

Legalising euthanasia

The long-awaited debate on the House of Lords' Select Committee report on Lord Joffe's *Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill* took place on 10 October. In all 74 peers took part in a debate that started at 3pm and finished just before midnight. Speakers were evenly divided for and against the bill with the Select Committee members finally showing their individual hands. The seven to five split in favour of a change in the law was no surprise to anyone who had read their report. There was no vote on the day of the debate but the arguments put forward will play a major part in determining future events.

Lord Joffe has announced his intention to introduce a revised bill attempting to legalise euthanasia along the lines of the Oregon model (physician assisted suicide but not euthanasia) by early November. This revised bill is expected to be an improvement on the last and to have dispensed with the legal requirement for doctors with conscientious objection to refer patients to more 'sympathetic' colleagues, but serious concerns remain. The bill once tabled (first reading) will proceed to a second reading (where there is traditionally no vote in the Lords) and then to a committee of the whole House where it will be further debated and amended before coming back to a third reading and final vote. If it passes this, then provided the government grants the bill parliamentary time (which is likely), it will proceed



to the House of Commons. If it successfully traverses the Commons it will become law. This whole process could happen in a matter of a few months.

We continue to believe that any bill seeking to legalise assisted dying, as well as being contrary to the Judeo-Christian ethic and all historically accepted codes of medical ethics, is both unnecessary (because of the availability of alternative treatments) and dangerous (because of likely abuses and the slippery slope). CMF along with a growing alliance of faith groups, professional bodies, prolife groups and disability rights groups continues to oppose the bill and at the time of writing serious discussion, in which CMF is very much involved, is aimed at launching a broad-based movement to promote palliative care and oppose the legalisation of euthanasia and physician assisted suicide (PAS).

The Church of England has remained firmly opposed to Lord Joffe's bill after a 293 to 1 vote at General Synod in July. The three Bishops who spoke in the Lords debate (London, Oxford and St Albans), along

with former Archbishops of Canterbury and York (Carey and Habgood) were defiant in their rejection of any law change in the face of a stormy barrage of opposition voices. In the week before the debate nine major UK faith leaders (representing the six world faiths of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism) wrote an open letter to every member of the House of Lords and the House of Commons arguing strongly against any change in the law. The letter was, perhaps predictably, almost entirely ignored by the media, but was referred to several times in the House of Lords debate.

The neutrality of the medical profession remains a deep concern. The BMA, after its controversial vote to 'go neutral' at a barely quorate meeting in the closing hours of its June Annual Representative Meeting, remains entrenched in this position, ignoring calls for a referendum and claiming that no further change of policy can be considered until summer 2006 (when euthanasia might well be legal!). The Royal College of Physicians has not shifted from the neutral position it adopted last autumn, and shows no signs of changing its stance. Only the Royal College of General Practitioners (which in September changed its neutral stance to one of opposition after an overwhelming majority of its members made their views known) and the Association of Palliative Medicine have supported the status quo.

I am reminded of the words of Andrew Ivy, Medical Consultant to the Prosecution in Nuremberg, who blamed the Nazi Holocaust upon 'the bulk of the German medical profession' on the grounds that they 'acquiesced in silence' and

this battle is in essence spiritual

'permitted themselves without vigorous protest to be ruled by those who cooperated consciously and even willingly' with the state. Britain may not have traversed the same slippery slope as pre-war Germany yet but there is no doubt that the medical profession is facing a crisis of leadership in this country. The question history will ask of us is whether or not we made 'vigorous protest'.

The apathy, fear and ignorance of the public, the liberal bias of the media and the strength of the pro-euthanasia lobby will be significant obstacles but this battle is in essence spiritual. The embracing of a pro-death culture is merely a symptom of the much greater malaise under the surface in a society that has rejected Christian faith and values. Win or lose it is clear that the battle lines have been drawn and we face a long fight in the months, and perhaps years, ahead.

Peter Saunders is
CMF General
Secretary



Fellowship news

Autumn conferences

Autumn is traditionally the time when CMF holds most of its regional conferences for graduate members; and this autumn conferences reflect the wide range of activities in which members are involved. The theme of the **Northern Weekend Conference** 'What's so Amazing about Grace?' is also the title of Philip Yancey's challenging book in which he asks 'If grace is so amazing why don't Christians show more of it?' Sessions explored the issue of the tension between forgiveness and justice in society as a whole, in the lives of our patients and colleagues and in working through our calling to be Christ-like in the context of a post-Christian society. Grace must season our responses to the pressures of our work and family life.

The **Oxford Day Conference** is titled 'Dying well: decision making at the end of life'. Very few Christians would sanction the introduction of legalised voluntary euthanasia. However, as healthcare workers, we are all keen to relieve suffering and ensure that our dying patients have dignified deaths. Although the area between these two positions is often painted as being clear-cut, there are also grey areas in which Christians disagree that the conference explores. On a similar theme a **Scottish Day Conference** 'Concerns about Legalising Assisted Suicide' is aimed at establishing a coalition protecting the human dignity and promoting the compassionate care of dying people.

The **South East Weekend conference** has the theme 'Fit to serve?' God shapes us through various life events within our churches, in our work and in our personal and family lives. He also continuously works in our inner lives. He is a master recruiting consultant and many are trained, but not all come forward to serve. This conference is aimed to help people identify and develop their calling.

How do we view our place of work and the colleagues and patients we come into contact with – as something to survive or as an opportunity to demonstrate God's love? 'Reflecting Christ in the workplace' is the theme of the **Midlands Day Conference**. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:13-14 that we are salt and light. Do our colleagues and patients see something different about us – in our attitudes, in what we do and in what we say? In the busyness of our lives we often feel that we are not as salty or as bright as we would like to be and that we offer a very poor reflection of Christ. This conference is aimed at challenging, encouraging and empowering doctors to reflect Christ more effectively in their daily lives.

'What does the Lord require of us?' is the question that precedes God's own answer given in Micah 6:8, 'to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' But how do we live up to these expectations as Christian doctors in the 21st Century? This year's CMF **Scottish Day Conference** explores the implications for our discipleship today. There are also several *Saline Solution* day conferences coming soon. (see page 4)

We hope you can join us at one of these events, or if not, benefit from CD recordings available from the CMF Office. Full details of all conferences are available on the CMF website at www.cmf.org/events and dates and venues are listed on page 8.

Members' news

Congratulations

On their awards and appointments
Hilary Cooling – Fellow of FFP (Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare)

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

On their marriages

John Greenall and Heidi Lightowler – 24 September
Sarah Germain and Aidan Stevens – 11 December

Obituaries

These have been moved to *Triple Helix*

Outgoing

Mirrilee Back (Cardiff) to Australia
John Barker (Newcastle) to Uganda
Rosie Crowter (Guy's) to Papua New Guinea
Patrik Feinaigle (Switzerland) to Switzerland
Andrew Fergusson (St Thomas') to USA
Godfrey & Angela Harverson (The London & Royal Free) to Thailand
Richard Higginson (Belfast) to Denmark
Paul Howorth (Manchester) to Kenya
Karinya Humphrey (Southampton) to Kenya
Maeve Jinks (Newcastle) to Bangladesh
Christopher Lewis (Southampton) to Kenya

Homecoming

Sarah Bruins (Liverpool) from Tanzania
John Chaplin (Guy's) from Kenya
Heather Cox (Southampton) from Nepal
Rachel Homer (Oxford) from USA
Ailsa Martin (Glasgow) from Japan
Stephen Reaney (Belfast) from Tanzania
Peter Ripley (Aberdeen) from Germany
Rachelle Sanderson (St Mary's) from Uganda
Malcolm & Rachel Savage (St George's & Sheffield) from Zambia
Fiona Schneider (Bart's) from Germany

Change of address abroad

Ernst Røtting from Norway to Tanzania
Imgard Spittler (Germany) from USA to Germany

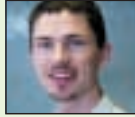
CMF Committees

CMF is highly dependent on the generosity of hundreds of members who willingly and voluntarily give time to developing the fellowship's ministry. If you would like to know more about any specific area of our ministry then contact the CMF office.

Regional CMF Meetings

Information about local groups for graduates, juniors and students are available on the CMF website at www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship

Students



Mark Pickering

We give thanks to God for this year's round of CMF summer teams. Teams went to Russia (Kursk), Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Lithuania, Albania, France and the Czech Republic. The Kursk and Kyrgyzstan teams were regional conferences for Russia and Central Asia respectively, with large UK teams. There were exciting new international partnerships as the Lithuania team was led mainly by Norwegians, and the Czech team mainly by Germans, both with UK input. Leaders can give stories of new believers, or encouragement and stimulation for the young leaders of emerging Christian medical movements. The teams are no less life-changing for those from the UK and now elsewhere who lead them. Individual team reports are available on request.

Now that the term has begun in earnest, freshers' events have taken place around the country to welcome new Christian students and present the message of the gospel to those who have not heard or responded. Around 1,200 CMF freshers' packs were sent out to help in recruiting new members. Do pray particularly for the follow-up from these events. One example is Leicester where we were thankful to secure the services of Dr John Patrick from Canada at very short notice, who spoke to around 200 students on 'Why physicians hate church'. A number of interested first years are being followed up.

Our staffworkers and Relay workers met on 28 September for their termly team day, to plan, pray and support each other. We are delighted that

Charlotte Hattersley (North East) and Helen Lane (Birmingham Relay) have joined the existing team of Richard Knox (Midlands), Tim Hinks (South) and Sarah Gwynne (South West). Pray for them as they get to know new students, prepare talks and support student leaders in planning and running their programmes.

The autumn will see the Students' Co-ordinating Committee (SCC) busy with preparation for the national students' conference, 'Radical King, Radical Kingdom' on 10-12 February 2006. Brochures are now printed and available – do book early and encourage others to do the same. There will be a fantastic programme with Bible addresses from Matthew 16-18 from Mark Ashton, a conference address on 'Radical discipleship in medicine' by Peter Saunders and a range of seminars on topics such as homosexuality, euthanasia, intelligent design and the global health crisis.

Plans are also pushing ahead to inaugurate a national students' executive committee in February to replace the current SCC. Please pray for the discussions, and particularly that we would find the right students to join it. John Greenall (SCC chair) got married on 24 September – congratulations John!

Please pray particularly for the lifestyle pressures that all our students face in a medical school culture that is very antagonistic to Christian values. Ask that they would stand strong as God's ambassadors and lead integrated lives as they prepare to serve him through medicine.

Mark Pickering is CMF Student Secretary

Ethics



John Wyatt

The new CMF Public Policy Committee (PPC) first met in September with Trevor Stammers as chairman.

CMF has played an important and increasing role in making submissions to government and other official bodies, commenting in the Christian and secular media and working behind the scenes through the BMA, in the Royal Colleges and in Parliament.

The PPC has decided to concentrate on four major areas – focusing on those where the Christian voice is saying something new and distinctive:

- Issues at the beginning of life (abortion, infertility, cloning, stem cells, PGD)
- Issues at the end of life (euthanasia, PAS, withdrawal of treatment, resuscitation)
- Sexual health (sex education, STIs, ABC, teenage pregnancy and abortion, contraception)
- Developing world issues (HIV/AIDS, brain drain, malaria, TB, MDGs)

As highlighted in the editorial in *CMF News* the major current focus is euthanasia and by the time you are reading this it is probable that Lord Joffe's new bill to legalise physician assisted suicide will be working its way through the House of Lords.

Two other major consultations close in late November:

- *Good Medical Practice* (General Medical Council)
- *Review of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Act* (Department of Health)

Please do pray for those formulating responses on behalf of CMF.

A new campaign under the title 'alive and kicking' (see www.alive-andkickingcampaign.org) has been brought into being this autumn by an alliance of faith and prolife groups building on the growing public disquiet about late abortion fuelled by the Joanna Jepson case, improving survival rates of neonates and Prof Stuart Campbell's highly publicised 4D ultrasounds of babies in the womb. The issue of late abortion gets more detailed treatment in *Triple Helix* this month, along with a discussion of moves to report to the GMC doctors who object to being involved in abortion referral procedures. The related issue of life-prolonging (non-treatment) decisions in neonates was the subject of a multi-faith consultation by the Nuffield Council in which CMF took part. It was remarkable to see the amount of agreement amongst those around the table; with those of all faiths having much the same concerns that the best possible treatment be made more widely available for these weakest and most vulnerable of human beings.

The issue of licenses for production of 'three-parent' embryos for the treatment of mitochondrial diseases and the production of the UK's first embryos through parthenogenesis are a reminder that advances in the field of embryology will always run ahead of discussion of the ethics.

Please pray for all those who are called to write and comment on these issues in the public square.

John Wyatt is Medical Study Group Chairman



Junior doctors



Sarah Germain

Beyond the Bleep

Our weekend conference in September was a great chance to escape to the Leicestershire countryside and recharge our spiritual batteries. Lots of food for thought from Ecclesiastes with Jim Paul on 'Life is Meaningless?' Interesting seminars ranging from how we should conduct a godly relationship to how to deal with difficult colleagues, with lots of chance for discussion. A chance to find out what is happening within CMF as a whole, particularly those areas relevant to juniors. Plus time to make new friendships and renew old ones. Do come next year if you can.



Juniors' conference

Christians in Surgery Day

We've been keen for a while, to get together Christian doctors in particular specialities, both juniors and seniors, to allow them chance to get to know each other better, look at the particular challenges they face, and provide some mentoring and support. The first such day is going to be held on 1 April 2005 for Christians in Surgery. If that's you then look out for further details or get in touch with the office. If you'd like to be involved in a similar Day for your speciality then also let us know.

PLAB Doctors' Day

As many of you will be aware, overseas doctors coming to the UK to sit their PLAB exams and then look for jobs here, face a tough and uncertain time with the current job climate. We want to be able to offer them some support, and one practical idea is running a day to give advice on preparing for job interviews, looking for placements etc. This will be held on 21 January. If you know any post PLAB2

doctors then please let them know about the day. Please pray for this event, and for any PLAB doctors known to you.

Cutting to the Heart

Chatting in the mess or theatre coffee room brings up many issues and questions that our friends and colleagues have about what's going on in the country, world and life in general. It can be hard to know how to put a Christian perspective though on some of these issues. Our new day conference aims to help us to do just that. The first one earlier this year was a great success, with lots of opportunity for discussion around case vignettes and real life scenarios. A second one will be held on 29 October 2005 in Leeds. Would you be interested in coming along? Contact the office or see the website for more details.

Sarah Germain is Juniors' Chairman

Evangelism



Kevin Vaughan

Even a Doctor can make a difference!

Here are a few recent quotes from some of the hundreds of doctors who have participated in a *Saline Solution* conference in the UK. Coming from doctors in both hospital and general practice, they encourage us to realise that as Christian doctors we can make a specific difference in our patients' lives.

'The *Saline* day was a real help – mainly in saying "It's OK". To be honest I still find it difficult to initiate the questions about faith, but I am surprised that when I do, sometimes the reply comes later. I remember a lovely lady with a malignant effusion to whom, after several consultations and draining her effusion permanently, I said goodbye. She gave me a tremendous hug and talked about heaven. It was several weeks before that we had talked about dying and I had asked whether she thought there was anything beyond death.'

'I realise since *Saline* that whatever people's faith, or none, to leave their spirituality out of the consulting room is to cut part of them off and ask them to leave it at the door, in the umbrella stand. We can connect with people in gentle witness or in ministry, simply by listening, picking up on the cues and reflecting them as questions.'

'I have started memorising scripture verses, and several times found them useful in encouraging patients. Overall I have been more confident in bringing my faith into the consultation, and pray the Lord will use me more in this way. It has been encouraging recently to see a patient start coming to church following a discussion about a year ago, when I gave him a Bible to read.'

'The most obvious way in which it has changed my practice, which is also the most simple, is that when praying before each surgery I ask to be aware of the Spirit guiding me "who to pause with today". So many times this has allowed the conversation with a patient to turn to a deeper issue.'

'That day was really good and I have particularly been able to make use of the faith flags during my preop assessments eg. to the anxious patient "Do you have a faith that helps you in a time like this?"'

Details of future *Saline* day conferences are available on the website. Why not book and give it a try? If you'd like to help arrange a *Saline* in your area, please get in touch with me at kevin.vaughan@cmf.org.uk.

Kevin Vaughan is CMF Associate General Secretary



Allied professions



Steve Fouch

In July, as you will read in Peter Armon's report (p6), we held a day conference for Christian health professionals of all disciplines on working overseas in mission and development. This was held at Oak Hill College in the middle weekend of the *Developing Health Course* and about a dozen course participants joined us at various points during the day. Around seventy health professionals and students came (despite the travel chaos and anxiety in London following the suicide bombing two days previously).

Ted Lankester opened with a challenging presentation on the opportunities that are opening up to Christians in tackling global health issues. We are in a *kairos* moment, when God is creating opportunities for us as never before, and even the secular bodies are looking to Christian agencies as trailblazers – it is an opportunity for the Kingdom that we need to grasp. Seminars throughout the day covered the issues of taking families overseas, and returning to the UK, opportunities for using allied professional skills overseas, working short term and in disaster situations and handling professional development reaccreditation.

Another great encouragement was spending time in Geneva at the end of June with the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV & AIDS (UNAIDS) as their Programme Coordinating Board met. CMF had been invited as observers, and it was encouraging in particular to see that the abstinence and fidelity programmes many Christian agencies are using in the fight against the spread of HIV were given recognition within the strategies advocated by UNAIDS. It was also a good opportunity to meet up with the other faith-based agencies working with the UN system in tackling the HIV & AIDS



pandemic. The UN agencies are increasingly waking up to the important role that faith based organisations (FBOs) can play in the fight against the pandemic, and in particular, the World Health Organisation is extremely keen to link up with Christian hospitals and healthcare agencies in the plan to get HIV antiretroviral therapy to the poorest people living with the virus. If you, or anyone you know is involved in any mission hospital or Christian agency involved in delivering health care in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe or Latin America, please get in contact with **Mark Forshaw** at the World Health Organisation on ForshawM@who.int

On the Allied Professions front, I had a very encouraging time with the Nurses' Christian Fellowship International (NCFI) in early July as their board met in Argyll. NCFI has been through a turbulent year, but as a network they are learning new ways of working, with much more responsibility devolved to the regional committees and national fellowships. Links between NCFI, CMF and ICMDA continue to be strong, and the potential for joint working in the future is great.

NCFI also helped to run a second European student nurses and midwives conference on 'spiritual care from a Christian perspective' at the University of Glamorgan, and it was very encouraging to see Christian students and senior nurses and

Publications



Allister Vale

The rebranding of CMF's publications has been well-received. Extra copies of *Introducing CMF* are available free on request from the CMF Office. Have you invited a colleague to join yet? The new design, which has already transformed *Triple Helix*, *CMF News* and *Nucleus*, is going to be extended over all CMF's books, booklets, CDs and websites over the next few months.

Dr Andrew Fergusson's excellent book *Hard Questions about Health and Healing* was published in April 2005. *Christianity* described it as 'thought provoking, challenging and enlightening'. Have you read it yet? Have you bought extra copies to give to friends and colleagues?

The editing of *Mad, Bad and Sad* is progressing well and the book is expected to be published by January 2006. Chapters include: *What is mental disorder? Childhood influences on antisocial behaviour; Treatment approaches for those with antisocial personality disorders, psychopathy and sex offenders; Responsibility and the mentally ill offender; Treatments used in psychiatry; Personal responsibility and its relationship to substance misuse; Demons and evil in a Christian context.*

The Publications Committee have agreed to publish a new series entitled *The best of...* The first book in the series will be *The best of David Short*. It is hoped the book will be published by Spring 2006.

The Bulgarian edition of *Matters of Life and Death* has been published recently. The cost of translation and printing were paid for by CMF.

We have a major opportunity to continue to support Chinese colleagues who wish to translate CMF files 24-29 into Chinese (the first 23 Files have already been translated with our financial support) and produce 2,000 booklets containing all 29 Files. Will you help us by donating to the Publications Fund? We need just £2,000 – that's just £1 covering all translation and production costs for each booklet.

Allister Vale is CMF Publications Chairman

academics from Norway, the Netherlands, Malta and the UK come together to explore what is an increasingly recognised issue in caring for our patients.

In the UK, Christian Nurses and Midwives will be running a day conference on the topic of 'Suffering, a Christian Nurse's Perspective' on November 26 in South London. On 3-5 March 2006 CNM, with the Christian Therapists Network and the Therapy Students' Christian Fellowship, will be running their annual weekend joint conference at the Quinta in

Oswestry, with John Wyatt speaking on the topic 'What Next... Developing a Biblical Response to Current Healthcare Trends'. Both should be very valuable events, so do encourage your Christian colleagues in nursing, midwifery and the allied professions to come along.

If you want more information on these or any other mission or allied profession related issue, email me at steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk

Steve Fouch is CMF Allied Professions Secretary



Mission matters



Peter Armon

Nigeria leads the way

The Nigerian CMDA held its first Developing Health Course in Abuja in September. Josiah Gana of the NCMDA attended the DHC at Oak Hill in 2003 specifically because God had laid it on his heart to hold a similar course in Nigeria, open to healthcare professionals working in West Africa. Eighteen months of joint CMF/NCMDA planning and a lot of hard work on his part, came to fruition when 17 participants from four African countries, including Senegal, Liberia and Sudan attended the seven day course held in Abuja. The international flavour was enhanced by four American missionary healthcare workers, two of whom had newly arrived in the country and found the input a very good starting point for their work.

The teaching was mainly provided by NCMDA Consultants but, at their request, CMF UK funded the attendance of Colin Binks, a missionary member surgeon from India and Peter Armon to input in surgery, APLS and obstetrics. PRIME funded the attendance of Dr Sabu Thomas, a paediatric surgeon and medical superintendent of Herbertpur, an Emmanuel Hospital Association hospital in North India. A visiting American professor of paediatrics with extensive Nigerian experience was a last minute bonus to the teaching team.

The surgeons won the prize for creativity and improvisation, using a freshly slaughtered sheep to demonstrate various techniques in their workshops; gut bought from the local market to demonstrate bowel anastomosis and pigs trotters to demonstrate tendon suturing. The sheep went on to provide meat for several meals!

The course was very well organised and provided an excellent mix of academic and



Delegates at Nigerian course



Hilary and Peter Bewes

spiritual input together with very practical workshops. Strong relational links were established between NCMDA, EHA and our sister organisation, EMFI which should bear much fruit in the future. The Indian perspective on rural surgery proved to be so entirely relevant to the Nigerian situation. Without exception, the participants greatly appreciated both the medical and spiritual input of the course and found it extremely helpful.

In the week prior to the conference, Peter and Colin were able to visit a number of mission and University Hospital in Jos, Ibadan and Ogbomosh, teaching, encouraging and promoting the work of the NCMDA.

Farewell to the Bewes at the UK Course

Peter and Hilary Bewes have acted as hosts at the Oak Hill Developing Health Course over the last 7 years. I know that there are many missionary members who would like to thank them for the love, care and concern that

PRIME - Partnership in International Medical Education



John Geater

The work of PRIME worldwide continues to grow. At the last count we had some involvement in 22 countries. The burden of much of the administrative responsibilities has now been greatly reduced by the appointment of a shared PA within the CMF office. Donations to the work as well as enquiries about becoming a tutor can be made to PRIME at Partnership House, or e-mail prime@cmf.org.uk PRIME recognises a need to equip Christian medical teachers in both developed and less developed nations for the task of Christ centred education. Bookings will soon be open for a week long conference for medical educators within the UK (at both medical student and post-graduate level) at Burrswood, Kent from 24-28 April 2006. Please register an interest now. PRIME will also be running an educational world conference 9-11 July 2006 before the main ICMDA World Congress (11-16 July) in Sydney next year, with educational seminars running throughout the main conference. This is the first conference of its kind linking Christian doctors involved in teaching from around the world. It follows on from the hugely successful European conference in Krelingen last year. Please see PRIME's website www.prime-international.org.uk for details

We will be holding a PRIME Day at Partnership House on Saturday 28 January primarily for tutors and but other interested in learning more about what we do and share a vision for the future are welcome. Please contact prime@cmf.org.uk for more information.

they graciously expressed in so many ways and their willingness to always go the extra mile in seeking to ensure the comfort and warmth of welcome felt by all who attended the course. It is hoped that we will still be able to call on Peter to contribute to the teaching in coming years. John and Heather Knowles worked alongside Peter and Hilary in both the planning and execution of this year's course and will take over for next year's course on 23 July - 4 August. They come with a long experience in medical mission in Malawi and they still regularly visit.

More news on NHS Links - funding available

Susanna Edjang, Links Project co-ordinator for THET writes to say that applications are being accepted for grants to help support the initial stages of establishing links between NHS Trusts and less developed countries. To read the criteria for the application and to download the application form, visit the THET

website at susana@thet.org or visit their website: www.thet.org

Clinical Attachments

We are receiving an increasing number of enquires about such posts from doctors coming to this country, both Christian and otherwise. If you are willing and able to offer such posts, please let us know.

Travelling Abroad with a ministry of teaching or encouragement?

If you are travelling abroad for whatever reason – attending conferences, seminars, teaching or College activities – and think you will have some spare time that you could use to visit, teach or simply encourage members or nationals working in that country, please let us know at the *HealthServe* desk. It may well be that we can give you contacts who might appreciate a visit and your input

Peter Armon is the Overseas Support Secretary

ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



Daryl Hackland

Visit to North East Asia 16 August - 5 September 2005

The 34th Annual Exchange Programme, linking the Christian Medical Association of Japan, Korea and Taiwan, took place from 15-21 August 2005 in Karuizawa, Japan. This event opened the door for Priscilla and I also to visit the ICMDA member organizations in Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Japan

The Conference theme was 'The role of Christians in the Care of the Elderly'. Each country is grappling with the twin challenges of ageing populations and declining birth rates. Papers were read on Church based care programmes, the Christian role in the aged society, care for the terminally ill, demographics and reforms in insurance systems including long term care. A door opened for profitable meetings and experiences, in particular a visit to St Luke's Hospital, Tokyo. St Luke's is a brilliant tribute to the Philosophy of the Hospital - to be 'a living organism designed to demonstrate in convincing terms the transmitting power of Christian love when applied in relief of human suffering'.

Korea

In a programme arranged by the Korean Christian Medical Association (KCMA) and the Korean Christian Fellowship (KCMF) hospital after hospital visited were centers of excellence. In the Severance Hospital in Seoul, the biggest Christian hospital in the world, the support and service provided in patient care was absolutely exemplary. Other visits included the Presbyterian Medical Centre, the Good Samaritan Hospital in Pohang where each staff member contributes 1% of their salary to mission outreach and the

Handong Christian University where 3,000 students, undergraduates and postgraduates, from all over Korea and the world, study. Once qualified they seek positions on the globe where they can make a difference for Jesus Christ.

Taiwan

Our first evening in Taipei was spent with an enthusiastic group of young doctors (Taiwan Christian Medical Students Fellowship). The next evening we accompanied Dr Heng Chan Chen (TCMA General Secretary) to the MacKay Memorial Hospital where a meeting of the Christian Doctors Fellowship had been arranged. Our last day in Taipei was a 'whirlwind' of activity. The Rev Lun-Hsien Tung, General Secretary of the Chinese Christian Medical Mission (CCMM) was an absolute ball of fire for the Lord. No sooner had we visited his staff in the HQ than we were whisked away to visit the Taipei National University Hospital, meeting a wonderfully committed group of Christian medical people.

Hong Kong

It was a joy on our return journey to visit Hong Kong and hear about the events, activities and happenings of the CMDF Hong Kong. With Dr Roy Chow, the present Chairman, experiencing the Taiwan Congress, the probability of many attending the World Congress 2006 from Hong Kong is eagerly anticipated.

The schedule was tight but incredibly rewarding and inspiring, particularly in our experience of the unity seen through fellowship in and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Daryl Hackland is ICMDA
General Secretary
Email: icmda@webstormsa.co.uk
(full unabridged report on request)

ICMDA Eurasia

Summer 2005 Conferences in Russia and Central Asia

These conferences were planned as a partnership between CMF(UK), ICMDA and the local leadership. To run the two conferences consecutively was seen as a good use of resources. The international team of around a dozen members included leading CMF speakers and members from ICMDA, PRIME, HCFI and International Health Services. Team members mostly paid their own way.

Russia: Kursk, 19-25 July 'Blossoms in the Wilderness' (Isaiah 35:1)

Some 70 local delegates from ten Russian cities with one each from Ukraine and Belarus gathered in Kursk, some 300 miles SW of Moscow. Nearly all were medical students or junior doctors. The organisation was in the hands of six young leaders from six different Russian cities. On Friday/Saturday we were joined by a small group of older doctors from Moscow, representing the Christian Medical Association of Russia. Input from the international speakers, including Bible readings from Daniel, was much appreciated. A highlight was the prayer night where the group covered each of the cities represented and then prayed for all the other areas of Russia not yet included.

Post-communist Russian society is in many ways a barren wilderness, but these young people were like beautiful flowers bursting out of dry ground - a tribute to grace and hope for the years to come.

Central Asia - 26-31 July 'Streams in the Desert' (Isaiah 35:60)

Here 120 local delegates from 14 centres in four countries gathered with about 40 local expatriates involved in medical ministry. Among them were a few older believers, but the majority were students and young doctors. Very few had been believers more than 5 years. Issues of suffering for Christ were prominent on their agenda. The Sunday morning prayer and commissioning was a highlight as they prayed for each of the countries represented and for surrounding lands. God has clearly done a remarkable work in Central Asia over the last ten years and these fine young people were indicative of this. They went forth to their different homes to be streams in the desert.

A limited supply of English language books and a good supply of three books in Russian (*Aids and You*, by Patrick Dixon, *Matters of Life and Death* by John Wyatt and *Cure for Life* by Bernard Palmer) were available at both conferences at nominal prices and were welcomed enthusiastically.

Peter Pattison is the ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary
Tel: 01892 824872 Email: icmda@ukonline.co.uk

ICMDA Bursary/Scholarship Fund

This is for those in need of financial support to attend the ICMDA World Congress in Sydney on 7-16 July 2006. Donations can be sent to ICMDA European Office, Russets, Woodlands, Pembury Kent IN2 4AZ, UK.

Cheques made payable to ICMDA UK Trust. Bank transfer details are available on request. UK gifts sent to the European office can be augmented by Tax reclaims.



Peter Pattison

Staff news, finance



Giles Rawlinson

New International Coordinator



Jonny Thiessen is CMF's new international coordinator. This new role will involve coordinating CMF's ICMDA-linked activities – namely CMF summer teams, the international students' preference and participation in ICMDA - as well as providing administrative support to ICMDA Eurasia in its rapidly growing ministry involving over 60 countries from Iceland to Vladivostok and from Scandinavia to North Africa and the Middle East. The post is jointly funded by CMF and ICMDA Eurasia.

Jonny is Canadian and has just finished a two-year diploma in missiology at All Nations Christian College in Hertfordshire. He is fluent in Russian and has worked previously in short term mission with Operation Mobilisation in the former Soviet Union. This summer he 'hit the ground running' as part of the CMF summer team to Ukraine. Jonny worships with the Good Shepherd Mission in Bethnal Green, London. Please remember Jonny in prayer.

New extended role for Laura Risdale

CMF is now working much more closely in partnership with PRIME (see p6) and CMF's overseas PA Laura Risdale has accordingly taken on an extended role. As well as providing administrative support for Peter Armon and Steve Fouch in supporting CMF members working abroad and managing our overseas ministry Healthserve (www.healthserve.org), Laura will also be providing administrative support for PRIME. Please remember Laura as she adapts to this new role and juggles an expanded list of priorities; and pray also for the growing synergism between CMF and PRIME as new opportunities for promoting and facilitating whole person and patient centred medicine worldwide. Laura's post is jointly funded by CMF and PRIME.

Upcoming Office move

CMF's base Partnership House at 157 Waterloo Road in London is in the process of being sold by the owners and will be demolished some time between January 2007 and January 2008. This means that we need to move to new headquarters between December 2006 and December 2007. The CMF Executive has decided, in order to maximise staff retention, partnerships and accessibility, that we should:

- buy rather than rent
- stay in the South-East either in London or on the outskirts of London
- seek at least 5,000 square feet of space preferably in a stand alone building

An executive subcommittee will come back to the Executive in December with a more specific proposal.

Scottish staff

CMF's part-time Scottish administrator Calum Mackellar has taken on an expanded role with the Scottish Council of Human Bioethics, which will become full time from January 2006. We are therefore looking for a new Scottish administrator to work two sessions a week based in CMF's Scottish Office in Edinburgh. We are hugely grateful to Calum who in the last six months laid a framework for CMF's developing ministry in Scotland and we wish him well in his exciting new post. In addition we are still keen to appoint a new part-time Scottish student staffworker (4 sessions) to follow on from Lorna Nunn who is now back in full time general practice. Further details available on request.

Finance matters

When you are reading this edition of *CMF News*, (and looking at my smiling face again!), I fully expect to be reviewing the Fellowship's 9 months accounts, which will have been achieved by a great deal of hard work by Charles Otim and others.

I am also very grateful for the wonderful response of members who have received subscription reminders in the last month, and who have replied very positively and generously to my request to consider paying their current and past year's subscriptions. Many have also given on top of their subscription to the various ministry funds of the Fellowship (General, Students, Mission and Overseas, Publications).

If your blue or yellow subscription reminder form is still peeping out at you from a vast pile of personal admin papers, may I encourage you to pick it up immediately and respond in whatever way you are able - even with the responses so far, there are many who have not yet replied, and I fully expect a six figure deficit at the year end unless we receive the vast bulk of these current subscriptions, and a significant proportion of past subscriptions from those who are able to respond more generously. If you are in a position to make a further donation in the lead up to Christmas that would also be wonderful, particularly as you will have read elsewhere in both *Triple Helix* and *CMF News* of the increasingly dark days in which we are living, and all of the work CMF is spearheading to stem the tide.

If you have read through the *Introducing CMF* booklet in the last mailing, you may have come across the membership joining form included within it. Might you now consider handing this on to a colleague interested in CMF's work in the Medical Profession? 1,000 new members all working full time and contributing a full subscription would make a big contribution to CMF's accounts breaking even in 2005!

Giles Rawlinson is CMF Chief Administrator

CMF staff

General Secretary

Peter Saunders. peter.saunders@cmf.org.uk

Associate General Secretary

Kevin Vaughan. kevin.vaughan@cmf.org.uk

Overseas Support Secretary

Peter Armon. peter.armon@cmf.org.uk

Student Secretary

Mark Pickering. mark.pickering@cmf.org.uk

Allied Professions Secretary

Steve Fouch. steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk

Chief Administrator

Giles Rawlinson. giles.rawlinson@cmf.org.uk

Researcher

Jacky Engel. jacky.engel@cmf.org.uk

Communications Officer

Tanya Yeghnazar. tanya@cmf.org.uk

Graduates' PA

Judy Wilson. judy.wilson@cmf.org.uk

Overseas PA

Laura Risdale. laura.risdale@cmf.org.uk

Students' PA

Sandra Hartley. sandra.hartley@cmf.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

November

- 2 Saline Solution, Warwick
- 5 Oxford Day Conference, Oxford
- 5 Midlands Day Conference, Nottingham
- 4-6 South Eastern Conference, Ashburnham Place, East Sussex
- 8 Saline Solution, Inverness
- 10 Saline Solution, Leicester
- 19 Scottish Day Conference, Dundee
- 19 Welsh Day Conference, Bridgend
- 30 Saline Solution, Exeter

December

- 1 Saline Solution, Taunton
- 3 Executive Committee, London
- 7 Saline Solution, York
- 9 Saline Solution, Leeds

January

- 10-12 Student Conference

March

- 4 Leeds Electives Day
- 15 London Electives Day
- 17-19 Student Leaders' Conference

April

- 28-30 National Conference

CMF News

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Tel 020 7928 4694
Fax 020 7620 2453
Email: news@cmf.org.uk
Website: www.cmf.org.uk

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