

In the public square

Since November 2007 CMF has issued just two press releases. One decried the 'stealth liberalisation' of abortion policy implicit in the early trial of medical abortion in 'non-traditional' settings. The other called on the government to invest more actively in developing the NHS umbilical cord stem cell bank.

Yet despite us not being particularly proactive, virtually every day a national radio, television or newspaper journalist will phone for an opinion, a quote, or discussion about an upcoming programme. 'What does CMF think about the Trent Study on neonatal survival?' 'Do you have a psychiatrist who can comment on the mental health effects of abortion?' 'Salford Council has issued advance decision cards. Do Christian doctors think they are a good idea?' 'Should the husband of Debbie Purdy be granted immunity from prosecution if he helps her kill herself?'

Broadcasts

In May alone, Andrew Fergusson and I did 37 national and regional radio and television interviews on all the major channels: BBC, ITV, SKY, Radios Four and Five Live, and a host of BBC regional stations. And CMF was quoted regularly in the *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and even the *Sun*! And these were just the calls fielded centrally. Many others were passed on to members around the country, trained and willing to speak out on issues that concerned them.



Many of these calls centred on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill: abortion limits, animal-human hybrids, saviour siblings and embryo research. But there were others on breast cancer trends, alcohol statistics, informed consent, and alternative medicine; anything and everything conceivable at the interface of Christianity and medicine.

CMF is increasingly seen as the voice on such matters. The media come to us to via the website, by picking up quotes elsewhere, by word of mouth, or because they have spoken to us before. And our location in the heart of London means we can usually respond quickly – our new headquarters is just a short

tube or taxi ride from all the major London studios.

Strategic alliances

Much happens behind the scenes, through strategic work with MPs, Peers, church leaders, pro-life groups and leaders of Christian and other organisations who share our perspective on a specific issue. We write submissions, provide research material, help draft speeches and generally try to be salt and light in a world increasingly hostile to Christian values.

We have built strongly on key partnerships with like-minded organisations, and through alliances like 'Care Not Killing' or 'Alive and Kicking' we work with over 50 other organisations to make our voice heard. Being in the public square carries an awesome responsibility. In representing you we work hard to ensure that our views are biblically sound and evidence based, but also expressed in language and in a way that connects with ordinary people.



Speaking the truth in love

We hugely value your feedback, encouragement and prayers. And we know that nothing would be achieved without God's grace and enabling, as we rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance to help us find the right words to say in the right way, often in the heat of the moment.

We face formidable opponents and will not win every battle; the passage of the HFE Bill virtually unamended has been disappointing although not surprising. However, by God's grace we pray that, regardless of what new threats the future may hold, as a Fellowship we may remain faithful in 'speaking the truth in love' to our generation. Please keep praying with us and please keep those emails, phone calls and letters coming.

'No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,' declares the Lord. (Isaiah 54:17)

Peter Saunders is CMF General Secretary



News from the office

Goodbye to Charles



Charles Otim

Charles Otim has been the accountant at CMF for four years, but with his home and family in Liverpool and a weekly commute, he left CMF at the end of March to set up his own accountancy business in Liverpool.

Charles hails originally from Uganda, and we have appreciated the international perspective he has brought alongside his service. After a temporary replacement, we are looking for a long term substitute.

Thank you, Rachael



Rachael Pickering

At the end of February, Rachael Pickering resigned from her two-session-a-week editorial work with CMF and has therefore ceased her formal involvement with *Triple Helix*. However, we are delighted that she is

continuing for the time being with the *Juniors' Forum* there and that, remaining on the Publications Committee, she intends to complete editing the new book for juniors. We are grateful for all her excellent work over quite a few years.

More staff changes

By the time you get the Christmas *CMF News*, we anticipate there will have been several more moves and arrivals. As we complete our first year in the new premises, and settle further into the new teams approach with dedicated departments, we are grateful for all your prayer, support, and fellowship. It is a privilege for us to serve you.

Outgoing

Samantha Dunnet (Nottingham) to South Africa
 Karen Forrest (Oxford) to The Gambia
 Mbay Kabway (Turkey) to Congo
 Peter Knight (Southampton) to Yemen
 Huw Morgan (Birmingham) to Nepal
 Hanri Vogelzang to Germany
 Nicola Walton-Knight to Canada
 Sandy William (Cardiff) to India
 Alan Young (Cambridge & The London) to Nepal

Homecoming

Colin Binks (St Thomas's) from India
 Hannah Blencowe (Bristol) from Malawi
 Francesca Elloway (Bristol) from Uganda
 Daniel Erdelyi (Hungary) from Hungary
 Andrene Hamilton (Edinburgh) from Thailand
 Godfrey Harverson (The London) from Thailand
 Rachel Hawksworth (Sheffield) from Nepal
 James Hayton (Edinburgh) from Thailand
 Marko Kerac (UCL) from Malawi
 Ursula Loewenthal (Liverpool) from Thailand
 Deborah Pitt (St George's) from USA
 Lee-Tsang-Tan (Sheffield) from New Zealand
 Rachel Tarling (Edinburgh) from Tanzania

Congratulations

Dominic Beer – the NHS London Health and Social Care Award for 'Safety in Care'
Helen Scott-Cook – MRCGP with merit
William Thomas – Vice President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Obituaries

Carey Baker (*q* The Westminster 1941; *d* 27 March 2008) was a GP in East London who had retired to Canterbury. Awarded FRCP in 1967, he had been an Upjohn Travelling Fellow.

Paul Ellis (*q* Liverpool 1982) was a GP in Liverpool who had gained MRCGP in 1986.

Duncan Gibbs (*q* Otago 1965, *d* 26 March 2008) came from New Zealand to England where he was a GP in Tavistock for 27 years, also doing anaesthetics at the Plymouth hospitals. He was an active regional secretary for CMF, organising for many years a well-attended annual conference.

David Masters (*q* Guy's 1966; *d* 1 April 2008) was a missionary surgeon in Zaire from 1969-88, a GP in Bromley until 2007, and had just returned to Africa with his wife to re-establish primary care in Doro, southern Sudan. He died within hours of developing some acute intra-abdominal catastrophe.

Frances McCall (*q* Edinburgh 1939; *d* 22 December 2007) served in China with her husband Kenneth from 1939-45. After internment in Shanghai, she was a GP in Bournemouth and then Totton. From an open home in the New Forest, she also wrote widely circulated books about life in China, life as a Christian GP, and her autobiography.

John Miller (*q* Birmingham 1943; *d* 22 November 2007) began as an insurance underwriter but changed to medicine because of his new found Christian faith. He specialised in O&G, and was an assistant at Mayday Hospital, Croydon from 1947-53, and then consultant there until retiring in 1977. He did locums for 10 years.

James Patterson (*q* Glasgow 1946) died in 2006. He had been a GP and associate specialist in paediatrics in Stafford.

Stella Warren (*q* Bristol 1955) had been a member of CMF since 1979 and was a GP.

Regional CMF meetings

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

Regrouping for Autumn



Mark Pickering

The summer is a quieter period for the department as many students are taken up with exams or away on holiday. It gives us some time to regroup and prepare for the autumn term.

Student Leaders' Conference

On 4-6 April we had the annual student leaders' conference near Telford, commandeering a youth hostel for the weekend.

Students from 16 schools were there for talks from 1 Samuel by Steve Burmester (vicar from the Wirral) and practical sessions from the staff. We pioneered a new track for National Students' Committee (NSC) members, which was received very well. Our *Student Leaders' Manual* was fully revised for this conference; since its revival last year it has proved a most useful resource. There were some great times of fun and fellowship, and even a snowball fight on the Sunday morning!

Staff changes

Summer is the time when student staff change over. Four of our regional staff will finish



Roxy

this summer – Roxy Whelan (East Midlands staffworker),



Helen

Helen Lane (West Midlands staffworker), Joanna Johnson (South East intern) and Ruth



Joanna

Whiteman (North East intern). All go back to increased medical commitments and Jo married Tim, a cardiology nurse, on 21 June. We have been privileged to have



Ruth



Students graduate! - pictures from the Junior Doctors' Conference



them all on the team and we wish them God's blessing and guidance for the future!

Our two team leaders, Alex Bunn and Charlotte Hattersley, remain for the year ahead, and we are processing further applications for student staff.

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of **Will Taylor** as a one-year student intern. Will is a Newcastle student and well known to us as a local student rep and NSC member. Will writes:

I have been involved with CMF in a number of different ways since I began med school and it



Will

has always been of great benefit to me, so when the possibility of spending a year as

an intern came I jumped at the chance. After a difficult and vigorous selection process (the scars are horrific) I am delighted that they have decided to take me. I am hoping and praying for a year in which I can be of great benefit to CMF and also learn a great deal.

Fundraising

On Saturday 9 August a number of CMF students and staff will be tackling the 'Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge'. This is a joint fellowship event and fundraiser – we aim to raise up to £10,000 towards the cost of subsidising our National Students' Conference. We will be staying



in bunkhouses at Ribbleshead and aiming to conquer Wharfedale, Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough in less than 12 hours! Any students who would like to join us should email Matt Stammers on m.h.stammers@bsms.ac.uk

Student committees

The National Students' Committee now has several new regional reps, and our faithful chair Avril Stirzaker will hand over before the next meeting, ready to restart her clinical studies at Manchester. Please pray for wisdom as the hunt is on for her successor! Avril writes:

Serving the Lord as NSC Chair has been a privilege. Seeing how God is working through student groups across the UK and Ireland is always exciting. My role has focused on how the NSC can better support, resource and equip these groups and their leaders. It's been a joy to work with so many committed and enthusiastic students. On a personal level it has stretched and challenged me in many ways and this, along with the time CMF has invested in me, has helped me grow.

We are delighted that CMF has been co-opted to the BMA Medical Students' Committee for 2008-09, for the first time in five years. Claire Wilson from Glasgow is our NSC BMA officer and she writes:

The BMA gives doctors and medical students across the UK a voice through which their views can be heard and as Christians, our voices matter! Several CMF students have taken this opportunity to speak out on issues affecting our profession in the past, and we pray that this year's co-opted member will be blessed as he or she takes on this role.

Graduation and F1

Finally, many of our student members are graduating and moving off to F1 jobs in August. Please pray for them, that they would stand strong and maintain their witness in the new and challenging situations they will face as junior doctors. If you would like to help support junior doctors through our pastoral care scheme, or if you've graduated but not given us your new contact details yet, email sandra.hartley@cmf.org.uk to help us keep in touch.

Mark Pickering is Head of Student Ministries

Lively + vibrant + relevant



Kevin Vaughan

'Great Expectations' fulfilled at National Conference!

Approaching 250 of us gathered at Swanwick from 25-27 April for the annual national conference. It was a great time for all ages and stages, and many expressed appreciation of the varied programme and the less rushed timetable.

One long term member wrote subsequently: 'By the way, I would also like to add just how much I enjoyed the weekend. It must be nearly 20 years since I last went to the national conference and it was great to see how lively + vibrant + relevant CMF has become, with lots of young blood!' Junior doctors were evident in numbers and some were indispensable to the running of the conference. They even had their own committee meeting on the Saturday afternoon.

There was lively participation in the programme for children and young people, organised again by the Scripture Union team. Activities ranged from energetic games for the very young to serious discussion on predestination for the teenagers, with many saying they were already looking forward to coming back next year.

Corporate times of worship and the main Bible readings, given by Sam Leinster on the theme of 'Great Expectations - Living in the Light of the Future' from Matthew 24-25, brought much encouragement and food for thought.

There was a varied seminar programme: on faith issues such as *Why trust the Bible?*, *Sharing faith in the workplace* and *Islam's increasing influence*; through personal issues such as *Managing money* and *Negotiating Busyness*; to clinical issues such as *Alcohol dependence* and *Handling ethical dilemmas in the consultation*.

Sixty years of the NHS were reviewed by Rodney and Pearl Burnham in the annual Rendle Short Lecture (see their edited version in the accompanying *Triple Helix*) and we were challenged to be on the lookout for fresh avenues of service in future years.

How about coming to the national conference next year: 24-26 April 2009?

Meetings to suit our lifestyles

Many local groups are trying different patterns of meeting to suit the lifestyle of today's NHS doctor. With the pressure we face in our professional lives, many of us find it difficult to have meaningful contact and friendship with other Christian doctors even though we would long for it. You may be able to address this by joining a prayer triplet, a Saturday morning prayer meeting, an informal open house evening, a small Christian group in your hospital or workplace, or a leisurely Saturday brunch. Do make enquiry and find out what is going on in your patch. If you can't find anything, you might like to start something!

Plans for the autumn

The ICMDA Eurasia Conference *Resources (Un)Limited* will be in Schladming, Austria from 7-14 September. There will be a pre-conference for students and juniors from 7th-10th and the main conference will be from 10th-14th. This should be an excellent event and we are already expecting a good contingent from the UK. It's not too late to book now - more details on the CMF website.

Details of our autumn conferences will be on the CMF website. In addition to the usual regional conferences in the Midlands, the North and



Hope for junior doctors

It is challenging to see what God is doing among junior doctors today. Meeting junior doctors at various occasions, including weddings, I have found that some are greatly enjoying their training and feel they are in the right place, some have failed to find training posts, have become depressed and are trying to survive on locums, and others have moved far to start new jobs, where they feel unsettled and lonely. In particular, as doctors move around in training posts, many find it hard to integrate into a local church or get to know local Christians.

We are looking for more established CMF members to offer support and hospitality to mobile juniors. If you would like to help in this way, please make yourself known to your CMF regional secretary locally or to me at the CMF office. As a Fellowship, we need to pray for the resolution of issues associated with MTAS (many fear that the next round of job interviews may be as confusing as the last) and do what we can, both professionally and socially, to care for junior doctors.

On the other hand, I have often found myself challenged by the passion and commitment I find in younger members of the Fellowship and am inspired by those who share their faith at work, get involved in medical politics and writing, and risk putting their career in jeopardy by going to serve abroad.

Scotland, we are having a weekend conference for Southern Ireland and a day conference for London and the South East in November. The psychiatrists are having their conference in London on 3 October and there will be another conference for retirees at Hothorpe Hall from 5-7 October.

We are continuing to hold *Saline Solution* day conferences around the country. If there hasn't been one near you lately, perhaps you'd like to host one. Please let me know!

Let us encourage one another to live for Christ in our work situations, and remember that

we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Let's make sure we don't lose our saltiness or hide our light!

Kevin Vaughan is Head of Graduate Ministries

Electronic issues

Are you getting e-communications?

For more than a year, CMF has been sending out roughly monthly an *eNewsletter* with links to let you read as much or as little as you have time and inclination for. We have had encouraging feedback from members who appreciate the news itself and the convenience. In addition we have sent other emails, such as urgent updates about the HFE Bill, and occasionally we email particular subsets of our database.

We have had some glitches with mass mail outs we trust are now sorted, but the purpose of this note is to check that if you can receive these electronic updates, you are doing so. If you don't receive them, you may of course be one of the few without email, or may have chosen to limit your email.

But if you have email, would like the updates, and are not getting them, then:

- Does CMF not have your email address?
- Or have you changed it and not told us?

If either might be the case, then please let us know:
sandra.hartley@cmf.org.uk

- Is your spam filter diverting emails it 'thinks' are spam? You may want to keep an eye on your spam filter, and/or set a 'trusted sender' in it. Add mail@cmf.org.uk and info@cmf.org.uk
Queries and comments welcome.

CMF website selected for national archiving



In May, CMF was honoured to be approached by the British Library with an invitation to participate in the national web preservation programme by having our website archived under special licence. The Library selects sites to represent aspects of UK documentary heritage so that they will always remain available to researchers as hardware and software change in the future.

The British Library works in collaboration with leading UK institutions in the UK Web Archiving Consortium. Their archive can be seen at www.webarchive.org.uk

Many media researchers from around the world come to us having surfed our site initially and we receive many complimentary comments. Material is added to www.cmf.org.uk at least weekly, and a more attractive homepage is on its way. We hope to add more functionality and more features.

Day of prayer and fellowship

As part of the growing partnership between Healthcare Christian Fellowship and CMF, *Hope for Healthcare* is a day for prayer and fellowship open to all with a heart for healthcare:

- Thursday 4 September. 10am – 4pm
- Harrow International Christian Centre, 205 Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2TP
- Guest speakers: Dr Arul Anketell (South Asia) and Dr Denise Meisburg (USA)
- Details and registration: David/Zoe Kampta: 020 8863 6809 / 07748 178 212. Email barbarapack1@yahoo.co.uk

Conferences + courses



Andrew Fergusson

New Word Alive 2009



This Bible-based conference is a partnership between UCCF and Keswick Ministries. There will be two separate events next spring, and CMF is expecting to be represented in a bioethics track, possibly with Peter Saunders as a keynote speaker.

- The Haven Holiday Park, Pwllheli, north Wales
 - 30 March – 4 April. Pre-school provision, student track, full adult programme
 - 4 – 9 April. Children's, youth, and full adult programmes
- Bookings now open, and conferences likely to fill up quickly. Details and brochure www.newwordalive.org

MA in Bioethics

This popular course at St Mary's University College, Twickenham has been taken by many CMF members, and registration is now invited for the next academic year, starting late September.

The course can be one year full time, or three years part time by attendance on Monday and/or Wednesday evenings or by distance learning.

The course is based on the Hippocratic tradition and Judeo-Christian ethics, but considers a wide variety of perspectives. Modules include the human person and action, end of life ethics, the professional-patient relationship, religious bioethics, and health and social responsibility.

Details www.smuc.ac.uk/Courses/Postgraduate/Bioethics/index.htm and applications to Professor David Jones on jonesd@smuc.ac.uk

GP course in the Holy Land



Dr Michael Ingram of 'Conference Plus' has let CMF know of a course this November in the Holy Land that might particularly interest GP members.

The course is of generalist nature and will consist of postgraduate medical education, delivered by UK based speakers, but both venue and associated tours have been chosen to fit in with the spiritual beliefs of British doctors of all religious persuasions. The course is to be held in Jerusalem, and as well as organising tours and events in this special city, day trips to Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and many of the Christian sites are offered. There is also a pre-conference extension to Jordan and to Petra and Jerash.

The educational content and format are specifically aimed at the professional development of UK GPs and 'Conference Plus' has 16 years' experience combining high quality education with the opportunity to explore and experience some very special places. It is totally independent and receives no sponsorship, funding or influence from any pharmaceutical or commercial company. All costs are met by the participants themselves, which ensures independence educationally and a warm, participative atmosphere.

Details www.conferenceplus.co.uk/conferences/jerusalem/default.html

Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications

Mission matters

Keeping in touch and ongoing intercession for members working abroad



Peter Armon

New Head of International Ministries



Vicky Lavy

We are delighted to announce that Vicky Lavy has been appointed to head the international work of CMF and will take up her post on 1 September. She is ideally qualified to take on this much expanded role, which hopefully will draw all the overseas activities of CMF under the one roof of the Mission and Overseas Department. This should allow for better communication and co-ordination of our overseas activities, especially those related to ICMDA, and should release Kevin Vaughan and Peter Saunders from their current responsibilities there.

Vicky and her husband Chris will be well known to many CMF members. They spent ten years working in Malawi, returning home to Oxford in 2005. Vicky was involved setting up a palliative care service in Malawi and has recently co-authored a Toolkit of Palliative Care for resource poor situations. She was actively involved with the work of the Southern Africa Region of ICMDA and helped to establish the national Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship in Malawi.

ICMDA Europe-Eurasia Conference 7-14 September

Resources (Un)limited will bring together doctors, dentists, students and allied health professionals from all over Europe and Eurasia. It should be a stimulating and relaxing chance to meet Christian colleagues from over 65 nations in Schladming in the beautiful Austrian Alps, just an hour from Salzburg. Please consider supporting the bursary fund to help students and graduates from across this vast region to attend.



New publications

The Developing Health CD 2008 is now available. This excellent teaching resource is available free to those working in resource poor countries and contains teaching materials from the last three courses including Power Point presentations, management protocols re limited resources, WHO materials, and booklets including an oral health manual. For copyright reasons we cannot sell these CDs but if you would like more than one, we would suggest a donation. In fact, 100 people donating £5 would virtually cover the costs.

The new edition of *Re-tyred not Retired* is at the printers. It is aimed at those about to retire and retirees wondering 'what next?' Eleven retired members tell something of their stories, how they got involved in overseas activities and what they have been doing since retirement. They provide down

to earth advice about getting involved, pitfalls to avoid, and other useful tips.

Working Abroad – a Handbook for those who are thinking of working abroad is available at www.healthserve.org/pubs/ and should shortly be available in hard copy.

The devotionals booklet *Elective Life Support* has been much appreciated by students going on overseas electives since its production in 2004 by MMA HealthServe. It remains much in demand. A revised and updated edition should be available shortly.

Travel Packs from IHP

The recent natural disasters in China and Myanmar have presented the world community with a seemingly overwhelming need for a medical response. If you have thought of responding in such situations, are simply planning a short term medical trip overseas, or are a student planning a medical elective to a resource poor country you will be interested to know of this company's Travel Packs.

International Health Partners (IHP) is a charitable company bringing together five different stakeholders: government, the medical community, the pharmaceutical industry, NGOs and concerned individuals. See www.ihpuk.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm

Each Travel Pack contains a pre-packed assortment of essential medicines and medical supplies designed for short term medical mission teams, healthcare professionals, and other groups travelling overseas to help people in need. It includes over 35 lines of primary healthcare medicines and has a wholesale value of approximately £2,800, sufficient to provide up to 1,000 treatments. These donated

medicines are in date and high quality. The medicines are packed into two boxes (each 40.6 cm cubed) weighing a total of 30 kg (66 lb) with a total volume of 134 l (4.72 cubic feet), and are equipped with convenient carry handles.

Details at www.ihpuk.org/ourservices/travpack/travpacks.htm

Who can apply for a pack? Pharmaceutical and healthcare companies in the UK rely on IHP to ensure that all donated medicines and supplies are handled securely and professionally. Accordingly, IHP only release these packs to UK registered doctors, although in certain circumstances carriers need not be medically qualified. IHP requests a contribution of £250 per pack from the recipient doctor, and also asks them to identify a sponsor to contribute £120 (or £10 a month for 12 months) to help cover the remainder of the costs. Sponsors may be individuals, companies, clubs or foundations.

Fun weeks for children of mission partners

For those returning from overseas with children, or on home assignment, Global Connections has arranged two fun weeks for the children. Both weeks cost £55 per person:

- 6-12 year olds, at Slack Top Centre near Hebden Bridge, North Yorkshire. 4-8 August. Contact: daveandjanetbrown@gmail.com
- For 13 year olds and above, at All Nations Christian College, Herts. 5-9 August. Contact: xenosmk@yahoo.co.uk

Peter Armon retires as Head of Overseas Ministries on 31 July

ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



Peter Pattison

Regional growth and development

Implementing ICMDA's regionalisation policy is resulting in much expansion. New contact groups are regularly identified, with members expressing the intention to form national organisations. Out of such beginnings, now happening in a number of countries, a further member organisation will emerge, adding to the size of the ICMDA family. As with our human families, members need to be in touch with one another.

When the Regional Secretaries met as part of the Executive Committee proceedings in May, it was encouraging to learn how the member organisations are supported in all their endeavours to 'expand the boundaries of God's Kingdom'. Here are some exciting highlights.

Central America

Jose Luis Martinez has just been appointed as Regional Secretary. We heard of the Holy Spirit flooding the hearts of the people with love and joy. Expressions of the holistic ministry of Christ (teaching, preaching, healing as in Matthew 9:35) were seen in outreach programmes; in networking with other organisations; in addressing societal issues of adultery, divorce and even murder; in mission trips to Senegal. Particularly significant was the challenge to reach out to neighbouring countries where members struggle (eg **Guatemala**) or where no group yet exists (eg **Colombia**).

West Africa

Through Osemwen Asemota came news of many branches in **Nigeria** being revitalised and new groups being formed. Work amongst students is huge, with up to 3,000 attending a national

conference. Much attention is being given to integrating graduate and student work, and to outreach to neighbouring countries like **Cameroon** and the **Francophone** ones. **Ghana**, a recent member, is already playing a significant role as it hosts the West Africa Regional Conference in Accra from 10-13 July.

South Asia

Vinod Shah spoke inspiringly of activities in that region, where **Nepal** has just become a member. A relatively small band has registered their organisation and then applied for membership. Nepal has organised a conference where 60 medical students are expected to attend, all this being financed themselves. **CMA India** has over the past few years been 'twinning' with **CMA Bangladesh**, giving much appreciated support and encouragement. In Bangladesh the Christian doctors had a sense of hopelessness, but this is now being turned around through CME seminars organised by Vinod Shah. Interest in medical missions is being revived through the Shiloh Conferences, involving the churches, EMFI and CMAI. Outreach to **Myanmar** is sought, especially in response to the recent cyclone disaster.

2010 World Congress

Space does not allow more news from East Africa, Southern Africa, South America, Eurasia and Oceania. Organisation is proceeding for the 2010 World Congress in Punta del Este, **Uruguay**. Please support all this growth and development in prayer.

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

Europe-Eurasia

Resources (Un)limited

ICMDA Europe-Eurasia Conference 7-14 September



'Sir, we want to see Jesus' (John 12:21).

With these words Georg Bittmann, chairman of Archae, opened one day of the planning committee recently, saying simply that if this was achieved the conference would be a success; if not, however well planned, it would have failed. I was very impressed with the commitment and care going into the planning. At present around 500 registrations have been received. The conference needs a minimum of 750 to break even financially.

Bursary fund

The bursary committee met earlier in May with about 200 applications and a total fund of 40,000 euros. We approved grants totalling 50,000 euros to 150 applicants, including about 50 from extremely sensitive countries. We rejoiced that our request for 'at least 40,000 euros' had been met through the generosity of many individuals and movements across Europe. In the expectation of further funds coming, we took a step of faith in approving grants up to 50,000 euros. A further 5,000 euros has been received since the committee.

Thank you if you have contributed to the bursary fund, and may I encourage those who have not yet done so to consider making a grant before the summer holidays. Go from CMF's homepage via the banner to a conference page pointing you to the bursary fund, and click down on 'This donation is for' to 'Europe-Eurasia Bursary Fund'.

Europe-Eurasia regional structure

We are in the process of major change in the regional structure. I will be standing down at the Schladming conference. **James Tomlinson** has been Associate Regional Secretary for the last 18 months, and I am delighted that he will be taking up the role of Regional Secretary from September. I commend him to your prayers and would urge your support for him. We have been able to put in place some good support structures for him including Mrs Liz Mander, a Birmingham based book-keeper, as financial administrator.

At the beginning of the year we set a budget of 30,000 euros. We have received a little over 20,000 euros, so there is some way to go in the second half of the year. In addition we are facing new challenges and opportunities in the Middle East. If we are to take up these opportunities, it would involve a further 15,000 euros in 2009. It seems that God is constantly stretching our faith.

This will probably be my last article as regional secretary. I write with a profound sense of gratitude to God and to all of you who have supported and encouraged a growing work over the last six years. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

Peter Pattison is ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary

Allied professions



Steve Fouch

Nurses Christian Fellowship International (NCFI)

In April the European Committee (which I chair) met in Cluj-Napoca, Romania at the invitation of a group of Christian nurses in Cluj seeking to form a national fellowship. To further that end, they had agreed to host the 2010 NCFI European Regional Congress, held every four years. Plans for the event are well underway, including building leadership training into a pre-conference programme. The theme will be 'Caring Across Borders – the challenge of nursing in a globalised world'.

Next spring we will have the fourth NCFI Europe students conference on 'Spirituality and Care' in Bergen, Norway; and for the first time NCFI will be involved with ICMDA as part of the Eurasia Conference in Schladming this September, with an allied professions stream in the pre-conference programme. I will be doubling up, as I am also co-ordinating the HIV pre-conference for the ICMDA HIV Initiative.

2008 will also see the NCFI World Congress in Jos, Nigeria, which will focus on the global health crisis and the role of Christian nurses in shaping local, national and global responses. While there I will also be exploring with NCFI further links at global as well as regional level between CMF/ICMDA, International Saline Partnership, and PRIME.

NCFI has also been pursuing links with Healthcare Christian Fellowship International (HCFI). HCFI and ICMDA are increasingly working closely together, and we hope to build a strong three way partnership between the networks over the next few years. NCFI is focusing increasingly on training and equipping Christian nurses at all levels to lead and influence their professions, in national and global health policies.

Healthcare Sunday - 19 October

One key link between NCFI, ICMDA and HCFI at the UK level has been through organising *Healthcare Sunday* – a day when UK churches can focus on the roles of Christian health professionals in their congregations. This is becoming increasingly a global event, with many countries round the world holding events and services particularly to pray for and support health workers. CMF has been involved in the UK since *Healthcare Sunday* started and we are exploring with HCFI and others how resources can be made more widely available around the world. See www.healthcaresunday.org.uk for information and resources.

PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



John Caroe

PRIME has had the honour to teach in around 30 countries in all five continents. We do not evangelise, but put God's values within the core of academic medical truth: caring for and valuing the sufferer's spirit, and also the doctor's. God has blessed us richly. For example, over 2,500 enjoyed courses in Romania; we have a regular commitment to the top teaching hospital in Moscow and have been asked to advise on the obligatory retraining of Moscow GPs as a pilot for all Russia; many teams have been to Nepal; and the palliative care course has spread to India where hundreds are being trained to teach it. Here in the UK such input into medical teaching is just as necessary.

If you are involved in any way in teaching any specialty at any level, we would love to see you in Austria where PRIME is running the Education Stream of the ICMDA Eurasia conference. See www.icmda2008.archae.at/main.php?navi=Preconference#PRIME. In October, we have a conference in Lisbon, in English and Portuguese, arranged by PRIME Portugal. Most speakers are PRIME tutors and many leading health professionals from Portugal will be present. Contact info@prime-international.org.uk

Please join us, perhaps as a travelling tutor, a thinker and planner of curricula, or as a donor. We need at least a further £50,000 pa to continue, even before developing exciting ideas. The potential is extraordinary, the growth exponential, the responsibility great. Please stand with us in any way you can. Thank you!

John Caroe is Chairman of PRIME

Micah Challenge



The coalition has just released *Micah's Challenge*, written by leading Christian authors including Jim Wallis, Tony Campolo, Tim Chester and René Padilla. It explores the scriptural and practical basis for Christian engagement with global poverty.

They have also launched *Impact*, an online resource for churches and individuals to engage with campaigning and lobbying on behalf of the world's poor. www.micahchallenge.org.uk/impact

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

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Dates for your Diary

September

18 Association of Anaesthetists' Breakfast, Torquay

October

3 Psychiatry Day Conference, London
7-9 Retirees Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leics
11 Saline Solution, Keswick, Cumbria
17-19 Northern Conference, Cober Hill, Scarborough

November

1 Midlands Day Conference, Leicestershire
8 London & South East Day Conference, London
21-23 Scottish Conference, Gartmore House, nr Stirling

December

5-7 Junior Doctors' Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leics
5-7 Regional Secretaries & Member Reps Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leics

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

CMF News

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