

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT

PREAMBLE

This report is submitted to the Executive Committee of ICCMS, following a preliminary report delivered to the General Committee at its third meeting on July 22, 1972. An attempt has been made to critically assess the work of this committee and the third conference itself with a view to helping future planning committees. While many details refer particularly to the situation in Toronto, we have tried in this report to emphasize general principles and to avoid information not relevant to future conferences.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF COMMITTEE

Committee members were selected from among Christians in the Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto. The first committee meeting was in March, 1970 - two years and three months before the conference. The second meeting was in September, 1970. Thereafter meetings were held monthly. Initially the committee consisted of eight members. A further three members were added as the work increased. The initial chairman of the committee resigned three months before the conference because of personal commitments and a new chairman was appointed.

There was a student representative on the physicians' planning committee. However, there was no physician on the students' committee, not even in an observatory capacity. Since numerous misunderstandings arose between the two committees, such a link would have improved communications. Good co-operation and exchange of information between the two committees is essential.

For list of officers please see Phase Two program, page 21, Appendix 2.

PUBLICITY

Report submitted by John Scott.

This task was assigned to a single committee member and was carried out in conjunction with the physicians. It involved establishing a mailing list in Canada and internationally (a summary list is included - see Appendix One); helping to write and publish; and then to distribute two brochures (copies enclosed, Appendix Two); and answering various enquiries. Stationary was provided by the Physicians (see enclosed examples, Appendix Two). The program,

which was combined with the physicians' program, was not published until the day before student registration. This should have been completed several weeks earlier and sent out to the registrants.

Dates of publishing: 1. Preliminary brochure; Fall, 1970
2. Detailed brochure & registration form; Fall, 1971
3. Program; July 14, 1972

Difficulties were encountered in establishing a mailing list, since replies to enquiries were infrequent. In fact, one of the great headaches of the whole committee has been poor response to communications.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Submitted by L. Dempsey

Duties undertaken:

1. One year before conference; design registration form. (See second brochure, Appendix Two)
2. During year before; answer letters of inquiry.
3. Accept and file registrations and keep statistics.
4. Be responsible for sending out details of conference to registrants, assembling information such as:
 - programmes for distribution
 - making name tags
 - setting up system for registration on arrival
 - making address list of participants.

Statistics of 1972 Conference:

Registered participants:	127)	Some young people preferred
Actual participants:	118)	the youth programme.

Countries represented:

Belgium	Hungary	Singapore
Canada	Jamaica	South Africa
Denmark	Mexico	Sweden
Dominican Republic	Norway	Switzerland
Ghana	Netherlands	U.S.A.
Great Britain	Paraguay	Uganda
Guatemala	Poland	

Scholarship Grants: 17

Sample documents (a) and address list of participants (b) appended:

- (a) Appendix Two
- (b) Appendix Three

Suggestions for future conferences:

1. Put a deadline on registrations - say 2 months before conference.
2. Use names from this conference for distributing publicity for next.

HOSPITALITY

Report submitted by Eileen Loughheed.

Housing of students for Phase One of Program:

- Fall, 1970:
- (a) Research re: University residences, downtown hotels, other dormitories, e.g. YMCA
 - (b) Research re: Meal prices and possible arrangements for serving of meals, caterers, etc.

Note: Most university residences accepted students for summer courses, thus were unable to reserve sufficient room for us for such a short time period (July 15-19, 1972). York University itself was considered to be too far from the teaching hospitals. Meals also were very expensive; therefore at this point billeting of students was agreed upon.

Billeting of Students:

- (a) Initial letters sent to CMS members - very poor response.
- (b) A series of follow-up letters were sent to CMS members re; billeting of students in their homes. (See sample letter, Appendix Two).
- (c) Churches attended by committee members were approached. (This was the major source of accommodation).
- (d) Individuals were encouraged to approach friends, etc.
- (e) Lists were compiled, each person offering his home was contacted and advised of procedure.

Arrangements for welcoming of students:

1. Airport, bus terminal, train arrivals
2. Information packages with maps of Toronto, TTC route maps, etc.
3. Site of registration determined, researched and booked
4. Host-billet matching and arrangements for their meeting, i.e. transportation, introduction
5. Explanatory letter given to each host outlining students' program, activities and sites, and reiteration of host responsibilities.

Arrangement of Refreshments:

(provided during registration and after Sunday evening service)

1. Research for facilities
2. Arrangement of equipment
3. Purchase of supplies
4. Arrangements for serving of refreshments

Note: Major problem encountered was unpredictability of students arrival time and inflexibility of some hosts. Often students arrived when planned, hosts were not home or students had made prior arrangements. Obviously, a great deal of organization was involved.

It was originally hoped that a group of students other than main committee members would be enlisted to meet arriving students and drive them to their destination, but as the time approached, it became evident that the unpredictability factor was too great and communication facilities too inadequate to allow this to materialize. Thus committee members were used to fulfil this duty.

The major criticism of the billeting system was that it scattered students across the entire city and some required two hours' commuting time each day. However, the experience of staying in a Christian home was considered very worthwhile; also the economy of the billeting system recommended it.

PHASE ONE PROGRAM

Introduction

A decision was made to make Phase One an integral part of the Conference for students, whereas in the two previous conferences it was advertised as an addendum and less than 25% of registrants attended it. This time about 75% attended it. This made a longer conference, allowed for more participation and generally was felt to have been a good decision.

Phase One was designed to provide a blend of medical and cultural exposure in a context that would encourage the sharing of experience in living in Christ.

Suggestions made by delegates for altering Phase One included the inclusion of devotional groups during this part of the conference as well as later.

Sunday

1. Initial Meeting: 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was to be informal, warm and friendly. During this time an attempt was made to share the relationship which exists between the Christian medical students and Physicians in Toronto. This was done in the form of a rather personal address by Dr. Donald A. Gibson who shared some of his life experiences of guidance from the Lord. Following this, a short, informal piano concert was given by Dr. John McCormick, one of the committee members.

2. Supper

A full course meal in the form of a banquet but without speeches was provided. It was designed to allow interaction among the students.

3. Service

We invited all the hosts to join with the students in worship. The service was led by members of the committee, with the exception of the speaker and the organist. See Appendix Two for outline of service.

Monday

1. Clinical Program

Submitted by John McCormick

Planning began about two years before the conference for a clinical program that would be appealing to all students and yet simple to organize. All delegates (not just those in clinical medical years) were urged to attend. The program filled three mornings (see Phase One program, Appendix Two for details).

The speakers, on Monday and Tuesday mornings, were well-known members of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine. They were chosen for their speaking ability as well as for their topics. They were personally invited one year prior to the conference. Then a formal invitation was sent outlining their place in the conference. Finally, they were reminded several times of their commitment in the months before the conference. Each speaker was presented with an inscribed copy of Paul Tournier's book, "The Healing of Persons". The students were divided into small groups for bedside teaching rounds on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Three teaching hospitals, within five minutes' walk of one another, were used. Clinic groups were assigned arbitrarily so that students of each sex and nationality would be evenly distributed. No attempt was made to arrange groups according to stage of medical training, although this could have been done. It might be wise to do so another time. Students were given a card at registration telling them of their clinic assignments and clinicians were given a list of their students at the beginning of each clinic. This use of small clinics required a great deal of time organizing but seemed to be worthwhile.

On Wednesday morning tours were provided of five medical institutions. Students chose one of these at registration. A local (Toronto) student had been assigned to make arrangements well ahead of time for each of these tours.

The clinical program provided students from abroad with a taste of medicine in Canada; it allowed some pre-clinical students their first experience in clinics. Finally, it exposed the University of Toronto medical community to ICCMS and raised questions about its purposes. The effect of this conference on local doctors is hard to assess but seems to be encouraging.

2. Social Program

Some time was allotted to sightseeing in and around Toronto, hopefully in a context that would allow for fellowship, among the students in a casual way.

Monday afternoon five tours were provided with Toronto students acting as guides. See program for details. Students could choose any of the tours (no number limits) or could go on their own to shop, etc.

Monday evening a tour of the Ontario Science Centre was arranged, with dinner in the cafeteria before and a short devotional meeting afterwards to bring the group back together and focus attention on the Lord of all our activity.

Tuesday afternoon and evening the group went by bus to Niagara Falls for sightseeing and then to a park at nearby Queenston for a picnic supper. This was quite an informal occasion and allowed for singing, sports activities and just plain talk. It was felt that such an unstructured activity with no speaker and no formal entertainment would provide variety to a week of otherwise quite heavy programming.

PHASE TWO PROGRAM

For details see Appendix Two.

Themes

Most of the work was done by the local planning committee with, however, helpful advice from the International Executive Committee. Consideration was given to adopting the same theme as that of the Physicians and having many joint sessions with them. However, it was decided that the special concerns and needs of students could be better approached by a separate conference. This would mean smaller meetings and would allow for more participation by students in question periods as well as a greater sense of identity with other students from around the world. It is suggested, however, that in future conferences if there is not a strong local student group, more of the physicians meetings could be used. This would decrease the planning necessary by the students.

The general theme ("Christian Directives Towards Medical Practice") and the three daily themes ("God as Physician", "Christian as Physician", "Physician as Man") were chosen. An effort was made to provide balance between theoretical problems, e.g., Eugenics, and practical ones, e.g. presenting God to patients in the office. It was felt that, no matter what the theme was to be, some time should be spent discussing the basics of Christian living (one's own relationship to God and to others).

Speakers

One financially beneficial aspect of having a joint conference with the physicians was that we could call on speakers or delegates to the Physicians Congress to address us. However, we were limited in our choice of speakers chiefly to those attending the Physicians Congress.

Every attempt was made to provide a truly international list of speakers. However, because of poor response to communications and because of cancellations of two speakers from overseas our slate was unfortunately heavily weighted with British and North Americans. Programming had to be done with the physicians in mind so that we would not double book any speakers. It was felt that major speakers should be invited some 1 1/2 to 2 years ahead if possible. Possible speakers should be contacted one at a time for a given topic in order to avoid embarrassment if, for example, two speakers accepted for the same topic.

After an acceptance was received from a speaker, no further communication was sent until 3 1/2 weeks before the conference at which time exact details of the time and location were sent. It was felt wise to send out such detailed information in case a speaker could not actually be contacted at the conference before his lecture.

Conference Plan

An attempt was made to strike a balance between large lectures (there were

ten) and small seminars in which delegates would take an active role (each delegate chose 4 of 17 offered). Furthermore, while we did not wish the schedule to be so heavily packed that time for reflection and informal discussion outside the sessions would be compromised, still we wanted students to feel that the program was solid enough not to have come from the corners of the earth in vain. However, at least some students felt that the schedule for Phase Two was too heavy.

Logistics

Chairmen for each lecture and each workshop were selected from among the delegates, an attempt being made to involve students from all countries. These chairmen were to contact speakers before the sessions and confirm details with them, then introduce and thank them.

Signs were placed on the doors of rooms just prior to each session announcing the title, speaker and time of the sessions.

An attempt was made to arrange evening devotionals in the dormitories. However, this took a day to organize because other students, not part of the conference were found to be mixed in with our delegates in the residence! This could have been better planned if arrangements were made for all students to be together in one block.

Comments

1. One major problem was that of language. Translational facilities were offered in the initial advertising at least in the form of transcripts, and later a decision was made to withdraw these. In particular many of the Latin Americans would have benefitted greatly from Spanish translation. In short, if they were not to be provided they should not have been advertised.
2. The program itself was generally quite good. One or two speakers did not speak to the topic assigned. In future, more detailed information could be sent to the speakers regarding topics. Also, it would be wise to request manuscripts or at least summaries from the major speakers. This would also allow translations to be made for those whose first language is not English.
3. It was felt by some that there was a lack of spiritual depth in the conference and that much more prayer could have gone into the planning.
4. Most delegates felt that the General Committee meeting should have been held before the last meeting of delegates, so that any announcements or conclusions could have been taken back to the body of delegates. This has not been done at any of the three conferences.
5. Some felt that music should have played a larger part in Phase Two.
6. There might have been a greater emphasis on basic Christian living.

7. Small group seminars had not been used so extensively in previous conferences. Our feeling was that they were successful and we would recommend their use again.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The finances of the student conference were largely absorbed in the finances of the physician's congress. We are indebted to the physicians who subsidized us significantly, especially with scholarships and Phase Two accommodation.

However, the students did incur costs for Phase One. Some misunderstanding occurred between the physicians' and students' committees regarding this matter. However, a budget of \$1000 was granted to the students to cover Phase One expenses. In fact expenditures were well below this, and the excess has been returned to the I.C.C.P. accounts.

It would seem that the cost of running a student conference independent of the physicians would be prohibitive unless another source of subsidizing were found.

For detailed accounts see Appendix Four.

SCHOLARSHIPS

There was a scholarship subcommittee of the physicians' planning committee who decided on the allocation of scholarships. Students requiring scholarship assistance were sent application forms. These were processed and scholarships were awarded on the basis of:

1. Financial need.
2. Strategic location, e.g. a student studying in his own country was given priority over one studying abroad.
3. Reliability of references.

Unfortunately, there were no students on this selection committee and both the method of selection and the individuals chosen were not subject to our approval.

POST-CONFERENCE TRAVEL

Report submitted by Stephen Foster

Purpose

The stated purpose of such travel was to provide an additional activity for those students remaining after the conference who had not made their own private arrangements. This travel would further perpetuate the spirit of the Conference and solidify the friendship and fellowship of those taking part.

Methodology

About one year in advance of the Conference, inquiries were made into potential sites where lodging, food, transportation and recreational facilities would be available. It was agreed that a trip to the Canadian Wilderness under the auspices of camping experts would be the most reasonable choice for our party.

Some ten months in advance of the actual Conference, a detailed letter including a description of plans, costs, expected times of departure and arrival (which are initially important to those making travel bookings months in advance) were sent to all leaders of national committees overseas. Estimates of possible numbers coming were also requested in the letter to gauge interest. By the time of the Congress, confirmation of about 40% of the actual number who departed for Manitoba had been received. The obvious conclusion from this is that people without exception are more susceptible to local pressures once having arrived and caught the spirit of local affairs and events, and having met other potential participants in their travel.

Past experience with travel arrangements dictates that most people are interested in a trip of five to seven days as most have come on fourteen to twenty-one day excursion airfares or charter flights. Careful inquiry should be made into times of flight connections as these can jeopardize holiday arrangements.

At the time of registration of the students for the Conference, deposits were collected from those going on the holiday. Subsequently, collection of cash and travellers cheques for train fares enabled one agent to buy all tickets and obviate the difficulty of each individual in a strange city trying to do his own business.

For the trip itself, one person or couple who were local nationals acted as hosts and leaders responsible for co-ordinating arrangements once the party arrived at its destination. This was a vital necessity and proved to be a very satisfactory solution. The overall reaction to such a long distance travel pioneering situation was enormously favourable. The unity and friendship bonds formed were extraordinarily firm.

Facts and Figures

A group of thirteen or approximately 10% of registered conferees:

- 1/3 from the U.K.
- 1/3 from Scandinavia
- 1/3 assorted

Per diem costs: \$5.00

Transportation: \$81.40 return for 3,000 mile train journey

Christian camping facilities run by IVCF Canada, gave us rock bottom per diem prices.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Report submitted by Don Munnings.

1. Enquiries

There were 14 enquiries for jobs - of these, 10 were prepared to give a definite commitment to work here, while 4 were only tentative enquiries.

2. Employers Approached

(a) Universities:

They were not willing to give salaried jobs to foreign students at the risk of their own students going unemployed.

(b) Small Hospitals:

Although no students were able to get jobs here, jobs were available, but were reserved long before the students applied.

(c) Christian Doctors:

All of the jobs obtained were through the connections of Christian doctors, either in hospitals, summer camps, or private practice.

3. Four definite jobs were obtained and two more probably will get jobs. Of these two were in Christian summer camps. Two were in teaching hospitals, and possibly two more in private practice.

4. Conclusions

Jobs were applied for far too late. At least six months should be allowed if the student is to have any hope of getting a job. Christian doctors are the most reliable people to consult about jobs. They should be urged to exercise any influence they may have to get summer employment. Enquiries from students must be more specific as to training received, and language proficiency as well as dates of employment desired, and type of work desired.

TAPES AND PROCEEDINGS

The main sessions of the student conference were taped. These tapes are available through I.C.C.P. at a cost of \$5 each tape.

Proceedings of the Physicians Congress are being published. Two or three of the best lectures from the student conference will be included in these, which will be sent free to all students, hopefully by the end of November, 1972.

BOOKTABLE

This was controlled by the physicians and basically put on by I.V.C.F. It was criticized by some as being "second rate". No bibles at all were available and the variety of books available was felt to be limited.

SUMMARY

We of the local planning committee consider it a real privilege to have been able to act as hosts for the third I.C.C.M.S. Generally speaking, we are satisfied that the conference was successful - not in that any momentous decisions were made nor any great resolutions passed, but in that over 100 men and women from five continents met in the name of Jesus Christ and talked, listened, played, worshipped and prayed together in true brotherhood. Our prayers and best wishes go to the Conferences of the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E.A. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

E.A. Robinson, M.D.
Chairman, Planning Committee
Third I.C.C.M.S.

APPENDIX ONE

CENTRAL ADDRESSES OF THE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES

Australia	Christian Medical Fellowships % Dr. R. Winton 7a Drummoyne Avenue Drummoyne, N.S.W. 2047, Australia
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