

Voting on principle

In the run up to the general election the comments of Opposition leader Michael Howard about lowering the legal limit for social abortions from 24 to 20 weeks have generated a storm of controversy; with the Anglican and Catholic Archbishops both calling for a fresh debate and pictures of babies in the womb once again adorning the front pages of the popular press. The Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that abortion should not be an election issue and has made it clear that he does not welcome further debate in parliament on this most divisive of topics. He doesn't believe that we should 'go the American way' and allow moral issues to dominate the political landscape.

But in fact morality is at the very heart of politics – it is ideological convictions that ultimately drive most politicians and inform public policy and ideological convictions are in turn informed by personal values and a person's worldview, their underlying assumptions about God, the universe and everything. I actually find it refreshing to hear Christian leaders speaking out on important issues and trying to influence the course our nation will take. And I find it incongruous that a government that has taken the moral high ground on so many issues and introduced a record number of over 1,000 new crimes onto the statute books during eight years in office, should suggest that politics and morality should be separated.

I hope that moral issues will play a major role in driving this election and I pray that Christian doctors in particular play a key role in questioning both parties and candidates about their stance on those issues that are dearest to our hearts. I would like to start by asking candidates the following ten questions. Many of these issues are highlighted in the Spring 2005 edition of *Triple Helix*; and if not are covered in CMF submissions, press releases and articles on the CMF website at www.cmf.org.uk

1. Euthanasia. *How will you ensure that euthanasia is not legalised in this country?* As I write the Lords' Select Committee considering the *Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill* (Joffe Bill) is about to report and the *Mental Capacity Bill* giving statutory force to advance refusals for food and fluids is about to be passed

into law. Legalised euthanasia draws ever closer.

2. Abortion. *What will you do to stem the tide of abortions?*

With abortions passing 190,000 for the first time last year the current situation is tantamount to abortion on demand. Furthermore, with a clear government policy to provide the technology to offer all parents the choice to eliminate children with genetic disease before birth, we are on the verge of a new eugenics. The Prime Minister himself voted for abortion up until term for 'serious handicap' in 1991.

3. Cloning. *How will you act to ensure a total ban on cloning?*

Despite a recent UN ban on all human cloning the government remains adamant in pressing ahead with the cloning and destruction of human embryos to provide stem cells for treatment of degenerative diseases like Parkinson's and diabetes, when there is both an ethical alternative in adult stem cell technology and an absence of evidence that embryo stem cells are safe or indeed work.

4. Sexual health. *What is your policy to arrest the spread of STIs?*

With a national epidemic of STIs, with the attendant problems of tubal infertility and cervical cancer, we are relentlessly pursuing harm reduction policies like condom and morning-after pill distribution and the proliferation of STI clinics to the exclusion of abstinence based sex education and support of policies aimed at real behaviour change.

5. Poverty and Health. *How will you ensure justice in healthcare for the developing world?*

Britain still only gives a fraction of the internationally agreed minimum of 0.7% of GDP in overseas aid, encourages the plundering of trained health professionals from the developed world, and engages in unjust economic trade practices through subsidies, tariffs and the encouragement of developing world indebtedness.

6. Freedom of worship. *How will you ensure that Christians are able to practise, share and defend their faith without being prosecuted?*

The incitement to religious hatred clause in the *Serious Organised Crime and Police Bill*, as currently construed, constitutes a major threat to the freedom to evangelise

and engage in interfaith dialogue involving challenging the truth claims of other ideologies, worldviews and religions.

7. Marriage and family. *What will you do to affirm, protect and support the traditional family?*

Marriage and the family are the fundamental building blocks of a stable society; but the status and stability of marriage and the family are being eroded by easy divorce and the removal of economic and social support for the traditional family unit relative to other 'models'.

8. Addiction. *How will you act to reduce alcohol, nicotine, drug and gambling addiction?* Present policy is aimed more at harm reduction than at restricting access (through price control) and effecting behaviour change.

9. Obesity and Inactivity. *What will you do to encourage the general population to adopt a healthy diet and get regular exercise?*

10. Marginalised groups. *How will you ensure that vulnerable groups like the elderly, the mentally ill, ethnic minorities and asylum seekers receive an adequate basic level of healthcare and are not marginalised in healthcare allocation?*

It is God who establishes governing authorities, and it is to him that they are ultimately accountable (Romans 13:1-7). Our political leaders need our prayers (1 Timothy 2: 1,2) but God has also given us a part to play in who actually exercises civil authority. Each of us will make our own decisions on which candidates and party we vote for on election day; but we need to ensure that we exercise our votes wisely, thoughtfully and from a position of being fully informed on the issues. The biblical exhortations to 'enquire, probe and investigate thoroughly' (Deuteronomy 13:14) and to 'administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another' (Zechariah 7:9) are just as true today as when they were first spoken.

Peter Saunders
CMF General Secretary



Peter Saunders

New Appointments

Sarah Gwynne

Sarah Gwynne has just been appointed as CMF South-West Staffworker, working four sessions a week for two years from the beginning of February 2005. She will be based in Cardiff and will be supporting medical students and junior doctors in Cardiff, Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth. Sarah qualified MBChB in Cardiff in 2000 and MRCP in 2004, and is our first Welsh-speaking staffworker. She is also a keen supporter of the Welsh rugby team, which just won the grand slam in the Six Nations competition! Alongside her CMF post Sarah will continue flexible training in oncology. Please remember her in prayer.



Sarah Gwynne

Andrew Fergusson

Andrew Fergusson is working as CMF Strategy Advisor on Euthanasia, four sessions per week for six months from 1 January to 30 June 2005. With the *Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill* (Joffe Bill) and the *Mental Capacity Bill* currently being considered in the House of Lords, this is a critical time for our nation, and for CMF as we work with others to prevent the legalisation of euthanasia. Andrew was formally General Secretary of CMF and in the early 1990s as Chairman of HOPE (Healthcare Opposed to Euthanasia) played a major role in combating euthanasia at the time of the last House of Lords' Committee, which considered it in 1994. He is working in close partnership with Charlotte Vincent of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship and his brief involves networking with pro-life groups, churches and MPs, training of CMF spokespeople in the regions, and lots of writing and media work in his own right. Please remember Andrew in your prayers.



Andrew Fergusson

New Staff Sought

Senior Editor

CMF's publications have grown exponentially and are increasingly in demand by Christian doctors and medical students all over the world. We are seeking to appoint a new full time senior editor based in the London office

who would provide editorial oversight for CMF's books, booklets, periodicals, CD-Roms, websites and translations and, in conjunction with other staff, manage distribution of the same. Further details available from Giles Rawlinson at the CMF Office.

New International PA

ICMDA Eurasia has grown massively over the last ten years with many new national Christian medical groups forming, all needing pastoral and literature support and encouragement. At the same time PRIME (Partners in International Medical Education) is getting a growing number of requests for training in general practice from all over the world and especially the former Soviet Union. As both organisations deal very much with the same ICMDA-linked groups abroad, and as both are now needing formal administrative support, we are seeking to appoint a new full time PA to support the joint work of both along with CMF's ICMDA-linked international activities. This new post will be funded jointly by ICMDA, PRIME and CMF. Further details available from Giles Rawlinson at the CMF Office.

Communications Officer

Over the last few years CMF has benefited enormously from the assistance of EA Media Consultancy who have managed our press releases and secured us many opportunities in the church and secular press and in local and national television and radio. Due to internal rearrangements at Evangelical Alliance they are no longer able to provide this service, and so we are now seeking to appoint a full-time in-house communications officer, probably jointly with the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship, to handle internal and external communications and liaise with the media. Further details available from Giles Rawlinson at the CMF Office.

New Student Secretary

CMF Student Secretary Mark Pickering's move north (see Winter 2005 *CMF News*) has been delayed, so we are now seeking to appoint a new national Student Secretary to take over Mark's current duties in the CMF London Office by summer 2006. The role will include oversight of the Students' Coordinating committee and *Nucleus* editorial committee, organisation of the National Students' conference and encouragement and support of student leaders. This would be at very least a part-time post (5-6 sessions per week), but could also be full time, in which case it would be extended to include student speaking engagements and some staffworker support. Further details available from Peter Saunders at the CMF Office.

Student Staffworkers

There are still vacancies for student staffworkers in North East England,

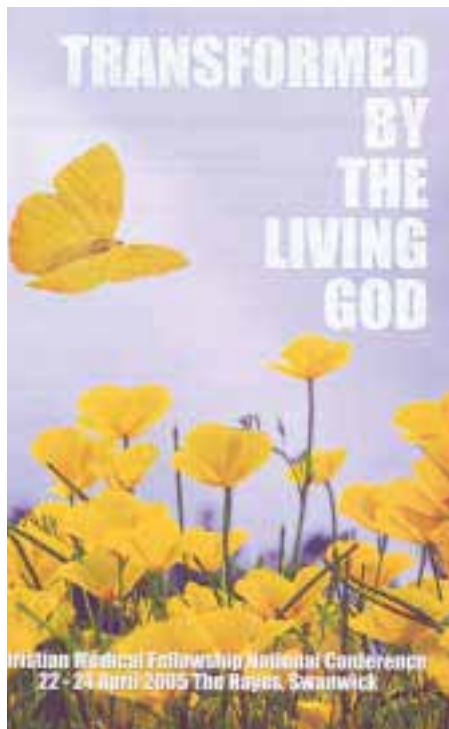
East London/East Anglia, Scotland and Ireland. Posts are normally 4-5 sessions per week for two years, but other models are not impossible and we try to fit posts around an applicant's location and stage. Staffworkers are usually 24-32 years of age and spend the other half of their time in part time 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.

Members' News



Upcoming CMF Events

National Conference



The power of God transforms both individuals and communities and 'Transformed by the Living God' is the theme of the CMF national conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire on 22-24 April 2005. The main Bible Reader is Spanish Psychiatrist and popular Word Alive Speaker Pablo Martinez who will be giving a series of Bible Readings on transformation in the life of Jacob. Our Rendle Short Lecturer is Dr Kiran Martin, founder of the *Asha* project, a Christian initiative that is transforming slum communities in Delhi and has become a best practice model for community transformation worldwide. A wide range of seminars on issues at the interface of Christianity and medicine completes an exciting programme organised by the North London Region under the leadership of Jeremy Franklin.

The Saline Solution Roadshow

Upcoming day conferences on integrating faith and practice include (see page 5)

Wednesday 4 May	Southampton
Wednesday 11 May	Birmingham
Saturday 14 May	London Nurses
Friday 27 May	St Helens

Local members will be mailed about each event and further details are available on the CMF website. Do let us know if you'd like us to arrange one in your area.

Specialty breakfasts

CMF holds about a dozen breakfasts annually at annual College meetings around the country.

Wednesday 20 April

Rheumatology, Birmingham

Thursday 21 April

Paediatrics, York

Wednesday 18 May

Ophthalmology, Birmingham

Wednesday 22 June

Psychiatry, Edinburgh

Tuesday 28 June

BMA, Manchester

Thursday 7 July

Dermatology, Glasgow

Friday 8 July

Plastic Surgery, London

Invitations will be mailed to those in individual specialties and living local to each event. Further details of programme and speakers are available on the CMF Website.

Allied Professions



Steve Fouch

The New Year has seen some important developments in our work with the nursing, midwifery and allied health professions. A major development was the closure of the office of the

Nurses' Christian Fellowship International (NCFI) in Kent on 1 January. NCFI is the nursing equivalent of ICMDA, and is actively involved in over thirty nations, promoting a Christian voice in nursing, and supporting national Christian nursing groups. This closure will have a significant impact on the international Christian nursing movement, and CMF is talking with the NCFI leadership about ways that we can support this network of fellowships as it goes through a time of transition.

We have also been encouraged by the growth of work among Christian nursing and midwifery students in the UK. This is now coming under the leadership of Christian Nurses and Midwives (CNM),

and CMF is actively supporting this, through use of my time and extending use of meeting facilities and other resources to the group. A new CNM Council has just been voted in, and there is a new student team, headed by Tim James. The energy and enthusiasm of this group is very encouraging.

The Christian Therapists' Network (CTN) is also developing, but under immense strain as its numbers begin to outweigh its administrative capacity, especially as there is now only a part time worker for student allied health professionals. We are exploring with CTN ways in which we can support its expanding ministry.

In all these situations, it is the Christian professional groups that have approached CMF for help, rather than the other way round, and it is encouraging that there is such growing willingness for all of us to work together. This was highlighted in early March when CNM and CTN met together at the *Quinta* in Oswestry for their joint annual conference. CMF was very much involved in supporting this conference; Andrew Fergusson, Alex Bunn and I all led seminars on the Saturday, and I was involved in several aspects of the planning and running of the conference, although most of the hard work was down to the CTN and CNM

leadership. Numbers were relatively small (around seventy), but there was a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, especially from a number of new members to both groups. We hope and pray that this energy continues past the end of the conference, as there is still much to do to build a strong Christian voice among all these professional groups.

If you have any colleagues in nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, or any allied health professions, please put them in touch with CNM (Email: info@cnm.org.uk Tel: 07941 800637) or CTN (Email: info@ctn.org.uk Tel: 07986 433493) or through to me on steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk

On the international front, CMF is now involved in the *Micah Challenge* Campaign, which dovetails into this year's *Make Poverty History* campaign, which you may have seen in the news and on the Vicar of Dibley at New Year! This is focussed on engaging churches and individual Christians across the UK on international justice and poverty reduction issues. See my article on *Poverty and Health* in the Spring 2005 *Triple Helix* for more details, or visit the website www.micahchallenge.org.

Steve Fouch

Allied Professions Secretary

Students

Real Right Through



Mark Pickering

We had an excellent **National Students' Conference** on 21-23 January. Altogether around 330 of us joined to hear Richard Cunningham of UCCF expound 1 John under the title 'Real

Right Through' - an excellent set of three talks that focussed on the importance of standing up for the truth about Jesus, the need to walk in the light and live according to God's commands, and how we can get the right balance between striving for holiness and claiming God's forgiveness. Dr Dave Stevens from CMDA, our US sister organisation, gave a powerful conference address on 'The Marks of a Christian Doctor', taking his experiences as a missionary in Kenya to show that Christian doctors should be characterised by qualities such as competence, compassion, integrity, good communication and dealing humbly with the position of power and leadership that our profession gives us. Many in the audience had tears in their eyes as Dave spoke of the disease and death he had witnessed in Somalia when leading relief

Student Leaders' Conference

For the first year we switched dates from September, to 4-6 March, to try to fit in better with holidays and catch brand new CMF group leaders as they take up the baton. Around 45 students and staff joined together near Worcester for an excellent weekend entitled 'Be Strong in Christ Jesus'. Birmingham surgeon Hugh Thomson spoke challengingly from 2 Timothy, expounding Paul's advice to a young Christian leader. Other sessions looked at CMF's aims and activities, how to be a CMF rep, plan a programme and evangelise peers on campus. I was excited by the keenness and calibre of the next batch of CMF student leaders, and left encouraged by God's faithfulness. At the national conference in January, Priya Ghosh handed over the chair of the SCC to John Greenall from Guy's, King's and St Thomas'. Well done to Priya for her work over the last year and our prayers for John as he takes up the reins for the coming year!

Summer Teams

Plans are going well for the annual round of CMF summer teams across Eurasia during July and August. UK

teams. All main sessions are available on CD from pubs@cmf.org.uk.

There was the usual great range of seminars on issues such as biotechnology, transsexuality, abortion, infertility treatments and medical mission. Saturday evening was lighter with line dancing, a Q&A session or a praise concert from our worship leader Andy Flannagan. Huge quantities of discounted books were shifted on the bookstall after a moving performance in the Newsround session that involved Giles Rawlinson needing defibrillation (with a copy of *Cure for Life*) after going into 'financial shock' and arresting on stage at the thought of all the amazing bargains on offer.

32 international delegates came to the national conference from 16 countries, such as Estonia, Russia, France and Israel. Copies of their prayer needs can be obtained by emailing Matt Kehoe on matt.kehoe@cmf.org.uk. Of these, 19 key leaders from nine countries attended the **International Students' Preconference** in London on 17-21 January, with a mixture of lectures and visits to medical units such as a hospice and Christian GP practice. We expect to see significant fruit in terms of summer teams and development of their national organisations.

CMF sent out a press release before the conference which resulted in Peter Saunders giving eleven back-to-back live interviews on BBC local radio stations on the Sunday morning about the conference; each would have been heard by around 100,000 people!

regional doctor/student teams will go to around ten locations, such as Lithuania, France and Georgia. One exciting new development is the German team running a camp in the Czech Republic with some UK input. Teams are usually a mixture of evangelism, discipleship, medicine and ethics and help local students grow their Christian medical movements. To find out if there is a team going from your area, or get involved, email matt.kehoe@cmf.org.uk.

Staffworkers and Relay Workers

We were sad to say goodbye to Lorna Nunn (Scotland) and Becky Payne (nee Brain - South West) in February. Our thanks to them and God for their service and partnership. We were delighted to see Becky marry Gareth Payne (Birmingham CMF member) on 8 January.

With the goodbyes come two new welcomes, and we are very pleased to say hello to Sarah Gwynne (South West) and Peter Waitt (North West), joining the staff team in February and April respectively.

Mark Pickering
Student Secretary

Junior Doctors



Sarah Germain

Website

The newly revamped CMF website now has a section especially for juniors at: www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship/juniors/. Find out about the pastoral care

scheme, open house meetings, juniors' conferences and much more. It's also a way for you to get in touch with us to let us know what else we could be doing for juniors within CMF. Check it out!

Junior Doctors' Survival Guide

This is one of the latest CMF publications, which is currently being put together for juniors, as a great resource for surviving the often-tough early years. It aims to cover a wide range of topics relevant to Christian junior doctors, organised in an A-Z fashion, combining testimonies, biblical teaching and hints and tips, from an international authorship. There is still opportunity for you to be involved if you would like to submit a piece - contact Caroline Ashby via the CMF website or office - we can give you a topic to write on. Alternatively look out for further details to come and make sure you get your copy!

Cutting to the heart

About 20 juniors attended this new day conference on sharing faith with colleagues at Elim Church, Birmingham on Saturday 12 March. The day brought together some of the best ideas from four other CMF day conferences: *Confident Christianity*, *Answering Other Faiths*, *Against the Tide* and *Saline Solution*. If you would like us to do it in your area then please contact Peter Saunders at the CMF Office.

The future

Plans are being drawn up for a Surgical Careers Day, Mentoring programme, PLAB Doctors' Day, and a UK contingent to go to the ICMDA World Conference in Australia in 2006, to name but a few - look in future *CMF News* for more details or check out our website.

Sarah Germain
Juniors' Chairman



Evangelism



Kevin Vaughan

Who gets involved with evangelism?

'There is one thing that Christians and non-Christians have in common.

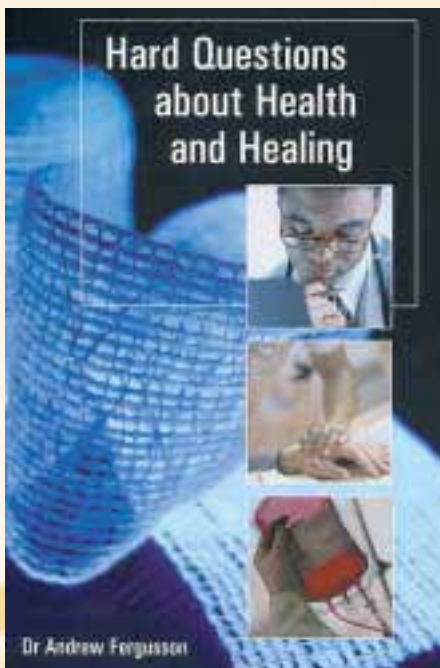
They both hate evangelism.' When I first heard these words during a *Saline Solution* conference some time ago, I noticed that many around the room were nodding their heads and smiling as they recognised their own discomfort in trying to implement aggressive mechanical models of evangelism.

It's sobering to acknowledge that only about 4% of people attend church in UK and yet surveys show that about 75% of British people are interested in spiritual things. Church-based activities in Britain do not reach many, but in our professional lives we doctors are privileged to have access to this 75%. We can get involved right here without moving. The UK is possibly one of the biggest challenges within the world mission scene and many overseas countries where missionaries have traditionally worked may be a soft option by comparison! Recently I was at a follow up meeting for doctors and other healthcare professionals who had attended a *Saline Solution* course and it was wonderful to see how many had discovered that they could make a difference in the lives of their patients and colleagues, and be a witness for Christ without being pushy and without feeling uncomfortable themselves.

Ten *Saline Solution* day conferences are planned for the first half of 2005 and more are expected in the autumn. Details and application forms are available on the CMF website. Over five hundred doctors have now attended a *Saline Solution* day conference in this country and in addition many small groups are doing the *Saline* course on video in their homes. How about starting one where you are?

Kevin Vaughan
Associate General Secretary

Publications



Andrew Fergusson's new book *Hard Questions about Health and Healing* is now published and we are almost through sending out over three hundred back orders. If you have not yet ordered a copy, and would like to, then please use the order slip within *Triple Helix* where we are still offering it at the special offer price of £8.



The new CMF website was launched on 9 March at www.cmf.org.uk and is already creating a huge amount of interest. Over 2,000 articles on issues at the interface of Christianity and Medicine are now easily available and a powerful new search engine means that nothing is more than a couple of mouse clicks away. Do please visit and have a look.



Allister Vale

The editing on *Mad, Bad and Sad* is now almost complete and the book will be available very soon.

Allister Vale
Publications
Chairman

Ethics



John Wyatt

The Select Committee reviewing Lord Joffe's *Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill* was due to report on 4 April as *CMF News* went to press. The *Mental Capacity Bill* had gone through report stage and was due

for a final vote before Parliament closed in the run up to the election. By the time you read this major decisions may well have been made – but the debate will run and run and the Spring 2005 edition of *Triple Helix* carries a number of articles on euthanasia, eugenics and related issues to spur your thinking.

Opposition Leader Michael Howard's call for the upper limit for social abortion to be lowered to 20 weeks fuelled a huge pre-election debate on abortion at a time when Stuart Campbell's amazing ultrasounds of babies walking in the womb are still in the public consciousness. This may be the best opportunity we have had since the 1967 Abortion Act was passed to secure more legal protection for these most vulnerable of human beings.

Medical advances mean more babies born prematurely are surviving. In the best centres two thirds of those born at 23 weeks gestation will now live; and with this come hard decisions about withdrawal and withholding of treatment from sick neonates as highlighted in the recent high-profile case of Charlotte Wyatt. The *Nuffield Council on Bioethics* is currently holding a consultation to gauge public opinion on these complex ethical and legal issues, which will close in June and report by the end of 2006 (news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4334201.stm)

Meanwhile CMF's response to the HFEA's last consultation, 'The regulation of donor-assisted conception' is available on the website at www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/submissions/?id=32

The latest *CMF File* included with this mailing covers autonomy, the principle that underlies so much contemporary ethical decision-making, and is a reminder that we are not our own masters but rather belong to God and are accountable to him to show compassion, respect and empathy and ensure protection for all human life.

John Wyatt
Medical Study Group Chairman

Mission Matters



Peter Armon

CMF Tsunami Appeal

Thanks to all those who gave so generously to CMF's Appeal following the Boxing Day Tsunami which altogether raised over £22,000 from members to support relief work,

re-establishment of healthcare services and rebuilding of local communities in Sri Lanka, India, the Andaman Islands and Indonesia. The money will be shared equally between four of our partner organisations – Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI), Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India (EMFI), Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Indonesia (CMDFI) and Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA). The appeal is now closed.

Increasing Global Awareness Post Tsunami

The Indian Ocean Tsunami shook the world and the 24/7 news coverage that followed, like the aftershocks, made us very much aware that what happens in distant lands impacts us all. As one Royal Navy sailor who was sent to the scene of devastation commented, 'I have been completely changed by this experience. It was one thing to see it on TV, quite another to experience it firsthand.'

The disaster led to an unprecedented global outpouring of finance and help, which we trust will be wisely used to supply the needs of those most affected. At the same time, concerns have been expressed both in terms of the ongoing reconstruction needs (once the situation is no longer headline news) and the effect of diverting resources from the ever present problems of HIV/AIDs in Africa where, as one Malawian politician has put it, deaths from AIDS are the equivalent of a Tsunami occurring almost every month.

These events brought home to me my need both to be aware of what is going on in the world around me and to consider afresh, my response to the needs of the poor.

In the midst of all this, two articles in *BMJ Career Focus* caught my eye. One was entitled:

NHS Links – a new approach to International Health Links

careerfocus.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7488/78

The network, which was set up in collaboration with THET (the Tropical and Health Education Trust), was established by doctors and health professionals involved in a variety

of health links between NHS Trusts and Health Centres in less developed countries. It aims to encourage and support the spread of health links in NHS hospitals and primary healthcare trusts, to raise awareness of global health. The article is well worth reading.

NHS Links recently hosted a day conference in Leeds, entitled 'Promoting Global Awareness'. The meeting, which was addressed by the Chief Medical Officer and the Secretary for State for International Development, Hilary Benn, explored the opportunities and challenges of such links and looked at ways of promoting collaboration in training, organisational development and research.

Surgical training in the developing world

careerfocus.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7485/46

Having spent time in a Christian teaching hospital in Tanzania, two urological trainees pointed out the personal and professional benefits of spending time overseas. Both came back with a renewed enthusiasm for medicine and having been made to think about what was really important in their own, and other people's lives. The article includes many practical tips about organising such a visit.

A challenge to get involved

We regularly advertise short-term mission opportunities on our overseas website at www.healthserve.org and many within the Fellowship are involved in such activities. BMS (www.bmsworldmission.org) and SIM (www.sim.co.uk) are both involved in sending short medical term teams overseas. We are currently in discussions with these agencies as to how CMF can support and encourage these activities. Several of our members overseas have said that they would value teams visiting them. It would be a win/win situation, in which you are likely to gain far more than you give but one where our overseas colleagues would be greatly encouraged by the practical demonstration of your love and concern.

Returning recently from six months overseas, one of our members commented on how much it had changed her whole outlook on life and her practice of medicine - one of the reasons emphasised

in the DoH document *International Humanitarian and Health Work* (previously mentioned in these pages) - for getting involved overseas. The document provides DoH backing and practical advice for doctors considering such work. (www.doh.gov.uk)

As Jesus said, the poor will always be with us. The need will always be there. Creative ways of getting involved are available. As Mary told the servants at the Wedding Feast at Cana, 'Whatever he (Jesus) says to you – (are we listening?) – Do it' (John 2:5)

Elective Days

Over 60 students attended our annual elective days in Leeds (5 March) and London (16 March), where they were equipped, resourced and enthused to help them prepare for an overseas elective. Don't forget our electives information online at www.healthserve.org/electives/

Peter Armon

Overseas Support Secretary

Media



Clare Cooper

The first two media training events this year are focusing on the need to campaign against euthanasia. This will be the topic for discussion in both radio and TV practice interviews.

Thursday 19 May

Basic training, Church House, Westminster.

Friday/Saturday 20-21 May

Advanced training, Bushey studios near London.

If you would like to book a place contact CMF office soon as places are limited.

Clare Cooper

Medical Secretary

Dates for your Diary

Developing Health Course, 3-15 July 2005 - at Oak Hill College in North London
For those working overseas or thinking of doing so.

Serving God overseas as a Healthcare Professional - Saturday 9 July 2005

A day Conference at Oak Hill College in North London, looking at practical issues in modern healthcare and medical mission.

Details of both events and application forms can be found at www.healthserve.org under 'Developing Health Course' and 'Other Courses and Events'.



International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA)

Out of Africa



Daryl Hackland

At the Southern Africa ICMDA Regional Conference at Lake Malawi in April/May 2004, God's Spirit urged all who were there to 'Change our lives and change our lands'.

Two events of mission outreach during December 2004 tell of the way this continues to happen. Groups from CMF branches moved out into their communities both to share the good news of Jesus' love and to serve him in serving others.

In **Malawi** a group from Lilongwe and Blantyre visited a rural village where life is hard work for the community, most being subsistence farmers. Health talks were given and clinics held, 150 people attending daily. Meetings and times of prayer were shared in the evening and Christ touched many. Of special joy was the fellowship with the north Malawi CMDF group, which really got going following the Regional Conference in May 2004. Although a small committed group, they meet regularly and being together with them was a huge blessing and encouragement. One of the Church elders was deeply moved by the group's demonstration of togetherness in and witness for the Lord.

In **Mozambique**, students and doctors from Durban with others from a number of countries, joined a 'Doctors for Life' mission to Zavora. Again the main activities were to give health education and basic emergency skills as well as see patients and share the gospel. The clinic, in a tent, saw 60-80 patients daily.

One of these was young Felismina. She had severe one-year wounds on both legs and the care she received probably prevented an amputation. Lydia, a member of the local church volunteered to learn to dress these wounds and to continue care. Cyril Nkabinde, a student from Durban wrote: 'I learnt that God meant business when it comes to the mission field. For me 2004 was a confirming year that God is calling me into mission. This trip brought the question, "Am I really ready for it?"; Gugu Mhlanga said, "This trip made me realise that Africa is in desperate need of care and God has placed us in it for a purpose.'

Both in Malawi and Mozambique the same question kept coming through,

'What does God want for our lives?' Is God speaking to you about your life and his call to share his love and the message of the Saviour with the World? We give thanks to God for the blessing of reaching out for Christ.

Daryl Hackland

ICMDA General Secretary
Email: webstormsa.co.za

ICMDA Eurasia



Peter Pattison

With exciting developments in Central and Eastern Europe it is easy to lose sight of the steady progress in the West.

ACM Germany (The German CMF) has recently appointed a first part-time

student staff worker. Kirstin Hartwig is a young doctor who will bring a real stimulus to the German student work.

Espen Heen (Norway) is a young doctor who is ICMDA's area student representative for Scandanavia. He has launched a first training weekend for student leaders from all over Scandanavia and the Baltic States. This will be held in

Stockholm 8-10 April. They have invited two students from each of the medical schools in Scandanavia and the Baltic States.

ICMDA has seven Area Student Representatives covering the different parts of Eurasia. We are planning a prayer and planning meeting for them in UK at the end of May. All are young doctors and they hold the keys for the future of ICMDA in the region.

In April the small CMF in Greece will hold their national conference. At the end of May the Netherlands CMF celebrate their 50th anniversary. Student work in the Netherlands has grown considerably over the last few years.

Italy is a country that we are praying for. If anyone has links with Christian doctors or students in Italy, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Further afield, a leaders' conference is planned for Russia in the third week of July, followed by a similar week in Central Asia. A number will be going to support this from UK.

Peter Pattison

ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary
Tel: 01892 824872
Email: icmda@ukonline.co.uk

Finance Matters

Writing just before Easter and a fortnight's holiday, I have a very grateful heart, and I am full of thanks and praise to our almighty God! (And my smile really has returned!) The mountain of finance backlog created by the problems of 2004, and the implementation of the new membership database, is now just a small hill. Many members of the Fellowship will have received my very belated thanks for your generosity in supporting the work during 2004. By the end of April we hope to be right up to date with acknowledging all receipts as we receive them, and then we shall begin to catch up with asking members who pay their subscription by annual reminder. Don't worry if you are not sure where you are in all of this, you can be sure we will let you know! My thanks in particular to Charles Otim and Joan Arnold in the office for their hard work, but also to Elaine Hutchison and Geoff Smith, both of whose part-time assistance has been invaluable in establishing the new systems, and processing the mountains of data – in the region of 8,000 receipt transactions for 2004!

With the growth in the Fellowship's activity, and the exciting plans that are being developed, pressures on the finances remain. I expect to be able to report to the General Committee in June, and in the next mailing, all that has occurred along with future financial needs to keep CMF in the black.

In the meanwhile thank you very much for your prayerful understanding, in what has been a demanding period for the finance operation in the CMF office.

Giles Rawlinson
Chief Administrator



Giles Rawlinson