



Dear friends of MHI/IHM,

24/06/2024

It has been over six months since we last communicated an update. At the time we were asking for some specifics, and I would like to take time to update you here as we are well into our summer season (some of you live in perpetual summer, but in the northern hemisphere May – Sept are long-awaited for the beautiful weather). May the warmth of our Lord’s Spirit as well, nourish you in your comings and goings this entire season.

We are in our “IW” (int’l worker) season, where we see many comings and goings in the office as our beautiful personnel grace our rooms. We have need of physicians, nurses, and admin still, but the Lord keeps our flow of IWs and regular patients moving like a river to bless the world. The detail it takes to keep vaccines ordered, refrigerated and passing the cold chain (public health inspections), then given and billed, does not go unnoticed. The written reports to the SOs (sending organizations) provide much insight and guidance for

their personnel’s optimal wellness in the missionary journey. We entertained a “think tank” in January where approximately two dozen people representing the SOs, and various stakeholders discussed our need for mental health care for our missionaries. We rejoice to announce that Dr. Merry Lin,

Clinical

Psychologist, has made herself available in a virtual as well as in person forum, as needed, for pre-field screening and debriefing upon return, where needed. We also continue to work

with our psychotherapists Dr. Bill Wilkinson, and Mrs. Shelley Burry, to help manage the day-to-day mental health needs of our IWs. These assessments are an investment financially, but more importantly a commitment to the mental health of our IWs who have suffered many internal and external stressors, reducing their quality of life and richness in mission. We do pray, thus, that through your



generosity you will be able to offset the cost financially for our clients. Traditionally MHI has offset the costs of these assessments by 20%, and we are trusting that God will continue to put us in a place where confidently we can continue to support our IW's health in this very real way.

As for space, we have transformed one of our offices into a comfortable counselling space again, and many workers already have found rest and respite in their time here. This investment was so worthwhile, and minimal in effort (thanking Annie all the way!), compared to the long-term investment we are looking at in expanding our mental health capacity, again as the Lord provides.

The medical care of our IWs continues with our current cohort of staff, though as mentioned we have room to grow in this capacity too. We thank our administrator Annie for over six years of service; she will be moving on by the end of summer and is training our colleague Priya to take over on the administrative side of things. It is truly teamwork! Our nurse Margaret remains in charge of the "mango" flow (managing and nurturing those who go overseas); although the software has changed, our communication through our current electronic medical records is being optimized to remain available for our missionaries. Please pray for the "IT" side of things, that we would have insight and eventually assistance in this very practical side of mission.

Once again, we thank-you for your partnership, and wish you the best of summers, in God's grip.

For the MHI/IHM team,

Karen Stel

President, MHI

P.S. Donations can be made by:

1. Cheque - payable to Missionary Health institute
2. Credit card - by calling 416-446-0762 or e-transfer to: accounting@ihmcanada.org

Please state the purpose of the e-transfer and the password.

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