



Good Afternoon,

Honorable Dr. Abraham Thomas, medical director, members of the CMC faculty, student body of CMC and the graduates in whose honor this event/celebration is held.

Graduates, today is one of your proudest moments. Years of hard work long before you entered this medical college, and years of sleepless nights and grueling studies since you entered this medical college have led you to this day, the day of your convocation, the day when you are officially called a medical doctor. Congratulations!

Today is also one of my proudest moments, when my alma mater asked me to come back to be present for your special day. Thank you CMC for this great honor that you have bestowed upon me.

I do not intend to give a long speech. But maybe, as one of the senior graduates, who has been around and “seen the world” so to speak, I would like to share a few thoughts.

I am batch of 1959 and graduated in 1964. I had the privilege of being trained here in the Department of Urology under Dr. Forrest Eggleston. I received my MS & MCH in urology and was part of the teaching faculty, which I enjoyed. I went to UCLA, California in 1972 for

further training in urology, and have been in the US since then. I have gained every degree one can get in the field of urology, but I truly believe, I am what I am, due to the basic medical and surgical training I gained here at CMC.

This is what I want to impart on to you. You have received a medical education from an institution that will set you apart as a world class physician. The training you received here is different from other schools in India and the US, because the Christian Medical College has a vision and mission of healing with a holistic approach of touching the whole human being.

Here we are taught the science of medicine and the art of healing. Here we learned that a patient is not a mere disease entity, but a human being with a body, mind and soul. Here we learned to respect their emotions and empathize with them. We as physicians encounter the patient at their most vulnerable moment of fear and helplessness. It is the trust that we earn from the patient that helps them heal, which is a significant part of our treatment and outcome.

Medical practice is changing rapidly all over the world with the influx of technology and Internet. We are in the era of telemedicine and robotic surgery. But even so, behind that Robot and the screen of the computer, it is the doctor who is ultimately rendering the care. So, do not underestimate your responsibility and power to make a difference for the ones who need your help.

Thus far, you have been in a protected environment. Your responsibility here was to learn. Now, all of a sudden you will realize, on the first day of your internship, that you are responsible for another life. Your work and decisions will have direct impact on the outcome of your patient. Not all work places are CMC. In the world out there, there may be multiple other factors that may influence your practice. Always remember, “Do unto others what you will have done for yourself.” Never forget the Hippocratic oath, “Do no harm.”

You are a medical doctor today. But, your learning has only begun. One of the most noble qualities of a physician is intellectual honesty. We as doctors need to acknowledge that there is far more that we do not know about the human mind and body than what we do know. Keep your mind inquisitive and never close the door to new learning.

Lastly, something close to my heart, is your alma mater, CMC. Most of us joined this institution as teenagers, the most impressionable time of our lives. This institution and its student body and its faculty has a lot more to do with who you are today as a person, not just who you are as a doctor. CMC has helped you form your character, cradled you and nurtured you to blossom into a mature, responsible adult. Some of you may have been lucky enough even to have found your life partner as I did. This is your home. No matter where in the world life takes you, you will always find camaraderie and family ties with another CMC alumni.

As you know, this institution had its humble beginning and now it stands proudly equal to any other world class medical institution. The selfless dedication and tireless work and commitment of the staff here and alumni from all over the world have contributed to its success.

So when you leave the gates of Ross hostel and the girls hostel, please join the CMC alumni organization in the part of the world you are in. Your goodwill towards your alma mater will keep the light of this noble institution shining so it can continue its ministry of medical education and medical treatment for the people of India.

May the almighty shower his blessings on CMC and may He guide you, the new graduates through your life journey.

Thank you!