

Battle lines drawn

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill left the House of Lords on 4 February and will enter the House of Commons within weeks. It threatens individual, family and societal life more than any other piece of legislation for decades.

A powerful lobby of medically qualified peers and science institutions such as the Royal Society and Medical Research Council, together with the government whip requiring Peers to support every aspect of the bill, have meant that all attempts to amend it have so far been heavily defeated.

Time is very short, and humanly speaking, the only hope now for curbing the bill's effects is a massive grass-roots protest to MPs. CMF is working closely with pro-life MPs and other Christian organisations to ensure that our arguments are heard and that MPs understand the threats the bill poses before it is too late. This has brought a backlash against CMF and its members in the lead up to the debate with protests at public meetings, outside our offices (see page 3) and through the national press.

Threat to human dignity

The government has caved in to pressure from scientists and the biotechnology industry and proposes to create animal human hybrids ('cybrids', chimeras and mixed species fertilised embryos) in order to generate embryonic stem cells for research. Ironically, new research in both Japan and the USA published last November – reprogramming adult skin cells



back to produce cells with all the potential of human embryonic stem cells – makes these plans obsolete but the government is pushing them through anyway. CMF is urging Parliament to ban hybrids and instead to invest in ethical therapies using adult and umbilical cord blood stem cells.

Threat to the family

There are proposals to allow 'saviour siblings' to provide transplant material for children with 'serious' as opposed to 'life-threatening' conditions and to extend the indications for preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). These will further commodify children, using them as a means to an end. Removing the requirement to consider the need for a father for children created by IVF will further damage families and society. CMF is urging Parliament to ban the use of saviour siblings, to invest more heavily in umbilical cord blood banking as an ethical alternative and to retain the reference for a 'need for a father' for all IVF children.



Threat to life

Pro-choice MPs, abortion providers and institutions like the RCOG and BMA are pushing for further liberalisation of the abortion law. They aim to bring in abortion on demand in the first trimester by ending the requirement for two doctors' signatures, allowing nurse-led medical abortion in GP surgeries with completion at home, barring pro-life doctors from seeing women with unplanned pregnancies and extending the Act to Northern Ireland. CMF is urging Parliament to reject all these and to support reasonable restrictive amendments like reducing upper time limits, ending discriminatory abortion of the disabled, and providing

balanced evidence-based counselling independently of the abortion service.

The bill will have three main stages in the Commons and then any amendments pass back to the Lords for its agreement. When agreement is reached between the two Houses, and after royal assent, the bill will then become law.

Please take time

■ **Write** - to your MP and to the PM. MPs take letters and visits from constituents very seriously and most are profoundly uninformed or misinformed about the contents and effects of this bill. Ask Prime Minister Gordon Brown for the government to withdraw the whip on the bill so that government MPs and Peers may vote according to conscience and on the basis of the evidence (a conscience vote on abortion has already been promised).

■ **Educate** - your churches, pastors, friends and colleagues about the bill.

■ **Pray** - for MPs and for all those in authority voting or advising on the bill, and for God to work a miracle through resistance to the bill to amend it and to bring down the 200,000 annual abortion rate.

You will find all the resources you require directly linked from the CMF homepage at www.cmf.org.uk

Peter Saunders
is CMF General
Secretary



Changes in the office

Goodbye to Joshua



Joshua Wathanga

Joshua Wathanga left us at the end of January. He arrived in December 2006 for a six month term as a 'change manager' and graciously stayed more than a year to see the office move into the new building and to oversee the transition into departments. His first act after leaving was to visit his native Kenya as an ambassador for IFES, to show solidarity with his countrymen at this very difficult time. We will miss him.

Hello to Marcus



Marcus Watkins

Overlapping with Joshua, Marcus Watkins started at the beginning of January as Head of Finance and Administration. He came to us after a short contract at Jews for Jesus involving finance and IT, and before that was Director of Finance at All Nations Christian College.

He had previously been an IT consultant for eight years and had developed his IT specialisation, from an accounting background, during his seven years at KPMG. When Marcus left grammar school in Godalming, he did accountancy training for two years, and then went to the European Missionary Fellowship Bible College for another two years. This was followed by several years' pastoral work at churches in Putney and East Horsley, before a return to accountancy. 'I realised that my primary gifting was in administration' he says.

Marcus is married to Jennifer, who is a church visitor and carer, and they have two adult children – Jonathan, married to Heather, who works for Scripture Union in Scotland, and Rachel, married to Matt, who manages a care home in Sheffield.

Marcus is an elder at Longmeadow Evangelical Church in Stevenage, and relaxes by reading historical novels, watching all sports (especially being an armchair supporter of Yeovil Town FC), and he and Jennifer are looking forward to going to their ninth Greek island this summer.

'I was really knocked out by the Student Conference' he says, appreciating the opportunity to provide strong administrative support to CMF's exciting ministry. 'Please pray that I may have all the necessary wisdom and discernment for the many decisions I have to take, and that I may achieve a good work-life balance.'

Congratulations

Jennifer Bute – FRCGP

Ruth Nduati – the ICMDA HIV Initiative 'Dignity and Right to Health Award' 2007 for clinical, educational and research work in Kenya

Mark Perry – appointed consultant rheumatologist at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth

Rachael Pickering – MRCP with merit

Allister Vale – Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (for 25 years' service with the MRCP exam)

Obituaries

Murray Baker (*q* Cambridge & Barts 1950; *d* 10 May 2007) lived almost 20 years after a liver transplant. He held clinical and educational appointments in Uganda and became administrative dean at Makerere Medical College. Back in the UK he worked for the Medical Research Council and the Overseas Development Administration.

Ian Burnell (*q* Cardiff 2006; *d* 2007). The fact of Ian's death was reported to CMF in September.

Margaret Dodson (*q* Sheffield 1957; *d* 29 January 2008) became a consultant anaesthetist at Liverpool Royal Infirmary. She had been a lay reader at All Souls' Church, Springwood, Liverpool and died peacefully after a long illness.

John Hobson (*q* Barts 1946; *d* 14 September 2007) served as a medical missionary, primarily doing ophthalmology, in Burma from 1952-66 and in India from 1969-87. In retirement in Bournemouth he was active in offering hospitality to overseas students.

Outgoing

Giles Cattermole (Oxford) to Hong Kong
 Brian Cleaver (Charing Cross & Westminster) to Sweden
 Rachel Corman (Bristol) to USA
 Nicola Deamer (UCL) to United Arab Emirates
 Jed Dixon (Oxford) to USA
 Wan Kwong Lee (BTL) to Malaysia
 David Masters (Guy's) to Sudan
 Andrea Nies (Germany) to Australia
 Deborah Pitt (St George's) to USA
 Richard Renew (Cardiff) to New Zealand
 Jennifer Watson (Nottingham) to Pakistan

Homecoming

Andrew Boorne (St Mary's) from Papua New Guinea
 Tamsin Booth (Southampton) from Canada
 Richard & Wei Mei Crowson (GKT) from New Zealand
 Mary Cusack from India
 Anthony Males (Cambridge) from India
 Catherine Morris (Bristol) from India
 Kate Osborn (Sheffield) from USA
 Felicia Wong (GKT) from Canada

Change of address abroad

Michael Cotton (St Thomas') from Zimbabwe to Switzerland
 Martin Seccombe (GKT) from New Zealand to Japan

Regional CMF meetings

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

Boding well for the future



Mark Pickering

Writing this, I'm just back from an incredible weekend at the **National Students' Conference** on 8-10 February. There were almost 400 there from virtually every medical school in the UK and Ireland. Many spoke of the great encouragement and challenge it was to them, and a large number were there for the first time.

Peter Saunders spoke from Acts, reminding us that we often forget the Holy Spirit's power within us for living the Christian life and sharing the gospel – like driving a Formula One racing car but only in first gear! People who don't know God are still often 'partly right', and we can identify the truth they know, then lead them to the truth they don't know. He gave excellent examples of engaging with those of other religions, and discussed contemporary figures such as Richard Dawkins and Philip Pullman.

Based on his experience in Malawi, **Chris Lavy** gave a rousing challenge on God's heart for the poor and lonely. He reminded us that the USA and Europe have 20% of the global disease burden, but 72% of all healthcare workers and 85% of all health expenditure. Africa has 24% of the disease, 3% of the workers and <1% of the expenditure. With staggering discrepancies like these he reminded us of Jesus' challenge in Matthew 25: what did you do for 'the least of these'?

We also hosted **international students** from twelve countries such as Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Syria and Lithuania. Many of them came a week early for an excellent pre-conference focused on helping them build up the Christian medical movements in their own



countries. By the end of the week there was an incredible depth of relationship and Katka from Slovakia commented: 'This has been the best week of my life!'

Students are so crucial to CMF's long term future and I was greatly encouraged to learn that **over 330 students joined CMF during 2007**. This is wonderful, and bodes very well for years to come. One new student member, our first for several years from Galway, told me: 'It is my pleasure to be part of such an incredible organisation'. This rings true with many of our students who so appreciate the support they get from CMF.

Students get involved in CMF's mission and one great example was the London students who came along to



engage with **Feminist Fightback**, a pro-abortion group who picketed our offices on 25 January. We learnt of their plans beforehand and prepared a welcome, with posters, flyers, refreshments and female medical students to engage them in conversation. Abigail Randall (Barts and the London):

I really enjoyed the opportunity to interact with some of the pro-choice movement: firstly in a very reasonable, measured conversation with an oncology nurse about the issues of when life begins; then with a girl furious at the attitude of CMF – she saw us as hypocritical in extending a welcome to them when their views are so contrary to ours.

It was stimulating to discuss these issues with people who disagreed so vehemently! It was a chance to show warmth, humility and love towards them, rather than merely battering them with counter-arguments.

The **Confident Christianity** dialogue evangelism course has visited Norwich, Nottingham, Cardiff, Exeter, Dundee and Birmingham between November and February, training and equipping over 70 students to share the gospel. We plan to visit

Liverpool and Stockton in the next few months and I am excited we will be relaunching **Answering Other Faiths** in London on 15 March. This uses many of the same principles as CC but focuses specifically on understanding other religions and worldviews, then contextualising the gospel to communicate it in concepts they will understand.

The **Student Leaders' Conference** is coming up on 4-6 April. We will equip new CMF student leaders with everything they need to know about leading local CMF groups, and will launch new tracks for National Students' Committee members and medical school secretaries, to respond to their particular needs and help them support local student leaders better.

There have been a couple of changes in our student staff team. In an expanded role **Charlotte Hattersley** has become northern team leader, covering the north east, north west and Scotland. Re-titled southern team leader, **Alex Bunn** covers the midlands, south east, south west and London. I will continue to oversee the Irish schools.

We are also very pleased to have **Ruth Whiteman** join the team as an intern from February to August, covering Newcastle and Durham. There are a number of potential applicants for staffworker and intern posts for the autumn – please pray the Lord will guide us and them to the right decisions.

Mark Pickering is Head of Student Ministries

The new Graduates' Committee



Nick Land

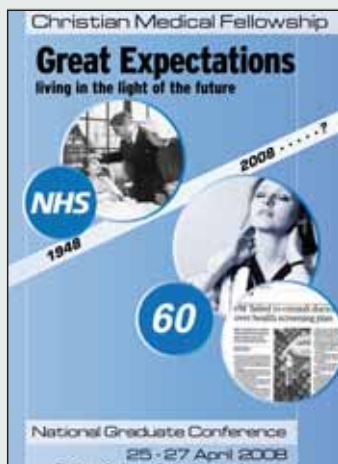
I have been asked to introduce myself as Chair of the new CMF Graduates' Committee. I am Nick Land, a 46-year-old consultant psychiatrist based in the north east of England. I am married to Helen who works as a part-time GP in inner-city Middlesbrough. We have three sons (16, 14 and 10) and live in rural North Yorkshire with a dog, two cats, two dragons and 15 chickens. We attend the village Anglican church where I lead a Bible study group and attempt to run a youth group. To ensure that no minute of my day is free of committee meetings, I am a Governor of the local secondary school and sit on the York Diocesan Synod and the Archbishop of York's Council.

I did my preclinical training at Girton College, Cambridge and then moved to Newcastle Medical School to do clinical training. For the past 14 years I have had the privilege of developing a range of specialist mental health services and am currently Clinical Director of Learning Disability Services and Forensic Services at Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust.

What does the Graduates' Committee hope to achieve?

A few years ago I wrote a book review on *The Wilberforce Connection* for *Triple Helix*. This book outlined how a small group of professional friends, 'the Clapham Sect', transformed Georgian England through prayer, politics and professional excellence. The book challenged contemporary Christians to consider how they too could make a difference and cited CMF as one group able to achieve this.

Over the past few years CMF has built on solid foundations to expand its student work at



Great Expectations - living in the light of the future

With this mailing you should have received a second brochure for the national conference to be held in Swanwick from 25-27 April. This has been organised by the new Graduates' Committee. We are expecting a big crowd - hope to see you there! www.cmf.org.uk

home and abroad, campaign in the area of public policy and ethics, and help students and doctors get involved with a range of international work. However, with all these exciting developments there has been a recognition that we also need to invest time and energy in building up our role as a Fellowship - so that we can support each other in growing in our Christian faith and contending for the gospel within the medical arena.

Thus the initial aims of the Committee are:

- **Support and resources**
Finding ways to support and resource regional reps in their role of co-ordinating and encouraging the local meetings of Christian doctors which are essential for the Fellowship to function.

Opportunities

■ GP help wanted at Keswick Convention

The annual Keswick Convention is asking whether any CMF GPs will be attending, and might be willing to offer medical cover at the main meetings (available to be called upon in case of need). Dates of Weeks 1-3 are 12-18 July, 19-25 July, 26 July-1 August.

Please contact Simon Overend, Operations Manager, Keswick Ministries. Tel. 017687 80075.
Email simon.overend@keswickministries.org

■ Burrswood needs GP level doctors

Burrswood is a 33-room independent non-surgical hospital in rural Kent registered with the Healthcare Commission which seeks to bring healing and the love of God to hurting people at their point of need. They need GP level doctors to join the bank of locums to help provide occasional cover, or to consider joining the team.

Please contact Dr Paul Worthley. Tel. 01892 863637.
Email paul.worthley@burrswood.org.uk

■ Specialist conferences

Building on the programme of regional and day conferences that CMF already offers, to introduce new specialist conferences aimed at equipping and supporting particular groups of Christian doctors. These day conferences may be by medical specialty, such as the successful Psychiatry Conference that has run over the past few years, or may explore particular interests such as involvement in health service management or medical education. CMF's new headquarters has conference facilities and we are keen to see these used more extensively to increase the range of opportunities for Christian doctors to meet, educate, and encourage one another.

■ Mentoring

We would like to explore different ways by which Christian doctors can be supported in mentoring arrangements.

■ Communication

We want to see more effective communication within the Fellowship. The new *e-Newsletter* is one way in which this can be achieved, so do ensure that CMF has your email address! In the near future we will be listing some possible day conference topics. Please let us have your views and suggestions about the topics you would wish to see covered and about any other areas where you think the Committee can help.

Colossians 3.23 says: *'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men'*. It is as Christian doctors and medical students are servant leaders and salt and light within our hospitals and practices that we will make a difference. As a Committee we want to help you make that difference.

Nick Land is Chair of the new Graduates' Committee

News received

The Schindler Prize

Robert and Mary Schindler were the parents of the late Terri Schiavo. They fought a long legal battle in the USA because they believed passionately in the infinite value of her life. Coincidentally, their name stirs up memories of the film *Schindler's List*.

'First Do No Harm' is a medical group affiliated with Care Not Killing and they are offering an annual prize of £500 to honour the Schindler name. This will be awarded to a doctor or nurse who provides the best account in recognition of a colleague or a lay person, known to them, who has engaged in a battle to save a life that has been dismissed as valueless.

Such a patient could have been suffering from dangerous neglect, or denied food and fluids when unable to speak for him or herself. Narratives should not exceed 750 words. Enquiries or entries to: First Do No Harm, PO Box 17317, London SW3 4WJ

Equality 2025

Prabhat Barot writes from Inverness: 'I am a retired dentist who was converted to Christ from Hinduism. Since retirement (at the age of 48 due to ill health) I have worked for an organisation named Equality 2025 which aims to represent the views of disabled people to the government. See www.officefordisability.gov.uk/equality2025

I feel the group needs input from a medical colleague, either a GP or a hospital doctor, who has experience of having a disability (either from birth or due to an accident or other circumstance).

Please pass on my details to any medical colleagues who may be willing to share with me in an informal way their experiences of working with a disability, however slight or severe.' Contact Prabhat at Scotland@equality2025.org

Medicine of the Person - annual conference

Paul Tournier lives on in that the British group he inspired is holding their 28th annual conference at Holland House near Pershore from 18-20 April, for those working or training within the health and allied professions.

The group, which includes a number of CMF members, seeks to interpret Paul Tournier's ideas and teaching in the light of modern medical practice. The aim is to promote whole person medicine that includes the spiritual dimension. This year's topic is 'relationships'. While the emphasis is strongly Christian, those of other faiths or none are welcome.

CPD certificates for 7 hours are available. Cost £125 fully inclusive; bursary help available. Details: Mrs Rosemary Booth. Email r.e.booth@btinternet.com. Tel. 01271 326306

hospice23 website

The relaunch of St Columba's Fellowship as hospice23, 'sustaining a Christian presence at the heart of palliative care', was mentioned in the last *CMF News*. Their new website is up and running at www.hospice23.org

Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications

Publications



Andrew Fergusson



Complementary & Alternative Medicine – should Christians be involved?

What are we to make of treatments like Acupuncture, Bach flower remedies, Craniosacral therapy, Homoeopathy, Reflexology, Reiki, Yoga?

Building on 1995's *Alternative Medicine – Helpful or Harmful?*, consultant physician Robina Coker takes a completely fresh look at the phenomenon of complementary and

alternative medicine.

While the popularity of CAM therapies challenges the excesses and omissions of orthodox medicine, we need to take a balanced view. From a Christian perspective this thought-provoking book explores the background to CAM, explains evaluation, examines the evidence, and so provides a framework from which to make healthy choices in healthcare.

The retail price is £8 each but Members are offered a special pre-publication price of £6 inclusive of post and packing. You received a flyer recently, but if it is not to hand contact www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore or Tel. 020 7234 9677. To simplify sales, we now require payment with order please.

Roadshow: time to draw the line

CMF staff have been supporting parliamentarians and others in a UK wide roadshow to raise awareness of the dangers of the HFE Bill.



Pictured in the Liner Hotel, Liverpool on 12 February are (L to R): Joan Dillon (Feminists for Life), the Archbishop of Liverpool, Jim Dobbin MP (Labour), Ann Widdecombe MP (Conservative), Lord Alton of Liverpool (crossbencher, former Liberal Democrat MP), Andrew Fergusson, Nola Leach (CARE).



On the panel in Coventry Cathedral on 13 February are (L to R): Fiona Bruce (representing Lawyers' Christian Fellowship), Peter Saunders, Ian Lucas (All Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group secretariat), Lord Alton, Ann Widdecombe.

Mission matters

Keeping in touch and ongoing intercession for members working abroad



Peter Armon

Our forebears took their coffins with them

It is encouraging to see the continuing trickle of folk setting off to work overseas and to hear of the many short term trips that UK based members are making in response to needs.

Recent suggestions for future training programmes seem to leave little, if any, space for trainees to spend abroad. At the same time, many in the Royal Colleges are very aware of the tremendous value of time spent overseas. Perhaps we need to ensure we don't tie ourselves down during our trainee years so that when the opportunity does arise, we are unable to cut ourselves loose and go.

It would seem that the path of the 'nonconformist' who responds to God's call to work abroad will only get harder in the years that lie ahead, but then our forebears took their coffins with them and didn't expect to come back. We might have cause for thinking that, career wise, we are doing much the same thing when we set off regardless of the constraints that are increasingly being imposed upon us, but experience (and God's word) tell us that our times are in his hands. He still supplies all our needs – spiritual, material and career wise – as we step out in obedience to his call.

Developing Health Course (DHC)

29 June - 11 July

The programme and details are now up on the website and we are taking bookings. It will be another packed programme of excellent teaching and warm fellowship, with several new sessions and teachers amongst those who are well established and much appreciated. It's an opportunity to gain appropriate knowledge, learn new skills,



Photo: Wikimedia



Photo: Wikimedia

meet participants of like mind from around the world, and share experiences and concerns.

HealthServe Day Saturday 5 July

The day is for those simply thinking of working overseas. It will take place in the midst of the DHC at Oak Hill College, North London and will provide an opportunity to mingle with DHC participants – both foreign nationals and UK personnel already working overseas. This is a time to share doubts and fears and have questions answered.

Entitled 'In2mission/cccs' (work it out!), we shall be exploring issues related to living and working abroad. Professor Chris Lavy will be giving the keynote address: *The challenges of Healthcare Mission in the 21st Century*. There will be a choice of seminars on related issues such as keeping healthy overseas; raising families abroad; the opportunities for, and the value of, short term trips; health care teaching visits as mission; how to keep up to

date and re-integrate successfully on your return; etc. We hope several DHC participants will make short presentations regarding their work overseas, and that several agencies will have displays.

Cost: £25 for graduates in full time employment and £5 for undergraduates, students, retirees and those working in a voluntary capacity. Bring your own packed lunch but tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Publications

The new edition of the *Short Term Missions Handbook*, rewritten and renamed *Working Abroad – a guide for those thinking of getting involved in working overseas short or long term*, is accessible on our website at www.healthserve.org/pubs but still awaits publication in hard copy.

The new edition of '*Re-tyred not retired*', which contains stories from several of our retired members about their involvement overseas since retirement, and tips for those thinking of doing likewise, still awaits publication.

The new **Developing Health CD Rom 2008** should soon be available. Input from the 2007 course has been added to the disc. This fantastic resource is offered free to those working overseas, thinking of doing so, or wishing to send to someone who is, but we would value a donation from those able to do so or who want extra copies.

Old BNFs and Clinical Evidence Concise

Both these books and *BNF for Children* are invaluable to colleagues working abroad. They can be sent to Pharmaid, British Pharmaceutical Association, 1 Lambeth High St, London SE1 7JN. They will also

forward other medical publications published in the last 18 months and in good condition.

Medicines for Africa

Inter Care will send returned medicines to remote clinics in Africa. Contact www.intercare.org.uk or Tel. 0116 269 5925

Giving towards overseas activities

While we continue to encourage students to undertake placements in resource poor countries, for budgetary reasons the decision was taken last year that we would no longer provide grants to students. We do continue to provide a very limited number of small postgraduate grants to members working in a voluntary capacity overseas, to enable them to extend the skills they have to offer in their work. We would also like to continue to offer bursaries to overseas nationals who wish to attend the Developing Health Course.

Your generosity in giving to such work, over and above your regular CMF subscription, is much appreciated and enables us to continue and extend such activities.

New Head of International Ministries

I shall be retiring at the end of August. If you are a medical graduate, looking for a change of direction or know of someone, possibly returning from a post overseas, who you think might be suitable for the job, please find further information at www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship/doctors/vacancies/?id=133

Peter Armon is Head of Overseas Ministries

ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



Peter Pattison

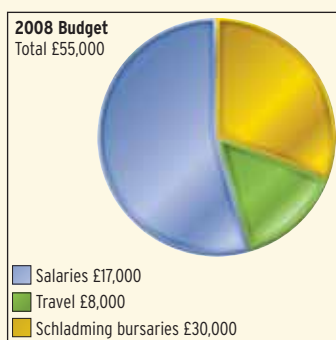
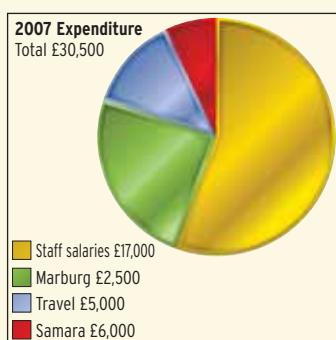
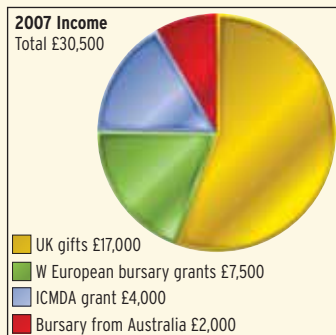
ICMDA Eurasia - 2007 review

A second year student from Vienna attended the first training conference for medical student leaders in Central Europe in September. He knew of only four other Christian students in his medical school of 4,000. He was fired with enthusiasm to reach out to his medical school and the latest news is that there are now 11 students meeting together and starting to witness to their fellow students. This is one small microcosm of things happening explosively all over the region.

Growth has been exponential in the last five years. In 2003 we had a part time unpaid regional secretary, no supporting committee, and a budget of less than £5,000. In 2007, besides the honorary regional secretary, we have had two part time paid staff (Jonny Thiessen, co-ordinator and James Tomlinson, associate regional secretary), eight unpaid junior doctors acting as Area Student Representatives, a vibrant international committee, and a turnover in excess of £30,000.

Eurasia is ICMDA's largest region, spanning three continents and 70 countries. Even with this expansion it has been hard to keep pace with developments like the cameo from Vienna. Growth has been most striking among students and juniors.

Highlights of the year have been the **Committee and training programme for ASRs** in Marburg, Germany in March. Here a number of West European countries caught the vision of supporting financially. This was focused on bursary support for the highly significant **Russian speaking conference in Samara in July** with 120 young leaders from all over the Russian speaking



world. A DVD report is available (apply to the Trust address shown).

The **Central European student leaders' training** was another first, and James travelled extensively to nurture young groups and leaders in areas as diverse as Scandinavia and Central Asia, Romania and Belarus. In September we said goodbye to Jonny Thiessen, and alternative administrative support for James is a work in progress.

At year end it was a cause for wonder and praise that the regional expenditure, which more than doubled the previous year's costs, had been met. This was in part due to several large gifts (including some from

ICMDA (UK) Trust

This is the legally registered charitable trust that holds funds on behalf of ICMDA internationally. Marinus Verweij (Netherlands) has taken over the chairmanship. Peter Pattison is secretary, but has moved house and email address. If you are sending gifts to the Trust please note the current address details below.

The Trust is actively looking for a new secretary. Involving a few hours a month, it might suit a recently retired member with a heart for international work and some facility with simple account keeping. Please contact: The Secretary, ICMDA (UK) Trust, Springwood, Balmer Lawn Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7TT. Email: icmdatrust@ukonline.co.uk

ICMDA Student and Junior Graduate General Secretary

Ralph Colt is the recently appointed first SJGGS for ICMDA. He is Lebanese, comes from a Christian family and runs his own dental practice in Beirut. He has been involved with ICMDA for some years, in particular attending the world congresses in Taiwan 2002 and Sydney 2006. He speaks English, French, Arabic and Lebanese fluently and asks for prayer that he may regain fluency in Spanish before the 2010 World Congress in Uruguay. Ralph joined the international students pre-conference in London recently, and we will feature him in the next edition.

churches) which may not be repeated.

September Conference

ICMDA Eurasia's major focus for 2008 is the four-yearly conference to be held at Schladming, Austria from 7-14 September. Details are available on www.icmda.net and booking forms should accompany this mailing.

In 2000 the conference attracted 220 (50 of them students). In 2004 attendance was 600 (half being students and juniors). This year we plan for 1,000, a major logistic task for the small Austrian committee, James Tomlinson, and his team. For the first time we expect to run a programme for other health disciplines. A substantial UK contingent would be a blessing.

CMF members have traditionally been generous in supporting the **bursary fund**.

While we expect greater participation by other West European countries this time, we will still be relying heavily on your generosity. As the pie chart shows we are looking for a bursary fund of at least £30,000. Past experience shows that enabling young leaders from emerging situations to attend such a conference is pivotal in developing lasting new work. Gifts can be sent to the ICMDA (UK) Trust and Gift Aid can be claimed where appropriate.

We have been encouraged by a significant gift for travel from a Netherlands agency and the Dutch CMF. Other expenses, notably supporting James and his team, continue as before. Thank you for your continued prayerful support of this exciting and growing work.

Peter Pattison is ICMDA Regional Secretary for Eurasia

Allied professions



Steve Fouch

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

2007 was a relatively quiet if eventful year. One key change was that CTN underwent a major change of leadership, as Zillah Whitehouse, its founder and co-ordinator for the past seven years, stepped back while many other longstanding Council members stepped down and a newly elected Council stepped up. Meanwhile, CNM has continued to grow slowly, with a new group starting in Sheffield, and others developing in Swansea and Liverpool.

The national joint conference for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals was held 1-3 February at Hebron Hall, near Cardiff. Of the one hundred who came, 45 were nurses and midwives and 50 were allied health professionals. Eight were students. Tim Cudmore, a dentist and former missionary, spoke on what it means to be 'radically different as a Christian in the workplace', and CMF's Sheena Tranter gave much appreciated *Saline Solution* training.

The coming year presents some worrying challenges for Christians in nursing and midwifery in particular, with the possible introduction of legislation allowing nurse or midwife led abortion. Various groups of nurses and midwives are linking with CMF and CNM to challenge this in Parliament, and to help nurses and midwives on the ground should the legislation come into effect.

At the same time, the NHS recruitment freeze still means many newly qualified allied professionals cannot find work. In some professions the unemployment rate has been as high as 90% of new graduates. This is a matter of ongoing concern, both for the individuals who are unable to start a career for which they have trained for several years, and for the health service as a whole, which will find it increasingly hard to find qualified professionals in the future as people either leave the country or leave the professions. Please pray, as this situation echoes the plight of junior doctors in the MTAS debacle last year.

Nurses Christian Fellowship International

NCFI continues to grow, and is in the midst of developing a new training programme for Christian nurse leadership, based around both biblical and professional standards. This programme should be launched at their international conference in September, to be held in Jos, Nigeria, which will also mark the 50th anniversary of the movement.

Also in September, as part of the ICMDA Eurasia Conference in Austria, there will be an allied professions pre-conference programme. Healthcare Christian Fellowship International are drawing it together, alongside ICMDA and NCFI.

PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



Clare Cooper

Colleagues who are interested in becoming PRIME tutors for our overseas and UK training programmes are invited to join us at Crowhurst, East Sussex from 25 – 27 June. We are running a tutor training course at a beautiful location in the Sussex countryside. Details: admin@prime-international.org.uk

Our South Asia desk holder, Huw Morgan, has relocated to Kathmandu with his wife Mary, who has become Director of Human Resources for the United Mission to Nepal. Huw will have a role in medical education. They value our prayers in this new venture.

Healthserve Australia has affiliated with PRIME and will co-ordinate PRIME activities down under. Australian tutor Professor Helen Malcolm joined the PRIME team in Nepal before Christmas, when eight tutors provided training in a variety of settings including the national conference of the Psychiatrists' Association of Nepal, faculty training at three medical schools, and a seminar with leaders of rural churches.

Clare Cooper is an Associate Director of PRIME

Micah Challenge

This year's Micah Challenge campaign will focus around Millennium Development Goal four – reduction of child and infant mortality rates by half by 2015. The campaign will be launched formally in the spring. With a recent UN report showing that in some of the poorest nations one in four children born alive does not make it to adulthood, and that one in eight mothers will die during pregnancy or giving birth, there is a major challenge to take to world leaders for action on child and maternal health.

In the meantime, Micah Challenge has launched *Take Five*, a monthly cycle of 'mini campaigns' which focus on a different Millennium Development Goal each month, and give special areas for prayer, action and further reading.

CMF continues to support Micah Challenge as a major Christian initiative to speak God's justice to worldly powers, and in particular to advocate for the health of the world's poor. You can find out more at www.micahchallenge.org.uk

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

CMF staff

General Secretary

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

Head of Finance and Administration

Marcus Watkins. marcus.watkins@cmf.org.uk

Head of Graduate Ministries

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

Head of Overseas Ministries

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

Head of Student Ministries

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

Head of Communications

Andrew Fergusson. andrew.fergusson@cmf.org.uk

Head of Member Services

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

Dates for your Diary

March

- 5 Students' Electives Day, London
- 8 East Anglia Day Conference, Cambridge
- 8 PRIME Conference, Leicester
- 13 Sheffield CMF Evening Meeting
- 13 Southampton CMF Evening Meeting
- 15 Answering other Faiths, London

April

- 4-6 Student Leaders' Conference, Birmingham
- 17 Paediatricians' Breakfast, York
- 19 Saline Solution, Northallerton
- 24 Rheumatologists' Breakfast, Liverpool
- 25 PRIME Conference, Birmingham
- 25-27 National Conference, Swanwick

May

- 3 Students' Ethics Day, London
- 13-17 ICMDA Executive meetings, London
- 17 North Thames BBQ
- 22 Ophthalmologists' Breakfast, Liverpool

June

- 14 Saline Solution, Southampton
- 29 Developing Health Course, Oak Hill, begins

July

- 3 Psychiatrists' Breakfast, London
- 3 Dermatologists' Breakfast, Liverpool
- 9 BMA Breakfast, Edinburgh
- 11 Developing Health Course ends

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

CMF News

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6 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL

Tel 020 7234 9660

Fax 020 7234 9661

Email: news@cmf.org.uk

Website: www.cmf.org.uk

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