

Reflection of ICMDA East Asian Conference, Seoul

31st July – 4th August 2019

Jacqueline Pui Hay CHAN (CUHK 23)

“Be my witness; Yes, send me!” Such great faith this slogan implies! I still remember sending emails requesting for the conference logistics in early June while planning out my flights, yet was only informed of our assembly point the night before. Time and time again throughout this conference, trusting God in uncertainty has been a recurrent theme. It only takes a leap of faith and trust, to step out for Him. We might not know where we’re headed to, and more often than not we feel unprepared, with no information, nothing. All it takes is a willing heart, to be a witness for Him.

Not long after arriving at Guangju for the Pre-Conference, the city already impressed me massively. It’s miraculous how Christian elements were incorporated into the city around almost every corner. For instance, we were greeted by a sculpture of “The Last Supper” with 12 important missionaries God sent Korea sitting at the table, just opposite the theology dormitories we stayed in. Our visit to Kwangju Christian Hospital (KCH), established in 1905 by missionary Dr. Nolan, also inspired me deeply. We were privileged to be greeted by the current hospital director Dr. Byung Ran Park himself, as well as have lunch together! Who are we to receive such warm welcoming? God’s grace doesn’t stop here, on top of being introduced to all departments one could think of, we were also welcomed by the warmest smiles and the most passionate hospitality from all staff members. I was particularly impressed by the fact that every single healthcare worker in KCH is a Christian, explaining how 90% of the end-stage cancer patients eventually accept Christ as their saviour. Each caretaker is a living testimony, with their undistorted vision and heart for God even after 114 years, allowing KCH to continue to provide for unprofitable hospice and tuberculosis wards. This has been an extremely encouraging testimony and reminded me the beauty of how each person may only contribute to a small chapter of a missionary project, but God could cause it to blossom over the years.

Throughout the Main Conference in Seoul, witnessing Koreans’ love for the Lord first-hand really prompted me to contemplate about medical ministry in Hong Kong. Despite having fellowship gatherings among Christian medical students, seldom had we initiated extensive projects nor actively reached out to people for His Name. Never had it occurred to me how passive our medical ministry is, until experiencing Korean doctors’ and students’ passion. In every speech given, the President of KCMDA and the Chief of Organizing Committee would give thanks to the Lord openly, humbly and affectionately. There was great power in their prayers, and their faith in the Lord often moved me to tears. Their living testimony constantly reminded me of Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”. The road to serving Him in our healthcare profession will surely face hardships, but as long as we remain faithful, nothing is impossible for our Almighty Father.

I am extremely honoured for this opportunity to gather with Christian Healthcare Professionals from all around the world. This identity alone already gives me great pride; we’re not just linked by our profession, but more importantly by the same purpose, to serve our Abba Father. How honourable is this identity! How blessed are we to be chosen and be granted resources to hone our medical skillsets, and hence reach out to a broad population of the poor, the sick and the needy! Nonetheless, the ordinary modesty of doctors reminded me that as essential as it is to equip ourselves with medical knowledge, never will we be enough to heal one’s heart. Our mission simply depends on our willingness to be sent; as we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on us, and we shall be witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8, Isaiah 6:8)