

New opportunities

Doctors are no strangers to crisis, whether it confronts us in the emergency room, in our administrative work, or in our personal lives. Crisis may provoke fear, panic and feelings of inadequacy, but it also prompts us into appropriate action and reliance on God. The Chinese character for 'crisis' is made up of two other characters – those for 'danger' and 'opportunity'; and in the midst of a crisis of our own at CMF we have been feeling the pain, whilst being hugely encouraged at the opportunities before us. Through it all we have been reminded time and again of God's sovereignty, compassion and bountiful generosity.

As 2004 dawned we were making plans to merge with *MMA Healthserve* and move into the new offices vacated by the ACC on the fifth floor of Partnership House. Less than a fortnight later we were reeling from the sudden death of John Alford, our Office Manager, on 21 January. The same week we learned that WMA, the owners of Partnership House, had accepted a rival offer, subject to contract, for all the new space we had been hoping to occupy after the merger. This came on top of a backlog in accounts, a major attack by the *My Doom* computer virus and a hugely problematic database upgrade, creating a large amount of extra stress for the staff. It seemed that all our plans were coming to nought. What was God doing?

The CMF Executive met on 7 February to consider options and after much prayer decided to put in a rival offer for the entire fifth floor of Partnership House; three times the space we then occupied. A period of tense negotiation ensued but in early March we learnt that our offer, which was substantially below current market rates, had been accepted in an expression of Christian partnership by WMA. This left us with ample space for the merger, and the opportunity to invite like-minded Christian organisations to

move in alongside us. It is a wonderful testimony to God's grace and providence that had the rival bid not come in when it did, we would never have gone for the whole floor nor got it at such a low price. The outcome was beyond our wildest dreams just three months ago.

We moved into our new offices on 5-8 April. CMF and *MMA Healthserve* are now one (p2) and discussions are already underway with partner organisations to share some of our abundant space.

The outcome was beyond our wildest dreams just two months ago

There is still some way to go, but beyond the near future things look very bright. The annual students' conference at Swanwick on 13-15 February (p4) was a fantastic success and about when you receive this our national doctors' conference will be taking place on 23-25 April. We are delighted to have Charles Otim on board as our new accountant and since 9 February he has been making good progress in clearing our backlog in accounts. Steve Fouch and Laura Risdale have joined us from *MMA Healthserve* bringing with them expertise and resources that will greatly boost our ability to mobilise and support healthcare mission. Kevin Vaughan started as Associate General Secretary on 19 April. Read all about Kevin, Steve, Laura and Charles later in this edition of *CMF News* (p2-3).

The *Saline Solution* Roadshow, our new day conference on integrating faith and practice, will be visiting eight venues around the country in May/June (p5). Five more media training days are also being held this year, along with a dozen CMF specialty breakfasts and then, in the autumn, seven further regional day and weekend conferences.



Over 600 doctors and medical students from Western and Eastern Europe and the former USSR are expected to attend the 6th ICMDA European Conference near Hanover, Germany on 8-12 September (p8). This will be preceded at the same venue by simultaneous conferences for students and juniors, and for those involved in training doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals on 5-8 September. What a wonderful opportunity to advance God's Kingdom in medicine throughout Europe and the CIS. Full publicity is included with this mailing. Can I encourage you to come? Please book now – or at very least make it possible for doctors from poorer countries to come through giving to the scholarship fund (see p7).

Let's press on together as we take hold of what God has in store for us.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Peter Saunders
CMF General Secretary



Peter Saunders

Merger with MMA

This Easter, 126 years since it was founded, the Medical Missionary Association (MMA) handed over its work and assets to CMF.

The merger builds on our already strong partnership and will further strengthen the work that both organisations were doing.

We plan to develop the information and training resources both organisations currently have to new levels and use new technologies to make them available to more Christian health professionals, mission agencies and churches than ever.

The vision and spirit that launched MMA in 1878 is still very much alive; and at the heart of the new CMF is still the vision to extend God's Kingdom through encouraging Christian men and women in the healing and caring professions to take their skills and their faith to wherever the need is the greatest. We hope that you will want to join us prayerfully in fulfilling that vision.

*Peter Saunders (General Secretary, CMF)
Steve Fouch (Director, MMA HealthServe)*

Staff News

New Associate General Secretary

Kevin Vaughan joined the staff as Associate General Secretary on 19 April.

Kevin, this is a new post. What will it involve?

I expect to be involved primarily in a pastoral role. This will include using the *Saline Solution* programme to encourage doctors (and other healthcare workers) to bring Christ into the whole of their professional lives in a way that is natural and true to themselves.

The CMF office is in London but you live in Birmingham, how does that work?

Typically I will spend two days per week



Kevin Vaughan

at the London office and two days at home or visiting members.

What's your medical background?

After three years of hospital jobs, my wife, Sheila, and I worked in Uganda in a church-based hospital for eleven years. We returned 18 years ago to general practice in Birmingham.

So why CMF and why now?

We have always felt that the Lord might open a door for something new once our three children had graduated and left home. Our youngest will be getting married this summer after his graduation. I have enjoyed a growing commitment to CMF and have always longed to find ways of encouraging doctors to live more wholeheartedly for Christ at work. I am excited by recent developments in CMF and this job opportunity has arisen at just the right time.

Where do you think Christian doctors need to grow most?

I suspect that many Christian doctors live a life that is off-balance. It takes continuing growth in Christ to develop and realign work, family, church and leisure in the right proportions.

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

I think we need to learn much more about mutual support so that we have the courage to think and act differently. The biggest temptation for the Christian doctor is probably not money, sex or power. I suspect our biggest temptation is to allow ourselves to be worn down and watered down. We need the Holy Spirit to give us fresh eyes to see that there are many opportunities for Christian witness and service within the NHS.

How can we pray for you?

It will be a time of big adjustment in our family life and I will need to establish many new relationships. I will need God's guidance to recognise what he is already doing up and down the country and see where my contribution fits in.

New Allied Professions Secretary

Steve Fouch, formerly Director of MMA Healthserve, has joined the CMF staff as Allied Professions Secretary as a result of the merger.



Steve Fouch

Steve, Tell us about your own professional background?

I trained as a nurse at the University of Surrey, working in community nursing and acute elderly care for about three years before jumping sideways into palliative care and HIV for about eight years. I also managed to do a Masters in Medical Anthropology and get involved in mission in North Africa.

What will your new post involve?

I will be working with non-medical health professionals and students, supporting and encouraging individuals to get involved with mission, as well as supporting and encouraging the work of the various Christian fellowships supporting these professions.

What new dimensions will the merger bring to CMF's ministry?

The multidisciplinary aspect will be of immense value to CMF. As Christians we can model a very different ethos to that practised in the NHS, and healthcare mission is more and more multidisciplinary in practice.

What do you see as the major challenges facing healthcare mission today?

Probably the three biggest challenges are to increase the indigenisation of medical mission in the face of a globalised labour market, to promote short-term visits as part of a long-term strategy for healthcare mission, and to address the impact of HIV and other emergent epidemics on world health. A fourth challenge is to look at how we, as Christians, can tackle prophetically the global forces that are widening the health and poverty gap. Mission is a justice issue, as well as a care and evangelism one.

How can we best pray for you?

This is a key time for Christian mission as whole, and healthcare mission in particular – so wisdom and sensitivity to where the Holy Spirit is leading us would be my first prayer request. I would also appreciate prayer for our family (my wife Debby, and our children Hannah (3) and Sam (10 months)) and in particular for me in keeping that old work/life balance right (a prayer for all of us I suspect!).



New Accountant

Charles A Otim joined us as CMF accountant on 9 February. He comes with 25 years work experience in accounts and finance, having previously been with *Open Doors*, a stint at public tax accounting and most recently with *IFES*. Charles is originally from Uganda and is married to Christine. They have two children: Shari and Daniel. He desires to see young people grow in the faith and to love and serve God in their professions. The family worships at Maghull Baptist Church, in Liverpool. Please pray for Charles as he learns the job.



Charles Otim

Laura Risdale

Laura Risdale joined the CMF staff team this Easter. She has moved over from *MMA HealthServe*, where for the last two years she has worked as Office Administrator and PA to Steve Fouch and Peter Armon. Laura worships at Sutton Salvation Army, is a keen rugby supporter, and still on a bit of high from the World Cup victory.



Laura Risdale

John Alford

John Alford died just after being diagnosed with disseminated squamous cell carcinoma on 21 January after a very short illness. John had been Office Manager at CMF since 1990 and was one of our longest serving staff. Please do continue to pray for his wife Rosemary and their children Matt (17), Beki (14) and Peter (11) and also for the CMF Office staff, who have lost a dear colleague. A tribute to John appears on p5 of the April 2004 *Triple Helix*.



John Alford

Could you be a CMF Staffworker?

There will be vacancies for part-time

student staffworkers in North West England, East London/East Anglia, Ireland, North East England, South England and the Midlands this summer. Might this be you? For more information contact Peter Saunders at the CMF office.

Members' News

Congratulations

On their awards and appointments

Ron Hiles

OBE for medical services to the community in Bangladesh

John Holden

MD, Manchester University

Malcolm Savage

DRCOG

Steve Waters

MFOM

Outgoing

Ann Fursdon (Nottingham) to France

Peter Kaye (Cambridge) to New Zealand

Marko Kerac (UCL) to Malawi

Hannah Blencowe (Bristol) to Malawi

Jamie Erskine (Barts) to Gambia

Katy McConkey (Manchester) to Sudan

Trudy Wignall (Liverpool) to New Zealand

Sarah Clancy (Glasgow) to South Africa

John Baigent (Leeds) to Cameroon

Katrina Butterworth (Newcastle) to Nepal

Homecoming

Sally Hall (Birmingham) from Gambia

Catherine Hayhurst (Oxford) from Gambia

Valerie Inchley (Liverpool) from Nepal

Jenny Gonde (Kings' College) from Kenya

Jennifer Blackman (Bristol) from South Africa

Change of address abroad

Karen Henriksen from Angola to Namibia

Obituaries

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

Brian Aldous (*q* Bristol 1941; *d* 24 October 2003) was a GP in Bristol after service in the RAMC.

David Clarke (*q* St Thomas' 1975; *d* 6 January 2004) worked in Public Health Medicine in London.

Samuel Hamill (*q* Belfast 1944; *d* 11 January 2004) was a retired GP who lived in Kent.

George Lambert (*q* Charing Cross 1937; *d* 3 February 2004) served with the RAMC before working as a GP in South Africa, Leicester and Nuneaton.

Christopher Maddox OBE (*q* Cambridge 1936; *d* 7 January 2004) was a missionary in Thailand.

William Munro (*q* Edinburgh 1952; *d* 28 December 2003) was the chief executive of SALT (Stress and Life Trust).

James Willocks (*q* Glasgow 1951; *d* 3 February 2004) was a retired consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in Glasgow.

Zofia Wronska (*q* 1958) worked in psychiatry in Yorkshire.

Conferences and Breakfasts

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

Saline Solution Roadshow

65 doctors and students attended the Cambridge *Saline Solution* Conference on 28 February led by Bob Snyder, Kevin Vaughan and Peter Saunders. The day conference, on integrating faith and practice, will visit eight other venues in May/June (p5).

Media Training 2004

Basic media training days in London will be on Thursday 6 May and Friday 7 May. Two advanced courses will be held this year – early life issues 28-29 May; developing world issues 26-27 November. Autumn courses are being planned for Belfast and Manchester.

Students

Mark Pickering writes



Mark Pickering

International Students' Preconference

The annual International Students' Preconference (9-13 February) took place immediately before the National Students'

Conference. 22 students came from Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. The preconference aims to train medical student leaders, especially in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and principally where groups of Christian medical students are at an early stage. They spent a week in London staying with CMF students, having lectures on the integration of Christianity and medicine, and visiting medical units run by CMF members. Representatives from Germany, USA and Canada were there in order to see how similar initiatives might be developed in their own countries to catalyse medical student ministry in surrounding regions.

Once For All

The 2004 National Students' Conference on 13-15 February was a great success and a cause to praise God for his goodness. After a last minute rush (as usual!) 339 finally made it there to hear Nigel Lee on Hebrews, Marjory Foyle on mission and a host of excellent seminars. Students from almost every UK medical school joined international students from more than 15 countries for a wonderful weekend of



Delegates from Russia, Hungary, Lithuania and Latvia

Junior Doctors

Sarah Germain writes



Sarah Germain

Turning the Tide

Peter Saunders and James Tomlinson led this conference on applying a biblical mindset to medical ethics in Bristol on 20 March. About 16 doctors and

medical students attended. We plan to run a roadshow using the same material later; watch this space.

Beyond the Bleep

The national juniors weekend conference will be held at Hothorpe Hall,

Summer Teams

The annual flurry of CMF summer team activity is fast approaching. This year we plan again to send student/doctor teams to several countries (such as Armenia, Latvia, Russia and Ukraine) during July and August in order to build links with local medics there. Teams involve a mixture of biblical, ethical, discipleship and medical teaching. Is there a group going from your local area? Are you



Students before a main session

fellowship, teaching and encouragement. Fantastic book offers, early morning praise & prayer, a late-night question and answer session and even Valentine's red roses all added to a wonderful atmosphere. Medical student groups up and down the country were revitalised and equipped for the year ahead. Plans are already being laid for next year's conference, so please pray for the Students' Coordinating Committee (SCC) who will be organising this.

Leicestershire on 8-10 October. Bible readings will centre on Philippians. Publicity out soon.

Juniors' Open House Meetings

continue to spread and spring up everywhere. See p8 for details. A yahoo discussion group has been set up for open house leaders or anyone interested in starting a group (contact Will Chang for details on wycchang@hotmail.com). An open house start up guide is available on request from the office. Email Sandra Hartley on sandra.hartley@cmf.org.uk.

Pastoral Care Links

Because of problems instituting the new Oracle database, we have not been able to link up PRHOs or first year SHOs with pastoral carers this February; but will have the system up and running again for the August changeover.

interested in joining a team? Contact Laurence Crutchlow on loz@doctors.org.uk in order to find out more details.

Students' Coordinating Committee

Priya Ghosh (Bart's and the London) has taken over from Matt Oliver as chairman of the SCC, which organises the National Students' Conference and other central CMF student events. Please keep Priya and John Greenall (vice-chair) in your prayers.

Elective Days

Around 70 students attended this year's two electives days in Leeds (6 March) and London (17 March).

Lots of information and free booklets on planning your electives are available at www.healthserve.org/electives/ and Peter Armon, the CMF Overseas Secretary, is always on hand to offer advice (peter.armon@cmf.org.uk).

ICMDA European Conference, 5-12 September

See the ICMDA section of this newsletter for further details.

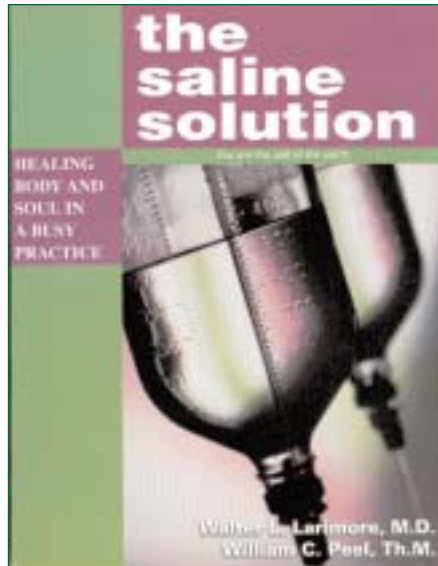
All CMF students should have received a conference brochure with this mailing. We are very keen to get a good number of UK students there. Have you thought about sending a group from your medical school? CMF is planning to organise group travel from London; contact Sandra Hartley on students@cmf.org.uk for further information.



Evangelism

The Saline Solution Roadshow

There is now a growing recognition in the medical literature of the important link



between spirituality and health and even the GMC has ruled that sharing faith with patients is fine as long as it is done in an appropriate and sensitive way!

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. *Saline Solution* 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: flavouring life with grace.

The *Saline Solution* roadshow, led by Peter Saunders, Kevin Vaughan and Jeremy Franklin, visits eight venues this May/June with more day conferences planned for the autumn. You will be mailed for any event near you; and can obtain publicity about any other event from the CMF office at events@cmf.org.uk or on the website at www.cmf.org.uk. Enter the day in your 'Personal Development Plan' and book now.

Bridgend	Wed 19 May
Bristol	Thu 20 May
Edinburgh	Wed 2 June
Glasgow	Thu 3 June
Burrswood	Wed 9 June
Eastbourne	Wed 16 June
Liverpool	Wed 23 June
Manchester	Thu 24 June

and *Nucleus* (*News Review*). If you don't get a paper copy of either the full text of both is available on the CMF website.



John Wyatt

With the **Gender Recognition Bill** having passed through the Lords and now at Report Stage in the Commons, transsexuality is very topical, and is the subject of the April *CMF File* and also the *How I'd handle it* column in *Triple Helix*. It is very likely indeed to become law, thus allowing transsexuals to change their birth certificates and putting others at risk of charges of discrimination for not treating them in accordance with their chosen gender.

Four key court cases will hit the news in the next few months. We are currently awaiting High Court judges' verdicts on **Leslie Burke's** judicial review of the GMC guidance on withholding and withdrawing treatment, and **Natallie Evans'** attempt to have her frozen embryos implanted against the wishes of her former partner.

Joanna Jepson returns to the High Court on 24 May to challenge the West Mercia police department's failure to investigate a case of late abortion for cleft palate; and the **Prolife Alliance** go to the House of Lords to challenge last year's Court of Appeal decision to allow the **Hashmi family** to create a designer sibling to provide transplant material for their son Zain who has thalassemia major.

CMF members are urged to put pen to paper and write to members of the House of Lords Select Committee on Euthanasia, which has been set up in response to Lord Joffe's *Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill*. There are at least three Christians on the committee including the chairman Lord MacKay and former Professor of Surgery Lord McColl. You can find more information in Peter Saunders' *Triple Helix* editorials, along with news of the government consultation *Choosing Health?* where CMF members could also make a real contribution.

Please continue to pray for our country's political leaders and judiciary as they consider these serious matters of life and death.

Publications

Allister Vale writes

'the revelation awaits an appointed time... though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come'

The prophet Habakkuk's immortal words could well have applied to the printing of Andrew Fergusson's long awaited *Hard Questions about Health and Healing*, which will be out very soon. We apologise for the further delays due to the pressures in the CMF office and the busyness of the publications committee.

However we are delighted to announce that the *Developing Health CD* is available now and will be on sale at the national conference. It contains hundreds of articles and teaching resources on issues relevant to all working in developing countries.

The *CMF Files* are now available in Chinese on the internet at www.doctorluke.org. It is wonderful to see them available in a language spoken by over 1.5 billion people!

Our official websites at www.cmf.org.uk and www.ethicsforschools.org are now due for a further facelift, and Nick Mott, formerly of *MMA Healthserve*, will work on this. We plan to launch the upgraded sites in the autumn. Nick designed the *Healthserve* site, which now comes under CMF. Have a look at www.healthserve.org.

Ethics

John Wyatt writes

Medical Ethics issues continue to make waves as 'top stories' on the Media; and get good coverage in this quarter's edition of *Triple Helix* (editorials and *Eutychnus*)

Mission Matters



Peter Armon

Peter Armon writes Questionnaires on Overseas involvement

I have been reviewing the returns on a questionnaire that

I circulated to all those listed on our database as 'missionary' – during the last few months. The survey has revealed that we in fact only have a maximum of 118 members in full time posts overseas with 8 members in the pipeline to go. We also have 15 overseas nationals that I would call 'associate' overseas members.

At the same time, I have reviewed the results of the questionnaire that was sent out to all our UK members with the April mailing in 2003 asking for details of current involvement in overseas matters.

Of those who responded, just over 150 stated that they are currently involved in various short term visits and activities overseas on a regular basis and another 320 expressed an interest in getting involved in some way either now or in the future.

The next step will be to put this data onto our new database. It is hoped to set up various subsets, including a Locum database. It is anticipated that the survey will need to be repeated on a regular basis to keep abreast of changing circumstances.

It appears that, while the needs overseas haven't changed (in many countries the situation has worsened in terms of healthcare provision) over the last decade, the way our members are responding to that need has changed with fewer going out into full time service but many more actively involved part-time or wanting to help in some way.

If you would like to be alerted of overseas needs as they arise, why not add your name to our email alert database. Contact: Laura@healthserve.org

Sabbaticals, holidays and Locums needed during the next 12 months

Two of our overseas members have

emailed seeking locums for themselves and a colleague. An excellent opportunity for some of the 145 members who said they would be interested in taking holiday time to undertake the occasional locum and for those who might be wondering what to do with a sabbatical! You may not be able to cover the whole time but it could be that a number of folk could cover the period between them and it could be a matter of whatever you can offer will help. Full details are listed in the current copy of *Triple Helix*.

If you want more ideas, then have a browse through the short term opportunities section on our website at www.healthserve.org or look on the Healthserve Pages under – 'sending and receiving organisations' and click on – 'organisations offering short term service opportunities' or consider taking up the locums mentioned above.

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

The programme is now available from the CMF Office and will soon be on our overseas website at www.healthserve.org

As well as the usual interactive lecture programme a number of workshops have been included covering Paediatrics, Tropical Medicine, Surgery, Reproductive Health and a whole day dedicated to HIV/AIDS.

Virtually all of our speakers have worked overseas and a number of this year's lecturers are currently working overseas.

Several of the days have been specialty linked and day visitors will be welcomed at a special price of £50, which includes lunch and supper.

Royal College/VSO Fellowships encourage Trainee involvement overseas

In the light of the DOH document encouraging the involvement of NHS employees (including those in training grades) in working overseas (see International Humanitarian and Health Work – www.doh.gov.uk), it is good to note that both the Royal Colleges of Paediatrics and Obstetric and Gynaecology have established links with VSO and each offer joint one year Fellowships to assist training periods in accredited posts overseas. Contact these Colleges for the details.

A Global Connections Healthcare Forum Conference – November 2004

This year's forum will consider the impact of HIV/AIDS on the training strategies of mission agencies, churches and Bible Colleges. Watch this space for further details.

Building Healthcare Professionals for the future – 5-8 September 2004

Organised by PRIME as a precursor to the ICMDA European Conference at Krelingen nr Hanover Germany, the Conference aims to bring together not only the minds but the hearts of Christians committed to healthcare education. Interactive workshops will enable participants to build futures for their own individual circumstances.

Details with this mailing and available from Dr John Geater. Email: j.geater@which.net

The screenshot shows the MMA HealthServe website interface. At the top, it says 'Celebrating 125 Years 1879-2004'. The main navigation menu includes: Home, About Us, News Archive, Opportunities, HealthServe Pages, Publications, Student Devices, Refresh Course, Events & Courses, Useful Web Links, Healthcare Sunday, Supporting Us, Site Map. There are search boxes for 'Search this site' and 'Search healthcare & medical mission opportunities'. The main content area features a 'Today's Devotion' section with a photo of a woman and child, and text about worship CDs and support. The right sidebar contains a sign-up for email alerts, a 'News' section with a 'Medical missions handbook' available on-line, and a 'New Edition of "Preparing for your Medical Elective Overseas" Goes On-Line' announcement.



International Christian Medical and Dental Association

**From Daryl Hackland, ICMDA
General Secretary**

**Visit to India, Bangladesh
and Singapore –
17-27 February 2004**

'Let us thank God for using us to serve the poor, oppressed and sick through CMAB... Knowing our limitations let us not give up our hope for the future certainty of the new Kingdom'

With these words Dr Ratu Saha, the Vice President of CMAB (Christian Medical Association of Bangladesh) addressed the 150 delegates attending the 48th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Association in Dhaka, in which I was privileged to share. The theme was 'Go in Peace'. We are peace 'takers' because Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Nurses, Administrators and doctors together were renewed for the fresh challenges awaiting in the 30 health care institutions (clinics/hospitals/missions) in Bangladesh, which name him Lord of Lords.

After that I travelled to India to meet with the teams of the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) in Delhi and the Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India (EMFI) in Chennai (Madras). The vibrancy of the work for the Lord was so much in evidence. Meetings with members of both organisations afforded opportunity to share in the work of ICMDA and to consider ways and means of growing in relevance to all our member organisations.

An afternoon spent with the Director Dr Vinod Shah and Deputy Director (Dr Varghese Phillip) of the *Emmanuel Hospital Association* continued the encouraging story of opportunities grasped by his faithful followers to meet the needs of the poor and sick with the compassion of Christ. Hot on their agenda was the request from the people of NE India (Nagaland – 90% Christian) to establish a Christian Medical College and Hospital there with Government funding. The Lord continues to open the doors of opportunity for service.

A memorable day visit to the Christian Medical College of Vellore and the Hospital was astounding. Established in the early 1900's, Ida Scudder, starting with a one-bed woman's hospital opened the College in 1918 to train Indian women to become doctors. It now stands as a pinnacle of commitment to a service of excellence to all, patients and students

alike. Dr George Chandy, the President Director, invites ICMDA to hold a Conference there. Let us not forget the pioneering Spirit of those who fulfil the Lord's call 'Whom shall I send and who will go for me' (Isaiah 6:8). Does he hear our reply 'I will go! Send me!'

And this was the overwhelming sense of response to our Lord in Singapore as members shared and met together and as students (50) gathered at the Varsity Christian Fellowship to speak about 'Being Christ's witness in the work place' and 'Keeping our faith on track for Christ'. Everywhere the disciples are speaking about Mission – to underserved areas, providing opportunities for missionary doctors for updates, going on short missions, being engaged in services to creative access countries (ie. no open access to Christians).

Then back to the office with glorious stories of walking in our living Lord. Thanks be to God.

Daryl Hackland
Email: icmda@webstormsa.co.za

**From Peter Pattison, ICMDA
European Regional Secretary**

Krelingen 2004

**6th ICMDA European Conference
nr Hanover, Germany
8-12 September 2004**

With this mailing comes the Final Invitation to ICMDA's 6th European conference, set at conference grounds in beautiful countryside north of Hanover,

Germany. It is a pleasant drive (500 miles from Calais). BA and BMI fly to Hanover, Ryanair to Lubeck, near Hamburg. Transfers are arranged from Hanover and possibly from Lubeck. Early booking secures cheaper flights.

To facilitate maximal UK involvement in this at both student and graduate levels the following arrangements are in hand:

CMF are organising a coach from London (Maybe two coaches if sufficient demand) Details from CMF office.

Registration may be made through the ICMDA European office with payment by sterling cheque made out to *ICMDA (UK) Trust*. Address below. (Standardised exchange rate £1 = 1.4 euros)

To facilitate maximal East European participation we are still asking the Lord (and you!) for gifts to the bursary fund (see yellow slip inside the final announcement) Average individual grants will be around £100. Currently the fund stands at slightly over half the target of £20,000. If the Lord stirs your heart, gifts may be sent to the ICMDA European office and can be increased through gift-aid arrangements.

If you didn't receive a conference announcement with this mailing they can be obtained from the CMF office or the ICMDA European office.

Peter Pattison
*ICMDA European Office, Russets,
Woodlands, Pembury, Kent TN2 4AZ*
Tel: 01892 824872.
Email: icmda@ukonline.co.uk

Finance Matters

The normally jovial and smiling face that has beamed out at you from many issues of *CMF News* over the last four years, has not been smiling much recently, due to the significant problems we have encountered in the office during the last three months! I am most conscious that we are many months behind in asking members for their annual subscription, and we have received many gifts and subscriptions since the end of November, which we have not yet been able to acknowledge due to the very extensive difficulties associated with upgrading our membership database.

As a consequence we have not yet been able to produce 12 months accounts for 2003, nor finalise a budget for 2004. Charles Otim and I are now making progress in starting the catch up process, but please accept our apologies for the unacceptably lengthy delays. Normal service, and my smile should return soon!



Giles Rawlinson