R. ANBARASAN during a time of worship

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