

Going for Gold

Giving thanks is good for the soul, and a great way of lifting our spirits when we feel life's burdens weighing us down. And as Christian doctors we have much to be thankful for: not least being born into circumstances that enabled us to take advantage of some of the best medical training in the world. We have received education, status, wealth and resources that most of the world can only dream of, not to mention the surpassing privilege of being God's children, and serving him.

UK doctors are amongst the best trained and resourced on the planet; at a time when much of the world is crying out for good medical care. And we live at a time when international travel, telecommunications and globalisation make the world a global village. In Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan,¹ our neighbour is anyone, regardless of ethnic origin and social class, whom we have the ability to help; the AIDS sufferer in Botswana, the blind in Sierra Leone, the drug addict in Beijing and the homeless in Calcutta are now our neighbours.

As a fellowship, we are increasingly aware that, whilst opposition to the Gospel is growing, we live at a time of unparalleled opportunity and privilege for touching and transforming broken lives through the words and works of Christ. Jesus' command to 'preach and to heal'² has not changed, but our generation of Christian doctors is the best placed of all in history to fulfil it and we have been uniquely privileged with the training and resources to do so.

Of course, privilege comes with responsibility as Jesus tells us.

Christian Medical Fellowship exists to

equip us to fulfil the tasks to which God is calling us, serving our patients, integrating our faith and practice, sharing our faith, contributing to medical mission and being a voice for Christian values in healthcare in our church, community and profession.

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Luke 12:48

Each year we are doing more in all these areas and the call on CMF's services grows. In 2002 we:

- Held a record number of conferences
- Took on a part-time Student Secretary and four other student staff
- 'Broke in' a new Overseas Support Secretary
- Launched a redesigned CMF website and a new website for schools
- Gave gifts of CMF literature to 3,000 schools in the UK and over 3,000 Christian doctors and students in the developing world
- Took on a full time publications/research assistant
- Sent nine CMF teams abroad to help develop national sister organisations
- Made more than 20 radio and TV broadcasts and were quoted in over 50 newspaper articles

This rate of change has brought some growing pains and we have wondered

whether we should be scaling back our activities? But our income actually exceeded expenditure by a total of £100,000 in 2000 and 2001 and in 2002 we expect to finish with a small deficit of around than £20,000 on a total turnover in excess of £800,000.

Given the huge opportunities we have, and the increasing number of emails, letters, requests and enquiries we receive, the CMF executive actually believes that God is calling us to increase our activities, so over the page we have laid out our vision for 2003. Of course this will cost more; and we believe the best way of paying for it is to raise our subscriptions for members in full-time medical employment (except juniors up to 5 years qualified). We have done our sums carefully and believe we can do everything on the pages overleaf for £110,000... which will be covered by a subscription of just £10 per qualified member per month (£120 pa) We believe it is the least we can do in response God's giving to us. And we believe, for the reasons overleaf, that the time to do it is now. Will you join us in the challenge?

Peter Saunders
CMF General Secretary

1. Luke 10:25-37
2. Luke 9:2



Peter Saunders

Plans for 2003

£10 per member per month

A subscription of £10 per member per month for full members from January 2003 is £120 per annum and will allow us to raise the extra £110,000 we need to do everything on these two pages in 2003. £120 is not much if you put it alongside a GMC sub of £290, BMA sub of £320, College sub of £170 and MDU sub of over £2,000! Members of CMDA, our sister organisation in the US, pay over twice as much. Of course it is a hefty increase on our present full subscription of £75, but put alongside the fact that many of us earn between £50,000 and £100,000 per year and that many of us have homes valued at over three times that, we do not believe it is unreasonable. Students, retired folk, missionaries and juniors within five years of graduation will be exempt from ANY subscription increase.

Of course we would love you to give much more than £10 per month if you are able. Many already do, and we are immensely grateful. In fact well over half of our annual running costs come from donations over and above subscription. Even at the revised level subscriptions will not even cover half our running costs. So if you are already giving to CMF above subscription please continue to do so at the same level or above, and if you are not please do consider doing so.

CMF is a 'high turnover, low asset' charity. Our entire reserves amount to no more than 3-4 months of our annual turnover, so all that comes in is spent in ministry. We are not saving up for a rainy day, because we believe 'the days are short', and we are convinced that it is good stewardship to function like this. It keeps us looking to God to supply our needs.

New Associate General Secretary

— £45,000 per annum

CMF General Secretary Peter Saunders' job description has changed

considerably over the last three years with the growth in CMF activities and he needs to be freed up from many of his current office-based duties to become more active in supporting staff, training, speaking, writing, media work, 'networking', developing new projects and generally overseeing the process of growth and change. In short we would like Peter to 'get out more'. The appointment of Giles Rawlinson as Chief Administrator in February 2000 has already had the effect of freeing Peter up from most of the office administration that does not require a medical qualification to perform, and he has also been able to pass on the oversight of Nucleus the national students' conference and other student events (including Confident Christianity) to our new Student Secretary Mark Pickering. But we believe there is still enough routine work requiring medical expertise to require two full-time medically qualified staff in the central office. A new associate general secretary (see p4) will also be able to share in Peter's 'field' activities. If this appointment is not made soon then most of the developments on this page will have to go 'on hold' and we believe that would be a lost opportunity.

Merger with MMA Healthserve

— 'Cost neutral'

MMA Healthserve, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year (see p7) has worked closely with CMF for many years in mobilising Christian health professionals to serve Christ abroad. Our Overseas Support Secretary Peter Armon is jointly employed by both organisations. We now believe that the cause of healthcare mission will be far better served by both organisations merging and the MMA-HS Council is working steadily towards this end.

MMA Healthserve which is currently based half an hour away in Shadwell, would cease to exist and fuse with CMF's overseas department in 2003, but the Healthserve name would live on and some members of the MMA-HS Council

would join a more multidisciplinary CMF Overseas Support Committee with many more resources available for mission. This will enable much closer working with Christian nurses, therapists, managers and other healthcare professionals as well as saving a huge amount of duplication and greatly simplifying administration. The cost of the merger would be primarily borne by MMA-HS, and Peter Armon would then be based at Partnership House.

More Space

— 'Cost neutral'

All this change requires new space that until now has not been available. But now the ACC (Anglican Consultative Council), with whom we share the 5th floor of Partnership House, are definitely leaving. They have signed a lease on another property in London and expect to be departing in totobetwween September and December 2003.

ACC currently occupy more than twice the amount of space that we do, so there would be ample available to allow for the merger with MMA-HS. We think we only need another 500 sq ft, at an annual cost of £16,000 pa, but we don't expect to take on this cost until the end of 2003 and believe that much of it would be met as a consequence of the MMA-HS/CMF merger.

There would also be ample space for other Christian healthcare organisations to move in alongside us, if they so chose. Other potential tenants are currently being contacted. We have long dreamt of several Christian healthcare organisations coming together to share space under one roof. Might this dream now be coming true?

New Database

— £7,000 per annum

Our old Pick Database was installed in 1997 and is based on the 'pre-windows' DOS system. It has served us well, but is increasingly creaking with the strain of



growth and we have needed to spend more and more money upgrading it to deal with routine office administration. We would like to upgrade to Oracle a 'state of the art' database system already used by over 70% of businesses worldwide. Miller Technology who manage our current database, and who understand our work better than anyone, would manage the change for us at a considerable discount on commercial rates. Their clients already using Oracle include the British Medical Association, The Royal Society of Medicine, the Royal College of Midwives and several of the country's largest trade unions. The upgrade would allow us to streamline greatly our membership system, improve handling of electronic correspondence, answer complicated queries, allow a transition to direct debit and online conference bookings, enhance considerably our ability to contact and link people and create an effective Christian medical cyber-community. The extra cost for new hardware and software, installation and maintenance can be spread over several years meaning an additional cost of only £7,000 pa over current computer costs.

More Media Involvement

—£12,000

With all the ethical challenges that currently face us, and with the ethical slide within the British Medical Association, Christian doctors have a huge responsibility to be a public voice for Christian values in healthcare. First CMF needs to speak out as an organisation; and during 2002 we have had a very fruitful relationship with a Christian Media Consultant Iain Taylor, who through the Evangelical Alliance Press Office, has enabled us to make 15 press releases, take part in over 20 television and radio interviews and led to over 50 quotations (some up to 500 words each) in Church and national newspapers. We want to continue and increase this activity.

But even more important than this is enabling more CMF members to get on the media in their own right. Over the last two years CMF has provided professional training in television and radio at subsidised rates to over 90 members, many of whom have gone on to take up media opportunities. Christian BBC producers John Forrest

and Andrew Graystone and former CMF General Secretary Andrew Fergusson have provided the training. All this has meant an increasing number of media enquiries to the CMF office and we want to build on this in 2003. This will cost £12,000.

The Saline Solution

— £5,000

The Saline Solution is an excellent course for integrating faith and practice, that is specially tailored to general practice but suitable for all doctors who want to be better at meeting patients' spiritual needs. A pilot conference has already been held, and we are now adapting the material with a view to running a series of day conferences next autumn. The expected cost is £5,000.

CMF Voluntary Ministry

—£4,000

We would like to create more opportunities for junior doctors and retired doctors to work with CMF part-time in a voluntary capacity; either to help launch new projects or to work alongside our regional Staffworkers supporting students and junior doctors. This is a wonderful opportunity, for younger doctors especially, to get experience in Christian ministry whilst at the same time doing training in theology, Bible teaching and medical ethics.

Such doctors would raise their own support, most probably in part-time medical work alongside a voluntary CMF post, but we would cover expenses incurred in work with CMF and also (for junior doctors) offer help with ministry training through the UCCF relay training programme.

2003 Budget Deficit

— £37,000

If we kept subscriptions at £75 per annum and did none of the things on these two pages, we project that we would finish 2003 with a deficit of £37,000. This assumes that we receive no legacies in 2003 (we received legacies of over £50,000 in 2002). So we have allowed for this in our calculation of needs for 2003.

Total Needed

— £110,000

£110,000 may sound like a lot, but it is actually substantially less than 20% of our current income, and will be completely covered by raising the full subscription to £120 (£10 per member per month), provided that donations continue at the same level. Let's go for it!



2002 Finances

As noted above, demands on CMF's resources continue to grow, and we predict that the 2002 accounts of the Fellowship will show a deficit in the order of £20,000, after the last two years of surplus. Income is almost exactly in line with the budget for the year, and has also been boosted in the last quarter by a very significant legacy (how is your will? Would you consider making a CMF a beneficiary?). However expenditure has been £50,000 ahead of budget in areas of both ministry and administration, as CMF responds to needs in the UK and overseas. The 2003 budget can only be balanced by an increase in subscription for those in full time medical employment (detail on these two pages).

We plan to introduce giving by means of direct debit as soon as practicable, to streamline further the subscription and donation process. Would you consider supporting CMF by means of a direct debit? Watch this space!



Giles Rawlinson

Staff News

Morwen Dyer left CMF for greener pastures in December after three years as administrative assistant. Many of you will have appreciated Morwen's dulcet Scottish tones on the CMF Office phone, and we will miss her cheery presence and smiling face in the office and all her hard work on publications orders, post and accounts. Thanks so much Morwen for all your help to Christian doctors and we wish you all God's blessings for the future.

Staff Vacancies

Assistant General Secretary

We are still looking for a full-time medically qualified Associate General Secretary to work alongside Peter Saunders (see p2) 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

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/East Anglia and the North West of England, and further opportunities will arise this summer. Staffworker posts are normally 4-5 sessions per week for two years, but other models are not impossible and we try to fit posts around an applicant's location and stage. Staffworkers are usually 24-32 years of age and spend the other half of their time in part-time SHO, SpR, or GP trainee or retainer posts, or in doing Bible College study. Salary based on graduate teacher scales. For more info contact Peter Saunders at the CMF Office.

Relay Workers

Are you a junior doctor recently qualified and 6-12 months to kill? Would you like to do some part-time theological study and gain further experience in Christian ministry, whilst keeping your hand in medically? Have you thought of being a CMF relay worker? Relay workers do 6-12 months with CMF alongside staffworkers in student and juniors' ministry whilst supporting themselves through locums or part-time posts. They also get involved in the UCCF relay programme

of theological and ministry training. Expenses are covered by CMF. For more info contact Peter Saunders at the CMF Office.

Contacting CMF staff

If we tell you that Peter Saunders' personal email address is peter.saunders@cmf.org.uk you should be able to guess the rest.

General Secretary. Peter Saunders.

Overseas Support Secretary. Peter Armon.

Chief Administrator. Giles Rawlinson.

Student Secretary. Mark Pickering.

Assistant Medical Secretary. Clare Cooper.

Members' News

Congratulations

On their postgraduate qualifications
Claire Wickens MRCPCH

On their awards and appointments
If you have recently received an award, a new appointment or postgraduate qualification please let us know for the next edition of CMF News

Movements

Outgoing

Martin Allaby (Oxford) to Nepal

Jes Bates (Bristol) to Malawi

John Chaplin (Guy's) to Kenya

Richard Collins (St. Thomas') to Tanzania

Jane McNutt (Belfast) to Albania

Andrew Roberts (Liverpool) to Gambia

Maureen Stevenson (Belfast) to Malawi

Homecoming

Malcolm McArthur (King's College) from Botswana

Scott Murray (Glasgow) from Thailand

Carolyn Simpson (The London Hospital) from Chad

Change of address abroad

Ditch Townsend (Birmingham) from Malawi to Singapore

Obituaries

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

Anne Booth (q Royal Free 1949; d 19 June 2002) was a medical officer at St Bartholomew's Hospital before her retirement in Norfolk.

Peter Casson (q Barts 1994; d 9 December 2002) was an SHO in psychiatry and author of the CMF Publication My Cancer

Robin Catlin (q Guy's 1951; d 2002)

Lawrence Chandler MBE (q Liverpool 1937; d October 2002) was a retired doctor living in Norfolk.

Joseph Jaya-Ratnam (q Ceylon 1967; d 9 June 2002) was a consultant in accident and emergency medicine at Tameside General Hospital.

Hendrikje Kreuger (q Netherlands 1955; d 22 October 2002) was a physician in India for 25 years.

John Spencer (q Charing Cross 1957; d 22 July 2002) was a surgeon at Hammersmith Hospital and reader in surgery at Imperial College School of Medicine. He was an authority on oesophageal surgery and on radiation enteritis.

Conference Reports

CMF Autumn Conferences

The autumn conference season has now finished but over 500 members attended regional, weekend or day conferences in Northern Ireland, Scarborough, Oxford, Cardiff, Sheffield, Birmingham and Eastbourne.

Saline Solution

Over 20 people attended this weekend event in October to road-test the very popular Saline Solution training programme for integrating faith and practice. We plan to adapt it for use in the UK (see p3). Watch this space.

Upcoming Conferences

CMF National Conference - 25-27 April 2003

The brochure for the CMF National Conference at Swanwick is included with this mailing. Please put the date aside in your diary and book soon.

Other Conferences

Please check the dates of other conferences on page 8 and on the CMF website. Individual booking forms will be mailed regionally.

Ethics

CMF Ethics Submissions

CMF's submission to the consultation set up in the wake of Alder Hey on Human Bodies Human Choices is now available on the website, along with past submissions, at www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/subs/subs.htm. We are currently drafting a submission on sex selection for the HFEA.

New Master's Course in Bioethics

Five CMF members enrolled for this new course at St Mary's, Twickenham, last September. Based on Judeo-Christian and Hippocratic principles, it has proved popular. If you are interested in doing it next year please contact Michael Hayes at hayesm@smuc.ac.uk if you would like to be put in touch with someone who is currently doing the course for an 'inside opinion' contact Peter Saunders at the CMF Office.



Publications

Books to Nigeria

Over 2,000 Christian medical students attended the NCMDS national students' conference in Jos in December. CMF sent a gift of 400 copies of the CMF CD and 100 copies of each of Matters of Life and Death and Cure for Life. We hope to make further similar gifts of CMF literature in 2003.

Translations

Russian editions of Matters of Life and Death by John Wyatt and Cure for Life by Bernard Palmer are well on the way. Cure for Life has also been translated into Albanian. If you would like to contribute to the appeal to print these translations please contact the CMF Office.

Ethics for Schools

The new CMF website www.ethicsforschools.org for GCSE and AS/A2 level students of religious education and philosophy is now available for £5 on CD-ROM. Why not buy some copies for your local secondary school? (see insert in Triple Helix)



CMF CD-ROM

The new CMF website at www.cmf.org.uk is also available for £5 on CD-ROM. Over 60 back issues of Triple Helix and Nucleus with much else besides (see insert in Triple Helix).



New Publications

Work continues on our three new books: Christian Distinctives in Medicine, Hard Questions about Healing and Mad, Bad or Sad?

PatientUK

is a website which aims to direct non-medical people in the UK to information about health and disease edited by two Newcastle GPs. The ethical page links to useful sites dealing with Christian and ethical aspects of health care including the CMF ethics web pages and Ethics for schools as well as other useful UK sites. www.patient.co.uk/ethical.htm

General Practice

Freedom to employ Christians

A number of CMF members in Christian practices have expressed concern that preferentially employing Christian staff may put them at risk of litigation. Our understanding of the current situation is as follows:

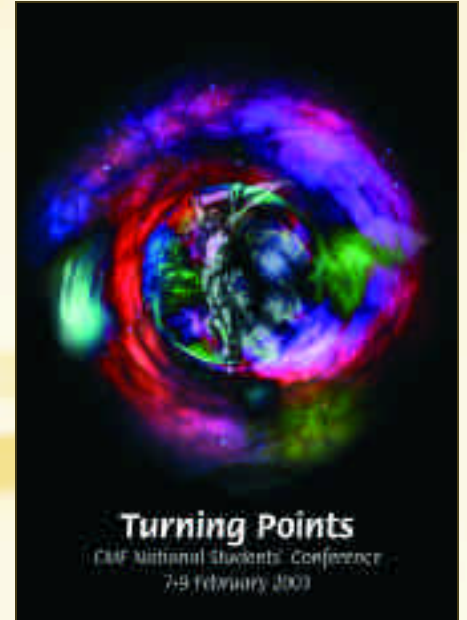
1. There are UK laws preventing sex and race discrimination in the employment context but there are no laws currently preventing religious discrimination.
2. As there are no laws, on religious discrimination, 'be bold'. Your medical practice has the benefit of Article 9 of the Convention on Human Rights; this is religious liberty, which includes religious autonomy and the right to associate with who one wishes. There is no counter-veiling human right of access to employment.
3. There are some very complex legal arguments as to whether the Health Authority; or a doctor's practice is a 'public authority' under section 6 of the Human Rights Act on the basis that it receives public funding. The 'jury is still out' on this one as a test case has not yet been brought to court to see how the law should be applied.
4. An EU Employment Rights Directive on sexual orientation and religious discrimination is due to be implemented by December 2003 (CMF News; July 2002). It is likely under this that practices with a genuine basis of faith will be exempted from the religious (but not the sexual orientation) rules. We will have to reassess it at the time. Christian practices are strongly advised to ensure that by 2004 they can demonstrate that the practice has a Christian ethos such that it requires all employees and partners to be Christians.

Students

Turning Points

Bookings are pouring in for the CMF National Students' Conference to be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire on the weekend of 7-9 February 2003 and all students should receive a further booking form with this mailing.

Don Carson and John Patrick are the main speakers. Seminar topics include Surviving as a House Officer, Psychiatry, Nazi Doctors, Euthanasia and Cloning. Much more information about the conference and on individual seminar topics is available on the CMF Students' website at www.cmf.org.uk/students/natconf.htm. Around 400 delegates are expected and space is limited so book now to avoid disappointment.



Confident Christianity

The apostles shared their faith in words people understood, in an environment where their hearers felt comfortable, and with opportunity for discussion. So should we! Confident Christianity is a one-day evangelism training course with a difference that employs just these principles. A 16-centre tour started in Belfast on 26 October and finishes in Cardiff on 15 March 2003. Taught in an interactive style by CMF staff, the course aims to teach you to share your faith 'with gentleness and respect' (1 Peter 3:15) and to answer those difficult questions. Coming soon to a venue near you. More information is available on the CMF website at www.cmf.org.uk/evang/conf/intro.htm or from the CMF Office on students@cmf.org.uk.

London	18 January
Glasgow	25 January
Plymouth	25 January
Leicester	22 February
Edinburgh	22 February
Manchester	1 March
Southampton	8 March
Cardiff	15 March

Russian Conference

A conference for Russian speaking Christian medical students and junior doctors from all over the former Soviet Union is planned in Samara, Russia's fourth largest city on 15-20 July 2003. Please pray for this key event. If you would like to go contact the CMF Office for more details.

Contacting Student Staff

Mark Pickering's email address is mark.pickering@cmf.org.uk We expect you can guess the rest!

Student Secretary. Mark Pickering.

North-East England Staffworker. Kerry Waterfield.

Midlands Staffworker. Ruth Selwood.

Irish Staffworker. Tim Lewis.

South England Staffworker. Chris Downing.

South-West Staffworker. Rebecca Brain.

Midlands Relay Worker. Becky Petherick.

All our staffworkers produce regular prayer letters so if you would like to support any one of them in prayer please let us know.

Electives Advice

The following two resources (just updated!) are still available FREE to members on request:

Planning your Medical Elective Overseas all you need to know

Medical Elective Opportunities with over 40 mission societies

A new edition of Planning your Electives also available 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 Days 2003 - now arranged

Leeds - at South Parade Baptist Church on Saturday 8 March

London - at Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road on Wednesday 19 March There will be no Elective Day organised for Scotland

Programmes with booking forms will soon be available. Contact the CMF Office. Plans are also in hand for a follow up/debriefing day for those who have been on electives recently that will be held on October 25th 2003 (probably in London).

CMF Summer Teams

We sent nine summer teams abroad in 2002 to help run conferences and camps for Christian medics; the most recent to Sudan. In 2003 camps are planned in the former USSR in Kursk, Tver, Chilyabinsk and Ukraine. More details from the CMF Office.

Elective Grants

MMA Healthserve is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2003 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. Tel 0131 313 3828. Email info@emms.org

Junior Doctors

New Juniors' Committee

New members of the junior doctors committee include Verona Beckles, Ranti Atijosan, Sophie Crichtley, Malcolm Savage and Richard Collins. Sarah Germain stays on as chair.

Conferences for 2003

Please put the dates of four conferences directly relevant to juniors in your diary now: Ethics day (Birmingham, 5 April), GP trainees (Birmingham, 14 June), International Medics (London 28 June), Beyond the Bleep (Hothorpe Hall, 5-7 September).

Juniors' Open House Meetings

continue to spread and spring up everywhere. See p8 for details.

Juniors' email discussion group

For Christian junior doctors worldwide. If you would like to join email Mark Pickering at mark.pickering@cmf.org.uk

Mission Matters

Peter Armon writes

You would think that as medics we would get used to interruptions. Day and night, they are a regular part of every doctor's life (which is also true of most people). However, if you are 'work orientated' like me they can be quite irritating, even frustrating at times



Peter Armon

when you have a list of things you feel you need to get done in your carefully planned day! With so many 'things' to do, people just seem to get in the way! How often have you thought that the NHS would work much better if there were no patients or colleagues to cause you grief.

I've just finished reading an excellent book by David Stevens, the Executive Director of our American equivalent, entitled Jesus MD. He looks at medical life in the light of the way the 'Great Physician' handled things. Jesus - 'the missionary medic'. Constantly interrupted in his daily routine by people with questions and problems, Jesus saw

them and their concerns as the central purpose of his life.

Interruptions may seem a pain but they can be divine appointments. We may like to set our priorities but others, God included, may have higher priorities for our day. Perhaps we need to be asking ourselves 'what would Jesus have done in this situation?' Or 'what is it that God is doing in this person's life?'

So, please forgive me if I sometimes sound harassed or distant, with my mind set on other things when you phone me. I still have my 'L' plates on but I am beginning to find the daily interruptions to the routine I have set myself both a challenge and an opportunity.

Global Medical Missions Conference, USA. 1-2 November 2002

I was recently given the opportunity to go to this annual event in the US, organised by a mega-church in Louisville, Kentucky and was very challenged by it. It was attended by

some 1200 participants, students and postgraduates both medics and other healthcare professionals. The audience was mainly American but several other nationalities were represented and included missionaries and other folk interested in working overseas. The main sessions were especially challenging and there were a wide variety of seminars on mission related topics. It was well worth the trip and I would recommend it to others for future years.

Medical Missions Conference 28 June 2003

We are planning to hold a day conference on various aspects of Medical Mission in London at Partnership House next year. It will be aimed at students, trainees and established GPs and Consultants who are interested in medical mission or looking for opportunities to get involved. Details can be obtained from the Overseas Desk at the CMF Office

Mission Matters



An impossible prayer?

I have to admit that when I first took up this post I was disappointed to find such a small percentage of our membership working abroad full time (180 out of 5,000). However, I have been increasingly delighted to meet so many of you who are going abroad for short stints, often on a regular basis, to help out in a variety of ways - teaching, training, doing locums, academic work etc.

Be warned however that it is my prayer that we increase our involvement in the resource poor world over the next 5 years to 10% of the membership being involved full time overseas and that all of our membership will be considering the possibility of offering a tithe of their working lives in overseas service. I believe that our God is a God of the impossible and that he answers prayer. Are there others who will join in me in praying that prayer?

International Medics

We are increasingly realising the need to establish a database of members who are spending some of their time working abroad on short-term trips. As a Fellowship, we need to know who's doing what where so that when we are called upon for advice or help we can point folk to some one with the local expertise to help and advise. We intend to send a questionnaire to members early in the New Year and would be very grateful if you would take the time to complete and return it to us.

Global Healthcare Forum 27 November 2002

This was held at Partnership House under the auspices of Global Connections. The topic

under review was 'The role of the Christian Hospital in the 21st Century'. Some 60+ participants took part. There were excellent presentations from a wide range of sources including the Emmanuel Hospital Association (India), UMN (Nepal) and the Nazareth Hospital (Israel). Useful discussion followed. The need for working in partnership, local ownership of the work and the envisioning and training of local personnel with leadership potential were emphasised by most of the speakers.

Refresher Course 7-18 July 2003

Bookings are now being received. It will again be held at Oak Hill college in North London. There will be some changes in the programme with interactive seminars and workshops in Paediatrics, AIDS management and Surgery/O&G.

If you are thinking of going overseas or know others who are, please book the dates. If you know of folk who will be home on leave at that time, please let them know.

A Booking Brochure is available from the CMF Office

Medical Service Ministries Centenary Celebration Thanksgiving Service

This event will be held on Saturday 12 April 2003 at Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate, London with guest speaker Dr Marjory Foyle. This is an opportunity to hear of the financial support Medical Service Ministries provides, as a faith ministry, to Christian workers around the world for personal and community healthcare training. Hear the

history of MSM, the testimonies of former graduates and the vision for the future. If you expect to attend or for further details, please contact Glennis Dowling - 01920 486039.

HealthServe Day Oak Hill College, North London 12 July 2003

The need for committed, professional Christian healthcare in the developing world is greater than ever. AIDS, TB and malaria are becoming major, uncontrollable epidemics. The gap between rich and poor is widening all the time. War, natural disaster and political instability all add to the problem. How can we respond? What are the opportunities? What is actually happening?

HealthServe Day is a day conference to come and find the answers to some of these questions.

Top speakers, resources and exhibitions from Christian mission and aid agencies, and opportunities to meet with others working in the field, all make this an essential one day conference for anyone interested in Christian healthcare mission.

There will also be a service in the evening celebrating 125 years of MMA HealthServe who work to mobilise and support healthcare students and professionals in the developing world. Please do join us as we remember God's work through the many medical men and women who have served in overseas mission.

Registration for the day costs £5 (free to students, unwaged or overseas workers). Please contact MMA HealthServe for more details and a booking form on 020 7790 1336, or www.healthserve.org, info@healthserve.org

International Christian Medical and Dental Association

The International Christian Medical and Dental Association have completed moving the head office from Cambridge, UK, to Edmonton, Canada. There is much involved in re-establishing the running of this office from one jurisdiction to another, as well as acquainting new workers to the organization. ICMDA is thankful for your thoughtful prayers in this continuing process.

After the 'high' of the International Congress in Taiwan, there is now a refocusing and shifting of attention to the various Regional Conferences that will occur in 2003 and 2004. The Central American Regional ICMDA Conference will be held in Honduras in November, 2003. In 2004, ICMDA Regional Conferences are planned for the European, Asia/Pacific, East African, Southern African, and South American regions. We also pray that a West African Regional Conference will become a reality. Please pray with us for our Father's blessing on these conferences.

The next European Regional ICMDA Conference will be held in Germany, with the student conference starting on 6 September, and the main conference on 8-12 September 2004. Please contact the ICMDA Europe Regional office for registration details:

ICMDA Regional Office

Dr Peter Pattison, Russets, Woodlands, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4AZ

Tel: 01892 824872

Email: icmda@ukonline.co.uk

Please note that the email address has changed since the CMF News publication of October, 2002, and that the email address icmda@compuserve.com is no longer in use.

Donations to ICMDA assist bursars to attend Regional Conferences, and help to promote ICMDA work in various world regions. CMF UK is a great partner with ICMDA in assisting the development of sister organizations for the betterment of healthcare in the name of Jesus. Regional conferences are part of this process. Please keep ICMDA in mind as you seek to follow what our Father has for you to do for him. Please send donations by cheque made out to 'ICMDA (UK)Trust' to the ICMDA Europe Regional Office as above.

A note to any graduate or student working in a medical mission: if you would like to send us details of where you are going, it may be possible to supply you with contact information of a local CMF, CMA, doctor, or dentist. Such contact may be of benefit to provide for mutual encouragement and growth in our faith, or to assist in establishing links to fulfil the task, as a team of Christian health-providers, of caring for the sick. Another benefit of contact with us is that it will assist ICMDA in gaining an awareness of the various medical/dental missions and organizations, and will improve ICMDA's task assisting the networking of Christian medical/dental workers around the globe. We have much in common in the work our Father has given us for his glory, and it is a blessing to enjoy the food of fellowship as we share with each other the task he has given us.

Dr Ralph Sinn, General Secretary
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