

Building community, strengthening ministry

As Christian doctors living in uncertain times we face huge challenges. Growing hostility to Christian faith and values means that Christian organisations and individuals, especially health professionals, are increasingly coming under attack. In addition we are confronted with huge and growing health needs both here and abroad, with much of the disease burden being a consequence either of bad lifestyle choices or neglect of the poor and vulnerable.

These challenges call for Christian doctors to be strong on:

- **compassion** for vulnerable people made in God's image
- **courage** to be advocates for the voiceless, and
- **community** to encourage and stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24,25), as we offer hands and hearts for Christ's service

At such a time as this, the need for Christian doctors and allied health professionals to 'stand in the gap' together is greater than ever.

Autumn appeal

Our autumn appeal this year www.cmf.org.uk/autumnappeal2009 is focusing on 'building stronger fellowship and community'. We have three priorities in 2010 to achieve this:

Strengthening graduate ministry

CMF student ministry is strong and thriving. We now have groups in 39/40 medical schools in the UK and Ireland and this



year 420 attended our national students' conference in February, making it the largest ever. Over 60 students attended our leaders' training conference and over 60 our Irish students' conference. CMF student work is strong because it is well-resourced. A staff team of four doctors working part time is about to be strengthened when Giles Cattermole starts as Head in January 2010 (see p3).

By contrast, our graduate work is seriously under-resourced. We are therefore planning to appoint **two part time medically-qualified field workers** alongside Kevin Vaughan - to support juniors, GPs, and hospital doctors better; to recruit new members; and to strengthen local and specialty groups. We will shortly be advertising, so if you think this might be you please let us know. We are looking for doctors with gifts in evangelism, encouragement and pastoral ministry.

Both Kevin Vaughan (see p4) and Andrew Fergusson (see p5) are due to retire by March 2011 and we will be advertising for their replacements in the New Year. Additional field workers are therefore doubly important as we seek to provide good continuity at a key time of transition.

Strengthening allied professions ministry

While we are strong, our sister organisations supporting Christian nurses and allied health professionals remain small and struggling. At present, our Head of Allied Professions Steve Fouch serves on the board of Christian Nurses and Midwives (CNM) and also acts supportively managing CNM's website, editing their magazine, maintaining a database, and providing administrative support for their conferences. However, membership remains around 200, representing only a tiny proportion of the country's Christian nurses. The same headlines apply to the other allied health professions. Having strong sister movements is essential for CMF, but in our experience will best be grown from the bottom up, starting with students.

With warm support we are therefore aiming to appoint a **full time nurses' and allied professions student staffworker** in July next year. A similar strategic appointment in 1992 revolutionised CMF medical student ministry. We will be advertising shortly and looking for a qualified nurse with ministry gifts in evangelism, encouragement and pastoral care, and with a heart for students. Please draw this exciting opportunity to the attention of any Christian nurses you know who might be up for this challenge.

Strengthening connections

In 2009 CMF has strengthened IT, with excellent new database and

financial systems, improvements to our website, and the introduction of online joining, giving, conference booking, and book sales. Our new DVD (see p5) gives a fast-paced overview of the breadth of CMF's work and communicates powerfully all we are already doing. But technology is moving on rapidly and we are only too aware we are only scratching the surface of what new media can currently offer. Now that we have a robust Data Protection policy agreed and about to be implemented, we want to link members much more effectively through internet forums and special interest groups. We want to provide better pastoral support and put you in touch with other doctors who share your specialty, special interest, or who work in the same hospital or region. We also want to keep you better informed and up to date through videos, blogs, MP3 audios and more focused e-communications relevant to you, so aim to appoint a **full time high level web developer** in July 2010 to help make these features available.

Please pray

Please pray about all these new developments - that God would raise up the right people for these four critical new posts and provide the financial resources necessary - in order that we can continue to equip, encourage and support Christian doctors, nurses and AHPs to be faithful to Jesus Christ in this generation.

Peter Saunders
is CMF General
Secretary



Central services



Marcus Watkins

The year end is a busy time for us in the Central Services department. After agreeing the August month end accounts, we estimate the financial outcome for the year end. This is then used to help determine the target for the Autumn Appeal, and we move on to preparing the budget of income and expenditure for 2010. Alongside all this we have been revising the *Staff Handbook*.

Data Protection

We have also been preparing a set of Data Protection Act (DPA) procedures to help both members and staff meet their duties under the Data Protection Act and to explain the CMF DPA policy. Once all these have been approved we will issue the DPA Policy to regional secretaries, medical school reps and others and provide them with up to date lists of members in their region or medical school.

New CMF company

With effect from 1 January 2010 CMF becomes a company limited by guarantee, registered with Companies House, with the registration number 6949436. CMF continues to be a charity registered with the Charity Commission, with the new registration number 1131658. A main reason for this change was to limit the liability of both CMF and its trustees, so protecting assets, while bringing the constitution in line with modern charity law.

All 13 members of the Executive Committee of the 'old' CMF are now the Directors and Trustees of the new CMF limited company.

New 'footer' essential

These details of the limited company and the charity should be included on all our letters, event and conference leaflets, appeals and other documents requesting money or entering into a contract. Regional secretaries, event organisers and medical school representatives must meet this requirement. Further, when collecting personal information on event or conference application forms, we should all record that CMF is registered under the Data Protection Act.

The simplest way to do all this is to include the following as a 'footer' in documents:

Christian Medical Fellowship. A company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England no. 6949436
Registered Charity no. 1131658.
Registered office: 6 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL
Data Protection Act registered number: Z1341734

Marcus Watkins is Head of Finance and Administration

Regional CMF meetings

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

Congratulations

Helen Barratt – MFPH

Keith Thomson – the 'Pask Certificate' award of The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland, for his volunteer work with Mercy Ships

Michael Trimble – MA in Health Care Ethics and Law (Manchester)

Outgoing

Elizabeth Clausen to Kenya

Simon Clausen (Leeds) to Kenya

Francesca Elloway (Bristol) to Uganda

Carolyn Simpson (The London) to Tanzania

Patricia Turner (Cardiff) to Ghana

William Turner (Cardiff) to Ghana

Martin Tweeddale (Westminster) to Canada

Nick Wooding (Oxford) to Uganda

Homecoming

Karinya Humphrey (Southampton) from Kenya

Chris Lewis (Southampton) from Kenya

Emily Wilkinson (Oxford) from Tanzania

Change of address abroad

Samantha Dunnet (Nottingham) from South Africa to Mozambique

Obituaries

Guy Brill (*q* Cambridge/St Thomas's 1958; *d* 29 June 2009) was a GP in Hampshire, enthusiastic about holistic care and the RCGP. In retirement he served as a lay reader.

Ann Cook (*d* 3 October 2009) was the wife of Richard Cook, consultant paediatric surgeon in Liverpool who was Chairman and later President of CMF. She herself served CMF in many ways for many years.

Mary Ellis (*q* London School of Medicine for Women 1942; *d* summer 2009) in retirement on the Isle of Wight.

Thomas 'Edgar' Fergusson (*q* Glasgow 1952; *d* 24 June 2009) was a GP for 20 years who transferred to the Scottish Home and Health Department. 'He led an active, fulfilled, and spiritually enriched life.'

Percy Harris (*q* Dublin 1943; *d* 5 May 2009). GP and clinical assistant in cardiology in Belfast, he also served as a JP and Presbyterian Church elder.

Ruth Hughes (*q* St Andrew's 1954; *d* 30 June 2009) became a consultant child psychiatrist in Merseyside, and retired to Cranleigh in Surrey.

Michael Robson (*q* Cambridge 1955; *d* 9 October 2009) proceeded DTM&H in 1961 and was a missionary in Nepal who wrote about suffering Christians across the world.

James Runcie (*q* Edinburgh 1937; *d* summer 2009) was a GP in Ross-shire.

Robert J Sibbald (*q* Manchester 1961; *d* summer 2009) was a consultant pathologist at Pontefract General Infirmary.

David Turk (*d* 25 July 2009) in Sheffield aged 85.

Arthur Wyatt (*q* Barts 1955; *d* 11 October 2009) became a consultant surgeon in Greenwich. With longstanding family connections, he frequently visited China and reviewed several books for *Triple Helix*.

New faces



Alex Bunn

New Head of Student Ministries



Giles Cattermole

Alex Bunn interviews **Giles Cattermole** who starts on 25 January.

Giles, let's start with your medical background. You have had quite a diverse training...

Well, I qualified in 1995, my house jobs were in Newcastle, and I completed my basic surgical training in Winchester. After a very short stint in Zimbabwe and then a year of anaesthetics in Salisbury I joined the Emergency Medicine HST rotation in Wales. Within a couple of years I was able to work part time, so I could do student work for my church in Cardiff, Highfields. And since getting my CCT, I have been working in an academic post at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from January 2008.

I was also very involved in the BMA junior doctors' committee for a few years when I was part time, and I was in the Territorial Army for 10 years.

Why the TA?

Probably originally because my father and brother were in the army. But once I joined I realised the great opportunities for training in the areas of medicine I found most interesting: trauma, disaster relief, tropical stuff, etc. So I stayed, and for the last few years my main role was teaching the military versions of MIMMS and ATLS.

Your dad also mixed the military and ministry, didn't he?

My dad was an Army chaplain. I guess I've grown up recognising the importance of Word-ministry, and the need for it in all contexts.

Tell us about your family.

I've been married to Victoria for 14 years and we have four children – Elizabeth (9), Jemima (7), Henry (4) and Naomi (2).



You've spent the last couple of years in Hong Kong. What was that like?

I knew I wanted to go overseas again after I completed my SpR training, and although Hong Kong had never crossed my thoughts before, God sent this particular opportunity at just the right time. It's been good to live and work in a university environment, and it's been great being able to teach people the Bible in a massively different context, and to be able to do short term trips to other Asian countries.

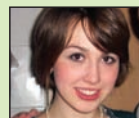
New interns



Noel Aruparayil

We are very grateful to **Noel Aruparayil** and **Lizzie Groom**, who are working part time in the office as interns. CMF first met Noel in Tver, Russia where he was helping translate for a PRIME conference.

Congratulations to him and his new wife Laura, an English doctor whom he met on the same conference.



Lizzie Groom

Summer teams bring many blessings!

Lizzie is a medical student at Cardiff who is taking a year out to study ethics at Kings. They are both a real asset to CMF HQ, where they work behind the scenes and hopefully develop their gifts too.

New faces at biggest ever leaders conference

Fifty nine budding leaders joined us in London for a weekend's training and resourcing. Johnson House is a great asset for ministry in a central location, so thanks to all who have given to the Capital Appeal. It allowed us to run our first ever cost-neutral student weekend! Peter Saunders was back in the saddle, preaching from 2 Timothy, and reminding us why gospel priorities need to remain at the heart of all CMF does.

And what's your experience of working with students?

I cut my teeth as a student with youth work on summer camps (kept going for 18 years!) and got stuck into student work when in Cardiff, mainly with Highfields church but also helping the CMF staff workers.

I love teaching people the Bible, whether one-to-one or in small groups. Why students? Because that's the ministry God led me to, that he gave me the enthusiasm and gifts for, and that is so strategic – students are tomorrow's leaders. And they're so open to new ideas. It's a crucial time of life that sets people up in their faith and their thinking.

What are your priorities for CMF student work?

How would you triage?!

Making disciples. It's all Ephesians 4 stuff: I long to see Word-ministry 'cascading' through the church as we all minister to each other, speaking the truth to each other in love,

growing up to be more like Jesus. Practically I'd love to see older doctors mentoring younger doctors, younger doctors mentoring students ... helping us apply the truths of God's Word in our context as Christians who happen to be doctors.

That 'speaking the truth in love' is really 'truthing': it's more than just speaking the truth, it's living the truth. In medicine we all need to be guided by those who've been there before us, showing us by their example and wisdom how to grow. We need to see in each other's lives how we can best be Christian doctors.

*Alex Bunn is Acting Head of Student Ministries
alex.bunn@cmf.org.uk*

New growth



Kevin Vaughan

Record autumn conference season

- *Thank you so much, it's been a really great conference. Such a great investment in my life, I hope to be a different doctor on Monday!*
- *I have enjoyed the focus on general discipleship, rather than explicit 'ethical' issues – needed to catch up on general teaching.*
- *This conference has been really encouraging. It lifts up my passion to live for Christ and to serve him.*

This is some of the feedback from a succession of wide-ranging regional and specialist conferences hosted by CMF around the country this autumn.

Immediately after our regular annual conference for **psychiatrists**, who continue to come to London from all over the UK, the regional conference for the **South-East** considered *Coming out as a Christian – Handling conflict in the NHS*. We got off to a great start with testimony interviews from Caroline Petrie, a nurse temporarily suspended for offering to pray with a patient; Tamie Downes, a GP referred to the GMC for encouraging women with unplanned pregnancies to consider keeping their babies; and Sheila Matthews, an experienced community paediatrician and adoption adviser, who is still in conflict with her employing Trust for asking permission to abstain from voting for proposed 'gay' adoptions. The rest of the morning was devoted to a talk on the importance of spiritual care, a summary of biblical teaching on when Christians come into conflict with people in authority, and outlines of what the law and our professional bodies are saying on these issues. In the



afternoon there was a lively panel discussion with input from many participants.

The **Northern** conference near Scarborough has always had a family feel to it and record numbers this year enjoyed warm fellowship, Bible readings on how our relationship with Christ can impact our lives 24/7, and a keynote lecture on the challenges of teenage sexuality. This was the third year we have run a conference for **retirees** at Hothorpe Hall and although numbers were lower than previously, those who attended enjoyed the opportunities provided by a more intimate conference.

The **Midlands** conference in Nottingham addressed issues around vocation, the theology of work, and practical issues of work-life balance. The need to make positive career choices rather than allow ourselves to drift into things was highlighted. Those attending **Scotland's** conference at Gartmore were encouraged and challenged by Bible readings and seminars on the theme *What does it mean to love God in practice?*

For the first time we ran a **day conference for juniors** wanting to explore how to follow God's call, as they work their way through the uncertain waters of the government's MMC programme for trainee doctors. This was a marvellous day of looking at biblical principles, sharing personal stories, and providing dedicated time for experienced consultants

Onto the front foot

Whether you're coming back as a 'regular' or this will be your first year, next year's national conference 23-25 April promises to be a great weekend.

(See the brochure enclosed.)

John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University and a well known Bible teacher and apologist, will be speaking from Acts on the theme **Onto the Front Foot**; there will be a keynote lecture about Christians in medical education, and a wide range of seminars, in addition to the usual opportunities to worship, pray and relax together.



and GPs to give practical advice to doctors in training in small groups and one-to-one.

The **junior doctors' weekend conference** at Hothorpe Hall also drew record numbers who were inspired by Bible readings from Philippians and looking at Christ as our model, together with a wide range of seminars and plenty of time to relax together.

New groups

It has been encouraging visiting local CMF groups as far apart as Dundee and Plymouth. One leader of a new CMF group in a town in the North-East has been surprised to discover that over a few months his contact list has grown to 40. At my visit he commented: 'I think God is doing something here!' It's surprising how quickly a group can grow when a leader invests time in it.

New approach to the NHS

Nationally, a small group of doctors, who sense a fresh call from God, has started to look at ways in which they can serve the community by offering NHS services specifically as Christian healthcare providers, and a few have already obtained contracts on this basis. Do contact me if you think this might be for you.

New Head of Graduate Ministries for 2011

In addition to the developments planned for graduates work in 2010 (see front cover), a new department Head will be needed from spring 2011 when I retire. If you want to explore this possibility, please be in touch: kevin@cmf.org.uk

Kevin Vaughan is
Head of Graduate Ministries

Several came along at once...



Andrew Fergusson

New DVD

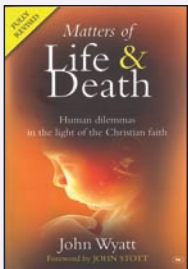


To celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of CMF 'uniting and equipping Christian doctors' we spent time in the first half of the year recording aspects of our many activities. On the DVD there are two 'trailers' each lasting six minutes – one to be shown perhaps in a main church service to encourage people to watch the full 34 minute film in small group settings, and the other designed to highlight the benefits of CMF membership to Christian colleagues.

We have had very positive reports from everybody who has seen it, and it has already been transmitted on Christian TV. Have you watched yours yet? It's a great resource to introduce CMF to your church and your colleagues.

Unfortunately there was an error at our distributors and to our knowledge about 30 mailings went out unfranked. We apologise again to those members, and where we have become aware of the problem we have of course sent the DVD again. If you have not received a copy, or if you would like another one to pass on, please email pubs@cmf.org.uk or telephone 020 7234 9677.

New edition of ethics best seller



On 20 November IVP co-published with CMF the extensively revised edition of John Wyatt's *Matters of Life and Death*. The first edition in 1998 arose from the 'London Lectures' on ethics given by Professor John Wyatt for the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, and both the book and the accompanying audio versions have been massively influential around the world.

There have been many reprints and translations have been made, or are still being considered, into Bulgarian, Chinese, French, German, Hungarian, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish (which will be particularly useful at the ICMDA World Congress in Uruguay – see p7).

However, new subjects have arisen in bioethics, and perhaps more importantly, John has developed new understandings and insights in the last ten years. All this new material can be found in an expanded 300 page book. This time there is an accompanying website, with indicators in the book to show when regularly updated material can be found on the website.

New student material:



Travelling Light

This slim collection of two months' worth of daily Bible meditations is meant as a companion for student electives, helping readers to:

- shine the light of God's word on their experiences
- look at people and places through God's eyes

- benefit from readings and reflections by professionals who've gone before
- receive encouragement, insight and fresh challenges

With a £4.95 RRP there is a launch offer at £3.95 including P&P, and discounts for bulk. See more and buy online at www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore



Ten Reasons

These new leaflets are designed as a quick read for medical and other health professional students wondering about joining CMF. With the first year's membership free, there's really no reason why not! Available free on request from the Office.

With an RRP of £12.99, CMF is offering this at a special launch price until the end of January of £9.95 including P&P. Buy online at www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore

New book of missionary autobiographies



Most missionary books leave us feeling that health professionals who work overseas in developing countries are spiritual superheroes, a different breed.

In short, 'I couldn't do that!' These 15 short accounts turn that right round.

They include:

- newly qualified newly weds
- an 88 year old who could serve abroad
- nurses working in Africa and Asia
- an OT in South America and a dentist doing development
- a woman who moved cross-culturally within India
- a refugee camp paediatrician
- early retired GPs majoring on medical education

One story at least must make you say: 'I could do that!' This fascinating 80 page collection of testimonies is a light read, but a stimulating and challenging one. With an RRP of £6.95, CMF is offering this at a special launch price until the end of January of £4.95 including P&P. Buy online at www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore

New Head of Communications for 2011

In addition to the developments planned for communications in 2010 (see front cover), a new department Head will be needed from spring 2011 when I retire. We are not yet clear how all the components of the current job should be divided, but a medically qualified person would certainly be required for the 'ethics and public policy' aspect. If you want to explore this possibility, please be in touch: andrew@cmf.org.uk

Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications

The wider horizon



Vicky Lavy

Who is my Neighbour? New roadshow launched

Forty people came to Johnson House in November for a workshop on medical mission and international healthcare. It was a great day with a real mixture of participants – some with no experience of working abroad, others with years of service behind them, but all with a desire to learn what's happening beyond UK shores and to explore different ways of serving our neighbours where the needs are great but the resources are few.

We plan to take this workshop around the country next year, visiting regional groups and medical schools. Look out for a 'Who is my Neighbour?' event in your area, or contact vicky@cmf.org.uk if you would like to host a meeting.



CMDF Rwanda is born

A brand new medical and dental fellowship has begun in Rwanda, joining the 100 or so organisations around the world connected to ICMFDA. Members of CMDF Australia had been in contact with Christian medical students in Rwanda for over a year, and had helped them get

started. CMF Kenya will be giving ongoing support and CMF UK is supplying literature – how wonderful to be part of a worldwide family! The student chairman wrote to thank us for the copies of *Nucleus* and *Triple Helix* we sent:

All the members are happy for the gift and thank you so much. I am sure that will help us as Christian medical students – future doctors. We thank so much the Lord that helped us to start CMDF Rwanda, and now the fellowship is growing day and night.

David Morley (1923-2009)

David Morley, who died in July, was a Christian doctor who transformed the health care of children in the developing world. This work began in a mission hospital in Nigeria where he showed that infant mortality could be cut by over 80% – not by introducing modern medicine and building hospitals, but by education and use of local resources. He developed the 'Road to Health' chart which is used for growth monitoring all over the world.

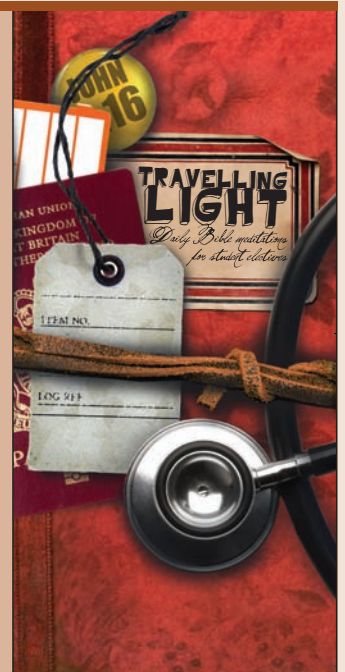
In 1965 he founded TALC: Teaching Aids at Low Cost. This brilliant organisation distributes teaching materials to healthcare professionals in more than 100 countries – a visit to www.talcuk.org is a must for anyone going to work in a developing country. Professor Andrew Tomkins said of him: 'In applying simple technologies to save children's lives, he's probably the person who's made the biggest contribution in the past 50 years'.



Travelling Light - new resource for students on electives

Travelling Light is a new pocket-sized collection of Bible meditations, designed to be a light to travel by on the exciting journey of an elective in a developing country. Covering a two-month period, the daily readings have been written by students, doctors and other health professionals. If you know a student about to set off on an elective, why not give them a copy for their rucksack and help them shine the light of God's word on the experiences, encounters and challenges they will meet.

With a £4.95 RRP there is a launch offer at £3.95 including P&P, and discounts for bulk. See more and buy online at www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore



Award for outstanding service on Mercy Ships

CMF member Keith Thomson has been awarded the prestigious 'Pask Certificate' by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland for his work with Mercy Ships over the past 18 years. Mercy Ships is a global charity which operates hospital ships serving developing countries in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, primarily by providing surgical care. Keith has done 22 trips to ten African countries and given training to local staff – at a recent course in Liberia, he taught over 75% of the country's anaesthetic workforce! Keith writes:

Working on board as part of an international team of volunteer medics is hugely exciting but the most rewarding aspect is seeing the patients after surgery and realising that their lives have literally changed overnight. Their surgeries aren't just operations – they give them back the hope and a chance



to lead a normal life. Often our patients are outcasts in their communities because of their physical deformities but after surgery they are once again accepted into their families. My experiences with Mercy Ships have been the most rewarding of my life and I would encourage everyone who is considering volunteering to look at Mercy Ships.

Vicky Lavy is Head of International Ministries

ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



James Tomlinson

Eurasia

Ukraine Conference

In October the first Ukrainian student and juniors Christian medical conference, organised by the Ukrainian Christian Medical Association, was held. The theme was 'Gold standards and Christian principles in modern medicine'. 170, mainly medical and dental students and young specialists, gathered together from 15 cities across Ukraine and both I and our ASR for Eastern Europe had the privilege of participating.

Doctors working in this former Soviet Union country face significant challenges, from under-resourced hospitals and corrupt administrations to HIV-AIDS. The conference explored both how Christians in medicine can be skilful and effective in their spheres, and how they can influence society for God. Conference goers were encouraged to see following Jesus in medicine as a way of life, and to do their work in medicine for and with God (Colossians 3:23-24).

To see so many Christian medics gathered to encourage each other, to pray together and to consider how to put their faith into practice in Ukraine highlighted the huge potential there is among them as God unites them in his service. As a first such conference it was a good beginning. A committee has since met to plan a similar conference for May 2010 and consider how to encourage further developments. Please pray for this work among students and juniors in Ukraine.

ICMDA Eurasia News

The first edition of the ICMDA Eurasia newsletter was well received.

Sent out electronically, email



eurasia-admin@icmda-online.org to be added to our mailing list.

Work a Day for ICMDA

For those of you who participated on 16 October, or any other day, thank you for joining with others across the region in supporting the work of ICMDA through prayer and giving.

Area Student Representatives (ASRs)

We are grateful to all our ASRs past and present for their role in supporting work among students and juniors in the region.

Dr Euan Dodds, ASR for Western Europe, finished his service as an ASR on 30 November. We continue to seek candidates for this role.

New ASRs for the Baltic and Nordic countries have been appointed, taking over from Dr Laura Räisänen. Dr Sini Vaali is ASR with responsibility for Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland and Drs Geir-Anders and Anete Kaldal are jointly ASR with responsibility for Norway, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

ICMDA 2010



Next year's World Congress to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay begins on Thursday 1 July with the Student and Junior Grads conference followed by the main congress from Sunday 4 to Thursday 8 July.

The conference theme 'Priorities in professional practice: for whom are you working?' will be explored in Bible readings, plenary sessions and seminars. Congress speakers include Dr Pablo Martinez (Spain) as Bible Reader, Dr David Stevens (USA) and author Philip Yancey. Why not consider attending and join with Christian medics and dentists, students and graduates from around the globe? Maybe this could be a good excuse to visit other countries in South America as well!

Please note **early registration rates only apply before 31 December**. Registration, programme and general information can be found at www.icmda2010.org as can further information about the pre-congress seminars including:

- a meeting for psychologists and psychiatrists – 'The place of the Sacred in Psychotherapy'
- PRIME
- International Saline
- Nursing

Dr Daryl Hackland (ICMDA General Secretary) writes: 'We feel sure you are as excited as we are ... Our hope is that every member country and contact group will be represented, making it truly a Congress of the ICMDA family around the world. In some corners of the globe there are those for whom being there will remain but a distant dream. Such a dream can become a reality. Christian graduate and student colleagues, who would not otherwise be able to attend, are supported by the ICMDA Bursary Fund. It seeks to cover registration, accommodation, plus a small contribution to travel costs amounting in total to an average between £300-600 per person supported. Your contribution to the Fund can make all the difference. We invite your help towards reaching our target of £90,000. Your support can mean a life changing experience.'

Even if you are not planning to attend the conference yourself do consider supporting the **Congress Bursary Fund** which will enable Christian medics and dentists from around the world to be encouraged and equipped through the conference.

Gifts to the bursary fund can either be made:

- directly to the ICMDA UK Trust. Contact Dr Mark Pickering: uktrust@icmda-online.org
- through giving to the special online appeal set up by CMF www.cmf.org.uk

Team Development Meetings

The next meetings of the Eurasia committee and ASRs are planned for 24-28 March 2010. Please pray as we prepare for these.

James Tomlinson is the ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary
Eurasia@icmda-online.org

Allied professions



Steve Fouch

There are moments when you get a sense that God is moving, and all you can do is either get on board with what he is up to, or just get left behind. This year has had that sense very strongly in terms of CMF's ministry with Christians in nursing and the allied health professions.

As reported this summer, the General Committee expressed a strong desire for CMF to support work among Christian nurses and allied health professionals, a feeling that the Executive Committee has subsequently echoed.

RCN on assisted suicide

Since that General Committee endorsement, we have seen the Royal College of Nursing change its position on assisted suicide from opposition to one of neutrality. At the recent AGM of the College, I was present as several nurses (Christians and non-Christians) raised questions about this – in fact this single issue was the one most discussed outside the official agenda.

Conferences on speaking up

The CMF London and SE conference brought together about 60 doctors and nurses to look at the issue of advocacy for Christian health professionals facing opposition to expressions of faith and conscience in the workplace. In Leicester it was my privilege to help run and to speak at a conference for about 20 nurses and allied health professionals on the same issues.

In November Kevin Vaughan and I spoke at a conference for about a hundred Christian health workers at the New Life Centre in Lincoln. Kevin and I spoke about the *Saline Solution* course and witnessing to Jesus in the workplace – and several nurses came up to me afterwards saying how much they needed to hear this, and to feel they could 'stick their heads above the parapet'. At a long panel discussion in the afternoon we were able further to explore the challenges of standing up for Jesus in the workplace.

Awakening

From all these events it is clear there is an awakening among Christians in all health professions for the need to take a stand, and show the love and compassion of Jesus in the NHS in a way that cuts across the culture of targets and throughputs.

To this end, CMF and Christian Nurses and Midwives are working on a series of *Saline Solution* courses – with events in Bristol and Liverpool already planned for March/April and further events

PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



John Caroe

Sharing news of PRIME is a testimony to God's blessing, and an opportunity to indicate our thankfulness for his anointing on this unique mission.

We sow seeds of God's presence at the educational sources of the secular rationalism that has an imprisoning effect on much of the care of those who suffer.

Across the globe

In the financial year to June 2009, PRIME completed 47 separate teaching visits to 15 different countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. We involved over 60 different tutors serving for more than 867 days and providing teaching and training to well over 4,000 individuals.

The pace continues. Recent visits to Zambia, Moscow and Arad in Romania have been very fruitful. Courses in many other nations are imminent. Two conferences in UK are widening the vision and sharing responsibility over a wider group. Plans are in hand for significant contributions to major international conferences next year: NCFI (Romania) and ICMDA (Uruguay).

PRIME Portugal is established, as is PRIME Zambia, and PRIME Australia promises to be a really strong influence on that side of the world – functioning under the wing of HealthServe Australia.

Support and succession

Thank you all so much for all the prayers and support. If you sense God's nudge to add your support too, or especially to come and strengthen the team, do respond please. Could it be that he plans to hand on to you the baton from those who by necessity find they must soon relinquish leadership? Do read Gideon's story in Judges 6-8 – we often ignore the final lesson about the importance of succession...

John Caroe is Chair of PRIME

under consideration. Internationally, we are working with PRIME to mobilise more Christian nursing educators to teach whole person care, spiritual care, and nursing leadership courses in Eastern Europe and other regions of the world. We are also looking to develop work among nursing and allied health professional students.

Watch this space, or go to the Allied Professions pages at www.cmf.org.uk/alliedprofessions for news, articles and events.

Steve Fouch is Head of Allied Professions Ministries

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Dates for your Diary

January

30 Answering Other Faiths, Birmingham

February

12-14 National Student Conference, Swanwick

27 Board of Trustees, London

March

6 East Anglia Day Conference

13 Regional Secretaries & Member Reps Conference, London

20 Scottish Students Day Conference

22-25 Gastroenterology Breakfast, Liverpool (TBC)

April

17 Surgeons Day Conference, London

10 International Saline, Liverpool

20-22 RCPCH Breakfast, Warwick (TBC)

21-23 Rheumatology Breakfast, Birmingham (TBC)

23-25 National Graduate Conference, Swanwick

May

8 Board of Trustees, London

26 Ophthalmology Breakfast, Liverpool

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

CMF News

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