

Building for the future

Doctors are under great pressure. Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) will see 34,000 junior doctors applying for just 18,500 training posts, with many facing unemployment or migration. Changes in immigration laws have already seen tens of thousands of overseas doctors who have been uprooted from specialist training schemes having to return home, and the PLAB crisis has left jobless thousands lured here under false pretences of employment.

NHS budgets are being slashed and salaries frozen. Hospitals are being closed or constantly reorganised, and many fear creeping privatisation. The NHS IT strategy 'Connecting for Health' seems like a £20 billion disaster. There is widespread disillusionment with a management culture that has marginalised doctors in the decision-making process. PMETB threatens to usurp the role of Royal Colleges in postgraduate education, and doctors are under constant attack in the media and from the government.

Euthanasia looms, and the sexual health crisis deepens with the government continuing to push tired, failed solutions. Not surprisingly we have the most unpopular health secretary in history, and 69% of hospital doctors would not advise studying medicine.

CMF's challenges

Alongside these problems, ours seem minuscule, but are in many ways a microcosm of what is happening elsewhere. In the last



six months we have been grappling with finding solutions to a budget deficit, a failing IT system, a creaking organisational structure, and an enforced office move, on top of seven years of vibrant ministry growth. In short, CMF requires a radical prune.

Pruning

By God's grace we completed last year with a deficit of £103k on a turnover of £1.2 million. Had we simply carried on all activities we would have been looking at a £440k deficit in 2007, because a legacy of £235k will not be repeated. Getting our projected deficit for 2007 down to £100k (which will leave a cushion of three months' running costs at year end) has involved cutting existing expenditure, putting new appointments on hold and putting in place plans for raising new income, whilst preserving core ministries and building a solid foundation for the future.

Expenditure has had to be cut,



sadly, by cutting all activities, making two redundancies, and cutting sessions of six more staff. This leaves 19 staff working 15.8 whole time equivalents. **Clare Cooper** leaves after five years' faithful service to graduate members, and **Joan Arnold** has served centrally for six years. Alex Bunn, Paul Cooper, Jacky Engel, Andrew Fergusson, Mark Pickering, and Kevin Vaughan lose sessions. Please remember all these in prayer.

All new appointments are on hold. New pay scales to bring parity between CMF and the general charity sector have not been implemented, but instead

all existing salaries have been frozen for 14 months. New income measures include aiming to reinstate 400 lapsed graduate members (we have lost contact with 1,300 since 1994 despite overall membership staying constant), and recruiting 100 new senior and 200 new junior graduate members. Project funding will be sought from trusts and through targeted appeals and some senior staff will concentrate on this.

New senior staff team

A new team has been assembled. There are now six ministry departments, each under a department head: Kevin Vaughan (Graduate Ministries), Mark Pickering (Student Ministries), Peter Armon (Overseas Ministries), Andrew Fergusson (Communications), Joshua Wathanga (Central Services) and Steve Fouch (Membership Services). This devolves responsibility from the General Secretary and provides an excellent foundation for future growth. The new team is already working



Kevin Vaughan



Mark Pickering



Peter Armon



Andrew Fergusson



Joshua Wathanga



Steve Fouch

well together.

The total projected expenditure for 2007 of £1.265 million divides:

Building for the future



Peter Saunders

students £168k, graduates £165k, mission and overseas £160k, communications £185k, central services £365k, and membership services £221k. Our budgeted income of £1.165 million comes from: expected subscriptions and general donations £505k, designated income £411k, Gift Aid £125k, rent and investments £42k and new member income £83k.

New building

CMF has to move because our base for 32 years has been sold. We have been overwhelmed by the response to the capital appeal to buy a new London home. At the time of writing the fund stood at £1.245 million (donations and pledges), two thirds of the purchase price, which means we will be able to complete the purchase of 6-8 Marshalsea Road, Southwark on 8 June and move on 16 June. Lawyers' Christian Fellowship and Friends of Ludhiana will join us as tenants, and annual repayments on the mortgage will be substantially less than current rent.

New IT system

Our last IT upgrade in 2003 has proved expensive and problematic. Thankfully we have negotiated a good exit strategy, and are now well advanced instituting a much cheaper tailor made alternative.

New engagement

This autumn we plan to mobilise senior staff to recruit new and lapsed members, to re-engage with grass-roots membership, to revitalise the CMF regions, and to focus further on UK graduates. Please bear with us and pray through all these changes.

Peter Saunders is CMF General Secretary



Micah Challenge - blow the whistle

With this mailing you should have received a postcard/flyer from Micah Challenge UK, a coalition CMF belongs to. It invites prayer and offers a lobbying

option about Britain fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals.

Regional CMF meetings

See www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship for information about local groups

Congratulations

Francesca Elloway - OBE for serving the Democratic Republic of Congo

Chris Lavy - OBE for orthopaedic care in Africa

Malcolm Molyneux - OBE for tropical diseases work in Malawi

Elizabeth Molyneux - OBE for paediatrics in Malawi

Molly Pont - OBE for services in Quetta, Pakistan

Michael Cotton - Inaugural honorary Professor of Clinical Practice, University of Science and Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Susan Hamilton - MRCPsych

Katherine Hill - FFPH

Sophie Lamb - MRCP

Please let us know about awards, appointments, or postgraduate qualifications

Obituaries

John Burslem (q Manchester 1968; d 11 November 2006) was a missionary with Interserve.

Philip Clements (q King's College Hospital 1943; d Christmas 2005) worked in public health in Wiltshire.

Roger Ferguson (q Birmingham 1969) was a consultant gastroenterologist at Arrowe Park Hospital and latterly sat on GMC fitness-to-practise committees.

Wesley Finegan (q Belfast 1978; d 20 January 2007) was a consultant in palliative medicine in Dundee and was diagnosed with cancer in 1994. CMF stocks his books *Trust Me - I'm a Cancer Patient* (2004) and *Being a Cancer Patient's Carer* (2005).

Sidney Hamilton (q Cambridge and The London Hospital 1937, d 10 July 2006) was a GP in south London who cared for his wife Anne, a fellow GP, for 25 years after she was paralysed by polio in 1953.

George Hudson (q Manchester 1949; d 26 October 2006) was Emeritus Professor of Haematology at the University of Sheffield and had been regional postgraduate dean.

Stephen Moore (q Oxford 1979; d weekend 5/6 August 2006) was a GP in Essex.

Gordon Oakshott (q Leeds 1952; d 7 December 2006) became a GP and later a clinical research fellow at the medical physics and bioengineering research unit at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

Murray Philip (q Edinburgh 1945; d March 2006). Murray went to a leprosy colony in Nigeria in 1950. In 1968 he became a GP principal in Catrine, Mauchline. 'He always had the interests of his patients at heart.'

Robina Sealey (q Birmingham 1959; d 22 January 2007) specialised in paediatrics and had been RMO at The Children's Hospital, Birmingham.

Michael Varnam (q The London Hospital 1967; d 29 April 2006) was an innovative academic GP, latterly in inner city Nottingham. He died of cancer having just delivered a few hours earlier, with the help of his son, the 2006 Rendle Short Lecture.

Outgoing

Andrene Hamilton (Edinburgh) to Thailand

Juliana Jermigan (Brazil) to Ghana

Anne Stearn (Edinburgh) to Thailand

Homecoming

Rosemary Brown (Westminster) from Kenya

Maeve Jinks (Newcastle) from Bangladesh

Andrew Lephard from Cameroon

Andrew Perkins (Royal Free) from Mali

Maureen Stevenson (Belfast) from Malawi

Philip Storey (Edinburgh) from Ghana

Alison Wilkinson (Edinburgh) from Kenya

Change of address abroad

Hannah Faal (UCH) from Gambia to Ghana

Ron Halbrooks (USA) from Thailand to USA

Paul Saunderson (Cambridge) from USA to Norway

Students speak...



Mark Pickering

The National Students' Conference, 9-11 February, was the second biggest ever, with just over 400 from all over the UK, Ireland and beyond battling through freak snowstorms. Hugh Thomson spoke powerfully from Daniel on 'The God we Serve is Able' and Rhona Knight encouraged us to get 'In the Firing Line', standing up for God's truth as Christian medics.

Rachel McCollum from Belfast writes:

“ From the start of Daniel 1 we were challenged to realise our identity as citizens of heaven. We have been given many privileges and yet we face huge pressures from every side that would have us conform and lose our identity. These may be the pressures of drinking, sleeping around, supporting abortion (sometimes by our silence), wasting money and time, gluttony, pride or arrogance; or the pressures to please our friends or consultants. Too often we become like the chameleon. In all our efforts for the gospel we must imitate Daniel - courageous and courteous yet not abrasive. If people are offended let it be the cross that offends, not our sins. Though I arrived at the conference tired and worrying about things, I was so thankful for being there. I cannot encourage you enough to take the time out next year and go. ”

MP3 files of all four main talks can be ordered from pubs@cmf.org.uk

Jesuloba Abiola is the new chair of the London-based Students' Conference Committee and was one of 40 at the **Student Leaders' Conference** on 23-25 March:



“ After two years as a CMF rep I decided it was time I went to the leaders' conference. Unlike most of the others (who were just beginning to lead their groups), I was able to compare what we were being taught with my own experience of leadership. By the end of the weekend I was sure I had missed out by waiting so long. This conference is a must! Leading a CMF group is exciting, challenging, and, if you're anything like me, overwhelming at times. The conference helped me realise it need not be done alone; help is at hand! ”

The conference launched the new **Student Leaders' Manual** – also known as 'Being a CMF rep - for dummies!' This sketches out CMF's work and how we fit in, gives ideas for talks and debates, and has information on training courses. Do you want to have a mission week or hold a day conference? It'll help you with that too. As well as being highly practical, it also deals with personal issues of leadership. What more could you ask for? ”

Mark Pickering and Alex Bunn were in Northern Ireland from 30 March-1 April for **Confident Christianity** teaching with 35 students from Belfast and Dublin. This was hugely enjoyable. Students were encouraged to follow the



through, encouraging doctors to consider the potential physical and mental risks of abortion and advise women accordingly. Nick Riches writes:

“ Predictably, this generated some heated debate and, while there was a broad consensus as to the importance of counselling, other parts of the motion proved more controversial ... it is simply a privilege to be able to raise points that may not otherwise be made and to challenge viewpoints that are perhaps simply being taken for granted. ”

apostles' example and share the gospel 'in words people understand, in an environment where they feel comfortable and with the opportunity for discussion', before role-playing common objections. It was very encouraging to see fruit from the recent blossoming of CMF activity in Dublin.

The same weekend several CMF students were in Nottingham for the **BMA Medical Students' Conference**. Anna Soar from Newcastle had a motion debated and a part voted

This is another example of CMF students getting stuck in and making a difference.

I hope you are encouraged to hear a little of what is going on around the country. Do pray for our students, who are standing up for Jesus in a difficult and often hostile environment – they need our support!

Mark Pickering is Head of Student Ministries.

NHS: stresses and strains



Kevin Vaughan

What a fiasco the new selection procedure for specialist training posts within Modernising Medical Careers has turned out to be! The government has been forced to climb down on its original plans and is struggling to find a workable compromise half way through the process.

There has been a worrying lack of transparency. No one seems to know what is going on, even those at the heart of the process, and it all feels like an experiment with an unpredictable outcome. The number of *training* posts has been markedly reduced, leaving a large number of *service* posts, with fewer career opportunities.

The 'State' seems to know best where it wants to use its doctors and there appears no recognition of individual vocation. Juniors will be forced to embark on a particular career pathway within two years of graduating and will find it very difficult to make a sideways move later.

Many of the questions in the nationwide online application form have been obscure, the website has frequently crashed, and the full flavour of the more experienced candidates has not come across in the compulsory limited answer format. Many good candidates were not originally offered any interview on the first round and some have already decided to vote with their feet and look for medical work abroad, or take up a different career such as teaching. In particular, the 'lost tribe' of SHO's has fallen foul of the new system and many are disillusioned and disheartened.

Two practical issues particularly concern us as Christians. It will be very difficult for married couples to stay together and the system specifically discourages juniors from doing a period of medical service abroad.

How can we respond?

First, we must *pray* and *demonstrate pastoral concern* for juniors caught up in the process. We must stand alongside individuals and encourage them that in times of uncertainty God can be trusted to care and provide for us. A CMF junior said: 'The fear nearly destroyed me last year, and was fuelled by myself, my peers and the paucity of available information. I can still remember how fear blinded me to seeing that God is in control.'

many are disillusioned and disheartened

West Midlands CMF held a prayer meeting. Both seniors involved in selection and juniors applying for jobs were present. Some hospital consultants, particularly those in Deanery posts, appreciated sharing their pressures.

Secondly, we must *promote transparency* and establish a system of selection for training jobs that is widely recognised as *fair* and *workable*. It may be costly to speak out for justice in today's political climate, but surely the prophet Micah's disturbing condemnation of God's people, who made no move against the corrupt and abusive systems of their day, is a relevant challenge to us?

Kevin Vaughan is Head of Graduate Ministries

From the JDC

In Christ we have a sure hope and as we have met as a committee we have realised we must remind each other about this. God has been doing amazing things through CMF and juniors, but it is often hard for us to see beyond the difficulties we face when our working lives cause increasing disruption of Christian fellowship and family relationships. Remembering the eternal perspective, we've also been trying to find practical ways of serving and equipping Christian juniors.



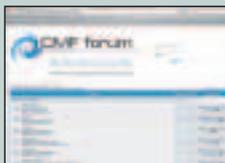
Junior doctors' conference

Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire, 23-25 November. We hope to look at 1 Peter with the theme 'Hope in the midst of mayhem', which seems very appropriate. Please continue to pray as we invite speakers and finalise the programme.



Surviving foundation years book

It's been a long time in the pipeline but should be published early in 2008. Rachael Pickering has taken over as editor and the new approach looks good for dipping into. What we have reviewed is really encouraging!



www.cmf.org.uk/forum

The Junior Doctors' Forum exists on the CMF website so you can post your comments on juniors' issues and see what others have to say.



Ben Hall

Committee

Thank you for your ongoing prayers. Ben Hall is the new chairperson and his organisational skills are already proving useful! We have had our first weekend away as a committee to get to know one another better and plan for the year ahead.

William Chang is a member of the Junior Doctors' Committee

40th anniversary of Abortion Act

This anniversary has led to considerable media coverage already. In April, an *Independent* front page reported a shortage of younger doctors being willing to take part in abortions, and predicted a crisis in the NHS. The 'pro-choice' lobby used this to reinforce their argument for nurses and others being trained to perform abortions, but if anything, the subsequent coverage was sympathetic to our point of view. CMF members featured in a number of national newspapers.

Media enquirers were nowhere near so hostile as they would have been ten or five years ago. Is the tide of public opinion beginning to turn?

Education



Andrew Fergusson

e-newsletter launched

The first edition of a new electronic newsletter went out in late March to all 3,000 or so members whose email addresses we hold. We had about 20 very encouraging responses. We resonate with: 'Don't make it too long or too frequent'. We won't! We are aiming to send out the equivalent of one side of A4, with links, about once a month. If you missed it, it is now available at: www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship/doctors/eneewsletter.htm

CMF Website

With a dedicated communications department, and the return to the team of Jacky Engel as Web Editor, there is a lot of new material on the website. We are committed to developing it significantly. If you have not been there recently, visit: www.cmf.org.uk

Cambridge conference on mental capacity

The conference on 3 March reviewed clinical issues around death and dying in the light of the enactment in England on 1 April of the first parts of the Mental Capacity Act.

Peter Saunders gave a historical overview; and there were theological and biblical contributions from David Jones and John Wyatt. Barrister Charles Foster brought the legal perspective that much of the Act is both necessary and uncontroversial, while gastroenterologist Philip Howard was more cautious. The 70 participants broke into groups for case studies and concluded there are dangers both of over-treatment and unintended suffering, and of under-treatment leading to inappropriately early deaths.

For a fuller report see www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship/doctors/east_anglia_day.htm

MA in bioethics

St Mary's University College, Twickenham runs a well established MA course in bioethics which many CMF members have taken. The course is one year full time or up to three years part-time, and in September will also be available by e-learning.

The curriculum is taught from within a Judeo-Christian ethos though examines all major perspectives. The first year covers principles of bioethics, medical law and moral philosophy. In the second year, optional modules include issues at the end of life and Christian bioethics.

Though demanding, it is hugely enjoyable and St Mary's with a high staff/student ratio is a very supportive environment in which to study. Details available on www.smuc.ac.uk/Courses/Postgraduate/Bioethics/index.htm. Application or enquiries to Dr David Jones, course director, on jonesd@smuc.ac.uk

Christian Heritage summer schools

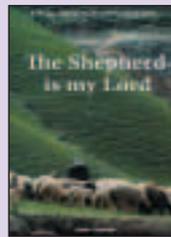
These valuable courses equip Christians to make a difference in today's secular world. Please consider them yourself and publicise them. All are at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and are residential and non-residential.

- **9-13 July.** Cambridge Centre for Apologetics. *Confronting Secularism*. Introductory course. Main speaker: Stefan Gustavsson

Publications



Allister Vale



The Shepherd is my Lord

CMF has just published Janet Goodall's thought provoking book on Psalm 23. Have you ordered copies to give away? This is a must read for every CMF member and could be read with profit by all church members. Order from CMF at £10 inclusive of p&p, or via:

Amazon

In a trial, some newer titles available from CMF can now be bought on Amazon:

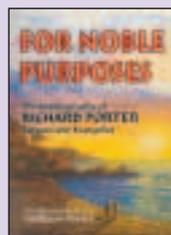
- *Can it be me?*
- *Mad, Bad or Sad?*
- *Cure for Life*
- *Hard Questions about Health and Healing*
- *Matters of Life and Death*
- *Doctor's Life Support 2*
- *Honourably Wounded*
- *The Shepherd is my Lord*

We don't mind whether you go to Amazon or www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore but please publicise CMF's excellent resources. New titles are attracting wider review coverage and we aim to make CMF publications available in major Christian bookshops.

Proposed new publication

Robina Coker is working on a new book on Complementary and Alternative Medicine. We hope it will be ready for publication in December.

Books received



Two autobiographies by CMF members have been received:

- *For Noble Purposes* is about the late **Richard Porter**, 'surgeon and evangelist' (Obituary *Triple Helix* Autumn 2006 p21). ISBN-10: 0 86071 594 9. ISBN-13: 978 086071 597



- *Katherine's Story* is by Katherine Hill and is a fully illustrated account of her life as a Christian in public health. For availability, contact the author on 0114 230 5409

Allister Vale is CMF Publications Chairman

- **16-21 July.** Cambridge Summer School of Theology. *The Doctrine of Scripture*. Speaker: Wayne Grudem
 - **23-27 July.** Cambridge Centre for Apologetics. *Proclaiming Christ and Unmasking the Counterfeits*. Speaker: Daniel Strange
- Course details and application forms at www.christianheritageuk.org.uk/Group/Group.aspx?id=572

Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications

Mission matters

Keeping in touch and ongoing intercession for members working abroad



Peter Armon

Elective Days

CMF Days were held in Leeds and London during March. As always, these were evaluated highly but numbers were down. Less formal elective events have been held in Norwich, Brighton and Belfast (and no doubt elsewhere). We would encourage such events within medical schools regionally and the National Student Committee will rethink the need for national events. The overseas desk is always available to advise and help.



were on home assignment in the UK, but for a long time this has not been the case.

However, the NHS Charges to Overseas Visitors Regulations 1989 were recently amended by Parliament to the effect that:

Anyone who is working outside the UK as a missionary for an organisation with its principal place of business in the UK will be fully exempt from NHS charges. This is regardless of whether they derive a salary or wage from the organisation, or receive any type of funding or assistance from the organisation for the purposes of working overseas.

These changes came into effect in England on 15 January 2007. For further information, contact: Martin Campbell, Department of Health. Tel: 0113 254 5174 or email: martin.campbell@dh.gsi.gov.uk

■ The value of time spent overseas may soon be more widely recognised, pension rights maintained and appraisal and re-entry to the NHS made easier. These recommendations by Lord Crisp (previously NHS CEO) in a report *Global Health Partnerships*, published in March, could make things significantly easier for those considering taking time out to work abroad, leading both to recognition of their work and aiding re-entry into the NHS. The full document can be found at www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/ghp.pdf

Publications

The new guide to preparing for a medical elective is available at www.healthserve.org/electives/preparing/. *Working Abroad*, the new edition of the Missions Handbook, extensively rewritten and updated, will be available soon. The new *Developing Health* CD Rom will be ready for July.

Developing Health Course (DHC) UK

1-13 July 2007. Details at: www.healthserve.org/developing-health Both the brochure and booking forms can be downloaded. Please make this known to any interested in working abroad. The RCP has accredited the course with 50 credits for full attendance.

Cancellation of HealthServe Day

Due to the impending office move, the HealthServe Day that was to be held on 7 July at Oak Hill has been cancelled. We hope to reschedule either later this year or in 2008.

Good news:

■ Free access to NHS care for those working as missionaries overseas. You might have thought that our members working overseas were entitled to free NHS care when they

PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



John Geater

At the PRIME Tutor Day in March, Baroness Caroline Cox was welcomed as a new Patron. As Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, vice-President of the RCN and Director of Christian relief charity HART, she brings both affirmation and fresh insights. In an inspiring address she spoke of the enormous persecution Christians are under in certain areas of the world, and encouraged tutors to strengthen doctors and nurses there with both practical support and education.

PRIME is now active in around 20 countries, so we need additional tutors and additional finance. God is opening up more opportunities in countries as diverse as Sierra Leone and Czech Republic, Russia and Nepal. Doors are open now that may soon be shut. No longer is PRIME's main focus primary care only, though this is still important. Do sign up whatever your clinical or related discipline, and do please make PRIME part of your regular giving.

Here, there is fresh interest in including spirituality in the medical and nursing schools' curricula and Christians mustn't leave this to others. In Brighton on 4-5 June PRIME is hosting a conference for all Christian healthcare teachers to discuss how the spiritual aspects of whole person care should best be taught. Contributors include Sam Leinster, Dean of East Anglia, Barbara Parfitt, Dean of Nursing in Glasgow and Richard Vincent, associate Dean at Brighton. This should be a defining conference of potentially national significance and help equip anyone with any teaching responsibility in UK or overseas.

Details on all the above from info@prime-international.org.uk

John Geater is International Director of PRIME

Appraisal and re-entry procedures have been the subject of debate in the *BMJ* recently and members have been contributing. See www.bmj.com and also a BBC link at www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6109896.stm

Courses

■ **Redcliffe College, Gloucester** - a workshop entitled *Preparing families for life overseas* to be held on Saturday 13 October from 10.30-4. Cost £20/£35 per couple. Crèche available. Details: www.redcliffe.org

Experience mission in India or climb Mt Kenya - SIM offer a 3-week field trip to observe and experience healthcare in a cross-cultural setting at Duncan Hospital in Raxaul, north India from 28

September-20 October, to be led by CMF member Peter Jackson and his wife Ruth. Orientation weekend planned for 31 August. Cost ~ £1,200. Details at teams@sim.co.uk

Lawyers Christian Fellowship are looking for a doctor to accompany a group of sponsored climbers of Mt Kenya in mid to late September in aid of their Legal Aid work. It would be appreciated if the doctor could also raise sponsorship but help might be forthcoming. Contact Christine John at international@lawcf.org

Peter Armon is Head of Overseas Ministries

ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



Daryl Hackland

We have just returned from the UK and Germany where we were privileged to participate in four significant meetings, all impacting the development and growth of ICMDA.

CMF.UK

Meeting with Peter Saunders and his CMF.UK team is always an encouragement. As we shared around the process of their restructuring and the joy of the Lord providing a new building, we were so aware of God's purpose and will being unfolded. As a strong member body, CMF.UK has contributed enormously through its vision to develop student and junior graduate leaders in many countries, to provide good literature, and to reach out in compassionate caring as it did for the South Asian tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan.

ICMDA (UK) Trust

Next came the ICMDA (UK) Trust meeting. Here we again thanked our Lord for the life, witness, leadership and service of Alan Johnson who helped shape our global organisation into its present form. Marinus Verweij was elected Chairperson of the Trust and we pray God's blessing on him as he takes up this leadership role.

Trust needs trustees and secretary

Many CMF members give tax efficiently to the work of ICMDA through the ICMDA (UK) Trust and we are enormously grateful. You may not know that the late Alan Johnson was chairman of the ICMDA Trust, which has around eight members and meets once a year. We now need one or two new trustees and a new secretary. The trustee role would suit a recently retired CMF member with international interests. The role of secretary is more demanding, currently taking around 4-5 hours a week, but would also suit a recent retiree.

Enquiries to the present secretary, Dr Peter Patisson at Russets, Woodlands, Pembury, Kent TN2 4AZ, or email icmda@ukonline.co.uk

HCFI

The following meeting with Chris Steyn and George McDonald of Healthcare Christian Fellowship International allowed Peter Patisson and myself to explore establishing a closer working relationship between ICMDA and HCFI. The recommendations proposed will come before the HCFI Board and the ICMDA Executive (28-29 June) and we trust decisions taken will greatly benefit both.

Eurasia Regional Executive

The final meeting was in Marburg, Germany for the Eurasia Regional Executive meeting and Area Student Representatives (ASR) Leadership Training Seminar. What a blessing both events proved to be. As the ASRs shared their reports and prayed for one another, a deep sense of the Lord's presence filled us. Great happenings are taking place, relating directly to the amazing commitment and faithfulness demonstrated in each ASR's life.

*Daryl Hackland is ICMDA General Secretary
Email: icmda@webstormsa.co.za*

ICMDA Eurasia



James Tomlinson

At the training for Eurasia Area Student Representatives (ASRs) and student staff workers alongside the first meeting of the new ICMDA Eurasia committee, the joy of our time together was the palpable sense of team. All the ASRs give their time voluntarily, encouraging work amongst medical and dental students across the vast region of Eurasia, with most living in the area they serve. Being together, sharing joys and struggles, and praying for one another are vital parts of their support. Topics covered included the importance of our spiritual walk, how to lead a Christian medical discussion, and how to support fellowship groups. In contrast to the situation in the UK where we have a team of student staff workers, Norway, Holland and Germany each have one.



Eurasia committee



Student workers

Two new ASRs were appointed. Dr Dana Galchis from Romania, currently a trainee in family practice, takes over as ASR for the Balkans from Dr Nada Petrovski. We are grateful to the Lord and Nada for all God has done through her involvement. Dr Vitaliy takes over from our previous ASR to Central Asia, becoming our first ASR from the region. Please pray for them.

Next Europe-Eurasia conference

Much committee time was given to planning the next Europe-Eurasia ICMDA Conference *Resources (un) limited* to be held at Schloss Schielleiten near Graz, Austria from **7-14 September 2008**. You should have received the first flyer with this mailing. Do mark the dates and plan to join us, and please pray for the Austrian organising team, for the speakers, and all involved bringing this conference together.

Russian language conference

More imminently, from **31 July-5 August 2007** we are running with the Russian CMF a Russian language conference for Christian medical leaders from across the former Soviet Union. This is a unique opportunity to gather 140 key leaders for specific training in one of four tracks: Christian medical leadership, integrity in healthcare, sharing faith as a health professional, and medicine as mission. To attend this conference most will require bursary assistance, and CMF.UK is also inviting donations towards the cost (£5,000) of translating and printing all 33 *CMF Files* in time for the conference.

Please pray. Further information including prayer points and how to contribute financially can be obtained from the ICMDA Eurasia student co-ordinator Jonny Thiessen: jonny@cmf.org.uk.

*James Tomlinson is the ICMDA Eurasia Associate Regional Secretary
Email: icmda@ukonline.co.uk*

Allied professions and prayer



Steve Fouch

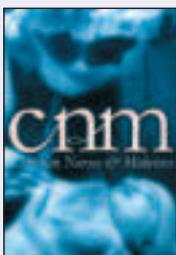
CMF supports the emerging work among Christians in nursing and the allied health professions because we recognise the value of networks of strong Christian groups in the health service. This year sees major changes.



Christian Therapists' Network

CTN supports Christian professionals ranging from physiotherapists to speech and language therapists, and almost everyone in between. After more than seven years leading and building up this network from a handful of enthusiasts to a fellowship of over 200, Zillah Whitehouse has stepped down as co-ordinator to make way for a new leadership team at CTN.

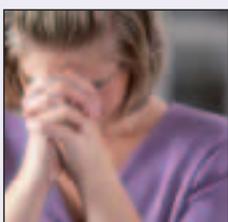
Zillah, a full time physiotherapist in the New Forest, has been a constant figure in the Christian allied professions world for most of the last decade. She has worked tirelessly in her spare time to support other believers around the country, but CTN has grown so much that the work has had to be passed on to an enlarged leadership team. Please pray for CTN at this time of transition. With no paid staff, the network is entirely run by volunteers with some administrative support from the CMF office. Do let Christians in the allied professions know about CTN: www.ctn.org.uk



Christian Nurses and Midwives

CNM also continues to grow, now numbering over 150 members. After their recent national conference (held jointly with CTN) they found unexpected growth on their

hands, with a new group setting up almost overnight in Swansea and another beginning in Merseyside. Meanwhile, out of the blue a Christian nurse in Sheffield got in touch. She had just begun a local group for Christian nurses, and wanted to link in with something more national. All these happened in a few weeks, with no major push or recruitment drive – God just opened new doorways.



Supportive prayer

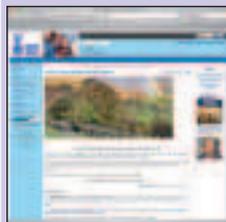
Much of this growth is due to the strong supportive prayer networks behind CNM and CTN. These are mostly retired health professionals who, having

passed on the baton, continue to support from the sidelines.

CNM Council met recently to review their strategy, and it was very exciting. One of the challenges both CTN and CNM face is that more and more of those going in to these professions are mature students in their thirties, often with families, mortgages and church commitments of their own. The old model of hospital-based groups does not always work now and the challenge is to find new ways to support and link people – the internet, events local and national, publications, and so on.

CMF continues to help these emerging groups (and many link with local CMF groups) through administrative support and through organising joint events like *Saline Solution* courses. Please continue to pray for this work as it develops.

Steve Fouch will continue to support allied professions as CMF Head of Member Services



More prayer for healthcare

Healthcare Christian Fellowship in the British Isles and Ireland has just launched seven years of prayer for healthcare as part of a worldwide HCFI

initiative. Their desire is that others would take this up. Jeff Dyas writes:

As a first step, we have decided to set aside a time each week when all of us can pray for healthcare – one large, geographically dispersed prayer meeting. So please join us in prayer every Wednesday between 06.00-06.30 (or 22.00-22.30 for late risers and those on difficult shifts!)

Email: hcfbii@hotmail.co.uk or web www.hcfbii.givengain.org

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

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Dates for your Diary

June

- 21 Psychiatry Breakfast, Edinburgh
- 26 BMA Breakfast, Torquay

July

- 1-13 Developing Health Course, Oak Hill, London
- 5 O&G Breakfast, London
- 12 Dermatology Breakfast, Birmingham
- 14 Executive Committee, London

September

- 13 Anaesthetists' Breakfast, Dublin
- 22 General Committee, London

October

- 12 Psychiatry Conference, Liverpool
- 12-14 Northern Conference, Scarborough
- 14 Health Care Sunday
- 24-26 Retirees Conference, Leicestershire

November

- 10 Midlands Day Conference, Nottingham
- 16-18 Scottish Conference, Loch Lomond, Scotland
- 23-25 Junior Doctors' Conference, Leicestershire

December

- 1 Executive Committee, London

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