

Don't do nothing!

Euthanasia and 'gay marriage' could be legalised and abortion even further liberalised in the UK in 2004. Over the next six months the government will be considering new legislation that could have profound implications for the way people live and how medicine is practised.

Lord Joffe's **Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill**,¹ seeks to bring in 'Dutch-style' euthanasia for everyone with an 'irremediable condition' who thinks they have 'unbearable suffering'. It ran out of Parliamentary time last year, but is to be reintroduced into the House of Lords again early this year. If it passes a second reading, which is likely given House of Lords convention, it will lead to a Select Committee being set up again to consider legalising euthanasia. The last such Select committee in 1994 ruled for 'no change in the law to allow euthanasia', but public opinion has weakened since especially with high publicity motor neurone disease cases like Diane Pretty and Reginald Crew. There are also moves afoot currently to legalise euthanasia on Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

The final draft of the long-awaited **Mental Incapacity Bill** is due to appear by the end of February. We will have to wait and see what it contains but there are concerns about 'euthanasia by the back door' through legally binding advance directives and withdrawal of food and fluids from patients who are not terminally ill.

Joanna Jepson's high profile attempt to get the police to investigate a case of **late abortion for cleft palate**² should return to court in May or June. The case has huge potential for limiting abortion for congenital abnormality, which since 1991 has been legal up until term for 'serious abnormality'. This law was personally supported by our current prime minister as part of amendments to the 1967 Abortion Act introduced with the **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act**. The HFE Act itself comes under scrutiny by the House of Commons Science and

Technology Committee, with the launch of a consultation on 22 January. This long overdue review has been prompted by criticisms of the government tampering with the HFE Act to authorise procedures for which it was never intended, such as so-called therapeutic cloning and preimplantation diagnosis for tissue type.

Meanwhile two other bills, only one of which was mentioned in the Queen's Speech may redraw traditional concepts of marriage. The **Civil Partnership Bill** is a major step towards legitimising gay partnerships and giving them similar legal status to that of married couples. The **Gender Recognition Bill** seeks to 'protect the rights' of transsexuals. Its provisions include a panel that has the power to order the issuing of a new birth certificate for a person convinced that he is 'a woman trapped in man's body', or vice versa. Anxieties have already been expressed about men competing in sports as women, using women's toilets or seeking 'marriage'.

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little

The law is a powerful educator of public opinion and bad laws can also be instruments of oppression when they remove protection from vulnerable people or coerce them to behave in a particular way. By contrast, good laws can protect the weak and restrain those who would otherwise abuse power. 'Morality cannot be legislated', said Martin Luther King, 'but behaviour can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.'

The Bible tells us that God institutes all governing authorities.³ This is no guarantee that they will govern justly. Rather, history bears stark witness to the fact that much evil in society comes from the top down, and the Old Testament prophets made it abundantly clear that God expects those

with political power to use it humbly and wisely. He will hold to account those who issue 'oppressive decrees'.⁴

Of course it is easy for us to point the finger at those in government, and fail to realise that in a democratic society there is a strong sense in which we are all rulers. We can all influence public policy, and especially as Christian doctors we all have a voice and thereby influence. And we are all obliged before God to use it, particularly in defence of those who have no voice:⁵ the poor, elderly or confused, those with head injuries, dementia or strokes, those suffering from chronic or psychiatric illness, the terminally ill, children, unborn children and human embryos.

We are all responsible. Most of us can influence colleagues and decision makers, through thoughtful argument. Many of us can speak in churches and schools or write letters to newspapers and journals. Some of us can speak on the media, or influence policy in our NHS trusts, Royal Colleges or the BMA. All of us can be well-informed and can pray. We will do our best to keep you informed and provide you with the ammunition you need to make a difference, but it is up to each of us to act.

Edmund Burke, former British prime minister, once said that 'the true danger is when liberty is nibbled away, for expedients, and by parts ... the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.' He also said, 'Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little'.⁶

Peter Saunders
CMF General Secretary



Peter Saunders

1 *Triple Helix* 2003; Summer:3

2 *Triple Helix* 2004; Winter:3

3 Romans 13:1-7

4 Isaiah 10:1-2

5 Proverbs 31:8,9

6 Speech on Mr Fox's East India Bill.

1 December 1783

Staff and Office News

Audrey Pegler

We said goodbye to Audrey Pegler at Christmas. Audrey has been the immensely faithful accountant of CMF since August 1975 (yes, 1975!). She has offered a caring, friendly ear to many overstressed CMF members who are hopelessly in arrears with their subscription, and are buried by their personal administration. She has managed the financial affairs of the Fellowship throughout all that period, and in the face of massive change, development, growth, and the ever-increasing pressure of financial governance in the charitable world. Thank you Audrey for over 28 years of very faithful service, you are already very greatly missed!

Associate General Secretary

As *CMF News* went to press we were interviewing for the Associate General Secretary post. The new appointment, to be announced soon, will involve pastoral care of doctors, encouraging evangelism and mission, and developing the new *Saline Solution* course for integrating faith and practice. The appointee will work eight sessions a week and will be based half in the London Office and half in the field.

Could you be a CMF Staffworker?

There are current vacancies for student Staffworkers in North West England, East London/East Anglia, Ireland and the Midlands. 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 is based on graduate teacher scales. For more information contact Peter Saunders at the CMF office.

New CMF database

Our new database went live on 11 December. *Oracle* is a 'state of the art' system already used by over 70% of businesses worldwide, and will 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 help us create an effective Christian medical cyber-community.

Members' News

Congratulations

On their awards and appointments

Walter Boyd
FRCGP

Prof Terry Hamblin
IWCLL Binet-Rai medal for outstanding contribution to CLL research.

Prof Norman Nevin
OBE

Olusoji Olakanpo
Diploma in Paediatric Cardiology (University of London)

Allister Vale
Medical Director of the MRCP (UK) Examination and MRCP(UK) Central Office

Kerry Waterfield
MRCP

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

David Clegg (Edinburgh) to Zambia
Heather Cox (Southampton) to Nepal
John Dickinson (Oxford) to Nepal
Andrew Gaston (Bristol) to Malawi
Ailsa Martin (Glasgow) to Japan

Homecoming

Wendy Knoops (Dundee) from Netherlands
Andrew Lotery (Belfast) from USA

Helen Lotery (Belfast) from USA
Keith Russell (Edinburgh) from Egypt

Change of address abroad

Joel Dembele (Yugoslavia) from Tanzania to Chad

Oleg Shelochkov (Uzbekistan) from Uzbekistan to USA

Obituaries

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

Caroline Collier (q Cardiff 1975; d December 2003) was a General Practitioner in Shropshire. She worked for CMF as an AIDS Lecturer and Resource Officer in the 1980s and wrote both *The 20th Century Plague* (Lion Publishing) and *Ten Proposals on AIDS*.

Averell Darling (q Belfast 1939; d 12 August 2003) was retired and living in Jersey.

Alan Franklin (q The London Hospital 1960; d November 2003) was a retired Consultant Paediatrician in Chelmsford, Essex.

Donald Hancock (q Edinburgh 1947; d October 2003) was a Consultant General Surgeon in Sunderland, Tyne & Wear.

John Reader (q Liverpool 1957; d 10 December 2003), formerly a General Practitioner in Manchester, was a previous chairman of CMF and also, with his wife Thea, joint General Secretary of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) from 1992 to 1998. He led the association through a period of steady growth following the break-up of the USSR.

Jonathan Shaw (q Cambridge 1948; d October 2003) was a retired General Practitioner and former medical missionary in Pakistan.

Finance Matters

CMF's finances currently show a very healthy surplus of £57,000 as at 30 September, on turnover of £673,000 (£52,000 deficit for the same period last year). This is a cause for great gratitude to the Lord for his gracious provision, and for the generosity of the graduate membership in particular, supporting the subscription increase and giving very generously. Such a surplus arises because of this support, further very significant and totally unexpected legacy income,

good overall control of costs, and the delay in employing a new Associate General Secretary (April 2004), and implementing the new CMF membership database (December 2003).



Giles Rawlinson

Giles Rawlinson



Conference Reports

CBPP Conference: Cloning and the Biotech Future

The presence of Clonaid Director, Brigitte Boisselier, at the CBPPs 'Cloning and the Biotech Future' conference on 24 November was bound to attract attention. The late change in venue from the Royal Society of Medicine to the Royal Horticultural Halls & Conference Centre amid fears about her 'appearance on the platform' didn't deter those of us with more mettle, though it did make it harder to find. The combination of speakers worked well and encouraged discussion. Following an introduction from Nigel Cameron, Baroness Warnock argued that slippery slopes are fallacious in the face of effective regulations. This is perhaps more believable than Dr Boisselier's subsequent claims that her technique for reproductive cloning is 40% effective - and easy because it's 'meant to be', in the Raelian worldview. After lunch, Dr Calum MacKellar spoke on the European situation, and Lord Alton rebuked Parliament for its determination to legalise cloning despite accumulating evidence against it. Overall, a highly informative and enjoyable day. The conference was repeated in Edinburgh on 17 January, but without Dr Boisselier.

Healthcare Mission Forum

A Global Connections Healthcare Forum Conference was held on 26 November with the title 'The future of Healthcare Mission in sub Saharan Africa'. Probably the best forum yet, some 70 folk gathered to hear Dick Anderson of AIM give a key note address on 'What do you understand by Healthcare Mission' and another challenging presentation by Stan Rowland of Medical Ambassadors International on 'Community Health Evangelism'.

Some excellent discussion took place in the well presented seminars, including one led by Gabriel Toma, the President of our Nigerian sister organisation NCMDA, who gave us much food for thought on the reasons why national doctors tend to leave their countries and what might be done to reverse this trend. John Rennie, Patrick Dixon, Veronica Moss and Ann Fursdon were equally stimulating in the seminars they led.

Advanced Media Training

An advanced media training weekend on 'end of life' issues was held on 5-6 December for CMF members already with

media experience. The timing was strategic with upcoming media interest in the Joffe Bill, attempts to legalise euthanasia in Guernsey and the Isle of Man, and legislation on mental incapacity (see p1). Our last advanced media course was on sexual health and our next will be on 'beginning of life' issues.

CMF Regional Conferences

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

Upcoming CMF Conferences

East Anglia Day Conference 28 February

The theme for this year's conference is the *Saline Solution* (see evangelism section)

CMF National Conference 23-25 April

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 CMF Conferences and Breakfasts

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

Media Training Days

CMF is planning basic media training days in Belfast, Manchester and London this year, as well as two advanced courses. Other venues have not been ruled out and dates are not yet settled.

Other Conferences and Resources

Positive Parenting

This is a charity supporting parents and those who work with them which holds one-day workshops across the country for people working with parents. Various issues are covered, such as parent/teen relationships and special needs children. Tel 023 9252 8787. Website www.positiveparenting.info

Christian Healthcare Network

This group meets in Didsbury, Manchester to inspire and support Christians in

healthcare and social services. Next meeting 24 March 2004, 7.30 pm. Contact: Gemma Sheridan admin@chnet.org.uk

Getting God to Work: Christians in the marketplace

A conference on workplace ministry. Keynote speaker Mark Greene. Saturday 20 March 2004 at the University of Stirling. Details from alastair.noble@care.org.uk

'God knows where...'

The next *Continuing the Journey* conference will be at Swanwick, Derbyshire from 26-30 April 2004. Open to counsellors, therapists and other carers it will explore the journey of faith. Details from Belinda@bbramhall.freeserve.co.uk

The UK Network of Christians in Psychology (NcCIP)

This organisation serves professional and student psychologists. It offers:

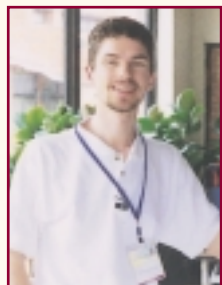
- Annual weekend conferences on topics such as neuropsychology & Christianity, psychology in service of the church, forgiveness, and (for April 2004) sexuality. Speakers are always world leaders in their fields.
- Postgrad /trainee support weekends at L'Abri Fellowship.
- Help with research projects on psychology and religion.
- Resource documents for 'thinking Christianly' about psychology.
- A biannual newsletter/journal, *The Christian Psychologist*.

Medics are welcomed as associate members and there are free resources on the website at www.necip.org.uk. For more specific resources and other information, contact Tom Smiley at resources@necip.org.uk



Students

Mark Pickering writes



Mark Pickering

Once For All

The 2004 National Students' Conference is fast approaching. The title is 'Once for All', looking at the person and work of Jesus in the book of Hebrews, and dates are 13-15 February.

Nigel Lee, former head of student ministries at UCCF, will give the Bible addresses. Marjory Foyle, former medical missionary and author of *Honourably Wounded* will give the conference address on 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Face of Missions'. A great range of seminars will examine issues at the interface of Christianity and medicine. Students should book early for this, the highlight of the CMF student year.

Answering Other Faiths

Our student members are faced with an ever-increasing mixture of other religions and worldviews in their fellow students. The faiths of the whole world are thrown together in the universities of the UK and Christian students can often be bewildered, not knowing how to respond. *Answering Other Faiths* is a CMF evangelism training day conference with a difference that helps students look at other faiths, understand and ask questions, then share the gospel in ways they can understand.

Answering Other Faiths has been recently redeveloped and streamlined. It is a 10am-5pm day conference that can be run by CMF staff at the request of medical school groups and provides great training for a



Delegates at Juniors' Conference

university mission. The revamped course was run in London on 1 November and was extremely helpful to those students that came. Virtually all the participants were non-Anglo-Saxon and many had come from other faith backgrounds themselves, which made for some great discussions!

Contact us at the office if you would like to run a day in your area.

Student Staff Training

The CMF staffworkers and relay workers (plus the general secretary and student secretary!) spent an excellent two days in November receiving training in giving apologetic/evangelistic talks. Richard Cunningham led the sessions at his home in Oxfordshire. The talks ranged from 'What does God think about sex?' to 'Isn't Christianity arrogant?' and each speaker was grilled and critiqued by the others after giving their talk. It was a great time together, with good training and an encouraging standard of talks. Richard has just been appointed as UCCF's new director of student ministries from Easter 2004, so we look forward to continuing to work closely in the future!

Elective Days

CMF and MMAHealthserve have a huge amount of information and contacts to help any student organise a developing world elective. Some of this is brought

together at their annual Electives Days, where returning students, mission agency representatives and mission hospital staff all give their own perspectives and a wealth of resources are available.

Dates for 2004 are: Leeds – Saturday 6 March; London – Wednesday 17 March. Publicity was mailed to all CMF student members during January and further copies are available from the CMF office. The events are accessible to Christians and non-Christians alike but with a distinct Christian ethos.

The content has been revised and will include coverage of such issues as 'Should I get practically involved in surgical procedures in the light of the risks of HIV/AIDS?' (many Medical Schools are actively discouraging overseas electives); 'Keeping healthy on your elective' and 'After your elective – what next?'

Nick and Kate Wooding who successfully ran the elective programme at Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda will be speaking at both days. Simon Clift and Annie McCarthy from Interhealth will also be involved in the London Day.

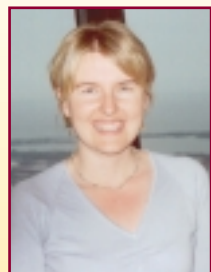
International Activity

CMF's strong international student links continue. Preparations are well underway for the annual International Students' Preconference in the week immediately preceding the National Students' Conference (9-13 February 2004). Student leaders, mainly from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, will spend a week in London for teaching in medical ethics and experience of how Christian doctors put these principles into practice. This will be the sixth year of operation and each year's event has been of significant help in strengthening some of the developing medical student movements in these countries. Please pray for remaining preparations, especially for visas, flight costs and local student hosts to be arranged.

We are also hoping to have a good UK contingent at the 2004 ICMDA European regional conference in Krelingen, near Hannover, Germany, later this year (See ICMDA News). Dates are 5-8 September for the students and juniors preconference and 8-12 September for the main conference.

Junior Doctors

Sarah Germain writes



Sarah Germain

Conferences for 2004

Please put the dates of three conferences directly relevant to juniors in your diary now: *Turning the Tide* Ethics day conferences (Bristol, 13 March;

Manchester, 20 March), *Beyond the Bleep* Weekend Conference (Hothorpe Hall, 8-10 October).

Juniors' Open House Meetings

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

Pastoral Care Links

If you are a PRHO or first year SHO and have not yet let the CMF Office know your job details for February 2004 please do so. This will enable us to put you in touch with other Christian doctors in your area.

Juniors' email discussion group

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



Evangelism

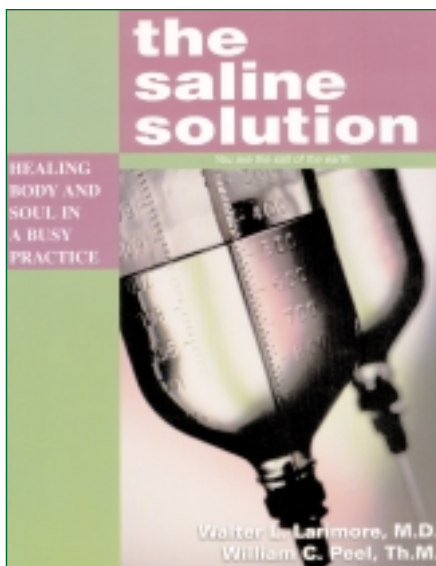
The Saline Solution

Every Christian doctor has a unique opportunity to improve both the physical and spiritual health of their patients, but many feel frustrated by the challenge of integrating their faith and practice within the time constraints of the daily schedule. And yet there is now a growing recognition in the medical literature of the important link between spirituality and health and the GMC has ruled that sharing faith with patients is fine as long as it is done in an appropriate and sensitive way.

In our contact with patients we are called to be 'the salt of the earth' - flavouring life with grace rather than blasting people with the truth. The *Saline Solution* is a new course developed by CMF's US sister organisation CMDA aimed at helping Christian doctors bring Christ into the consultation. So far it has helped hundreds to be more comfortable and adept at practising medicine that addresses the needs of the whole person.

The course is aimed at helping us draw patients in a natural way one step closer to a relationship with God through recognising God-given opportunities to touch them with the love of God without being pushy, forced or offensive.

Two day conferences in Birmingham and Sheffield last October proved incredibly popular and we are planning a day conference roadshow in May to July 2004. Provisional venues are Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, Eastbourne and Tunbridge Wells. More venues will follow in the autumn.



Christian-Muslim debate

'Who is the Real Jesus?' was the subject of a two-hour debate between CMF General Secretary Peter Saunders and Muslim apologist Shabir Ally at Nottingham University on 16 October. Over 300 people (more than 80% Muslim) attended and listened attentively before probing both speakers in a lively question and answer session. It was a wonderful opportunity to explain and defend the gospel and an encouraging reminder that robust yet respectful dialogue is possible post September 11. Tapes should soon be available. Please pray for more similar opportunities.

Ethics



John Wyatt

John Wyatt writes

The steady stream of ethical issues which have come to prominence over this last year is likely to intensify rather than abate in 2004. Peter

Saunders' editorial (p1) highlights some of the major legislation on the near horizon. The legal and political consensus on euthanasia that has survived in the UK since the House of Lords Select Committee report in 1994 is now being seriously challenged. And in addition there is real pressure to liberalise abortion further, through removing the need for two doctors to sign, introducing 'nurse abortions' and extending the Abortion Act to Northern Ireland.

As a Fellowship it is clear that we have a special role to play in the public debate and the Study Group has been keen to make submissions to relevant government bodies and try to mobilise CMF members with clinical expertise in relevant areas to write to politicians, speak on the media and make their voices heard.

Our *CMF Files* series has continued to develop, and in 2003 we filled in some major gaps producing files on Homosexuality, Sex Selection, Euthanasia

and Abortion. These should prove invaluable over the next year as these issues are debated in parliament, society, the church and the profession. Chinese and Russian translations of all the files are now well underway and the increasingly popular *Ethics for Schools* website and CD Rom have received a maximum rating from the Religious Education Advisers.

Publications

Allister Vale writes

The final draft of Andrew Fergusson's *Hard Questions about Health and Healing* has now been received and the book will be published shortly.

After the merger with *MMA Healthserve* (see p 6), *Healthserve* magazine will cease publication and its subject material will be subsumed into *Triple Helix*, *Nucleus* and *CMF News*, thereby reaching the whole of the CMF membership. We will also produce an annual magazine based on articles by allied health professionals and the recipients of elective grants. The three websites (CMF/ HealthServe/Ethics for Schools) will be retained as independent entities with major links between them, and CMF's international pages subsumed into the Healthserve site. The next edition of the CMF website CD will include the CMF and HealthServe websites.

There is a huge demand for translations of CMF publications abroad and the CMF Executive Committee has just approved £10,000 for the following new projects in 2004:

Cure For Life – Bulgarian edition
£1,000

Matters of Life and Death – Bulgarian edition £2,400

Matters of Life and Death – French edition to be given to individual doctors in West Africa £1,000

CMF Files – Russian translation £3,000

Doctors' Life Support 2 – Indonesian edition £1,000

Contingency for other projects being considered £1,600

Mission Matters



Peter Armon

Peter Armon writes

A visit to CMDA HQ in the USA

I was recently given the opportunity to visit our colleagues at the HQ of the

Christian Medical and Dental Association in the States. A truly impressive purpose built building in the most beautiful woodland setting in Tennessee. It was good to meet and find out how they support and promote involvement in healthcare mission overseas.

One project that interested me was that, within a multidisciplinary context, their overseas Department facilitates numerous short-term overseas mission team trips every year with the primary purpose of spreading the gospel and promoting medical care. I'm aware that many CMF members travel overseas as individuals and we do have links with organisations that promote team involvement but should CMF be taking a more active lead in this area? I would like to hear your thoughts on the matter.

Global Missions Healthcare Conference, November 2003

I was also able to attend a three-day Global Missions Health Conference held each year in Kentucky. Some 1,500 delegates were present. The five excellent plenary session speakers, both nurses and doctors, shared from their personal experience in overseas mission and there was a choice of some 60 seminars/workshops to attend. Some 80+ agencies participated in the Exhibition Hall.

Some quotable quotes from various speakers

- *Community Health is what people do to help themselves*
- *Teach healthcare as obedience to God's word*
- *Train the RIGHT people*
- *We seem to be more interested in curing disease than in healing people*
- *Our time is a gift – to waste or invest*
- *Life is too short to waste*

- *Live life in reference to eternity*
- *Delayed obedience is disobedience*
- *People are the key to completing the task, not strategies and goals*
- *Anything, anytime, anywhere, (motto of the US Navy Seals)*

Developing Health Course 5-16 July 2004 at Oak Hill College

Brochures (including application forms) have been widely circulated and copies are available from the Office.

There will be a whole day on HIV/AIDS facilitated by Gisela Schneider from Gambia who was involved with the 2003 course. Other overseas contributors will include Anne Merriman from Hospice Uganda who will be speaking on Palliative Care, Chris Lavy from Malawi on Orthopaedic matters, Mark Pietroni from Nepal on Non Communicable Disease and hopefully Nigel Pearson will be home from DR Congo to talk about delivering healthcare in conflict zones. Debbie Lovell and Marion Knell will be speaking on member care issues. The workshop sessions, included last year, will be expanded.

I have attempted to group the daily sessions under specialties so that folk interested in a particular specialty can attend as day visitors.

Publications

A new revised edition of *Preparing for your Medical Elective Overseas* is now available from the CMF Office. Following the format of the new *Handbook for Medical Mission*, it will contain a separate insert of Appendices with lists of useful addresses taken from the HealthServe Pages on the MMAHS website.

A revised edition of *Healthcare Elective Opportunities* (October 2003) listing agencies and hospitals willing to take elective students is also available from the CMF Office.

The Appendices for the new *Handbook for Medical Mission*, mentioned in the last newsletter, have already needed to be updated and a new version is available from the CMF Office.

Website

Healthserve Pages on the MMA HealthServe website at www.healthserve.org contains a

vast amount of continually updated information for those interested in or working overseas – short or long term. The site is likely to become the place to visit for information on all overseas matters following the merger of CMF and MMA Healthserve.

£10,000 grant to ICMDA

The CMF Executive has approved a grant of £10,000 to be given to the development Fund of the ICMDA (see p 7) early in 2004. This money is over and above our current annual subscription of ~£20,000 and is to support regional activities, and the build up to the next World Congress in Sydney in 2006. The money will primarily be used to support the European Regional Conference in Germany in September 2004, and to cover the travel costs of ICMDA Regional and Student Secretaries, at a very exciting time of growth for the organisation.

Merger with MMA Healthserve

The final terms of CMF's merger with *MMA Healthserve (MMAHS)* have now been formally agreed by both organisations. In March 2004 MMAHS will transfer all its undertakings to CMF under the oversight of an expanded Overseas Service Committee. The committee will be jointly chaired by Mr Howard Lyons, former MMAHS chair and Hospital Manager, and Bruce Richard, Consultant Plastic Surgeon and will consist of at least six doctors and at least six from other healthcare disciplines.

Existing MMAHS staff (Steve Fouch and Laura Risdale) will join a new expanded overseas department within CMF, which would become multidisciplinary and thereby act as a catalyst for those in professions allied to medicine to grow and develop their mission activities as well. The merger will bring considerably greater resources to CMF, and will greatly simplify administration and cut duplication. The ACC (Anglican Consultative Council), with whom we used to share the 5th floor of Partnership House, moved out on 12 December, making it possible for us to take on the extra space needed.

The aims of CMF's new expanded 'overseas department' will be to promote godliness amongst Christian healthcare professionals and students, especially with regard to mission; to motivate, mobilise and equip them for mission involvement; to support them working abroad; to encourage innovative and strategic thinking about global healthcare mission and to mobilise resources.



International Christian Medical and Dental Association

From Ralph Sinn, ICMDA General Secretary

ICMDA continues to expand in relevance around the world. The work of the many ICMDA Regional Secretaries is coming to fruition, including, amongst others, the Regions of West Africa, East Africa, South America, and Central America. **Mark Chandra**, the new ICMDA Student Secretary, has begun his role in forging the work of the Student movements. Please pray for development of fellowship groups in the Caribbean Region. CMF UK continues to be a driving force in the growth of the Christian Medical and Dental movements around the world. Many thanks are to be expressed by ICMDA for the faithfulness of the membership and leadership of CMF UK.

With Daryl Hackland taking over from me as ICMDA General Secretary (see below) the international office moves from Canada to the Republic of South Africa. The contact details of the new office are available on the ICMDA website (www.icmda.net).

Personally I would like to thank you for your fellowship and for your prayers for me over the past year. I will continue to serve our worthy Father in my practice, and anticipate learning much about the growth of ICMDA over the coming years. The plans for the July, 2006 ICMDA World Congress in Sydney, Australia, are well under way. Hope to see you there!

Ralph Sinn
ICMDA General Secretary
Email: icmda@telus.net
Website: www.icmda.net

From Peter Pattison, ICMDA European Regional Secretary

Christian Dental Fellowship

CMF's sister organisation, the Christian Dental Fellowship, is the only exclusively dental organisation that is a member of ICMDA. (Many national organisations include both doctors and dentists). They held their annual family conference at High Leigh in October. They are a warm and friendly group benefiting from the intimacy of a smaller membership than CMF. They are actively involved in support of Dentaid,

supplying dental equipment overseas and in the encouragement and support of dental missions, both short and long term. In Scotland the dentists join the CMF Scottish conference. Perhaps we could learn from them in other regions of the UK.

Area Student Representatives

With the rapid growth of student work in the medical and dental schools, ICMDA has now established a full team of area student representatives across Europe. It is good that CMF members feature prominently in the team; in due course some of these will be replaced by emerging local leaders. With one exception all are young doctors with a heart for the students. The team is as follows:

Espen Heen (Norway) – Scandinavia
Christopher Synofzik (Germany) – Central Europe
Mark Pickering (UK) – Western Europe
Alex Pavlovic (Serbia) – Balkans
Andy Greenfield (UK) – Russia and Russian speaking world
James Tomlinson (UK) – Central Asia
Ruth Selwood (UK) – Middle East – ever since Alexander the Great, Europe has stretched its tentacles in this direction!

They deserve our prayers and support.

ICMDA 6th European Conference Theme: 'Who Cares?'

5-12 September 2004
Krelingen nr. Hannover, N.Germany

Notice of this major conference and its associated activities was given in the last *CMF News*. The students and junior doctors meet from 5 September; the main conference begins 8 September. We are expecting 500-600 participants from right across Europe and are extending invitations to selected delegates from several Middle Eastern countries. With more than 50 countries in Europe and 14 of them due to join the EU in 2004, this promises to be a great celebration of European Christian unity!

ACM (The German CMF) held their planning committee at the end of October. The combination of German business-like approach with prayerful

dependence on God was impressive. They already have regular prayer meetings for the conference; perhaps we should do the same in UK. ACM's roots are in the SMD (The German UCCF equivalent) and they say that they look on Douglas Johnson (CMF's founding General Secretary) as the midwife of their movement.

The final announcement with registration details is available now through CMF or from the ICMDA European Office. On-line registration is also available through the ICMDA web site at www.icmda.net. This is the time to think seriously about joining the conference.

Bursary Fund. Conference fees will be heavily discounted for those from Eastern Europe, but many will still face substantial travel costs. CMF members have traditionally been generous in their support of the bursary fund. We estimate that an average bursary grant will be around 100 euros; we hope to help 200 people. Attendance at a conference like this can be a life-changing experience for a student or young doctor. Would you like to help one or more to attend? Gifts can be sent to the ICMDA European office. They will be receipted and can be 'gift aided'.

Peter Pattison
ICMDA European Secretary
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New ICMDA General Secretary

Daryl Hackland is the new ICMDA General Secretary taking over from Ralph Sinn in January, 2004. Daryl is a medically qualified Methodist minister from Durban, South Africa and was formerly General Secretary of the Christian Medical Fellowship of South Africa, Medical Superintendent of Bethesda Hospital, Director of Health and Secretary for Health in the KwaZulu Government and Chief Medical Officer for the Province of Natal. Daryl has been active in ICMDA for many years as South African Representative on the ICMDA Executive Committee and on the steering committee for the 11th World Conference in Durban in 1998. Please pray for Daryl as he takes up his new responsibilities.