

Overstretched?

As a general surgical registrar I was once helping my consultant remove a giant spleen when the patient began 'hosing' from an invisible source. After a frenzy of clamping, cutting and ligating, things stabilised and we were able to proceed at a more leisurely pace. 'It's good to see the boss sweat, isn't it?' he said, and I had to agree. Seeing someone we admire really struggling can actually be a great encouragement, especially if the struggle has occurred because of their willingness to accept a difficult challenge. In my consultant's case it would have been far easier to avoid the giant spleen altogether, but his readiness to take it on – and sweat in the process – meant both a life saved and a trainee inspired.

As Christian doctors, most of us struggle to juggle the many demands of work, church and family successfully. Sometimes this is because we say 'yes' to extra responsibility when we should really have said 'no'. But often the struggle comes simply because we have responded in good conscience to do the right thing: choosing not to compromise, going the extra mile, being willing to help someone shoulder a burden, rising to the challenge.

The great biblical heroes of faith are inspiring because they teach us that God uses ordinary men and women who struggle in the same way that we do. Moses led his people out of slavery, performed miracles, talked face to face with God¹ and was the humblest man on earth.² And yet he felt so desperately



overwhelmed by the responsibility of looking after his people that he felt God was punishing him and asked to be put to death. God's response was to appoint 70 men to help him 'carry the burden of the people' so that he would 'not have to carry it alone'.³

Elijah felt so fearful after his heroics on Mt Carmel that he 'ran for his life' and 'prayed that he might die'. God's prescription was food, drink, a good night's sleep and a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. God then assured him that he wasn't alone and led him to anoint a successor who would never leave his side.⁴

Esther was afraid that standing up for her threatened countrymen might lead to her own death, but she was persuaded that despite the risk, she should do the right thing and asked for her fellow Jews to fast and pray for her.⁵ And God came through with the goods.

The Apostle Paul was the greatest church planter the world has ever seen, but he talked of himself, and Timothy, being 'under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life'.⁶ Through



it he was able to know God's comfort in these trials, pass that comfort on to others⁷ and learn that God's 'power is made perfect in weakness'.⁸

Perhaps most striking are the words of the Servant of Isaiah, Christ himself, who could say 'I have laboured to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing' but then went on to declare that 'what is due to me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God'.⁹

Are you feeling weighed down by bulging in-trays and looming deadlines, anxious that some of the many plates you are spinning will crash to the ground, worn down by the demands of managers or colleagues or just wondering how you are going

to get through the next day? Be encouraged by the fact that these greatest of saints were overcome with anxiety, fell exhausted, looked back and wondered if they had achieved anything of value, and even begged God to end their lives. And look to God as they did for the reinforcements, prayer supporters, courage, rest, fresh strength and words of hope to help sustain you. Most of all know that the God who calls you to walk in his footsteps has himself walked this earth, knows what it is like to be tempted¹⁰ and lives in you by his Spirit.¹¹

I hope you will find encouragement, in reading this edition of *CMF News*, by all that God is doing in and through ordinary Christian doctors and medical students. And most of all, that you will be reminded that, however overstretched you feel, he is worth it.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

references

1. Numbers 12:8
2. Numbers 12:3
3. Numbers 11:10-17
4. 1 Kings 19:3-21
5. Esther 4:6-17
6. 2 Corinthians 1:8
7. 2 Corinthians 1:3,4
8. 2 Corinthians 12:9
9. Isaiah 49:4
10. Hebrews 4:15
11. 2 Corinthians 4:7

Peter Saunders
is CMF General
Secretary



Changes at the top

This year's annual **General Committee** meeting, which ultimately governs all of CMF's activities, took place much later than previously so we will have to bring you news of all the exciting reports and discussion in the next edition. However, we just have time and space to announce some key changes among the Officers.

New Chairman



Trevor Stammers

Trevor Stammers has been acting Chairman for most of 2007, and now formally becomes Chairman. Trevor is a GP and academic, a speaker, writer and broadcaster, and is well known within CMF and elsewhere. You will read about Trevor and Rachel's son Matt, a medical student, elsewhere in this edition.

New President



Sam Leinster

Since Alan Johnson's sudden death last autumn, Brian Hogbin has been acting as President. We are very grateful to Brian for stepping into the breach and helping steer CMF through all the changes of this year. We are delighted to announce that **Sam Leinster** is the new President. Sam was Professor of Surgery at Liverpool, and is now the first Dean of the new medical school in the University of East Anglia at Norwich.

New Treasurer



Allister Vale

Tony Bell has been CMF Treasurer for a decade or so, a time of great expansion. He is succeeded by **Allister Vale**, who is based in Birmingham. Allister has chaired the Publications Committee for some years, and was previously Treasurer of the CMF.

We are grateful to all these, and to everyone who gives their time locally or nationally to keep CMF's many activities going.

Regional CMF meetings

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

Congratulations

John Holden - the President's Medal of the Royal College of General Practitioners

Vijay Kunadian - MD with commendation

David Misselbrook - Associate Dean of the Royal Society of Medicine

Eldryd Parry - the Centenary Medal of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, for his lifetime contribution

Rachel Pinniger - FRCP

Outgoing

Mary Cusack to India

Tim Latham (Birmingham) to Uganda

Grace Lee-Tsang Tan (Sheffield) to New Zealand

Zerlina Lim (TCD) to Singapore

Tina Lloyd (New Zealand) to France

Alan and Elizabeth Norrish to Zambia

Joy Rafferty (Dundee) to Malawi

Obituaries

Correction. The last edition of *CMF News* mistakenly announced the death of **Roger Ferguson**. Roger is alive and well and we apologise to him and his family for distress and inconvenience caused.

Donald Allsop (q Birmingham 1951; d 2006) lived and worked as a GP in South Africa.

Eunice Ellen (q Dundee 1937; d 28 January 2007) was living in Holsworthy, Devon at the time of her death.

Ronald Hancock (q Middlesex 1949; d October 2006) was a GP and an ordained Anglican priest.

Michael Harper (q Oxford 1969) was a GP in Bristol and did epidemiological research for the MRC.

Harold Lake (q Durham 1947; d 31 March 2007) was a consultant in ophthalmology at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle. 'He was well known for his integrity and Christian witness.'

John Morris (q Barts 1943; d 8 June 2007) worked as a GP and was living in Midhurst, Sussex at the time of his death.

George Newbold (q St George's 1945; d 10 June 2007) was an obstetrician who went on to work in student and community health in South Wales. He did much to advance medical hypnosis and advised CMF's Medical Study Group.

Edmund Richey (q Belfast 1962; d 27 June 2007) was a consultant anaesthetist in Enniskillen who regularly attended the CMF Northern Ireland conference with his family.

Mervyn Rosser (q Barts 1952; d 15 April 2007) was a lifelong GP in Bermondsey. He was active in CMF and in his local BMA division, being awarded the Fellowship of the BMA in 1982.

Charles Smith (q St Thomas's 1948; d 2 October 2006) was an ENT consultant in the York hospitals and regularly attended the CMF Northern conference with his wife.

Homecoming

Rebecca Adlington (UCH) from Uganda

Fiona Bradshaw (Glasgow) from Thailand

Ruth Butlin (Cardiff) from Bangladesh

Phyllis Chesworth (RFH) from Kenya

Elizabeth Galpin (Southampton) from Nepal

David Goudie (Edinburgh) from Canada

Annabel Kerr (Cambridge) from Gambia

Damian Mawer (Leeds) from Paraguay

Claire Pollin (Birmingham) from Hong Kong

Michael Puttick (St Mary's) from Nepal

Nikki Rodwell (Birmingham) from Belgium

Fiona Seaman (Glasgow) from Nepal

Raymond Watters (USA) from USA

Change of address abroad

Walter Laufer (Edinburgh) from Norway to Australia

John and Mary Northway (Southampton) from Tanzania to Kenya

Ernst Rettedal from Tanzania to Norway

Gisela Schneider (Germany) from Uganda to Germany

Events, events, events



Mark Pickering

The leaves are turning brown and CMF student groups around the country are preparing to welcome the new students with **freshers' events**. Laura Risdale in the office has been sending out around 1,000 CMF freshers' packs to encourage new students to join CMF.

We are looking forward to **new beginnings** in some medical schools this term. Of 39 schools in the UK and Ireland, there are seven without regular CMF activity. We have been encouraged by recent developments in three of these (Cork, Durham and Lancaster) that we trust will bear fruit over the coming year. CK Chong is a Liverpool fourth year who is in Lancaster this year. He writes:

“ Last year I was encouraged by the revival of student CMF activity in Liverpool. I am excited by the opportunities in Lancaster this year, with a number of Christian medics here and good support from Lancaster CU. We are hoping that the Lord will bring something together in the year ahead. ”

In June, Peter Saunders and I ran the St Albans half marathon and raised over £3,000 for CMF projects. This autumn we're challenging our student groups to do their own **sponsored events** for projects such as student leadership, supporting overseas CMFs, and evangelism training – www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship/students/fundraising.htm.

Matt Stammers from Brighton is going to be doing a ten mile race on 7 October with some of his fellow students. He writes:

“ I am very unfit but am excited about doing this to



support CMF's fantastic ministry! Please pray for me and for the other student groups – we need all the support we can get but by God's grace we can do it! ”

And of course we're building up to the biggest Christian medical event in the country on 8-10 February 2008 – the **CMF National Students' Conference!** Publicity is now available; book soon as we filled the centre last year!

The theme is 'To the Ends of the Earth – the ever-increasing circles of God's kingdom' and Peter Saunders will be taking us through Acts, showing us the incredible power of the gospel as it broke out across the known world. We will look at how this awesome gospel should shape our priorities as Christian medics, with excellent seminars and a main address from Professor Chris Lavy based on his experiences in Malawi. The brochure reads:

“ Each follower of Jesus is called to be a missionary, going beyond their comfort zone and risking all. As Christian medics we have unique opportunities to engage with secular culture and form



CK Chong

meaningful relationships with non-believers, in our medical schools and with our patients, in the UK and abroad.

As we consider Acts together we will seek to discover our role in God's kingdom today. What boundaries are you called to cross? ”

Two of our students who recently went beyond their comfort zones were Dave Randall and Nick Riches, members of our national students' committee (NSC) who were at the **BMA Annual Representatives Meeting (ARM)** in June and spoke up against a motion proposing liberalisation of current abortion law. Avril Stirzaker, NSC chair, writes:

“ Neither had attended an ARM before and could have been described as sheep among wolves! Nick spoke against



Peter and Mark

the motion and David submitted an opposing emergency motion. Both are gifted speakers and put forward their points well. They are thankful for the practical and prayer support they received.

This ARM was a challenge to all of us to improve strategy to mobilise and co-ordinate our members to speak out on ethical issues. ”

We are delighted to welcome a new student staff member. **Joanna Johnson** will be working as a Relay worker in the South East for this academic year, based in Oxford. She was a Newcastle graduate and has just finished her F2 jobs. Welcome Jo!

Mark Pickering is Head of Student Ministries

With all your heart



Kevin Vaughan

What will we have to cope with next? I have just received the following challenging accounts of their lives from two doctors:

The GP

As a 36 year old mother of two and active member of the local Baptist church, what is on my mind as a GP, and leader of a practice based commissioning consortium? It's:

- How do I wisely guide my group of GPs in redesigning clinical pathways?
- How do I cope with a tough staff appraisal next week?
- How can I best help my daughter struggling with dyslexia?
- How can I develop further my worship leading skills?
- How do we change the doctors' rota to offer more late appointments?
- How can I make more time in my day to have a decent quiet time with God?
- How do I fit in enough time to keep fit? Etc etc!

The consultant

In the same week a hospital consultant spoke to me of the additional pressures he faces as he struggles to meet government targets in his significant daily clinical workload. He also has many administrative responsibilities including programme director with responsibility for MTAS, and is concerned for juniors who are struggling to find a post.

Within his department he has management responsibilities as clinical lead, and responsibility for student teaching as medical school lead. Within his directorate he handles the night service and junior doctor rotas, and he



has an ongoing research project.

He has had no secretary for four months due to sickness leave (management have failed to resolve the problem) and has to walk around the department trying to find his post. His wife has been unwell, they have builders in their home, they host a church home group and help with the children's work. It is their intention to start holding CMF meetings in their home!

I have also heard

from various members who have just started a job they love, who are still enjoying the post they've held for the past 15 years, who are thrilled with ministry opportunities in church that have recently opened up, who are encouraged to see that they can make a difference in a management responsibility they have recently taken on, who are enjoying writing or being active in the BMA, who are discovering that God can use them in their routine work, whose lives have been changed by a short term commitment abroad, and so on.

CMF juniors' experiences of MTAS



Jacky Engel

We contacted about 800 members of CMF who from their dates of graduation might have been involved in the Medical Training Application Service process this year and invited them to take part in a questionnaire survey about their experiences, using our newly developed online facility. 101 of the 134 respondents had used MTAS.

Of that 101, 94 were offered an interview and 60 of those were offered more than one. 80 were offered jobs (31 receiving more than one offer) and all but one accepted an offer. Of those, 62 are satisfied with the specialty and the particular post, 9 are not, and 8 are not certain. Twelve accepted jobs that were not in their preferred geographical area. Sixteen would not choose medicine today; 64 would still choose it.

Asked about avenues of support during this stressful time, family came highest with 87% mentioning it; prayer came next, mentioned by 82%; then the Bible (78%); church members (72%); junior colleagues (58%); medical seniors (43%); fellow CMF juniors (29%); other CMF members (19%).

We have only just started detailed analysis of the data, but we also have qualitative data from comments in the 'free text options'. Much anger and distress was reported, but many had seen God at work. Comments about CMF's support were mixed, ranging from 'I don't feel CMF took enough care over their juniors in this issue' to 'It was good to know CMF asked members to pray and also reassuring that as an organisation, they were keeping up with the times'.

Jacky Engel is CMF Web Editor

Autumn conferences

We all need support through challenging times and isolation can be very damaging for the Christian. Through this autumn, many local and regional groups will be looking at what is distinctive about the Christian doctor in the light of the challenges we face in the NHS, and in the light of life in Britain today, and what we in CMF are trying to do about it. There will also be CMF conferences looking at:

- Hope in the Midst of Mayhem - Juniors
- Christians under Pressure - Scotland
- Will your Anchor Hold? - Northern
- The Place of Forgiveness in Healing - Psychiatrists
- The Christian and Mental Healthcare - Midlands

- Retired but not retired - Retirees
- and five *Saline Solution* conferences exploring how we can share our faith appropriately in the workplace.

Dates are on page 8 and details available at www.cmf.org.uk or from the Office. That's a lot to look forward to! I hope you'll manage to get to something where you can find encouragement as a Christian doctor. Together let us encourage one another to follow Paul's injunction in Colossians 3:23: 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...'

Kevin Vaughan is Head of Graduate Ministries

Consultations



Andrew Fergusson

It has been an extremely busy period for CMF in responding to all the important consultations by government and other official bodies. Under the direction of Peter Saunders, and with the involvement of many CMF members and others, experts in their own fields, CMF's Communications Department has co-ordinated responses to the following:

Human Fertilisation Embryology Authority – on hybrids

The HFEA held a major public consultation on *Hybrids and Chimeras – A consultation on the ethical and social implications of creating human/animal embryos in research*. The written aspects were online only and CMF made a brief submission, but several members spoke at a major public meeting in London. On 5 September the HFEA controversially announced permission for the creation of hybrids even before Parliament had considered the matter.

Joint parliamentary pre-legislative scrutiny committee – on the HTE Bill

Against a particularly tight deadline, CMF made a major submission (www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/submissions/?id=44) to this parliamentary committee of both Houses on the (Draft) *Human Tissue and Embryos Bill*. Andrew Fergusson later gave oral evidence. The committee has now reported and Parliament will be considering the legislation this autumn. See *News Review* in the accompanying *Triple Helix* for comment.

General Medical Council – on consent

Like an increasing number of bodies, the GMC is holding its consultations online. CMF made a brief submission (www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/submissions/?id=45) on the draft guidance on *Consent: patients and doctors taking decisions together*.

Tooke Enquiry – on Modernising Medical Careers

The CMF submission (www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/submissions/?id=46) highlighted concerns about working overseas, pressures on marriage and family life, and justice issues for doctors from overseas.

House of Commons Science and Technology Committee – on abortion

Against another tight deadline, and over the summer holiday period, this Committee (which is to be disbanded in November) invited submissions into *Scientific developments relating to the Abortion Act 1967*. Because of Parliamentary rules, CMF cannot publish this yet, but a very powerful evidence-based case was made concerning the harms done to women by abortion. See comment elsewhere in this autumn's mailings.

At the time of finalising *CMF News* we were about to consult on:

General Medical Council – on *Personal Beliefs and Medical Practice*

European Union – on organ donation and transplantation

Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications

Publications



Allister Vale

Can it be me?

Dr Marjory Foyle's autobiography is a great missionary story. The book has attracted widespread reviews and notices since it was published in January 2007 and has already been reprinted. Marjory Foyle spent over 30 years as a medical missionary in India and Nepal and is widely recognised as an expert on the nature of stress and how it affects Christians working in cross-cultural situations. If you have not yet read this book or given a copy away please do so!



Mad, Bad or Sad?

This book edited by Dominic Beer and Nigel Pocock was published in December 2006. While it is essential reading for all psychiatrists, all thinking Christians will benefit from reading it. It has sold well and has attracted favourable reviews. Please buy a copy and discover why others have found it to be so valuable.



The Shepherd is my Lord

CMF published Dr Janet Goodall's thought provoking book on Psalm 23 this spring. Janet's life-long habit of applying detailed knowledge of Scripture to everyday life and situations is spread across the pages. Intermingled with this wisdom are fascinating stories from her career in paediatrics, alongside tales gleaned from her myriad life experiences and travels. Have you ordered copies to give away? This book could be read with profit by all church members.



These books may be ordered via Amazon or CMF. **Book sales** so far this year exceed £20,000 though we are short of our target so please buy these excellent books! A major mailing is planned soon to the top 150 UK Christian bookshops.

New books

Several books are in advanced preparation and are due for publication late this year or early in 2008:

Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Robina Coker is making very good progress on her new book, which will be published by CMF at Christmas.

Foundations

Rachael Pickering is editing this important new book for juniors due out early in 2008.

Handbook for Christian Medical Teachers

Huw Morgan has completed a first draft of this book which is not about *what* to teach, but about *how* Christians can teach.

Allister Vale is CMF Publications Chairman

Mission matters

Keeping in touch and ongoing intercession for members working abroad



Peter Armon

Developing Health Course surpasses expectations

Two weeks prior to its start, in the midst of the office move, we were wondering whether the course would be viable. As it was, a record 64 people attended for all or part of the course, and over 50% booked in that last fortnight! They came from 13 different nations, a good mix of doctors, nurses and therapists. Eighteen were currently working overseas, 20 were preparing to go and 26 were simply exploring the possibility. The specialist days attracted 19 individuals who simply wanted a particular update in relation to working in resource poor countries.

Once again the course was much appreciated: 'an excellent course with a good mix of spiritual and the professional'. John and Heather Knowles excelled themselves making folk feel at home: 'The family atmosphere and accommodation was a gift from God to us'. 'A fantastic time – I learnt so much and met so many amazing people.' I can truly say *Amen* to that.

Sadly another milestone was passed, as Peter Bewes announced it would be the last occasion on which he would lecture on the course. Thank you Peter (and Hilary) for your many years of input. On a happier note, the budget balanced for the first time for many years, using slightly higher fees from those in paid employment to subsidise others. Next year's course will again take place at Oak Hill: 29 June to 11 July 2008.

Tooke Enquiry into Modernising Medical Careers

The CMF submission (www.cmf.org.uk/ethics/submissions/?id=46) highlighted concerns raised by a number of members



2007 DHC participants

thinking of working overseas or already doing so. The experiences of some members on their return to the UK have been highlighted previously. The recent Crisp Report¹ gives cause for hope the problem is being recognised and might change. The Chief Medical Officer's comments in the 2004 report *International Humanitarian and Health Work*² recognised the value of such activity but it appears the NHS still lags some way behind in such thinking. In a recent article in *BMJ Careers*³ Mark Goldring, the CEO of VSO, comments:

We need to recognise that building international partnerships is the key to strengthening the health system in both the developed and the developing world. Allowing our experienced teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers and other professionals to be part of a circle of knowledge and best practice is the right response to the challenges facing the developing world. By accepting that we have a part to play in ending poverty, be it in making the right consumer choices, donating time and money to international charity, or supporting the idea of our public sector workers sharing their skills overseas, the UK can have an even greater leadership role in solving the problems facing the developing world and those within our own NHS.

Further Congratulations

For those following the saga of Chris Lavy's re-entry into the NHS, you will be delighted to



hear that not only has the light at the end of the tunnel materialised but he has been awarded an honorary professorship at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He writes:

Last year I had to take registrar status but this year the Lord is showering me with undeserved kindness. I want people to know that spending ten years in mission work in a poor country is recognised by one's peers, even if the Government takes 15 months to notice it.

Publications

A new edition of the *Short Term Missions Handbook*, rewritten and renamed *Working Abroad* is available at www.healthserve.org/pubs/ and will soon be published in hard copy. A new edition of the booklet *Re-tyred not retired* will also be available, in time for the planned retirees conference.

A limited edition of the 2007 *Developing Health* CD Rom was printed for this year's course. Input from it is being added to the disc and it too should be available in the autumn. It is free to those working overseas,



thinking of doing so, or wishing to send one to someone who is, but we would value a donation from those who want extra copies.

Events and courses

London Electives Day:

Wednesday 12 March 2008. We will not be holding an electives day in Leeds in 2008 but hope the local medical school CMF student group will.

Redcliffe College run a number of longer courses suitable for those thinking of working overseas:

www.redcliffe.org/courses

Action Partners run several relevant courses:

www.actionpartnerscorp.org.uk

Financial support

In the aftermath of the very generous response to the Capital Appeal there has been a noticeable diminution in gifts to CMF's overseas work. We encourage you to support our mission outreach. An outline of various projects you could support financially can be found at www.cmf.org.uk/projects/?id=3

Peter Armon is Head of Overseas Ministries

references

1. Global Health Partnerships www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/ghp.pdf
2. International Humanitarian and Health Work: a toolkit to support good practice www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics (see CMF website for details)
3. Goldring G in *BMJ Careers* 30 June 2007

ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association

In August, **Jonny Thiessen** formally left CMF and ICMDA.

He describes his call to mission: 'Siberia?! Are you crazy?' Well, maybe, but... As a 'platdeutch'-speaking Mennonite growing up in the prairies of Canada, my world was speckled with combine harvesters, sunflower fields and rowdy village ice rinks. At the same time, dark tales of the not-so-distant past when my great-grandfather fled the Russian steppe with many others were etched into my memory. The questions grew the more I read... what legacy had we left? What of those left behind, swallowed by the red tide?

God's call for me was nothing flashy. No mysteriously shaped clouds or wall-writing but instead a palpable awareness that God was stirring my heart to 'return' to Russia. Joining OM and bidding farewell to quiet village life, I arrived just before my 20th birthday, and dug in for what would turn out to be an amazing life-changing two years' study there.

Going to All Nations Christian College for further training was supposed to be a pit-stop. God however had additional plans that included meeting a beautiful lass and a wedding! The past two years with CMF and ICMDA have been anything but dull, having been exposed to more stomach-turning stories than I cared to hear! The world continues to grow as I am daily in contact with new and exciting people passionate about sharing the Kingdom message. These are thrilling 'kairos' times as we now have unprecedented opportunities to impact every corner of the globe!

It was a difficult decision for Fiona and I to move on. But we have clearly sensed that God is guiding us, once again, back to



Russia. We plan to be based in Novosibirsk, Siberia, serving in a centre that trains young Russians as missionaries to their own people. For the farmer still in me, I treasure Paul's words: 'This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away.' (2 Cor 9:10 *The Message*)

What we have is ours to share with this generation of souls on earth – let's be extravagant, as God has been with us!

Email Jonny at jonathanpth@yahoo.com

ICMDA Eurasia - Samara Conference



James Tomlinson



This summer medic leaders from nine former Soviet Union countries gathered for five days' training and encouragement. The Russian Christian Medical Association hosted, with an international speaking team including CMF's Peter Saunders, Kevin Vaughan and Alex Bunn.

In addition to daily Bible readings participants followed one of four tracks: medicine as mission; sharing faith as a healthcare professional; Christian medical leadership; and integrity in healthcare. Seminars, discussion groups, fun, and plenary sessions gave opportunity for in-depth teaching and application.

Throughout we experienced unity in fellowship. As the conference concluded, with tears in their eyes Armenians told of their joy in meeting and praying with believing medics from neighbouring Azerbaijan, two nations with

a long history of conflict.

The conference was the culmination of months of preparation, with many answered prayers. Days before, one team member faced the announcement that DHL had officially lost her passport. Hours after alerting others to pray, DHL arrived having found the passport wedged deep inside a van which had already been searched! God was in control. Likewise we are thankful for the bursaries.

The last nine years have seen extraordinary growth with new believers and Christian medical groups begun across the region. The test of this conference will be seen as this generation works out together how to put faith into practice in medicine. Let's pray they 'shine like stars in the universe as they hold out the word of life' (Phil 2: 15-16).

James Tomlinson is the ICMDA Eurasia Associate Regional Secretary
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Global trends in ICMDA

Each year the ICMDA Executive Meeting reviews national reports, detects trends and sets priorities. In 1998 at the Durban World Congress, it was agreed to prioritise support for students. This work has grown significantly. Eight years later in Sydney over 600 students and juniors met. All over the world a shift towards including more and

more student and junior graduate work has been evident.

What trends are so exciting in 2007? Student ministry, mission outreach/service and evangelism probably top the list, together with mentoring programmes. Networking with like-minded organisations working among healthcare professionals is prominent but especially notable is the felt need to network with

the churches and become an auxiliary arm for the church into the world. A further development is engagement with issues, such as HIV/AIDS, the ICMDA now having a standing committee. Visit www.icmdahivinitiative.org

Daryl Hackland is ICMDA General Secretary
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Allied professions



Steve Fouch

Christian Therapists' Network (CTN) Christian Nurses and Midwives (CNM)



After a successful conference in February, this has been a quiet year for CTN and CNM. Both are still settling down after changes in leadership. Unemployment of most graduating allied health professionals, and the increasing proportion of the newly qualified are challenges that both groups are struggling to support members through. CTN faces particular problems as there is now no UCCF-run student ministry to the allied health professions, while CNM is struggling to establish a student work. Anecdotal information suggests many are leaving the professions almost as soon as they qualify because of employment prospects. The parallels with

junior doctors are obvious, and are a source of great concern and a spur to prayer for us all.

CMF continues to offer administrative support to both. The next joint conference for Christians in nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions is 1-3 February 2008 at Hebron Hall near Cardiff.

Internationally, we are looking forward to the ICMDA allied professions pre-conference in Austria in September 2008, and the Nurses Christian Fellowship International (NCFI) World Conference the following week in Jos, Nigeria. This autumn we are also involved in the nursing students European regional conference in Malta, on spirituality and care. Across Europe there is a growing network of groups linked to ICMDA, Healthcare Christian Fellowship International (HCFI) and NCFI.

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

PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



John Geater

Found out that a greater bond is made between the patient and me if I speak to him from the heart and if I show him that I really care for his getting better.' So said a Romanian medical student when asked what difference a PRIME course made. A doctor said: 'It made me more "human", and I now see the patient as a person with cares, weaknesses, will to live, just like myself, and who needs care, hope and a good word'.

The work continues to grow:

- This autumn three teams are going to Romania, and others to Egypt, Albania, Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, India and to ten centres in Nepal.
- In Africa programmes have started or are planned in Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zambia, Nigeria and Kenya.
- An Iberian branch is being set up to work in South America and parts of Africa. There will be a training course (in English/Spanish and open to all nationalities) in Malaga in March 2008 - see our website.
- In UK, working closely with CMF student groups, PRIME 'roadshows' on spiritual care in medical practice will take place at medical schools around the country. The first is in Leeds in October.

As the co-ordinating work grows, we are glad to welcome **Dr Clare Cooper** as an Associate Director, after five years in the CMF office. Her skills, experience, Spanish language and, above all,

passion for the work come at an opportune time.

We pray for the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to bring life and refreshment to many. We are grateful to all who support us - as tutors, in prayer, or by giving. Please visit www.prime-international.org.uk for more information or to make online donations.

John Geater is International Director of PRIME

Family Education Trust



With this mailing you should have received a sample information leaflet from FET. *HPV and You* is about human papillomavirus and sexual behaviour, and concludes that the recent vaccine is not the whole answer. For more copies, send the order form inside the leaflet to FET.

Hospice 23



For several decades St Columba's Fellowship has sought to 'sustain a Christian presence at the heart of palliative care' and many CMF members have benefited from its conferences and activities.

Keeping its original title for charity reasons, the group has relaunched as Hospice 23. A new website is coming, but for now see www.stcf.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary

October

- 6 Executive Committee, London
- 12 Psychiatry Conference, Liverpool
- 14 Dedication Service for new premises
- 12-14 Northern Conference, Scarborough
- 16 Saline, Kettering
- 17 Marshalsea Road Press Launch
- 21 Health Care Sunday
- 24-26 Retirees Conference, Leicestershire
- 27 40th Anniversary of Abortion Act

November

- 3 Marshalsea Road Open Day
- 3 North Thames BBQ
- 10 Saline, Dublin
- 10 Midlands Day Conference, Sheffield
- 14 Saline, London
- 16-18 Scottish Conference, Loch Lomond
- 23-25 Junior Doctors Conference, Leicestershire
- 23-25 Regional Secretaries Conference, Leicestershire

December

- 1 Executive Committee, London

For more details of upcoming events, see www.cmf.org.uk

CMF News

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