

A glimpse of heaven

If, like me, you returned from a summer break to bulging in-trays, looming deadlines and a host of competing personal and professional pressures let me encourage you through what God is doing amongst Christian doctors worldwide.

This summer our own family holiday was sandwiched between two ICMDA (International Christian Medical and Dental Association) conferences (see page 7) that were quite literally 'glimpses of heaven'. And it's experiences like this that keep us going and remind us that all our struggles are worth it.

When we feel imprisoned by our many responsibilities it's good to remember that the book of Revelation came to the Apostle John while he was imprisoned literally on the Island of Patmos, both to encourage and prepare God's people for coming challenges:

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb... And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' (Revelation 7:9,10)

I was reminded of John's 'glimpse of heaven' through seeing Christian doctors and medical students of diverse languages and cultures all praising God, enjoying fellowship, praying and hearing God's word together.

First up was *In the Steps of the Great Physician*, the West African Congress in Abuja, Nigeria in late July, attended by 200 doctors from Nigeria, Ghana and the francophone countries of Benin, Niger, Cameroon, Togo and Senegal. Next was the European Conference in Krelingen, Germany on the theme *Who Cares?* attended by over 600 from 50 countries. It is hard to think of countries in Eurasia that were not represented – Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan perhaps



Main conference hall, Krelingen

– but there were delegations from such places as Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Moldova, Latvia, Armenia and Albania. Each conference was preceded by one for students and juniors (100 attended in West Africa and 250 in Germany).

Everywhere the story is the same – doctors and medical students are coming to Christ

These two conferences were just two of five ICMDA regional conferences this year – those in Southern Africa and East Africa have already taken place and Asia Pacific happens at the end of October.



Delegates dining

Everywhere the story is the same – doctors and medical students are coming to Christ, getting together and forming national bodies. There are now 55 national movements affiliated to ICMDA and we are in contact with Christian doctors in over 50 other countries.

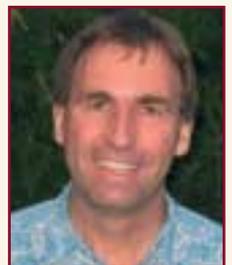
One of the newest members is Albania. Eralda Turkeshi, who attended the 1996 European Conference as a student is now helping to lead a 60-strong movement in her country – most have come to Christ in the last five years.

The plenary addresses at Krelingen were amongst the best I have ever heard at an ICMDA gathering with Chris Steyn (Netherlands) and Klaus Teschner (Germany) giving the Bible addresses and John Patrick (Canada), John Wyatt (UK) and Pablo Martinez (Spain) sharing the other addresses at both conferences. There was also a choice of over 20 seminar topics. I led one myself on 'building a Christian Medical Movement' which was attended by leaders of groups from over 30 countries. It was humbling to learn of all that God is doing through people with so little in the way of resources. CMF UK is the only national movement in Eurasia at present with any staff (we have 22); everywhere else it is volunteers who carry the load.

It was a pleasure at both conferences to give away (or sell at knockdown prices) a huge number of CMF books and resources to doctors who as yet have little on Christian medical issues in their own language: surely an encouragement for us to be doing more for our more needy brothers and sisters.

Let me pass on to all of you the thanks of ICMDA to members of CMF UK for the gift of £12,000 towards conference bursaries and expenses – and for the book gifts funded through individual donations – and let me encourage you to more good works as we labour together sharing Christ's spiritual and material blessings.

Peter Saunders
CMF General Secretary



Peter Saunders

New Appointments

Matthew Kehoe and **Peter Friend** have joined the CMF student staff team as relay workers. They graduated MBChB in 2003 in London and Nottingham respectively and will be working on a voluntary basis full-time for a year with students in London and Cardiff respectively.



Matthew Kehoe



Peter Friend

CMF's relay programme offers training and experience in student ministry for 12 months. The year includes being fully involved in theology and ministry training offered by the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) alongside ministry amongst medical students doing one-to-one Bible study, evangelism, teaching in ethics and mission, and supporting student leaders. Most posts are supervised by a CMF regional staffworker. The work is voluntary with CMF covering ministry and training expenses and relay workers raising their own living expenses usually through locums or gifts from friends.

If you would like to receive a prayer letter from Matt or Peter or for more information on relay posts in general, contact Peter Saunders at the CMF office.



Paul Cooper

After six months working as a part-time computer consultant, **Paul Cooper** has joined the CMF Office staff full time until Easter 2005. He has technical expertise in running the

whole of our IT network, and has already made a significant contribution in helping us move office, reorganise, and upgrade the IT system. Paul is also a graphic designer. He and his wife Cate have just had their 4th child.

Katy Tuft has just been appointed as Therapy Students staffworker until

summer 2007. She will serve under the auspices of CTN (Christian Therapists Network) but will be seconded to UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship) and offer support to students in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and in other allied health professions. Katy is herself an occupational therapist and qualified in Exeter in 2002. Her post has been entirely funded by CMF.

New Staff needed

There are current vacancies for student Staffworkers in North East England, East London/East Anglia and Ireland. 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.

Lawyers' Christian Fellowship

CMF has sub-let two offices on the fifth floor of Partnership House to the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship (LCF), who moved in officially on Monday 3 October. We have long enjoyed a closer relationship with LCF and work closely together on government submissions and in making comments to the media. This much closer geographical proximity will undoubtedly provide even more synergism with benefits for both organisations.

More space available

There is still more space available to rent on the fifth floor of Partnership House. We are looking for other like-minded Christian organisations to move in alongside us. If you know anyone who might be interested then please contact Giles Rawlinson at the CMF Office.

Members' News

Congratulations

On their awards and appointments

Christine Edwards OBE

Rodney Burnham has been appointed as Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians of London from January 2005. 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

Yeow Mei Ean (OXFORD) to USA

Geoffrey Atkinson (THE LONDON HOSPITAL) to Thailand

Iain Craighead (ABERDEEN) to Nepal

Andrew Perkins (ROYAL FREE) to Mali

Philip Simmons (NEWCASTLE) to Tadjhikistan

Jane McNutt (BELFAST) to Albania

Anthony Males (CAMBRIDGE) to USA

David Tyers (LEICESTER) to Swaziland

Ruth Smith to Australia

Homecoming

Kathryn Ozane (OXFORD) from Uganda

Sharon Kane (MANCHESTER) from Zimbabwe

Anne Hyams (SOUTHAMPTON) from South Africa

Philip Wood (ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL) from Canada

Sarah Petrie (ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL) from Liberia

Change of address abroad

Irmgard Spittler from Nepal to USA

Thomas Wolfensberger (Swaziland) from Switzerland to Switzerland

Paul Robert (ROYAL FREE) from Switzerland to Switzerland

Obituaries

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

Irene Gregory (q Bristol 1944; d 8 December 2003) was a consultant in ophthalmology who retired to Kent.

Gordon Taylor MBE (q Manchester 1952; d 18 June 2004) was a former chair of the BMA ethics committee and a GP in Reading.



Upcoming CMF Events

Seventeen CMF events take place from 24 September to 1 December including six weekend conferences, five Saline Solution training days and six day conferences. Please check the dates of upcoming conferences on this page, page 8 and on the CMF website at www.cmf.org.uk/fellow/events.htm

Care of the Soul

This unique conference on a Christian approach to Psychiatric treatments will take place at Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London on Friday 5 November. For Christian psychiatrists and psychiatry trainees. Details from events@cmf.org.uk or on the CMF website.

The Saline Solution Roadshow

Following a good response to the *Saline Solution* days in the summer, we have further adapted the course to the UK scene and have conferences planned as follows:

Wed 10 November	Nottingham
Wed 17 November	Exeter
Wed 24 November	Margate
Thu 25 November	Brighton
Sat 27 November	Norwich
Wed 1 December	Keele

Do let us know if you'd like us to arrange one in your area.

Media Training

The dates for this autumn are as follows but very few places are still available.

22 October	Manchester
12 November	Craigavon
13 November	Belfast
25 November	London, on abortion
26-27 November	London, advanced course

Other Conferences and Resources

Want to volunteer in palliative care abroad?

22 October 2004
Hospice House, London. A one-day workshop. VSO and BESO are among the presenters.

Details from l.gray@helpthehospices.org.uk or phone 0207 520 8209

Idreos Education Trust

Seeks to support bioethics research by individuals and organisations and to train and support young people pursuing a career in public life and who are

interested in bioethics.

Information from Martin Foley.

Email: martinfoley@fsmail.net.

Tel: 07814 013011

Withholding Treatment

A conference organised by the Royal Society of Medicine and the Disability Rights Commission. 10 November 2004 at RSM, London W1.

Explores setting boundaries, best interests, practical issues and decision making.

Details from Emma Haines. Email: emma.haines@rsm.ac.uk Tel: 0207 290 2965

Last Rights – Will euthanasia happen here?

Speakers include Andrew Fergusson, Tim Maughan, Nigel Cameron and Paul Conrathe. For bookings and further details email events@care.org.uk or phone Helen Beattie on 020 7227 4716. Website: www.bioethics.ac.uk

Change4Good

A Christian mental health project offering help with emotional, spiritual and mental health problems. It is based in the building of Spurgeon's College, South Norwood Hill, Surrey. For further information telephone 07961 484 480.

Students



Mark Pickering

Mark Pickering writes

As the nights begin to draw in it's back to the books for CMF's student members for another year. Freshers' events are going on up and down the country aimed at welcoming new Christians and communicating the gospel message to those who need it. Pray for many new CMF student members and for the leaders as they seek to be salt and light on their campuses.

Russian Interns

Anya Runasova and Denis Smirnov, two young Russian doctors well known to CMF summer team members, have been appointed as IFES interns to work exclusively amongst medical students in Moscow and Chilyabinsk respectively from August 2004 to July 2005. CMF has contributed a total of £1,800 towards their support, about half of the total required.

Leaders' Conference

Around 35 came to the lovely surroundings of the Gaines Centre in Worcestershire on 24-26 September to hear Alex Bunn (former London CMF staffworker) give three inspiring talks from Nehemiah, highlighting particularly his passion for holiness and repentance, concern for those he led and his effective integration of fervent prayer, hard work and delegation to get a huge task done. We were pleased to be joined by students of nursing, law and therapy. Students left very encouraged for the year ahead with lots of good principles and practical advice to help them. The lower numbers prompted us to rethink the timing of leaders' training and next year's conference will probably be in March – watch this space!

Nucleus

The October issue will be the last for Helen Barratt as student editor. We wish to record a huge vote of thanks to Helen for all her hard work and growing expertise over the past four years as committee member and then editor. She now moves on to her final year and has just completed the MA in bioethics at St Mary's College, Twickenham – it looks like doing finals will be something of a rest! Do pray for Gavin Ling as he takes up the baton and begins as the next student editor.

Summer Teams

Teams went during July and August to Kursk and Samara (both Russia), Simferopol (Ukraine), Bulgaria, Spille (Albania), Kazakhstan, Latvia and Yerevan (Armenia). All teams went well with local groups being strengthened and some new believers resulting. The Samara team was rocked by the random killing of one of the local student leaders a few days before the camp. This was apparently unrelated to the camp but had mixed effects on those present, with some being more responsive and some less so. Please pray for lasting effects from all camps and the continuation of relationships between the UK regions and overseas groups.

Junior Doctors



Sarah Germain

Sarah Germain writes

Over 80 junior doctors attended CMF's national junior doctors' conference at Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire on 8–10 October. The theme was 'To live is Christ' and Chris Lambert gave the main Bible readings on Paul's letter to the Philippians and seminars tailored to juniors issues covered such subjects as working abroad, managing money, medicine and the media, ethics, singleness and maintaining Christian vitality.

We discovered in July, somewhat to our surprise, that our juniors scholarship fund had over £4,000 in it from giving at past conferences – so we have spent it as follows: £2,000 to sponsor former

USSR doctors to the ICMDA conference in Germany, and £2,000 to help non-salaried juniors in the UK (eg those doing PLAB) and Eastern European colleagues to come to national juniors' conference.

Plans are afoot for a new book for juniors – with a junior friendly format dealing with a whole host of issues in easily digestible format. More later.

Currently we are dreaming up plans for next year with a day conference in the spring. To spread the load each member of the junior doctors committee has been allocated a special portfolio to help advance our ministry amongst juniors in the areas of evangelism, discipleship/fellowship, mission and ethics/media.

There is a big need for junior doctors to speak out on issues in the media and eight junior women doctors and students are to have their own special media training day in London on 25 October. It is almost certain that this will not be the last.

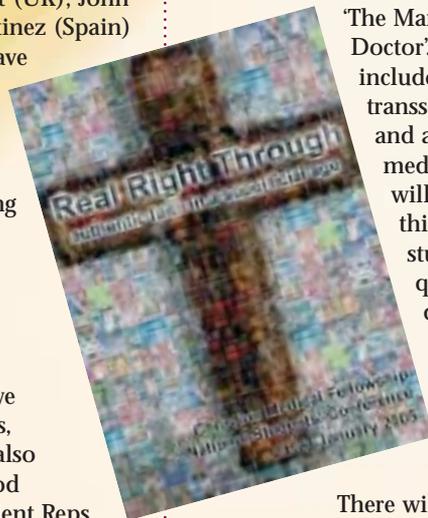
ICMDA European Conference

8 CMF UK students joined around 250 students and junior doctors for the preconference of the ICMDA European Conference in Krelingen, Germany on 5-8 September. This was followed by the main conference with around 600 from over 50 countries. John Wyatt (UK), John Patrick (Canada), Pablo Martinez (Spain) and Chris Steyn (Holland) gave excellent teaching at the preconference. Students testified to being inspired by this and by meeting such a range of students from varying situations and countries, all following the same Lord and seeking to serve him in medicine.

We made good contacts in a number of countries where we have previously had few links, especially France. There was also the first real meeting of a good number of ICMDA Area Student Reps from across Eurasia. It was a great time of feedback and brainstorming for developing this network of students and junior doctors who support student movements across the world.

Real Right Through

The 2005 National Students' Conference will be on 21-23 January at the Hayes centre in Derbyshire. Richard Cunningham from UCCF will speak from 1 John on 'Real Right Through – authentic faith in a superficial age', whilst Dave Stevens from CMDA USA will give the conference address on 'The Marks of a Christian Doctor'. Seminars will include biotechnology, transsexuality, addiction and alternative medicine. Publicity will be sent out with this mailing and students should book quickly to avoid disappointment. Further details will be on the website at www.cmf.org.uk/students/events.htm



There will be an International Students' Preconference in the week preceding the conference, where we hope to have student leaders from some of the newer Christian medical movements across Eurasia



Evangelism

Kevin Vaughan writes

Saline Solution (integrating faith and practice)

I recently heard Sarah Mullally, the Chief Nursing Officer, speak at a conference on 'Spirituality, Faith and Health - an NHS Perspective'. Those attending included doctors, nurses, university lecturers, managers and chaplains, a few of whom were Hindus or Muslims. There was universal recognition of the need to develop services to meet the spiritual needs of patients within the NHS. How important it is for us to know how to witness for Christ in this situation. We need the Holy Spirit's guidance to know how to get involved and articulate our faith in a relevant way.

At the recent ICMDA European Conference, there was much interest in *Saline Solution* and it seems likely that several national Christian medical organisations may take a leaf out of our book and develop similar programmes of their own. It's infectious!



Kevin Vaughan

out before Christmas. We now have all chapters of *Mad, Bad and Sad*. *Christian Medical Distinctives* needs considerably more work.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, CMF has been able to give away books at ICMDA Conferences this year. At the European Conference in Germany 300 delegates including students, juniors and doctors from Eastern European and former USSR countries received a pack of a dozen CMF publications.

The Human Genetics Commission (HGC) is currently holding a new consultation *Choosing the Future*, in which the public is being asked to respond to a wide range of issues ranging from screening of embryos and genetic research, to fertility treatments and the prospect of designer babies. The closing date is 18 November and CMF will again be making a written submission. More details can be found on the Human Genetics Commission website at www.hgc.gov.uk.

Ethics



John Wyatt

John Wyatt writes

Our government is still pushing through legislation at a bewildering pace that will have profound implications for the way we live and

practise medicine.

The Select Committee reviewing Lord Joffe's *Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill* is now taking oral evidence and has heard already from the Voluntary Euthanasia Society and Lord Joffe himself. CMF's own written submission is available on the website homepage at www.cmf.org.uk. Professors Alan Johnson and Tim Maughan gave oral evidence to the committee on behalf of CMF on 14 October. Please do keep praying that wisdom will prevail and do also please take the opportunity to write to Select Committee members with your views – again details are available on the CMF website.

The Mental Capacity Bill, dealing with advance directives, proxy decision-making and research in individuals with learning disabilities had its second reading in Parliament on 11 October and may very soon become law. There is both good and bad in this bill – see the review in this quarter's edition of *Triple Helix* for an overview.

Our response to the Department of Health on *Proposals to Exclude Overseas Visitors from Eligibility to Free NHS Primary Medical Services* was submitted in August and is also available on the website along with all other past CMF submissions at www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/submissions/index.htm.

Media

Clare Cooper writes

Allen Moxham of EA Media Consultancy took over as press officer in March this year. Since then we have sent out regular press releases all of which are available on the CMF Website at www.cmf.org.uk/press_releases/press.htm

CMF has been quoted several times in the secular press and at least 50 times in the Christian press in the year to September. TV and radio interview opportunities have mostly come to Peter Saunders and Kevin Vaughan. However, a database of CMF contacts for journalists is now in use comprising 33 media trained doctors.

The basic media training days continue to be led by John Forrest and Andrew Graystone (TV and radio producers) and Andrew Fergusson (former CMF General Secretary). Advanced courses use a professional journalist instead of Andrew in order to create an authentic experience. Details of upcoming media days are on page 3.

The total number trained since the first course in 1998 is around 150, some of whom have done both the basic and advanced courses. Members of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship have been invited to some events and the use of Church House studios, Westminster has greatly enhanced the basic training day in London.

Please pray that we will be increasingly be a clear Christian voice on bioethics and healthcare.



Clare Cooper

Publications

Allister Vale writes

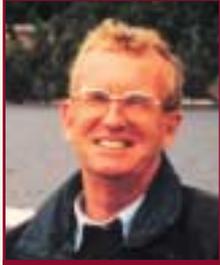
1,000 copies of Bernard Palmer's book *Cure for Life* in Russian have arrived in the CMF Office and another 4,000 have already been distributed throughout the former USSR. Please pray that this challenging little book will continue to bring people to faith and help young Christians grow as it has already done in English and Albanian versions. We have also received complimentary copies of *Doctors Life Support 2* in Indonesian; 1,000 of these have been printed and distributed in Indonesia thanks in part to a £1,000 grant from CMF.

Andrew Fergusson's new book *Hard Questions about Health and Healing* will be



Allister Vale

Mission Matters



Peter Armon writes

Peter Armon

Developing Health Course 2004



Developing health course delegates

This year's course was as popular as ever with some 38 participants, 28 of whom attended the whole course. They came from seventeen different nations and were or will be working in 21 different countries. There were 23 doctors and 15 nurse/midwives taking part. Twelve of the participants were in the final stages of preparation to work overseas. Interestingly, only 8 were UK nationals actually serving overseas.

There were several new faces in the lecture team, including several who are currently working abroad themselves. Professor Chris Lavy (from Malawi) led a number of sessions on various Orthopaedic topics. Mark Pietroni (from Nepal) spoke on non communicable medical diseases. Gisella Schneider from the Gambia led a day long seminar devoted to various aspects of HIV/AIDs and Anne Merriman (from Hospice Africa in Uganda) contributed a session to this on the palliative aspects of care. Gisella also led an excellent session on 'Where there is no electricity'. Colin Binks was able to join us from Bangladesh and spoke on the 'Acute Abdomen', giving a very practical approach, for non surgeons, to the topic.

Several practical Workshops, in Paediatrics, Surgery, O&G, and Public

& Mental Health, were held and highly evaluated.

Developing Health Course July 3rd-15th 2005

Next year's course will take place at Oak Hill College in North London. It has been decided to add an extra day, by starting on the Sunday evening (3 July), with an evening meal and introductory session. This will allow a little more space and the inclusion of a Medical Missions Day during the middle weekend.

The course itself, highly recommended by past participants, usually carries 50 CME points from the RCP and is recognised by the NMC for PREP. It remains unique in its field and should be a must for Christian healthcare professionals considering spending time abroad. Please make such folk aware of the course and encourage any overseas healthcare professionals you know, who will be home on leave next year, to attend.

A Medical Missions Day, 9 July 2005

The aim of this day will be to inform and give opportunities for students (those who have been in receipt of a Healthserve elective grant and others who are thinking about electives), those who are thinking of working abroad (trainees, retirees and those in clinical practice) to meet with course participants, share experiences and attend seminars on various healthcare mission related topics. It is hoped that a number of Mission Agencies and NGOs will have exhibition stands and be available to answer questions.

The Developing Health Course to go overseas?

There is the possibility of duplicating the course overseas. One of this year's participants from Nigeria, who works with the CMDA in Nigeria has asked for our assistance in the running of a similar

course that he hopes to set up in Nigeria in the autumn of 2005.

Hosts for the Developing Health Courses UK

Peter and Hilary Bewes, who have done (and are doing) an excellent job of hosting the course for a number of years now, are thinking of retiring. We are looking for replacements, preferably a couple with overseas experience. A job description is available from the Office, or they can be contacted personally.

It is hoped that an interested couple will be able to work alongside them in planning the 'spiritual' input for the 2005 course and helping to run the course itself. The post involves being resident at Oak Hill during the 2 weeks of the course, each year.

The Developing Health CD Rom

Copies of this excellent CD are now available from the Office. It contains lecture notes, presentations and protocols relevant to those working in resource poor countries – taken from lecture notes from past Refresher Course - and much more beside.

We are happy to give them away free to those who are going abroad – elective students or graduates - or those who have contacts abroad who would find them helpful. Any donation to the cost of future editions would be gratefully received.

For those with an active overseas interest

We are continuing to consider the possibility of organising short term healthcare teams to go abroad, possibly assisting some of our overseas members in the work that they are doing. If you would be interested in being a part of such a multidisciplinary team or would like to be put on our Locum Database or would like to be added to our email alert list for overseas vacancies as they are put on to our website, please contact us at the office – healthserve@cmf.org.uk

For your Diary

New Directions Retreat – For those returning to live in Britain after service overseas, organised by EQUIP (a ministry of Action Partners) - is being held at Bawtry Hall, nr Doncaster from 22 – 24 October 2004. Contact: equip@bawtryhall.co.uk

Student Elective Days 2005

In Leeds on Saturday 5 March at South Parade Baptist Church
In London, at Partnership House on Wednesday 16 March



International Christian Medical and Dental Association



Daryl Hackland

From Daryl Hackland, ICMDA General Secretary

During 2004, the year for ICMDA Regional Conferences, five will have been

held. Our news covers the encouraging gatherings in Kampala, Uganda for the 2nd Eastern Africa Conference from 22-25 July with the theme *Toward Excellence* (Col 3:17,22,24) and the landmark event of the 1st West Africa Conference in Abuja, Nigeria (28 July – 1 August) addressing the challenge of walking *In the Steps of the Great Physician*. The first day of each conference was organised for students and what a blessing these all were.

EASTERN AFRICA CONFERENCE

The Bible expositions were based on Daniel. Dr John Ekudu, the Dean of Students at Makerere University, pointed to the grace, courage, consistency, lack of compromise, practice of prayer and faith as demonstrations in Daniel's life of the characteristics of excellence. Profitable workshops were led on excellence in prayer, ministry to patients, the busy Christian doctor and family, the busy Christian doctor and missions and excellence in private practice. Sessions were also held on relevant topics including HIV/AIDS, Anti malarials, the sanctity of human life and surgical updates, these addressing the call to be excellent in practice.

Matilda Ogindi, a student leader from the Nairobi University writes: 'Where two or more are gathered in the Lord's name, He is in the midst of them. I can confidently conclude that about the conference. There were medical students and doctors from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda as well as the United States and South Africa. Interacting with people from other countries and realising how important our relationship to Christ is, as a unifying factor, was very evident. We learnt from our Congolese brothers and sisters about their hardships and realities experienced due to political instability and yet being able to choose to give thanks. Their zeal and honesty expressed freely, especially in songs of praise, was clearly demonstrated. This was a lesson for us who take for

granted the peace in our countries. Do we worship and praise God with the same zeal?

One question summarised the Conference. What legacy would I leave behind if I died?

I thank God for ICMDA and the regional CMF's that made this conference possible. Irrespective of our localities or nationalities, as Christians we stand united.'

WEST AFRICA CONFERENCE

Yes, this being their first, it was so enriching to meet in Abuja, Nigeria with fellow Christian health care professionals from Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Niger, Senegal, Ghana and Cameroon. The plenaries presented by Peter Saunders led all who attended into a deeper walk with Christ. Challenges were many and the sharing in witness and fellowship resulted in a blessed sense of oneness in Christ. This was especially experienced during a most moving communion service.

Of very special significance was opportunity to listen to the shared stories of the activities and happenings in the various representative countries. Doctors, dentists, nurses, paramedics, administrators working in remote and isolated situations under difficult circumstances expressed an amazing joy of service in the Lord. Seeing miracles

of faith in fellow Christians was most remarkable and encouraging to all.

The work in Francophone Africa is both challenging and difficult. And yet the Lord has there his willing and committed followers. The Conference was an opportunity to look to the way forward in such needy regions and to determine the next steps in building the Kingdom of God in West Africa. A commitment was made to assist National movements in reaching their goals. A Regional Committee is being established to support this development.

Give thanks to God for these two Conferences and intercede that the many many seeds sown will have fallen into well prepared ground and that the harvest will be great in the years that lie ahead.

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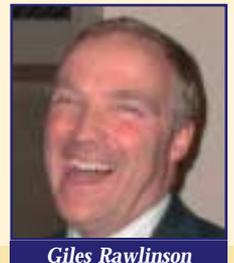
At the 6th European Regional Conference in Krelingen, Germany (8-12 September) three new member organizations were announced - Lithuania, Portugal and Swaziland. Their participation in ICMDA is welcomed and we say 'Congratulations'. Member countries now number 55.

Daryl Hackland
Email: webstormsa.co.za

Finance Matters

Normal service and the jovial smile should resume before Christmas! We continue to be plagued by the problems of specifying correctly the new membership database, but many members will have seen signs of recent progress when we were able to produce subscription requests for the 9 months between February and October 2004; your early return of these forms will help the cash flow greatly! October will also see (I trust!) the beginning of the grand catch up with processing all gifts, sending out long overdue thank you letters, and reclaiming nearly £100,000 in Gift Aid tax, thank you Mr Brown. Thank you for your patience in all of this and your generous support of the Fellowship.

The financial challenges remain however, with increased expenditure to cover this year and beyond, the absorption of the MMA activity and their significant resources into the accounts of the Fellowship, and their wise use under the immediate control of the newly formed International HealthServe Committee, and then the 2004 accounts and 2005 budgets to prepare. Then roll on 2005 and the long awaited implementation of direct debit to streamline and automate many of our processes, and the smile will have returned fully! It has certainly not been dull in the CMF office in 2004!



Giles Rawlinson