

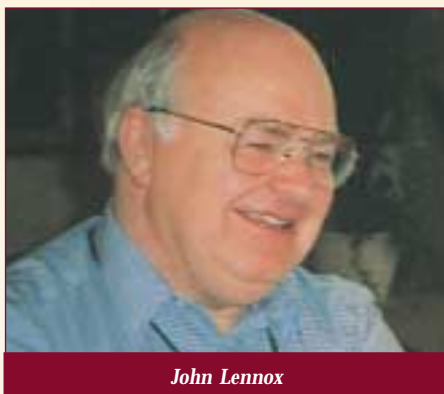
Practising God's presence

No matter which branch of medicine we are in, we work in a fast, ever changing environment. The demands on our time from patient expectation, bureaucracy, form-filling, management and meetings have never been greater. And yet, we are also called to have a personal walk with God our Father, who intimately cares about every aspect of our lives, including where we work, who we interact with there and the challenges and issues that face us.

'Practising the presence of God' was the theme of this year's CMF national conference at the Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire on 23-25 April. Over 200 delegates enjoyed a wonderful time of teaching and fellowship with the highlights being John Lennox's excellent Bible teaching, and an inspiring Rendle Short Lecture from Derek Munday.

John Lennox is Fellow in Mathematics and Philosophy at Green College, Oxford and formerly Senior Fellow at the Whitefield Institute, which exists to discover ways that Christians can have a positive role in today's world. He has a keen interest in the interface of Christianity and Science, Work and Medical Ethics and his superb Bible expositions really hit the mark. He not only took us deeply into the text, but also gave us a vision of glory and heaven, exciting us about doing our medical work to the glory of God in the present. Just what we tired, busy doctors weighed down by forces that are beyond our control, needed to hear.

The 2004 Rendle Short lecture, given by Derek Munday, was entitled 'A kingdom divided against itself? - Practising the presence of God at the clinician/management interface'. Derek, who leads *Christians in Caring Professions* and was, until recently, Clinical Director of Wokingham PCT, explored the relationship between the clinician and the manager, and the need to face complex and difficult realities. He gave us real insight into the forces shaping our health service which so many of us feel are beyond our control along with some real



John Lennox

practical help in building God's kingdom in this environment.

A wide range of topical seminars on subjects as diverse as asylum seekers, stress and burnout, handling litigation and dealing with difficult colleagues completed a very full and stimulating programme.

'You cheered up the Lord's people, fed them spiritually, and advanced the kingdom of God significantly. Not a bad weekend's work....', was a typical comment in the many letters of thanks sent to the West Midlands organising committee.

Everywhere people are starting to wake up to the idea that God is hugely interested in our work, and in the way we do it.

Another delegate summed up the weekend, 'It was one of the best National Conferences I have been to at CMF. I thought John Lennox was brilliant as a Bible Reader with both tremendous theological depth and also great passion with plenty of personal application.'

The conference theme really struck a chord with delegates - because it opened our eyes to the sovereignty of God in the workplace. I believe that God is doing something very significant in our nation at present. Everywhere people are starting to wake up to the idea that God is hugely interested in our work, and in the way we do it. There is definitely a new wind of

God's Spirit blowing. Christian ministries are seeking to equip God's people to be salt and light in the workplace.

Our own national conference and *Saline Solution* programme, which seeks to help us integrate faith and practice, are part of this new movement. Across the Atlantic, the *Saline Solution* is being adapted for all professions under the title *Going Public*, equipping Christians in all fields to integrate their faith and work and bear witness to Christ through their words and deeds. Mark Greene's *Faith at Work Seminars*, being run by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, are another expression of the same theme. The *Clapham Connections* project, just launched this year, is bringing Christian professional organisations like CMF together, motivated by the Clapham sect of the late 18th century, to inspire them in transforming our society. And *Christian Viewpoint for Men* recently ran a conference on the theme of 'Getting God to Work' aimed at helping Christian men to 'be godly at work.'

Of course there is nothing new about practising God's presence at work. It is thoroughly biblical and resonates with the heart of God. If you missed the national conference then please order the tapes - and let's continue to meet together, in local groups and at conferences throughout the autumn, continuing to stir each other up and encourage one another to love and good works - in the workplace.

'We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in all our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Thessalonians 1:2,3)

Peter Saunders
CMF General Secretary



Peter Saunders

From the Chairman

Chris Summerton writes



Chris Summerton

I joined CMF in 1977 as a first year medical student and a recent convert to Christianity. I wanted to be involved with a movement concerned with bringing Christian values into healthcare.

However, there were things that frustrated me. As a new Christian with radical leanings, I found the fellowship to be rather conservative! I longed for an organisation where:

- Leadership might spring from Spiritual passion and maturity, not simply from worldly title and qualifications
- People would be committed to treating the ills of the whole person, whether that be in body, mind or spirit
- We could speak out clearly on issues of moral importance in a society adrift from God's standards

Looking at CMF in 2004, I feel that we have moved closer to these personal dreams and aspirations. I have been warmed and inspired by the faith of Executive members and staff. People are making bold decisions to follow where they feel God is leading. One example of this was the decision to increase our office space threefold. People have also been able to hang onto God in times of frustration and difficulty, such as in the aftermath of the death of our office manager John Alford.

I am particularly excited that CMF is engaging the issue of sharing faith with patients. We have always stressed the importance of sharing faith with colleagues. But our new constitution widens our responsibilities 'to all those that we meet'. We have taken the *Saline Solution* training course (developed by our US sister organisation CMDA) and are currently running a roadshow around the country. This is a hugely helpful and practical tool to give ideas and pointers for the spiritual care of our patients.

CMF has always been good at producing high quality publications and papers on issues of medical ethics and practice. In many circumstances, we know *what* we should say, but now our challenge now is to learn *how* to speak out. Our website

is an effective means of communication with the computer generation and we are being aided in our work with the Media by a consultancy run by the Evangelical Alliance. We are also developing a network of representatives around the country who are equipped through media training courses and available to the press at short notice as issues arise.

More than that through our extensive links with ICMDA, and our merger with *MMA Healthserve* we have opportunities to help build God's Kingdom in a hurting and broken world, 'to the very ends of the earth'.

I would particularly encourage you to bring CMF's various ministries to the place of prayer. I do not want the CMF to be an organisation that relies solely on its personnel and financial resources. If we stay within those boundaries, we may do much but we will not do *all* that God intends for us.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV)

Chris Summerton

Abridged from annual address to the CMF General Committee on 19 June 2004

Staff News



Richard Knox

Richard Knox has been appointed as Midlands staffworker, working four sessions per week from August 2004. Richard will be based in Birmingham and will be supporting Christian medical students in

Birmingham, Warwick and Leicester. Richard qualified MBChB in Birmingham in 2001, and will be continuing flexible training in general practice alongside his CMF post. He already knows many of the students well having served with CMF as relay worker in Birmingham and Warwick over the last year. Richard is a member of St John's, Harborne and his interests include drama, singing and skydiving!

Tim Hinks has been appointed as South England staffworker, working four sessions per week for two years from August 2004, alongside an MD research post in respiratory medicine. Tim will be based in Oxford and will be supporting Christian medical students in Oxford, Southampton



Tim Hinks

and Imperial College, London. Tim qualified MBChB in Oxford in 2001, and is married to Naomi, also medically qualified. Their first child Samuel was born in June this year. Tim is a member of St Ebbe's Oxford, and a keen hang glider.

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

Goodbye Chris, Kerry and Laurence

This summer we sadly say goodbye to Chris Downing and Kerry Waterfield who have served as student staffworkers in South and North-East England respectively since summer 2002. Both have made a huge contribution to Christian students over the last two years. Chris returns to training in Accident and Emergency and Kerry to palliative care. Also to Laurence Crutchlow, our London relay worker since

summer 2003, who has done a sterling job in London in the absence of a staffworker. Laurence returns to GP training in Birmingham. Thank you so much Chris, Kerry and Laurence.

More new student staff

We are currently interviewing for further student staffworker posts and hope to announce further new appointments in the October *CMF News*.

Further student staff needed

There are current vacancies for student staffworkers in West London, East London/East Anglia and Ireland and in February there will be vacancies in South-West England and Scotland. 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 and 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.



Upcoming CMF Events

Please check the dates of upcoming conferences on page 8 and on the CMF website.

CMF Regional Conferences

Weekend regional conferences are being held this autumn in Scarborough (15-17 October), East Sussex (12-14 November) and Glasgow (19-21 November). Day conferences will take place in London (5 November), Oxford (6 November), Nottingham (6 November) and Cardiff (20 November). Individual booking forms will be mailed regionally and also available on the CMF website under 'Events'.

Saline Solution

Following the very successful May/June tour a further roadshow of regional day conferences is being planned for October and November. Individual booking forms will be mailed regionally and also available on the CMF website under 'Events'.

Media Training

A basic media-training day will be held in Manchester on 22 October. An advanced course on developing world issues will take place in London, 26-27 November. Details from CMF office.

Students



Mark Pickering

Mark Pickering writes

Exams are over and the student year for many has drawn to a close. Do pray for CMF's 1,000 student members as they take a well-earned break.

On 11 May the annual London students' Missionary Breakfast took place in Guy's Tower and 42 students heard David Yorston speak powerfully on, 'The Blind Receive Sight - the role of eye health in medical mission'.

We have been greatly blessed by being co-opted onto the BMA Medical Students' Committee (MSC) for the last five years. Lee Collier (St George's) and Ib Adedugbe (deputy - Imperial) represented us this

year. At the annual MSC conference on 2,3 April CMF members had motions passed on the importance of behaviour change in sexual health promotion, ethnic bias in UK graduate entry medical courses and provision of care for babies surviving abortion. The last two of these were later passed at the BMA ARM and have become BMA policy. Sadly we have not been co-opted onto the MSC for next year as an organisation, but a number of CMF students will stand in their own right.

CMF Summer Teams

Student/doctor summer teams go out each July and August, mainly to help run evangelistic camps. Most are led by CMF student Staffworkers - past, present and future. This year teams are planned in Kursk (Russia), Samara (Russia), Simferopol (Ukraine), Yerevan (Armenia), Spille (Albania), Latvia, Bulgaria and at a further location in Central Asia. Much prayer is needed for planning, finance and team members.

ICMDA European Conference, 5-12 September

CMF has allocated £2,600 to help sponsor UK student members to go to this strategic conference in Germany, which over 250 students from all over Europe and the former USSR will attend.

Leaders' Conference

At the start of each academic year we get student staff and student leaders together for a weekend of prayer, worship, teaching and encouragement. This year we'll be gathering on 24-26 September in Worcestershire. Former staffworker Alex Bunn will be leading the Bible reading on the life of Nehemiah.

Freshers

The new academic year begins in October. Over the next few months over 250 students will join CMF. Please pray for members involved in running freshers' events as they befriend new believers and encourage and support each other - especially in the new medical schools in Brighton, Hull and York, Keele and Derby where groups are only just being established. Do pray especially for our student reps (over 50) and medical school secretaries who work so hard in encouraging and supporting local groups.

National Conference 2005

Richard Cunningham, former UCCF Head of Student Ministries, and Dave Stevens, Executive Director of CMDA, have been confirmed as main speakers.

Junior Doctors



Sarah Germain

Sarah Germain writes

After brainstorming ideas as a whole committee, we're using sub-committees to flesh out the details for our various conferences, allowing more time at meetings to discuss and develop new ideas. Each of the committee members now has their own portfolio, under the four main aims of CMF

Juniors' conference

The juniors' national 'Beyond the Bleep' weekend conference will be held at Hothorpe Hall Leicestershire on 8-10 October. Bible readings will be based on Philippians with the title 'To live is Christ'. The main speaker is Chris Lambert and publicity will be out soon.

New book

We are hoping to produce a 'Surviving House Years' book. Please pray that the right people will be available to take on the role of co-ordinating this.

Local support

As working patterns have moved towards full and partial shifts, it is much harder for juniors to be able to attend national conferences. This is when the local CMF groups are so crucial in supporting and praying for the juniors in their areas. Open House meetings have proven very beneficial, so pray that these will continue to start up in new areas. Also please be praying for any juniors whom you know personally, during what can be a very tough few years, with frequent moves, exams etc, that they will remain faithful in their walk with God and be witnesses to all those that they meet.

Evangelism



Kevin Vaughan

Kevin Vaughan writes

The Saline Roadshow

'Spirituality' is the new buzzword in healthcare – everybody is using it but few are able to define it. But

a recent *British Medical Journal* editorial reviewed over 1,000 articles on the subject, of which over 80% showed a strong link between spirituality and health.

The *Saline Solution* course has been adapted by CMF for the UK in response to this growing recognition of the important link between spiritual and physical well-being and a ruling by the General Medical Council that doctors may share their faith with patients if it is done in an appropriate and sensitive way. It aims to help Christian doctors and other healthcare professionals bring their faith into the consultation effectively and appropriately.

Throughout May and June the *Saline Solution* roadshow visited eight locations from Edinburgh to Cardiff – and over 200 doctors attended day conferences. These included interactive sessions focusing on doctor/patient communication, spiritual therapeutics and diagnosis, and were led by Peter Saunders, Jeremy Franklin and myself. The reception has been very positive.

We have had some very valuable feedback and plan to adapt the course further prior to running a further series of day conferences in the autumn. Watch this space.

European Leadership Forum

The European Apologetics Network (now the European Leadership Forum) was launched at the Hope 21 conference in Budapest in 2002 and has just had its third annual conference from in June 2004 in Sopron, Hungary with 300 leaders from 20 countries. About 20 Christian doctors attended, mainly from the UK, but also including five from Eastern Europe sponsored by CMF. Former CMF staffworker Jim Paul taught our *Confident Christianity* course whilst Student Secretary Mark Pickering ran another half day seminar on *Answering Other Faiths*.

Publications



Allister Vale

Allister Vale writes

Andrew Fergusson's new book *Hard Questions about Health and Healing* was at proof stage as *CMF News* went to press.

The editing of *Mad, Bad and Sad* is also progressing well and is expected to be completed by December 2004, though the final chapter is awaited. Chapters include: *Sociological aspects of evil; What is mental disorder? Childhood influences on antisocial behaviour; Antisocial personality disorder and psychiatric disorder; The mentally ill offender; Substance misuse and antisocial behaviour; Christian approaches to treatment; Demons and evil.*

The Russian translation of Bernard Palmer's popular book *Cure for Life* has now been printed by *Bible for All* in St Petersburg (5,000 copies). The total cost (translation and printing) met by CMF was £3,250. Distribution is being arranged through contacts in ICMDA, IFES, Scripture Union, Campus Crusade and Operation Mobilisation.

The CMF website received 216,479 visits in 2003, and we plan to produce a new CD-ROM of the site soon. In many parts of the world internet connections are not good, but access to computers is excellent, so over 1,000 copies of the 2003 CD-ROM will be given away to doctors in developing countries through ICMDA conferences this year. A completely redesigned website will be launched in the autumn. Meanwhile over 2,000 copies of the Developing Health CD-ROM have been produced at a total cost of £1,328 and the plan is similarly to give most away in the developing world.

Ethics



John Wyatt

John Wyatt writes

In our democratic society we have the inestimable privilege of making our voice heard in the public arena and with legislators. As a Fellowship we can play a strategic role,

and our aim is to provide thoughtful and clear written resources for students and doctors and authoritative submissions to official bodies. CMF members are urged to write to MPs and members of Select Committees to support Christian values in their deliberations.

Lord Joffe's Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill has been reintroduced into the House of Lords as the *Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill*. It has passed a second reading, and a Select Committee, chaired by Lord MacKay, has already met and will shortly be calling for evidence. The *Mental Capacity Bill*, dealing with advance directives, proxy decision-making and research in individuals with learning disabilities has now had its first reading and may very soon become law. The *Gender Recognition Bill*, which seeks to protect the rights of transsexuals, now only requires the Queen's signature to become law.

Abortion has been constantly in the news of late. The judicial review of the high-profile case involving late termination for cleft palate is now on hold as the West Mercia police have finally agreed to investigate. A Channel 4 documentary on abortion, *My Foetus*, watched by a huge late night audience, caused huge controversy and debate. The BMA has passed a motion calling for babies surviving abortion to be given proper neonatal care and a new high-resolution ultrasound scanning technique has shown babies in the womb in more detail than ever before. All this has led to calls for revision of the abortion laws.

CMF has recently made official submissions to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on Human Reproductive Technologies and to the Department of Health consultation *Choosing Health?* Both are easily available from the CMF website.

The *CMF Files* continue to have wide distribution amongst medical students and sixth-formers in the UK and increasingly internationally. The latest on Speciesism is included in this mailing. Our next two files will on *Neonatal ethics* and *Autonomy*. The Chinese translation of files 1-24 is now available both on the internet at www.doctorluke.org and on CD-ROM, and is being made into a book. In addition to material at a popular level, the Study Group is aiming to encourage the submission of scholarly papers on ethical topics to international medical journals.



Mission Matters



Peter Armon

Peter Armon writes

I was recently privileged to attend the ICMDA Southern Africa Regional Conference which was held in Malawi at the end of April. Over 200

delegates, both graduates and students, from nine different countries, attended the Conference, which was held in a beautiful setting on the shore of Lake Malawi. 'Change our lives and change our Lands', was the theme. It was wonderful to experience the vitality and enthusiasm of the participants and the great desire for radical change involving both repentance and the willingness to respond to God's call to service (see p7 for full report).

As Daryl Hackland the new ICMDA President, who was also present, commented, 'It was good to be together

in Malawi and to share both in fellowship and in the happenings at the conference regarding the moving of the Spirit in the lives of those who were there towards effective witness for the Lord in the national affairs of the countries represented. This was so encouraging and remarkable, especially through the positive Christian Leadership being demonstrated by many key role players which was evident through their contributions at the conference.'

It was 28 years since my wife and I were last in Malawi and it was equally interesting to note the changes in the country. We enjoyed wonderful hospitality from both overseas members and the local people – as one would expect from the 'Warm heart of Africa' – but it was sad to see the increasing divide between rich and poor Malawians and to note that Healthcare provision seems to have worsened rather than improved over the years.

Malawi Profile – food for thought

Current population – 11.6 million
Aged 0 – 14 years – 46.8% – including an orphan population of 800,000 children

There are 156 doctors working in the MoH and Christian Hospital Sector which is 700 short of the number required to reach a ratio of 1 per 12,000 of the population recommended by WHO (1974) and comparable to 161 in post in 1984. There are no doctors in 4 of the 27 Districts of Malawi. Of a requirement for 115 surgeons, only 17 posts are filled; 4 out of 14 posts for anaesthetists; 11 out of 126 posts in O&G; 3 out of 65 posts for Physicians and 5 out of 60 in Paediatrics.

The nursing situation is equally serious – 64% of the established 6,084 nursing and midwifery posts in the public sector are vacant. The total number of 2,178 is slightly less than the 2,225 in post in 1984 when the population was 7 million. In 2002, 103 nurses left the country (83 to go to the UK) and in 2003, 108 nurses left (90 to go to the UK)

27% of public sector posts for Clinical Officers and 53% of the 692 established posts for Medical Assistants are also vacant.

(Based on a Malawi Ministry of Health Survey, April 2004)

Overseas Opportunities

Malawi is only one of many countries in a similar position. Visit the opportunities pages on the overseas website at www.healthserve.org or read the Opportunities Abroad section of *Triple Helix* to see that many vacancies exist in other parts of the world as well.

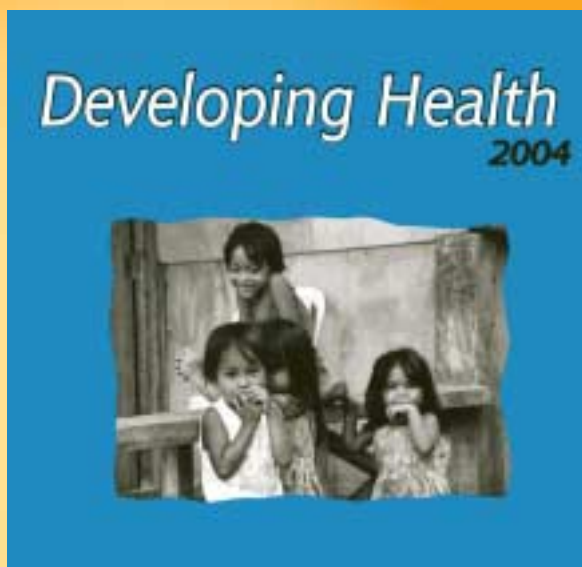
Moving on to Tanzania, it was interesting to hear a Tanzanian saying that 'what this country needs most is older people with the skills and experience to teach our people. Our people respect the wisdom of the older person and will listen to him/her far more than they will to the younger person'

Retirees take note! There are many opportunities for those thinking of taking early retirement to make a valuable contribution to healthcare overseas.

Developing Health CD Rom

As the cover sleeve to this new CMF produced CD states, it contains 60 sets of notes and 30 PowerPoint presentations from the last three Refresher Courses, together with 40 sets of notes from the US based website *eMedicine*; 23 editions of the *Journal of Community Eye Health*, *Developing Mental Health* and *Repair and Reconstruction Journals*, the *Healthserve Pages* from the CMF overseas website, the Kisiizi Hospital Medical Staff handbook, *Elective Life Support* – an eight week devotional guide for Elective students and much more.

Many thanks are due to Ian Spillman, Nick Mott and Jacky Engel, who have put so much effort in bringing this resource to birth. It is intended to be a resource to those working in resource poor situations overseas. If you know of any such that you think would benefit from copies or if you are travelling abroad yourself to such a country, you are welcome to contact the CMF Office for free copies to take with you and leave behind.



Members' News

Congratulations

On their awards and appointments

Dominic Beer FRCPsych

Victoria Smith MRCP

Sarah Ross MD

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

Outgoing

Alexander Colquhoun (Glasgow) to USA

Valerie Inchley (Liverpool) to Nepal

Roy Jones (Sheffield) to Chad

Mark Stirling (Glasgow) to USA

Homecoming

Elizabeth Borlase (Sheffield) from Kenya

Ann Fursdon (Nottingham) from France

Nicholas Henwood (Oxford) from Nepal

Wendy Hodge (Dundee) from Pakistan

Helen Hughes (Leeds) from Cayman Islands

Maureen Stevenson (Belfast) from Malawi

Change of address abroad

Gisela Schneider (Germany) from Gambia to Germany

Obituaries

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

John Harte (q St Mary's 1952; d January 2004) was a retired GP living in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

James Johnston (q Belfast 1959; d 2004) was a retired doctor living in Co Down.

Jocelyn Kelsey (q Cambridge 1951; d April 2004) was a former deputy director of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

John Marsh (q Cambridge 1949; d 2004) was a retired surgeon who lived in Warwickshire.

Richard Perry (q St Thomas' 1969; d March 2004) was a GP and church reader in Harwich.

Harold Wheate (q Guy's 1941; d 19 April 2004) worked in the field of leprosy for over 35 years, mainly in East Africa.

Kok Cheang Yeo (q Hong Kong 1925; d 24 May 2004) died at his home in East Sussex aged 101.

Other Conferences and Resources

Healthcare Sunday

16 October. Preliminary publicity was mailed with the Spring *Triple Helix*. Resources to help in planning services to celebrate this event are available on request from the CMF Office and on the official website at www.healthcaresunday.org.

Doctors' Dilemmas – GP Refresher Course

13-15 October. Eighth year of the popular West Midlands course, run in conjunction with PRIME, examining the ethical and spiritual implications of a diversity of medical advances. Held in the beautiful surroundings of Wast Hills House, South Birmingham. PDP approved format. Course fee £290. Accommodation £120-160. Enquiries: Dr Rosalie Bidgood, Horsehill House, Ribbesford, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 2TU. Tel: 01299 403191. Fax: 01299 400408 Email: r.bidgood@charis.co.uk

Tell me where it hurts

A conference for healthcare workers led by Dr Andrew Fergusson and Rev Dr Russ Parker of the Acorn Christian Foundation. The programme considers what it means to be human, treating the whole patient, healing and prayer. 11-14 October 2004 at Whitehill Chase, Bordon, Hants. Email: info@acornchristian.org Tel: 01420 478121

Doctors' Support Network

The Doctors' Support Network (DSN) is a warm, friendly self-help group for doctors with mental health problems including stress, burnout, depression, manic depression, psychoses and eating disorders. The group believes that contact with and support from other doctors can help recovery. Christians are involved. Meetings are not group therapy but rather offer friendship and support. All doctors are welcome to join. Tel: 0870 321 0642. Email: lizzie@dsn.org.uk. For details of meetings in Bristol, the South West and Wales please contact Dr Janet Prentice. Email: janet@dsn.org.uk. The doctors' confidential and anonymous telephone helpline is 0870 765 0001. Website: www.dsn.org.uk

MA in Bioethics

St Mary's College in Twickenham is offering an MA in bio-medical ethics which is taught explicitly from a Hippocratic/Judeo-Christian perspective. The Christian Medical Fellowship have supported the establishment of this programme and the validation board included CMF member Professor John Wyatt. A number of CMF members are currently taking the course. It is offered full-time or part-time (by evening seminars) and provides an opportunity to examine a range of academic and practical issues in bioethics and to do so with academic rigor and sensitivity. For more details see www.smuc.ac.uk/bioethics or contact Dr David Jones. Email: jonesd@smuc.ac.uk

Sharing faith in the workplace

A practical weekend course for those in secular work, 15-17 October 2004 at Moggerhanger Park, Bedford. Other courses on faith and the workplace are planned, details from www.the-park.net. Tel: 01767 641005.

Is humanity killing itself?

Rowan Williams in dialogue with Ian Smith (WHO) and Russell Greig (Glaxo SmithKline). At St Paul's Institute, St Paul's Cathedral, 30 September 6.30-8.30 pm.

Contact 020 7489 1011. Website: www.stpauls.co.uk

The Christian Academic Network (CAN)

was launched last autumn with the aim of proclaiming the gospel to the academic community of the UK by encouraging the integration of faith into academic life and by supporting and equipping university and college staff as witnesses for Christ. A conference will be held on 13 November 2004 in London. Website: www.c-a-n.org.uk

Benzodiazepines

Privately owned and maintained by Ray Nimmo, a benzodiazepine survivor, www.benzo.org.uk is the largest, most comprehensive resource on the Internet on the subject of benzodiazepine tranquillisers, containing more than 500 pages of information including medical articles, drug information, media stories, personal accounts and an online support group.



International Christian Medical and Dental Association

From Daryl Hackland, ICMDA General Secretary

'Change our Lives, Change our Lands'
2nd ICMDA Southern Africa Conference
Lake Malawi,
30 April – 3 May, 2004



Daryl Hackland

'African Christians need to reject the negative mindset that Africa will always be poor and struggling.' This was the challenge that Stephen Lungu of Africa Enterprise brought to 236 doctors and students from 9 different countries at the 2nd ever Southern African ICMDA Regional conference at Lake Malawi.

'We need to serve those with HIV/AIDS with love and acceptance, not only looking for behaviour change, but for changed hearts.' Keynote speaker Dr Grave Singogo from Zambia spoke about Christians responding to the AIDS epidemic as Jesus would do, rather than simply following in the footsteps of secular NGOs. Dr Bothwell Mbuwayesango from Zimbabwe spoke of the mandate we have from our King to serve the poor, challenging doctors to make the decision to stay in Africa rather than seeking 'greener pastures'. The students called for mentors and role models who can guide and support them through their years at college and as junior doctors.

Conferences are a lot of work and a lot of fun, but they are a catalyst for growth of organisations and of individuals. CMDF Malawi was born at the World Congress in Durban, 1998. Our regional student network in southern Africa was born in Taiwan, 2002. We cannot know what fruit God will bring in our lives and in the

lands where we work, but we know that it will be 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us'.

Adapted from a report by Vicky Lavy of CMDF Malawi

'Understanding the Times'
2nd ICMDA Asia Pacific Regional Conference
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India
21 – 24 October 2004

This conference is being jointly organised by CMAI (Christian Medical Association of India) and EMFI (Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India) Full details and booking information are available on the Conference Website at www.icmdaindia2004.org The event will be preceded by the ICMDA Regional Students' Conference at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi, India from 18 – 20 October 2004.

Daryl Hackland
Email: webstormsa.co.za

From Peter Pattison, ICMDA European Regional Secretary

The Baltic States

For Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia the grim Soviet past is little more than a dozen years ago; their membership of the European Union only a few months old. The realities of life reflect this rapid transition - a vibrant younger generation vainly looking for fulfilment in Western European secular values - an older generation left behind with meagre pensions and a hankering after the certainties of the Soviet era. In all three states the Christian doctors and students are making a significant impact.

In Lithuania the CMF held its annual day conference in June with about 50 participants re-examining the Hippocratic Oath. In Latvia a lively group of medical students welcomed us for an evening of fellowship. In Estonia the CMA has been more active for about 8 years with about 50 members and good student links. Some from each country will be at ICMDA's European conference in September.



Peter Pattison

Who Cares? Christians in Modern Medicine
6th ICMDA European Conference
Krelingen nr Hanover, Germany
5-12 September 2004

At the time of writing (early July) around 550 had registered for the conference, more than half of them students and young graduates. They come from all over Europe with some from Central Asia and a few from the Middle East and North Africa.

We have been able to offer financial help to nearly 200 people. (Thank you to those who have contributed to the bursary fund)

In addition to the conference, ICMDA's executive committee will meet at Krelingen, PRIME is hosting an important consultation for Christians in medical education and we will be running a *Saline Solution* seminar.

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Finance Matters

The jovial smile is beginning to return, you will be pleased to hear! The General Committee in June accepted the audited Fellowship accounts for 2003, which showed a surplus of £58,000 on income of £920,000 – a cause for very great gratitude to the Lord for his gracious provision, during a time of significant growth, change and development in CMF's ministry.

However, the upgrade to the membership database continues to give all of us in the office major grief. We expect to catch up on all

subscription reminders and thank you letters over the summer – please accept our continuing apologies for this inadequate service.

Once we have caught up, the next step forward will be to ask the membership to move their financial support of the Fellowship onto the Direct debit system; this will enable us to automate further the receipt of funds, updating our membership records, and reclaiming over £100,000 of Gift Aid tax per annum.

The budget for 2004 predicts a significant deficit for the year, making use of the

historic surpluses of the last few years, and the conscious decisions of the Executive to occupy the whole of the 5th floor of Partnership House for the next three and a half years, the appointment of Kevin Vaughan as Associate General Secretary, and using the very significant assets of MMA to continue to employ the previous MMA staff, Steve Fouch, and Laura Risdale. This presents us with a good challenge to be wise stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

Thank you very much for your partnership in the Gospel.

Giles Rawlinson



Giles Rawlinson