

Men of Isaachar

Following a general election with a record low turnout (only 25% of the electorate voted for the government!) it is clear that ordinary people feel increasingly marginalised from the corridors of power. Doctors too, feel increasingly under attack in the wake of Shipman, Alder Hey and Bristol, and under more pressure with the burgeoning bureaucracy, paperwork, government directives and regulation. 85% of the country's 24,000 GPs responding to the GPC survey are ready to resign from the NHS and many of us feel that we are expected, like God's people in an earlier age, to 'make bricks without straw'. The moral climate gives little reason for encouragement either - and with the legalisation of euthanasia in the Netherlands, the lowering of the age of gay consent, the rubber-stamping of embryo stem cell cloning, the free availability of the morning after pill without prescription and government aid to the world's poor at a record low - all in the last six months - we wonder what the next few years have in store. Can things get worse?

The cryptic title of Andrew Fergusson's Rendle Short Lecture at this April's National Conference comes from an obscure part of 1 Chronicles which details the characteristics of King David's army tribe by tribe:

'...men of Isaachar who understood the times and knew what Israel should do' (1 Ch 12:32)

Andrew challenged Christian doctors to be 'men of Isaachar' who understand our times and know what to do. The message of how to be God's people in a State which has jettisoned Christian faith and morality was further hit home in a superb series of talks on the life of Daniel by Professor Hugh Williamson. I chose the same theme for my own CMF update and it was also picked up in a series of presentations on the NHS Plan and Overseas Mission.

At times like this it is sobering to remind ourselves that God is sovereign over all these forces that feel out of control. From the book of Daniel we learn that fire can't burn, lions can't bite and Kings can't rule without his say so. 'The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes' (Daniel 4:25). Even Satan himself must ask God's permission to act (Job 1:12; Luke 22:31) - like a dog on a leash.

Of course this does not guarantee us a trouble-free life. Far from it! God's promise to his people is rather that he will be with us in the struggles, and bring us through them into his eternal Kingdom, come what may. In the midst of all the challenges we face, God is working his purposes out. Jesus Christ is building his church, the new heaven and earth is coming and God's victory is certain. And as his people we are called to live holy and godly lives and to stir up and encourage one another as we see that day drawing near (2 Peter 3:10-13; Hebrews 10:24,25).

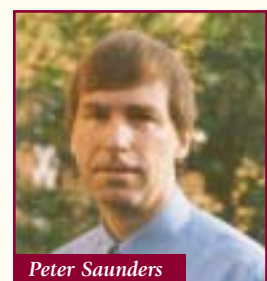
CMF News is a small part of that stirring up and encouragement. We hope you like the new format. Please let us know what you think. The previous newsletter was looking increasingly like one of those official drug bulletins that we consign to the bin after a brief scan. In the words of Editorial Board chairman Andrew Brown it was 'not really helping us fellowship'. The students' newsletter *Nucleus News* was worse. A facelift for both was long overdue, so with the welcome savings on *Triple Helix* last year (we were £14,000 within budget!) we have launched *CMF News* which will go to doctors and students alike. Please use the contents as fuel for prayer and as an encouragement to stand together as 'men and women of Isaachar' in this generation.

Peter Saunders

CMF General Secretary



AT TIMES LIKE THIS IT IS SOBERING TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL THESE FORCES THAT FEEL OUT OF CONTROL. FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL WE LEARN THAT FIRE CAN'T BURN, LIONS CAN'T BITE AND KINGS CAN'T RULE WITHOUT HIS SAY SO.



Peter Saunders

New Appointments

New Irish Staffworker

Tim Lewis is our new student staffworker in Ireland, following on from Roselle Ward. Tim qualified at Trinity College Dublin in 1995 and went on to complete his FRCSI whilst doing some part-time training at the new Irish Bible Institute. He is well known to Irish CMF students. Tim's post with CMF will be five sessions per week for two years and will involve encouraging Christian students in evangelism, discipleship and mission at the five Irish medical schools. Tim is seeking to do an MSc in Community Health at the same time, whilst his wife Julie completes her paediatric training. Tim and Julie have Africa in their sights long-term.



Tim Lewis

New Northern Staffworker

Malcolm Savage is our new North England staffworker. Malcolm qualified at St George's in London in 1999 and has completed his PRHO and first year SHO posts, planning to specialise in Accident and Emergency. As a student he was CU president at St Georges and later chairman of the CMF Students' Co-ordinating Committee. Malcolm's post with CMF will be full-time for a year, covering Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester and Liverpool. Malcolm is married to Rachel, also an SHO, and they live in Wakefield.



Malcom Savage

Please remember Tim and Malcolm in prayer as they take up their new responsibilities. If you would like to receive their prayer letters on a regular basis then please contact the CMF Office.

New BAC Chairman

Renal Physician **Tony Wing** retires as chair of CMF's Business Advisory Committee this summer after 25 years at the helm and **Tony Bell**, Professor of Neurosurgery at Atkinson Morley, takes up the reins. Tony is also CMF Treasurer.



Tony Bell

New CMF Chairman

Surrey GP **Liz Walker** takes over from Kevin Vaughan as CMF Executive Chairman this summer. Liz was a previous chairman of the Junior Doctors' committee and her husband Simon, an accountant, is one of CMF's business advisors. Simon and Liz have two children. Chairman elect (for 2003) is **Chris Summerton**, Consultant Gastroenterologist in Manchester.



Liz Walker

Members' News

Congratulations

On their appointments

Michael Chan People's Peer

Paul Main Associate Director of Postgraduate General Practice Education in the South West Deanery

Phil Jones Senior Lecturer in Medicine Addenbrooke's Hospital

On their postgraduate qualifications

Sarah Ross MRCP

Pauline Wilson MRCP

Obituaries

We report the deaths of the following members and offer sympathy to their families:

John Griffiths (*q* Barts 1949; *d* May 2001) was senior consultant surgeon at Barts and the Royal Marsden and treated Sir Anthony Eden. He had a distinguished career in teaching research and in colorectal surgery and was equally respected as a Christian thinker, an occasional preacher in both English and Welsh, and a regular contributor to debates about the place of Christianity in modern life.

James McVicker (*q* Dublin 1962; *d* 13 January 2001) took early retirement due to ill-health but was a CMF member for 38 years.

Coralie Rendle-Short OBE (*q* Bristol 1936; *d* 20 March 2001) founded the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Makerere University, Uganda and later served as Professor of O&G at the Haile Selassie University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She spent the last 25 years of her life with her sister in Cambridge, and despite developing severe deafness remained cheerful

throughout, completing a Diploma in Theology at London Bible College at the age of 84.

Movements

Outgoing

Ruth Butlin (CARDIFF) to India

Helen Hanson (LEEDS) to Nepal

Valerie Inchley (LIVERPOOL) to Nepal

Sharon Kane (MANCHESTER) to Zimbabwe

Andrew Ostins (BIRMINGHAM) to Zambia

Andrew Stewart (EDINBURGH) to Netherlands

Hui-Tai Tan (GLASGOW) to Australia

Homecoming

Katrina Butterworth (NEWCASTLE) from Nepal

Alice Flewett (ROYAL FREE) from Niger Republic

Helen Johnston (EDINBURGH) from Nepal

Stephen Lawn and **Joy Herd** (NOTTINGHAM) from USA

Andrew Perkins (ROYAL FREE) from Mali

Mark & Teresa Pietroni (THE LONDON HOSPITAL) from Bangladesh

Stephen Richardson (ST. THOMAS') from Gibraltar

Anita Stronach (BIRMINGHAM) from Canada

Alison Talbert (THE LONDON HOSPITAL) from Tanzania

Rachel Tarling (EDINBURGH) from Tanzania

Change of Address Abroad

Andrew Loke (GLASGOW) from Australia to Malaysia

Ernst Rettedal from Norway to Tanzania

Ian Smith (LEEDS) from Switzerland to France

Carolyn Tipton (THE LONDON HOSPITAL) from France to Chad



Conferences and Events

CMF Autumn Conferences

The autumn conference season is almost upon us and publicity will be mailed shortly. Weekend regional conferences include Northern Irish (5-7 October), Northern (12-14 October), South-East (9-11 November) and Scottish (16-18 November) and there will be Day Conferences in the Midlands (3 November), Oxford (10 November) and Cardiff (17 November).

Conference on Morning-After-Pill – Wednesday 11 July

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning is the innovative title of a conference organised by the Centre for Bioethics and Public Policy (CBPP) on the ethical and public implications of the morning-after-pill.

The meeting will be chaired by Dr Andrew Fergusson former General Secretary of CMF and Main Speakers include Dr Graham Barker from Schering Health Care Limited and Dr Trevor Stammers, Tutor in General Practice at St George's Medical School. Venue is the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 (south of Lambeth Bridge). Further details from CBPP,

51 Romney Street, London SW1P 3RF.
Tel 020 7227 4706. Email info@cbpp.ac.uk.

ICH Courses on International Child Health

The Centre for International Child Health (CICH) aims to equip professionals working in the areas of mother and child health and of disability with the appropriate skills, knowledge and attitudes to manage effective community-based programmes in developing countries and to contribute to teaching, research and/or policy developments in their own specific field.

All the programmes at CICH are rated excellent (23/24) by the QAA, the UK Government's teaching quality assessment body. For information on the full range of long and short courses available in 2001/2002 please contact the CICH, Institute of Child Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, University College London, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1EH. Tel 020 7905 2119. Fax 020 7404 2062. Email cichcour@ich.ucl.ac.uk. Website www.cich.ich.ucl.ac.uk.

Course on Care for the Dying

St Francis Hospice Education Services, in collaboration with South Bank University, is running courses on 'the Care of the Dying Person and their family' in Romford in 2001/2002. The first module (October/November 2001) deals with Grief, Loss and Bereavement and Psychosocial Aspects of Care; and the second (January/February 2002) with Pain and Symptom Management in Palliative Care. For further information and application form contact Jan McManemin, Education Secretary. Tel 01708 758641.

National Day of Prayer about Abortion

Since abortion was decriminalised in 1967, more than 5 million unborn babies have been killed by surgical abortion. Each year almost 200,000 babies are aborted; 16,000 each month, 3,500 each week. A national day of prayer about abortion will be held on 27 October the anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act. Christians nationwide are asked to organise prayer events or join individually in prayer on the day. A free prayer pack with details of the day, facts and figures about abortion and suggested prayer topics can be obtained from IMAGE, Coverdale Centre, Ardwick, Manchester M12 4FG. Tel 0161 799 5180.

Publications

New Publications Assistant Sought

We are seeking a new publications assistant to help take a number of publications projects forward. The work will include literature research, writing, sub-editing, desk-top publishing, web authoring and other work on CMF's periodicals, website and co-publications. It would suit a young graduate with a first degree in philosophy, ethics or life sciences. Starting salary would be around £11,000-£13,000 depending on qualifications and experience of candidate. All enquiries to Peter Saunders at the CMF Office.

300,000 Website Visitors!

The numbers keep going up and up! CMF's internet homepages have now had over 300,000 visitors from 100+ countries since they were launched at www.cmf.org.uk in June 1997. Most visitors are non-Christians seeking information on ethical issues and the most popular page is still 'twelve reasons why euthanasia should not be legalised'. Recent updates mean that the full set of *CMF Files* is now available in pdf as well as text format easily downloadable from the web. The whole site is still available on CD-ROM for £3 (over 1,500 sold so far!) Ten issues of *Triple Helix* and over 30 editions of *Nucleus*, along with 10 years of CMF Government submissions on ethics, the full set of *CMF Files*, a year's daily

devotions and much more - giving access to a vast array of CMF literature and resources in a fully searchable archive.

CMF Files in Schools

Last Autumn we sent complimentary copies of the first 10 *CMF Files* on medical ethics to the heads of Religious Studies in the UK's 2,000 largest secondary schools. These have been well-received and well over a hundred schools have ordered copies of the CMF CD-ROM or other publications subsequently. So, last term we sent complimentary copies of the CD-ROM and the first 13 *CMF Files* to 400 Regional Religious Studies Advisors. Issues of Medical ethics come up frequently in school RS curricula and the CMF website has been one of the first ports of call. Having a CD-ROM in a school library means that our material is even more accessible and that more students and teachers will be reading it.

Matters of Life and Death in India

In a joint venture with IVP and EMFI, our sister-organisation in India, we have recently sent 500 copies of John Wyatt's *Matters of Life and Death* to that country for distribution to Christian doctors. Due to the generosity of IVP, and some good management by John Alford, Office Manager, we were able to do it (including freight) for only £1,200 (retail cost of the books alone

would be £5,000). *Matters of Life and Death* is now available in French and work is proceeding to produce Spanish and Russian editions.

Publications Fund needs support

As a result of some new projects, and the fact that we haven't specifically appealed for some time, the CMF publications fund is currently at a low ebb. If you would like to help top it up, so that we can continue with more projects like those on this page, then please feel welcome!

Doctors' Life Support - Could you write a short devotion?

The Doctors' Life Support is a daily devotional for Christian doctors published jointly by CMF and ICMDA, which is appreciated all over the world. ICMDA plan to release a new edition soon but need 180 more short contributions to complete it. Could you write one?

The standard format follows that of the previous edition (Go to the CMF Homepage at www.cmf.org.uk and hit 'Thought for Today') and further advice to authors is available from ICMDA at 82/88 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LQ. Tel 01223 321715. Email icmda@compuserve.com.

General Practice

Doctors' Dilemmas - GP Refresher Course 10-12 October

Fifth year of the popular West Midlands PGEA-approved course examining both the practical applications of a diversity of medical advances and their ethical and spiritual implications. Held in the beautiful surroundings of Wast Hills House, South Birmingham. Course fee £255, accommodation £105-140. Enquiries: Dr Rosalie Bidgood, Horsehill House, Ribbesford, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 2TU. Tel 01299 403191. Fax 01299 400408. Email R.Bidgood@charis.co.uk.

BMJ Policy on advertising for Christian partners

We have received a number of calls and letters from members who have had adverts rejected by the *BMJ Classified* because they mentioned a preference for GP applicants to be either Christian or sympathetic to the Christian ethos. CMF General Secretary Peter Saunders wrote to the *BMJ* in April on behalf of members to ask what the official policy was. Jackie Connor, *BMJ* Group Classified Manager replied as follows:

'Our advertising policy on GP surgeries seeking applicants sympathetic to a particular faith is governed entirely by this country's current statutes on discriminatory behaviour. We took advice a long time ago from the Commission for Racial Equality. Its publishing department warned that by printing advertisements that required applicants to be Christian (or even by advertising a practice as having a Christian ethos) we were allowing publication of material that could be interpreted as indirectly discriminatory since it imposed conditions on applicants that some racial groups would find it harder to comply with than others.

Since receiving your letter I have spoken to the CRE to determine how far the European Directive has changed UK equal opportunity. The advice of my contact was that, "the European directives have no force of law until Westminster has developed legislation to give force to each clause... however legislation is only currently being framed to reflect the elements on race. No work has yet started around religious discrimination".

All this means that domestic law is unlikely to change for some time.... For this reason and to guarantee that published material within *BMJ Classified* continues to comply with equal opportunity legislation, I will continue to refuse ads that require Christian applicants. On a point of information, *I am happy to publish ads that state the religious ethos of a practice providing that the advertiser makes explicit in the ad that he or she welcomes applications and will recruit from any denomination.*'

Looking for a GP post or locum?

The CMF GP Bureau has lists of principals looking for partners who are members of CMF, of doctors seeking partnerships, and of trainers seeking trainees. Please send full details of what you have to offer/what you are looking for. Please mark all correspondence 'Personal' and send to: Dr Greg Folwell (Personal), Ian Gow Memorial Health Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 8BR. Please send SAE for a questionnaire to help match applications with vacancies.

Doctors' Support Network

The Doctors' Support Network (DSN) is a warm friendly self-help group for doctors with mental health problems including stress, burnout, depression, psychoses and eating disorders. The group believes that contact with and support from other doctors can aid recovery. While not a specifically Christian organisation, Christians are involved. London and Scottish branches exist and there are plans to set up similar branches in other areas, especially Bristol. Doctors answer all calls. Telephone 07071 223372 or, for more information, email Dr Janet Prentice at janetp@uk.packardbell.org

Hospital Doctors

Mad, Bad, Sad or Glad?

A special conference on the Mad/Bad Debate in **Psychiatry** will be held at Church House, Westminster, London on Saturday 14 July at the end of the Psychiatrists' Royal College meeting. Main speakers include three Christian Professors in Psychiatry. The main talks will form the basis of a coming CMF Publication. Further details are available from the CMF Office.

What has York got to do with Athens?

How can Christian Doctors respond to patients and colleagues with a different worldview? By applying principles used by Paul in his address to the Athenians in Acts 17! This was the main thrust of an address titled 'Absolute Truth in a Postmodern world?' by Richard Hain, Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Palliative Care at the University of Wales College of Medicine, at the annual **CMF Paediatricians' Breakfast** in York on 5 April. About 60 people attended, making up 10% of those present at the Royal College meeting on the Thursday.

This was one of about a dozen annual college breakfasts organised this year by CMF members. Other specialities covered include Gastroenterology, Rheumatology, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Psychiatry, Anaesthetics and Paediatric Surgery (dates listed p8). If you belong

to a specialty which is not yet represented, would you like to organise a CMF college breakfast? The logistics are straightforward and Judy Wilson at the Office can give details and lots of help with mailings and publicity. Tel 020 7928 4694. Email events@cmf.org.uk

Juniors

What is the Junior Doctors' Committee?

CMF see it as a vital part of their ministry to support doctors during their years as a junior. The Junior Doctors' Committee is a group of juniors covering a range of hospital specialities and general practice. We meet three or four times a year to plan day and weekend conferences, and to try and think more broadly about the specific needs of juniors and how they can best be addressed within CMF.

The Junior Doctors' Committee



Open House

One of the exciting developments over the past year has been the many 'open houses' that are starting to happen all over the country. Pioneered in Birmingham, there are now groups meeting in Oxford and London amongst others. Their main aim is to provide fellowship, support and encouragement (as well as lots of cakes and puddings!) for Christian doctors at a local level. A time to share stresses (and encouragements) from the week, and to pray for one another. It's a great way to think about how our faith works out day by day in practice.

Is there a group near you to join? See p8 or find out from CMF central office: 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XN Tel 020 7928 4694 Fax 020 7620 2453. Email news@cmf.org.uk Website www.cmf.org.uk If not, how about starting one with a few colleagues?

'Wisdom Which Works'

'Beyond the Bleep', the **juniors' weekend conference**, is moving from Swanwick to Hothorpe Hall, Northants this year. We're going to be looking at 'Wisdom Which Works' from Proverbs, with Alan Johnson (Professor of Surgery in Sheffield). There will be seminars such as



'witness@work' and 'BMA politics - getting involved'; Saturday evening's 'Degeneration Game'; the infamous committee sketch; and much more! Put 7-9 September in your diaries/organizers now, and try and swap that on-call. Publicity out soon.

Pastoral Care

The immediate years post-graduation can be tough both as a doctor and as a Christian. Frequent job changes, lack of geographical stability, and long hours on-call can make it difficult to get settled into a local church and enjoy fellowship with other Christians on a regular basis. Many who were keen Christians as students fall away during this time. The work brings with it many pressures to compromise faith, and our junior doctors need lots of support at this vulnerable stage of their careers. This August, over 200 PRHO and SHO members of CMF will be linked to other CMF graduates near their place of work for fellowship and support. If you are interested in learning more about the pastoral care scheme please contact Giles Rawlinson at the Office.

How you can be involved

If you have any ideas on how we can be better addressing the needs of juniors in CMF then please let us know via the CMF central office - we'd love to be of help. The best way for things to happen is from grass roots upwards. Individuals gaining a vision of what God wants them to do, and then sharing it with, and involving, others. Could that be you?

Sarah Germain, Chairperson

Students

Regional Staffworker News

Give thanks for the work of three of our student staffworkers who move back into full time medicine after making a fantastic contribution to the life of the fellowship.

Roselle Ward completed two years as CMF Irish staffworker at the end of April and has taken up a GP partnership in Dromore. She will carry on as Medical School Secretary for Queen's Belfast.

Claire Clark finished 18 months part-time with CMF as Scottish staffworker at the end of June. She and Danny (also a GP) are expecting their first child in September. Danny becomes CMF Regional Secretary for Central Scotland.

Marcus Andrews completes three months full-time as locum London staffworker at the end of June and then goes to China for a month with the Jian Hua Foundation. He completed MRCPCH earlier this year and is looking for a further paediatric training post for August.

Ruth Selwood has completed her first year as West UK staffworker and after a summer trip to Serbia with Cardiff students will continue for another year.

Mark Pickering who returned to full-time GP training on 7 February after six months as

London student staffworker, is returning for six months part-time from August, to work from home on international students and publications. The rest of the time he will look after his daughter Zoe whilst his wife Rachael continues SHO training in orthopaedics.

We are still looking for staffworkers for London, East England and Scotland, so if you think God may be nudging you please enquire for more details.

New Nucleus Editor

Caroline Ashby, *Nucleus* Editor since January 1999, is handing over to **Neil Fisher** of Royal University Medical School from October this year. Caroline has made a tremendous contribution during her time as editor including a year as Founders' Scholar - and will be joining the CMF Publications Committee.

The First and The Last

is the theme of the next **CMF National Students' Conference** to be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire on the weekend of 18-20 January 2002. The Bible Reader will be John Lennox from the Whitefield Institute in Oxford. Prof John Wyatt of University College London will give the other main address and there will also be a range of 15 seminars on issues at the interface of Christianity and medicine. 350 came last year. Publicity will be out with the October edition of *Nucleus*. Please keep the weekend free when planning CU houseparties.

BMA Conference

CMF Students submitted ten motions to the Annual Students' Conference of the BMA in March, and although none made it through to the BMA Annual Meeting, they generated a lot of discussion, particularly on ethics issues. CMF has been invited back onto the BMA Medical Students' Committee (MSC) for the third year running. Much thanks go to Laurence Crutchlow, SCC chairman, who has represented CMF on the MSC for the last two years.

Electives Advice

The following two resources are still available FREE to members on request:

Planning your Medical Elective Overseas
- all you need to know

Medical Elective Opportunities
- with over 30 mission societies

Planning your Elective is also available on the Internet at www.cmf.org.uk/mission/prepelec.htm

If you'd like specific advice on the where, why and how of your elective, or would like to be put in touch with other students who may have been to the same hospital (or country), contact David Clegg (CMF Overseas Support Secretary) at the CMF Office. Email david.clegg@cmf.org.uk.

We have a database of over 300 previous elective students and can put you in touch with other students on request. David can also advise about elective grants available from *MMA Healthserve*.

Student Leaders' Weekend

This year will be held at the Pioneer Centre, Kidderminster on 28-30 September. Please make sure that 2-3 from your medical school can come. Publicity will be out shortly.

CMF Summer Teams

When Edvin Selmani visited the ICMDA conference in Hungary in 1996 he was one of only two Christian medical students in the country of **Albania**. Now he is training in orthopaedics and working in his spare time as a staffworker for BSKSh, the Albanian IFES movement. A growing number of Albanian Christian junior doctors and medical students are meeting regularly in Tirana and reaching out to their colleagues with the Gospel. When Edvin visited England this January to attend

the CMF National Students' Conference the idea of an evangelistic camp in Albania was sparked during a visit to Oxford; and this August Junior Doctors' Chairman Sarah Germain will be leading a team of Oxford junior doctors and students to Albania to help out. The Albania camp is just one of six CMF summer teams this year.

A group of junior doctors and students from Cardiff along with Ruth Selwood, West UK CMF staffworker, are helping to lead an evangelistic camp for medical students in the Balkans, to be held in **Serbia** in late July. This follows an earlier trip in March this year. Edinburgh Medical School Secretary Mark Stirling is leading a doctor/student team from Edinburgh and Glasgow to **Chilyabinsk** in the Ural mountains of Russia in early August. Over 80 students, mainly non-Christians will be coming to the camp to learn more about Christianity. The event is being run as a joint venture with IFES and a Christian lecturer in the Chilyabinsk medical school. Alex Bunn and Mike Reynolds, former London staffworkers, led a similar camp in **Samara**, South Russia, last summer where a number of Russian students professed faith; and Mike is taking a team back this July/August to help lead another. The two remaining camps are being run at locations in **Central Asia** where there are already Christian medical student groups established. James Tomlinson is leading one team and Alex Bunn the other.

Please pray for all these ventures; that God's Spirit will move, that students will come to faith and that more international friendships will grow.

Evangelism

Sharing faith with patients

Liz Croton's article on sharing faith with patients in this month's *Triple Helix* casts new light on a challenging subject and comes coincident with an increasing number of enquiries from members who have been the subject of patients' or relatives' complaints for offering advice of a spiritual nature. We suspect this may be the tip of a larger iceberg and would like to hear from any other members who have experienced problems. Whilst this is an area where we must be sensitive to the vulnerability of patients, the GMC itself has said that it is only concerned about sharing of faith in the medical context if it is done in an 'insensitive or inappropriate' way.

Lunch Bar Evangelism

Twelve Christian doctors wanting to learn how to give lunch-bar evangelistic talks attended a weekend conference run by Peter Saunders and Richard Cunningham in Oxfordshire in April. Each participant had to prepare a 12-15 minute evangelistic address on sexuality, pluralism, science and faith, or suffering - and then field questions from the other attendees acting as devil's advocates. Several of those attending have already put their new skills to the test in university mission contexts since. There are huge opportunities for this sort of evangelism in medical school campuses, but very few currently equipped to take them up.

Future training days are planned, so please let Peter Saunders know if you are interested.

Saline Solution Videos

The Apostle Paul encouraged the Colossians to 'season their conversation with salt' when speaking with non-Christians. The *Saline Solution* is a resource developed by our US sister movement CMDA for helping Christian doctors integrate their faith and practice more effectively and relate to patients as whole persons with body, mind and spirit.

Videos are available on loan on request from the CMF Office, and we are currently looking at adapting the series for a UK audience. Watch this space.

Ishmael My Brother

Over 50 people attended the latest weekend *Ishmael my Brother* Conference run by CMF in London in May to equip members to reach out with the Gospel to Muslim patients and colleagues. With over 50% of some medical school intakes now Muslim, this will be an area of increasing activity in future. Please pray that those attending will be able to make the most of opportunities for witness to Muslims that God gives over the coming months.

Confident Christianity

The last *Confident Christianity* Evangelism Training Tour finished in Spring 2000, but we are

planning another for the autumn/spring of 2002/2003. Meanwhile a full set of training materials, along with other resources on evangelism, is available on the CMF CD-ROM and on the website at www.cmf.org.uk/evang/evang.htm

Ethics

Media Training Days

CMF General Secretary Peter Saunders went to a CMF media-training day in Manchester last autumn and left with the intention of 'starting slowly with friendly quiet radio'. However a few days later he found himself on hostile live television debating the use of embryos in stem cell research. Other (less threatening) opportunities have followed. Sometimes it's best to jump in at the deep end! There is an increasing need for CMF members to be prepared to speak out on ethical issues, but most of us have little formal training in this area. To remedy this, CMF is holding five more (highly subsidised) one-day media training days this Summer/Autumn in Bristol (16 June), Glasgow (19 June), Leeds (22 June), Sheffield (22 September) and Birmingham (29 September). There will be lots of hands-on experience and expert tuition from Christians involved in the media.

Places are limited (12 per day) so if you would like to come then Judy Wilson at the CMF Office can supply more details.

CMF Ethics Submissions

Submissions to the House of Lords Select Committee on **Stem Cell Technology** closed on 31 May. The committee, which is being chaired by Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, will report later this year. Several CMF members, including General Secretary Peter Saunders have made individual submissions.

The General Medical Council is currently holding a consultation on **Withdrawal of Treatment decisions**. CMF will be making an official submission, but individual members are encouraged to do the same. Further information is available from the GMC Website on www.gmc-uk.org/standards and you will find plenty of relevant research material on the CMF website including a previous submission on withdrawal of treatment decisions (www.cmf.org.uk/subs/nontreat.htm), a *CMF File* on Withdrawal of Treatment (www.cmf.org.uk/brief/treat.htm) and other articles on the BMA policy and euthanasia (www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/euth.htm). Withdrawal of treatment decisions are, we believe, the key back door route to euthanasia.

We will also be submitting to the Nuffield Council of Bioethics Consultation on **Genes and Behaviour** this July. Again individual submissions are welcome and plenty of helpful information is available in the *CMF File* mailed with this edition of *CMF News*.

Medical Mission

New Overseas Support Secretary still sought

David Clegg, Overseas Support Secretary for CMF and General Secretary for MMA HealthServe, retires this summer. Are you the person God is calling to carry forward the vital work of supporting and developing global medical mission?

CMF aims to 'support Christian doctors and medical students serving Christ and his Church throughout the world'. MMA HealthServe is committed to 'mobilising Christian healthcare professionals to serve Christ and his Church in the developing world'.

The appointee would be employed by CMF, but seconded half time to MMA HealthServe. The post would be split equally between the two offices in Waterloo and Shadwell, East London. Salary in line with Association of University Teachers scales, with London weighting, and pension provision. **Applications close on 23 July 2001.** If you think this might be you please talk to Peter Saunders at the CMF Office on [+44] (0) 20 7928 4694, peter@cmf.org.uk

Doctors for China?

Volunteer health personnel in all fields are needed to help provide medical services and training in the remote regions of Qinghai Province, North-West China. The **Jian Hua Foundation** has been involved in training and development programmes in the province since 1996 and in short-term medical programmes since 1998. Plans and finance have now been secured to start a Postgraduate Education Centre within a local hospital in Xining City. The broad aims are to educate village doctors on two-month secondment programmes from rural areas, raising their knowledge of medical science, clinical skills and public health protocols.

If you would like more information please contact:

Douglas Noble, Jian Hua Foundation UK Medical Representative (Oxford) at douglas.noble@green.ox.ac.uk

MSI Professional Services (formerly MSI) has a vision to improve the medical care in remote areas in China; by 2001 over 1,000 Christian professionals had volunteered their time to serve with MSI on short and long term service. For further details contact msiuk@hotmail.com or visit their website at www.msiprofessionalservices.org

You can train a Christian doctor for £600 per year

The **Southern Sudan** is one of the most unsettled parts of Africa and urgently needs doctors and other health personnel. To train a doctor in Khartoum costs only about £10 per week. Costs are higher for Southern Sudanese who are refugees in neighbouring countries but a small



amount goes a long way. It is vital now to invest in the skills which are needed, both in the present emergency and for the reconstruction once peace is achieved. If you would like to help train a Southern Sudanese Christian doctor, nurse or medical assistant please make contact with Robin Shawyer, The Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust, 27 Northmoor Road, Oxford OX2 6UR. Email robin@hpct.org

Christian medicine abroad: making an impact

PRIME (Partnership in Medical Education), which runs the Burrowswood *Doctors' Dilemmas* Courses, has a number of invitations to facilitate courses for groups of primary care doctors overseas, mainly in Eastern Europe. They would be interested in hearing from GPs who have experience in post-graduate education (VTS or PGEA) and from specialists with a keen interest in GP education who might be prepared to commit one or two weeks a year to this unpaid but highly rewarding activity. Please contact Dr John Geater, 25 St Helen's Down, Hastings TN34 2BG. Email j.geater@which.net



International Christian Medical and Dental Association

Sharing God's grace at the growing edges of Christian Medicine

ICMDA News, Praise and Prayer

With this issue of *Triple Helix* and *Nucleus* is included the latest edition of ICMDA's *News Praise and Prayer*. The central section of this (on blue paper) carries news of student activities.

This is a one-off mailing with *Triple Helix* and *Nucleus*. If you would like to receive it regularly please write or email ICMDA office. We will be happy to send it to you free of charge. Students and junior doctors please supply a reasonably permanent address where possible!

Taiwan July 2002

ICMDA's XII World Congress is highlighted on page 11 of *News Praise and Prayer*. Brochures and registration forms are available through CMF or from ICMDA office.

Main speakers for both students and graduates include Professor John Wyatt of London and Dr John Patrick (Canada).

This is an exceptional opportunity once in four years to meet a wide range of Christian colleagues from around the world. The student congress promises to be the largest and most

exciting yet. Colleagues from emerging movements need the encouragement of the presence of a good number from the larger well-established fellowships. Do ask God if he would have you attend.

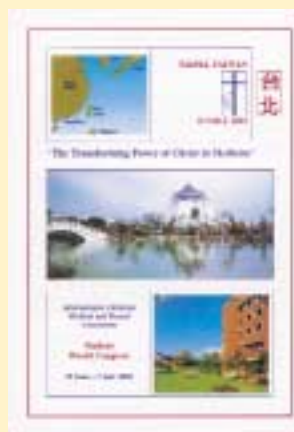
ICMDA Development

Also with this mailing is ICMDA's brochure outlining development opportunities across the world. This was considered in some detail at ICMDA's annual committee meeting in April.

There are many indications that we stand at the threshold of a period of great opportunity. Letters from isolated Christian doctors and from small groups in many different countries suggest that God is drawing together Christian medical fellowships right across the world.

ICMDA, working in partnership with IFES, is encouraged to see new work among medical students in many countries. There is more detail on page 10 of *News Praise and Prayer*.

Do read the brochure carefully and ask the Lord if he would have you be a part of this exciting period of advance among Christians in our profession.



International Christian Medical and Dental Association

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Email icmda@compuserve.com
Website www.icmda.org

Finances

Accounts. The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2000 were accepted by the General Committee at its meeting on 23 June. Considerable gratitude to God was expressed for the small surplus of £25,000 on total turnover of £660,000.

Trust and Fellowship. The CMF Trust Ltd and Fellowship accounts have now been combined, giving a much clearer picture of the overall financial position (A summary is available from the office).

1st Quarter accounts. These showed a small surplus of £11,000 on turnover of £190,000.

Gift Aid. We received £78,000 in income tax reclaimed during 2000. In the first quarter we reclaimed £26,000, significantly the largest contributor to the Fellowship's ministry! Have

you filled in a Gift Aid declaration yet? Please help us to empty Gordon Brown's pocket!!

Student Staff worker support. Full-time and part-time regional staff workers are only employed when sufficient regional support has been raised. During 2001 Mark Pickering and Marcus Andrews have worked in London, Ruth Selwood in the West Midlands, Malcolm Savage (newly appointed) in the North, Roselle Ward and Tim Lewis (newly appointed) in Ireland, and Claire Clark in Scotland. Would you be able to contribute to this very significant work amongst students and juniors doctors, and support such a worker in your region? Please contact the office for more details.

Did you know? Less than a third of our income comes from membership subscription! The

Fellowship's ministry remains wholly dependent upon the additional generous gifts of our members. Thank you for all your support.

Giles Rawlinson, (Chief Administrator), Audrey Pegler (Accountant), Morwen Dyer (Gift Aid).

Tel 020 7928 4694.
Email finance@cmf.org.uk

