

Feeling a Burden?

As I write this the 'jury is out' on two right-to-die cases. The first involves a woman, Miss B, with quadriplegia after a spinal haemorrhage who wants her ventilator switched off. The second is that of Diane Pretty, a 43 year old woman with motor neurone disease, who is wanting the European Court of Human Rights to ensure that her husband will not be prosecuted if he 'helps her die'.

It is now eight years since the House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics, after an extensive enquiry, recommended that there should be no change to the law on euthanasia. The committee, set up in 1993 in the light of the Nigel Cox and Tony Bland verdicts, took many submissions during its deliberations. Of these the Department of Health, the Home Office, The British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing, along with many other medical, Christian and prolife groups all argued against any change in the law, and the final conclusion was unanimous. The chairman, Lord Walton, reflecting in a speech to the House of Lords on 9 May 1994, said:

'We concluded that it was virtually impossible to ensure that all acts of euthanasia were truly voluntary and that any liberalisation of the law in the United Kingdom could not be abused. We were also concerned that vulnerable people - the elderly, lonely, sick or distressed - would feel pressure, whether real or imagined, to request early death.'

Terminally ill people are vulnerable. They lack the knowledge and skill to alleviate their own symptoms, and may well be suffering from fear about the future and anxiety about the effect their illness is having on others. It is very difficult for them to be objective about their own situation, and this is often exacerbated by depression or a false sense of worthlessness.

Many elderly people too already feel a burden to family, carers and a society which is cost conscious and short of resources. They could potentially feel great pressure to request euthanasia 'freely and voluntarily'. Assisted suicide was legalised in the State of Oregon after a referendum in 1997. Of those

who died as a result in the following three years, the percentage who felt themselves to be burdensome increased from 12% to 63%. Furthermore the decision to request assisted suicide was associated not with fear of intractable pain but with concern about loss of autonomy or control of bodily functions. Many of the patients 'had been decisive and independent throughout their lives' and could not cope with being weak or dependent. Never having married was the most decisive social factor, 24 times more common amongst these patients than a control group.

HOW DIFFERENT PAUL'S EXHORTATION TO THE GALATIANS TO 'CARRY EACH OTHERS BURDENS, AND IN THIS WAY... FULFIL THE LAW OF CHRIST'¹.

Our Western cultural inheritance, which has opposed both euthanasia and suicide, is part Hellenic and part Judeo-Christian. The Pythagoreans, who were instrumental in formulating the Hippocratic Oath, were opposed to all forms of suicide, as were Socrates, Plato and Aristotle - for a variety of economic, political and religious grounds. In the Judeo-Christian tradition human lives are seen as God's possession, and not ours to do with as we choose. The subsequent cultural shift in Western culture can be traced over the centuries through the thought of humanistic writers like Donne, Hume, Voltaire, Goethe and Hemingway. In these and others we see a progressive loss of belief in any afterlife and a growing conviction that everyone should have free disposal of 'one's own' life. In this scheme, having euthanasia is a way of 'maintaining control'; being independent, and not being a burden becomes the ultimate virtue. Self-determination becomes all consuming.



How different Paul's exhortation to the Galatians to 'carry each others burdens, and in this way... fulfil the law of Christ'¹. The specific context here is the personal cost of restoring a fellow Christian who has sinned; but it has a wider application. The law of love,² what James calls the royal law,³ is essentially about bearing one another's burdens.

All of us, not just the terminally ill, need to know that we are valued and loved as we are; that when we are genuinely in need, for whatever reason, it is OK to be a burden. We need to know that others are committed first and foremost to our well-being, even if this does involve expenditure of time, money and emotional energy. And we also need to be ready and willing to carry the burdens of others, even when we are feeling most burdened ourselves. 'Burdensomeness' is mutual, and is meant to be. The way we treat others when they are most vulnerable, and in turn allow ourselves to be treated when we are needy, speaks volumes about the kind of people we are; and is ultimately what should mark us out as disciples of Christ.

Peter Saunders

CMF General Secretary



Peter Saunders

¹ Galatians 6:2

² John 13:34

³ James 2:8

New Appointments

New Student Secretary

Mark Pickering joined the CMF staff as Student Secretary (part-time) on 11 February.



Mark, many CMF members will already know you as a past student editor of Nucleus and as a London student staffworker but what does this new post involve?

My main task will be co-ordinating CMF's central student activities, particularly the national conference, international student preconference, students' co-ordinating committee (SCC) and *Nucleus* (as managing editor). I've been involved with all these before but this gives me a new level of responsibility (and catecholamines!). As I'm working half-time it won't leave much time for travelling around and speaking at CUIs, which is a pity, but it gives us yet more incentive to develop the regional staffworker network in order to accomplish more 'on the ground' support for local groups.

What's your medical background?

I graduated from Guy's, Kings & St Thomas's (GKT) in 1999. I was an A&E SHO in Lewisham last year and am currently back in the same department as a clinical fellow. My plan is to head for general practice, making up my own rotation as a flexible trainee. It will be important for me to stay involved in medicine and not lose touch, particularly as a recent graduate.

So why CMF and why now?

Involvement with CMF as a student has been a huge influence on me. I've seen the benefits in myself and others, enjoying everything I've done with them. It's a privilege to give something back to God in this way and to help another generation of students get the help that I had. I'd been thinking for a while that I'd like to do this job at some point, but the recent decision to appoint a new Student Secretary made me think seriously about it sooner rather than later. Looking back it's easy to see God's guiding hand, although I couldn't have predicted the way I've taken.

You are also very involved in our international 'umbrella organisation', ICMDA. How did that come about and what is your role there?

I was sponsored by CMF to attend ICMDA's last world congress in South Africa, in 1998,

as student editor of *Nucleus*. Events resulted in me becoming student representative on the executive committee the following year, and later Student Secretary. This 'spare-time' role involves encouraging and networking of student groups across the world, mainly via e-mail and conferences. I write a quarterly student newsletter and recently helped revamp the website (www.icmda.org). There is a huge amount going on, with new groups forming, organising their own national conferences and building links with neighbouring countries. We have begun to appoint regional student secretaries to help co-ordinate some of this. The upcoming world congress in Taiwan promises to be a real catalyst and we covet your prayers.

And I gather you have quite an interest in Islam too?

I met many Muslim students at medical school and have been repeatedly struck by how much they need to see the authentic gospel both proclaimed and lived out. From involvement in *Ishmael my Brother* conferences I have been part of outreach at Hyde Park Speakers' Corner on Sunday afternoons since 1997, helping to set up the Sunday training workshops at All Souls over a year ago. These have been instrumental in helping people get involved, learn apologetics and reach out in this unusual environment. Due to time constraints I have recently stepped back from the work at Speakers' Corner. Jay Smith continues to lead the team and we give thanks that there is a good core of others who are helping shoulder the burden.

How do you have time to fit all this in?

If I ever find out I'll let you know! It's a constant struggle that I don't always win.

Tell us about your family.

Rachael is currently a middle grade in A&E at Woolwich. She also plans to be a GP. Zoe has just turned one and continues to charm us with her antics.

What do you see as the major challenges facing Christian medical students today?

Some of the big ones are presenting the gospel in an increasingly pluralistic society, maintaining a godly lifestyle amongst their peers and rigorously applying a biblical worldview to their studies and work, particularly in the pro-life area. Discipline and time management are needed more than ever as students get busier and it's easy to prioritise studies and social activities above serving God.

How do you see the job at CMF developing?

To begin with I'm keen to keep things going and find my feet. If I can help maintain the cutting-edge focus of *Nucleus* and the

national conference over the next couple of years, I'll be more than pleased.

How can we pray for you?

That I will manage my time and not be over-busy, that I will have the courage to speak out on issues where it's easier to stay silent, and that in all this my relationship with God will be more important than jobs and deadlines.

New Student Staffworkers



Richard Collins was appointed as London student staffworker at the beginning of March, and is working two days per week with CMF for six months supporting Christian medical students at three

London medical schools: Barts and the London (BTL), Guy's, Kings' and St Thomas's (GKT) and Royal Free and University College (RUMS). Richard qualified MBChB from the Royal Free in 1998, and like his wife Ruth, also a Royal Free graduate, is currently a GP trainee in Bedford.

Chris Downing has been appointed as South England student staffworker, working two days per week for two years from the beginning of August 2002. Chris will be based in Oxford and will be supporting Christian medical students in Oxford, Southampton, Imperial College and St George's. Chris qualified MBChB in Leeds in 1995 and gained MRCSEd in 1999. For the last two years he has been a full-time theology student at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. His wife, Sarah, is a teacher.

We will interview Richard and Chris in later editions of *CMF News*. They join our current student staffworker team of three: Ruth Selwood (West UK), Tim Lewis (Ireland) and Malcolm Savage (North England). Please pray for them and Mark as they take up their new posts. If you would like to receive their prayer letters regularly then please contact the CMF Office.

New Staff Still Needed

Assistant General Secretary

We are looking to develop CMF's ministry further by appointing a full time medically qualified Assistant General Secretary to work alongside Peter Saunders and share his



current duties covering the full range of CMF's activities. Postgraduate medical qualification required, along with significant experience in Christian ministry and administration, and a commitment to CMF's core ministries of evangelism, ethics, medical mission, publishing and pastoral support of Christian doctors and medical students. The post would, to a large extent, be shaped around the experience, gifts and abilities of the successful applicant. Salary based on clinical lecturer scales. Please contact Peter Saunders if you would like to explore this exciting London-based opportunity. Job description and person specification are available on request.

Regional Staffworkers and Relay Workers

We are constantly on the look out for individuals able to take some time out from their medical commitments to work amongst students and junior doctors at a local or regional level on a part or full-time basis. There are immediate needs in Scotland, London and the North of England, and further opportunities may well arise in the near future. Staffworker posts are normally 4-5 sessions per week for two years, and relay posts part or full-time for 6-12 months, but other models are possible and we try to fit posts around applicants, location and stage. In the past staffworkers and relay workers have been 24-32 years of age and have spent the rest of their time in part-time SHO, SpR, or GP trainee or retainer posts, or doing Bible College study.

Database administrator

We wish to expand the London office team by appointing someone to take full responsibility for the maintenance of the membership database, including all new members, changes, graduations pastoral care, returned mail etc, along with a share in the regular general administrative duties of a busy office.

If you know of someone, with some computing skills, looking for such a fulltime post, please contact John Alford in the London Office for further details.

Members' News

Congratulations

On their postgraduate qualifications

Becky MacFarlane MRCCGP

On their awards and appointments

Chris Lavy Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons

Rod McRorie Daksha-Diksha Award for 'outstanding service to the people of Nepal' by HM Government of Nepal

John Campbell Professor of Primary Care at Peninsular Medical School, Exeter

If you have recently received an award, a new appointment or postgraduate qualification please let us know for the next edition of *CMF News*.

Obituaries

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

Kenneth Buxton (*q* Cambridge 1933; *d* November 2001) served with the Ruanda Mission at Ibuye, Burundi from 1938-54 and was later Medical Superintendent at Mildmay Hospital, Bethnal Green from 1954-74.

Bryan Rogers (*q* St Mary's 1959; *d* November 2001) was a GP before retiring to Christchurch, Dorset.

Rosemary Sichel (*q* South Africa 1945; *d* March 2002) Born in Cape Town, Rosemary trained in Medicine at University College, Cape Town. She came to England to continue her medical studies at the Hammersmith Hospital, London and returned to Johannesburg. She later returned to England to settle long-term to pursue a distinguished career as a Consultant Pathologist in South East London.

Movements

Outgoing

Siobhan Burns (Dublin) to Canada

Samuel Cherian (India) to USA

Andrew Edwards (St Thomas's) to New Zealand

Rachel Tarling (Edinburgh) to Tanzania

Malte Von Blumroder (Germany) to Germany

Philip Watson (Cardiff) to Mali

Nicholas Yap (RCSI) to Malaysia

Homecoming

Peter Armon (Charing Cross) from Gibraltar

Jes Bates (Bristol) from South Africa

Fiona Burslem (Manchester) from Tanzania

John Chaplin (Guy's) from Kenya

Nathaniel Davies (St Bartholomew's Hospital) from Peru

Roderick MacRorie (Oxford) from Nepal

Jane Nerurkar (Bristol) from South Africa

Change of Address Abroad

Helen Allen (Edinburgh) from Egypt to Cyprus

Hui-Tai Tan (Glasgow) from Australia to Papua New Guinea

CMF on the Media

Euthanasia, Cloning, Morning after pill, cannabis.... Every week it seems there is a new issue in medical ethics making front page news. CMF has been raising its media profile and since November 2001 has been working with Evangelical Alliance Media Consultancy to respond to major bioethics news stories as they break. So far, we have made six press releases through EA which have led to several radio and television interviews, quotes in the *Times* and *The Daily Mail* and also in several church newspapers including *Church Times*, *Churchman*, *Tablet*, *Baptist Times*, *Christian Herald*, *Evangelicals Now* and *Church of England newspaper*. We have also had letters to the editor in the *Times* and *Telegraph* and articles in *Evangelicals Now*, the *Churchman* and the *Church of England newspaper*.

In the coming year we are looking to run more media training days (both basic and advanced), develop a database of regional and national spokesmen on specific issues, and draft 'position statements' on a range of ethical issues for journalists, members writing or speaking on issues, and anyone else with an interest.

CMF members involved in decision-making bodies like the GMC, BMA, journal editorial committees and local NHS Trusts can have significant influence on policy and future direction. A lot are already involved and many more, especially at junior and student level are becoming so. They need our support in prayer, with literature and in encouragement to be a Christian voice.

CMF is also involved in a number of strategic partnerships with other Christian and pro-life organisations and these alliances are useful for information sharing, strategic planning and some joint activity. Please pray for all these initiatives, that we may truly be 'a voice for the voiceless'.

CMF On the Media

New CMF Website

The CMF website (www.cmf.org.uk), with almost 500,000 visitors so far, is a key resource and in many ways our front window.

It already carries over 1,000 articles on Christian/medical issues along with press releases and submissions on ethics. The content is excellent but the presentation, initially designed in 1997, now looks dated and unprofessional.

It is now in the process of being completely redesigned and updated by Matt Kehoe and Jacky Engel and will be relaunched in the near future with back issues of *Triple Helix* available in pdf format (ie identical to the printed magazine).

A new CD-ROM will be released shortly afterwards. Watch this space.



The evangelism homepage from the new CMF Website

Resources

Pregnancy Crisis and Post Abortion CARELINE...

0800 028 2228

The PCPA CARELINE is a national free-phone helpline for those facing a crisis pregnancy or experiencing problems following an abortion. CARELINE counsellors are trained and experienced crisis pregnancy and post-abortion counsellors offering unconditional care, non-judgmental counselling, acceptance and unbiased information helping callers to reach an informed decision. The CARELINE is currently open between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday and on Monday evenings. To find out more visit the website www.pregnancy.org.uk or email Alison.macklin@tinyworld.co.uk.

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, manic depression, psychoses and eating disorders. The group believes that contact with and support from other doctors can help recovery. Christians are involved. Meetings are not group therapy but rather offer friendship and support. All doctors are welcome to join and the group can be contacted by phoning 07071 223372 or email lizzie@talk21.com. For details of Bristol meetings and the possibility of meetings in Wales please contact Dr Janet Prentice at janet@prentice40.freeserve.co.uk.

Associate Membership

The General Committee in 2001 approved the greater use of provisions already existing in the Fellowship's constitution, to offer associate membership to Christian nurses, health professionals, clergy, MPs, Christian journalists, etc, who sign the membership declaration and pay a reduced subscription. As such they will receive *Triple Helix*, and gain access to general CMF activities where appropriate. In addition there is the possibility for any member of CMF to nominate individuals of distinction for *honorary* associate membership of CMF, provided that they are interested and able to sign the membership declaration. This category requires the unanimous consent of the Executive for each applicant.

You will find an associate membership brochure and joining form with this mailing. Why not recruit a colleague to become an associate member, or nominate an individual known to you who would appreciate an invitation to become an honorary associate member of CMF?

We now have just over 900 student members, and 4,700 graduate members. Please help us reach our target of 1,000 students and 5,000 graduates by the end of 2002? Please ask the office for joining forms, and further supplies of associate membership forms from the office.



Doctors.net Discussion Forum

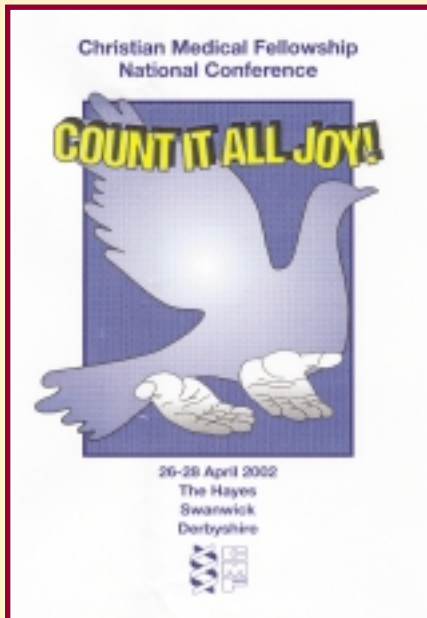
The open forum on 'Religion' at *Doctors.net* is providing a great opportunity for doctors of all faiths to debate a wide range of issues. Since November there have been over 4,000 postings and the number of discussion threads now runs to over 200. Please join us. It is an amazing opportunity for on-line evangelism and apologetics as well as being a lot of fun. The CMF forum, although quieter, is also generating some good discussion and is strictly for CMF members. If you are already a member of *doctors.net* then you will find us on the 'forums' page. Fill in a simple on-line form and you will gain access as soon as we have confirmed you are a CMF member. If you are not part of *Doctors.net* already then go to www.doctors.net.uk and join by filling in a form. You will need your GMC number.

Looking for a GP post or locum?

See the insert for more details of specific posts wanted or offered. 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.



Upcoming Conferences



CMF National Conference 26-28 April 2002

You will have received a brochure for this, the main graduate event of the CMF year, with this edition of *Triple Helix*. We look forward to seeing you there. Please book soon.

Overseas Update Course – 24 June – 5 July 2002

This excellent course for all intending to work abroad, or for those abroad wanting to be brought up to date with the latest developments from leaders in the field will be held at Oak Hill College on 24 June – 5 July 2002. Dates for 2003 are 7-18 July. More information is available from Peter Armon at the CMF Office.

Media Training Days

Following the great success of our five media training days in 2001 we are planning to run six more in the summer/autumn of 2002. Watch this space for dates and venues. A new advanced course is also coming soon.

Saline Solution

This popular course on 'bringing Christ into the consultation' was initially developed by members of CMDA, our US sister organisation. Provisional dates for a UK pilot are 18-19 October, to follow on directly from the Birmingham Doctors' Dilemmas course.

Confident Christianity – Autumn/ Spring 2002-3

The last Confident Christianity Evangelism Training Tour finished in Spring 2000, but we are planning another for the autumn/spring of 2002/2003 with a dozen day conferences all over the UK and Ireland. Watch this space for dates and venues.

Luis Palau Outreach - 13-18 May 2002

The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship, as part of their 150th anniversary year has invited Luis Palau to share his testimony and the gospel at a series of lunches and dinners around the UK in the week of 13-18 May 2002. CMF has been invited to participate in meetings in Southampton, Bristol, Birmingham, Northampton, Nottingham, London, Liverpool and Manchester by providing table chairpersons (responsible to fill a table with 10 guests), follow-up and

sponsors. More information is available from LCF, 33 St James Square, Bath BA1 2TT. Tel 01225 789166. Email director@lawcf.org.

Communications Training

The communications training programme 2002 has details of courses on various communication skills, such as giving interviews for radio or television, desktop publishing and giving a PowerPoint presentation. The courses come at three levels: introductory, advanced and masterclass. 'Crisis management', for example, is an advanced course to help you be properly organised if things go wrong and the media take an interest. The courses are offered by the Church of England's Communications Unit and the Catholic Communications Centre and details are on their website www.commstraining.cofe.anglican.org or telephone 020 7898 1458/65.

Doctors' Dilemmas 2002 - 29 April to 3 May

This Burrswood Doctors' Dilemmas course unfortunately has had to be cancelled this year due to lack of numbers applying. However the Birmingham course will go ahead as planned on 16-18 October.

World Conference on Bioethics II

The second world conference on bioethics is to be held in Gijon (Spain) from 30 September to 4 October, organised by the SIBI (International Society of Bioethics). Further details, including a full programme, are available from II Congreso Mundial de Bioetica. Email: IICONGRESO@SIBI.ORG

Juniors

Sink or Swim!

About 35 came to the National Juniors' Day Conference in Birmingham on 16 March to hear Andy Gemmill (medically qualified pastor from Nottingham) give two superb addresses on Romans 7 and 8 which were followed up in small group discussion. The key message was that the struggle against sin is part of the normal Christian life, but that our future with God is assured and God's power is available now in the fight. Janet Goodall, Kevin Vaughan and Anne Lergie contributed along with Andy to a lively panel discussion chaired by Peter Saunders in which many of the big issues facing juniors were aired and wisdom brought to bear. Thanks to Sarah Germain and the Juniors' committee for another great event.

National Weekend Conference – 30 August-1 September

The Juniors' national weekend conference will be held at Swanwick, Derbyshire on the weekend of 30 August-1 September. Sheffield General Surgeon Bill Thomas is the main speaker and the publicity will be out shortly. 80-100 juniors are expected to attend.

Juniors' Open Day – 18 May

Thanks to all those who have responded to the juniors' questionnaire mailed last month. This has given us lots of valuable feedback on how we can support juniors better and the juniors' committee is holding an open day to 'brainstorm the future' in Lincolnshire on Saturday 18 May. If you would like to come, please contact Sarah Germain on sarahgermain@yahoo.com

Students

New appointments

We are delighted that Mark Pickering (Student Secretary), Richard Collins (London staffworker) and Chris Downing (South England staffworker) have now joined the team. See page 2 for more details.

International Students' Preconference

For the fourth year running a group of international students came to London for the week preceding national conference (14-18 January). This year there were twenty, from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Uzbekistan. All were leaders in their own developing medical student movements. They stayed with local students and had a mixture of lectures and visits, including a Christian GP practice, the House of Lords, and spending one day in Oxford with local students. The group gelled really well and were a huge encouragement to each other and to UK students, particularly as they joined us at national conference. A number of the students are helping to organise CMF summer teams to their cities later in the year (see below), whilst some stayed on for electives in Cardiff and Birmingham.



The First and The Last

A total of 320 made it to Swanwick to hear John Lennox (of UCCF's Whitefield Institute) speak from Revelation, challenging us to keep the return of Christ in the forefront of our minds. John Wyatt (of University College) spoke on 'a Light in Medicine', urging us to incarnate God's love in an increasingly hostile medical world. The most popular seminar was 'Spirituality and

Patient Care', from Derek Munday of Christians in Caring Professions, which along with the others stimulated students to thought and action. The 35 international students from 17 countries shared moving prayer requests in the Sunday communion service. Friendships were renewed and made, good books were bought (hopefully to be read), and yes, there was the barndance...

National Conference 2003

The 2003 CMF national Students' Conference will be held at Swanwick on the weekend of 7-9 February 2003. The new date (three weeks later) should allow more students from schools that have a semester system to come. Pray for the work of finding speakers and choosing seminars that is now going ahead in earnest.

Irish CMF Conference

About 25 attended a CMF Conference for students and junior doctors at Avoca Manor, south of Dublin on 15-17 February. Peter Saunders, CMF General Secretary, spoke from the book of Acts (which was written by a Christian doctor!) looking at how the Holy Spirit worked through the apostles to plant churches, preach the gospel and change lives. Now to get on and do the same in our generation! There were also a number of seminars on issues at the interface of Christianity and medicine.

Regional Staffworker News

CMF has four student staffworkers: Ruth Selwood (West UK), Tim Lewis (Ireland), Richard Collins (London) and Malcolm Savage (North England). All our staffworkers produce regular prayer letters so if you would like to support any one of them in prayer please let us know. We are still looking for staffworkers for August for West UK, North England, East England and Scotland, so if you think God may be nudging you please contact Peter Saunders for more details (see advert p3).

New Medical Schools

Plymouth and Norwich are opening for students this September - and a new group is being established in Teeside. Pray for student reps, medical school secretaries and support from local graduates.

Electives Advice

Electives Preparation Days were held on 9 February (Edinburgh), 9 March (Leeds) and 20 March (London) in order to help students make the most of opportunities abroad. 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 Peter Armon (CMF Overseas Support Secretary) at the CMF Office. Email peter.armon@cmf.org.uk.

Elective Grants

MMA Healthserve is celebrating its 125th anniversary and would like to give 125 elective grants to students studying in English or Welsh universities over the next two years! Contact MMA HealthServe, First Floor, 106-110 Watney Street, London E1 2QE. Tel 020 7790 1336.

Email info@mmahealthserve.org.uk.

The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society offers a similar service to students studying at Scottish or Northern Irish universities for their overseas electives. For more details contact EMMS, 7 Washington Lane, Edinburgh EH11 2HA. Telephone 0131 313 3828. Email info@emms.org.

Summer Teams 2002

Plans for CMF Summer Evangelism teams to the former USSR, Eastern Europe and the Balkans are underway. At least six teams are expected to go with some new and some old locations. If you are interested in getting involved read more about it, including some inspiring reports in the January *Triple Helix* and *Nucleus*. Details available soon.

Missionary Breakfast 8 May

Dr Ashok Chacko from Emmanuel Hospital Association in India, will speak on 'Wholistic Healthcare for the Developing World - a challenge for the new millennium'. This will take place again in Guy's Hospital Tower, starting 7:30am. Publicity is now available and the cost is £5, including the legendary cooked breakfast.

Ishmael my Brother Weekend 10-12 May

Events since September 11 2001 make it more vital than ever for Christians to understand and respond to Islam and Muslims. Jay Smith and Elsie Maxwell continue the popular weekend conference, equipping students to do just that with an overview of Islamic belief, discussion of difficult questions and ways to share the gospel on and off campus. It will be in East London and publicity will be available soon from CMF. Graduates and non-medics are more than welcome!



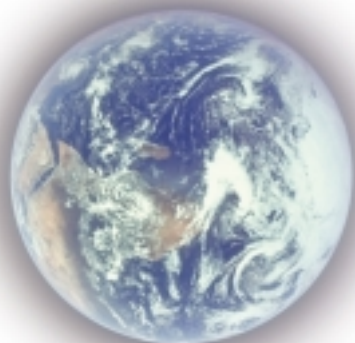
Mission and Overseas News

Training Developing World Church Leaders

Chris Wright (formerly principal of All Nations Christian College) has just taken over from John Stott as International Director of The Langham Partnership (UK and Ireland), an amalgamation of the Langham Scholarship Programme and the Evangelical Literature Trust. By the end of 2001 the Langham scholarship programme had helped 100 Third World biblical scholars to obtain their doctorates and return home to teach. It also offers library grants to over 1,000 seminaries in the developing world each year and distributes books to over 60,000 theological students, pastors and seminary faculty members. If you would like to support the work of these and other similar initiatives to build the church in the Developing World, then contact the Langham Partnership for details. Tel 020 7209 0915.

ICMDA European Conference 2004

The sixth European Conference of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) will be held at Schloss Eringerfeld, Paderborn, Germany on 8-12 September 2004. There will be a student pre-congress from 6-8 September.



Finances

The year-end figures have been very encouraging indeed, and we are immensely grateful for the significant generosity of very many members in funding the Fellowship's work in addition to their membership subscription (membership subscriptions contribute only 25% of the Fellowship's total income, and cover 30% of the expenditure).

International Christian Medical and Dental Association

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know'.

Answers to prayer

February 13 was designated an ICMDA prayer day around the world. In the Cambridge office that day Dr Ricardo Zandrino (Argentina), ICMDA's regional secretary in South America, asked us if we knew that God had a telephone number. 'It's 333', he said - Jeremiah 33 verse 3 quoted above. This was indeed our experience that day and in the three succeeding days as we sought to allocate bursary funds for Taiwan, interview for the post of ICMDA General Secretary and deal with many related matters. Much of this is fleshed out in the interview article in the current edition of *Triple Helix*. The committees were distinctly conscious that people had been praying and that this had a significant impact on the smooth flow of decision-making, most of which, hopefully, reflected the mind of the Lord. We had enthusiastic responses and assurances of commitment to prayer from many parts of the world, notably from those in small, struggling and emerging situations. Is there a lesson for the rest of us there? James says something about those 'poor in this world's goods but rich in faith'.

Student Developments

East African students are holding a retreat over Easter in Mombasa. Some will be travelling long distances to take part in this. We continue to hear regularly from



Dr Ricardo Zandrino (Argentina), ICMDA regional secretary in South America.

the small group of students in Belgrade. We have recently heard from students in several medical schools in Brazil. In one the daughter of American missionaries in Brazil has found herself called back to Brazil to enter medical school there with the parallel intention of establishing Bible groups among the students in that medical school. Russian students held a winter camp in Samara in February (Brrr!) with representatives from seven Russian cities and one from Central Asia. Examples of this kind of mushrooming work could be multiplied. Do nurture this future generation of colleagues in your prayers.

Taiwan World Congress July 2002

This is also mentioned in the interview article in *Triple Helix*. Most of the arrangements are now in place. We are particularly keen to see both graduate and student delegates from Cambodia, China, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal and Thailand. Do pray for the clearing away of bureaucratic obstacles and the financial provision for such to attend.

If you plan to attend and have not yet made flight reservations, good discounts can be obtained through China Airlines, the Taiwan national carrier if you state that you are an ICMDA Congress delegate. You need to call China Airlines office in London direct on 0207 436 9001. We will need to validate your registration to them. Pressure on flight bookings to East Asia is very heavy, due to World Cup Football in Japan and Korea at that time. Do pray that delegates will not be hindered from coming through lack of seat availability. Updated news on the Congress can be seen on the Congress website at:

www.tcma.org.tw

The Fellowship finished 2001 with a surplus of £70,000 (2000 surplus was £24,709), having discounted the transfer of funds from the Christian Medical Fellowship Trust Ltd (which is a one off transfer of all the Trust's resources). This has also been achieved at a time of increased activity, with a 12% year on year increase in expenditure due to greater ministry. Costs have been saved internally, Gift Aid tax recovered has almost doubled since 1999 (£51,000 to £94,000), and we have for the first time brought £16,000 of publications stock into the accounts. Thank you very much indeed, and thank you, our

Lord God, for your gracious provision.

This healthy position has given the Executive confidence to press ahead with the appointment of Dr Mark Pickering as part-time Student Secretary, and also to search for a full time medically qualified assistant General Secretary to share the load carried by Peter Saunders, and to increase the development of the Fellowship's ministry.

The General Committee will accept the accounts in June. Please ask the office if you would like to see the accounts, once they have been accepted.