

Pray and persevere

Nehemiah was the key figure, along with Ezra, who was used by God in the fifth century BC to help bring about one of the most profound revivals in biblical history.

He was a skilful politician, a clever strategist, a brilliant manager, a social reformer who championed the rights of the poor, and an intransigent visionary who never gave up despite threats and opposition from those in high places.

His achievements were monumental. He rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days when it had lain in ruins for 150 years. He re-established full employment in a climate of economic recession. He reconstructed an effective social welfare system for the marginalised and reintroduced Bible exposition, resulting in nationwide repentance and revival. He reinstated public worship and rooted out heresy and idolatry. He was used by God to put a whole nation back on its feet.

But first of all Nehemiah was a passionate man of prayer. When he was told that 'those who survived the exile...are in great trouble and disgrace' and that 'the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire' his response was to weep, fast, pray and then offer himself to God as part of the solution.

When opponents tried to discourage him by pointing out his

meagre resources, small progress thus far, strength of the opposition, and size of the task, he asked God to 'turn their insults back on their own heads'. And when he felt his strength was giving out he called upon God to 'strengthen my hands'.

When his perseverance was rewarded with the completion of the wall we read that his enemies 'were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realised that this work had been done with the help of our God'.

As Christian doctors today we are involved in a similar task of rebuilding in a similarly broken society. Our consulting rooms, clinics and hospital wards are filled with people who have physical, social and spiritual needs. Some are repairing the consequence of poor lifestyle choices. Others are there through no fault of their own or because they have been sinned against.

Every day we are sent like the first disciples to preach good news, heal the sick, and be advocates for those who have no voice. The task is huge. The progress is slow. The resources seem inadequate. The opposition is strong. Let's also, like Nehemiah, be people of prayer and perseverance.



Peter Saunders is CMF Chief Executive

Member loses employment tribunal over gay adoptions



Sheila Matthews

Former community paediatrician Sheila Matthews, now retraining in general practice, lost her job as medical advisor to an adoption panel because she was refused permission to abstain from voting on gay couples adopting children. At an Employment Tribunal on 16 November a case for religious discrimination brought on her behalf by the Christian

Legal Centre was lost.

Sheila said 'I took this action...to highlight what is becoming a very worrying and ultimately damaging trend. Christian professionals, who seek to express their professional judgment in the very best interests of children, are being silenced or discriminated against...it seems that the rights of other groups such as homosexual people trump that of Christian believers. I believe it should be possible in most cases to have a better balance of rights.'

CMF win media awards



CMF was joint winner of 'Best Christian Organisation' website in the Christian New Media Awards 2010. One current student intern, **Liz McClenaghan**, was a finalist in 'Best Newcomer Blog' for *Pretty little wilderness?* **Andrew Horton**, Media Producer, won two Jerusalem Awards, recognising excellence in Christian media, for a Passion Play told at Easter over Twitter and Facebook. **Peter Saunders'** blog was number 7 in the Jubilee Centre's top 'salt and light' blogs (more blogging will soon be prominent on CMF).

We asked, you answered, we responded

From ~ 4,300 graduate and student members (with e-mail addresses) we received 1,098 responses (25%) to the online communications survey earlier this year. The highest response categories were graduates aged 21-40+, and of those qualified, the largest response groups were hospital doctors, followed by GPs. The answers re *Triple Helix* indicated most people 'read some' of the content but few passed it on in either a medical or church context. 389 had written comments which were generally positive, though members were requesting 'more relevance'.

609 hard copy questionnaires were mailed to those without email addresses and 149 responses were received (24%). These members were predominantly retired and by choice most had no internet access. They still felt busy, and often overwhelmed by all the literature from other organisations they supported. While the article mix in *Triple Helix* was praised by both groups, the *Newsletter* and *CMF Files* received very little comment.

Many felt they didn't have time to read the material, and as a response to this, *CMF News* will from now on be shorter and punchier. With less time to read, or surf, a frequent request was: could CMF consider podcasts? With our new Media Producer, they are arriving – go to award-winning www.cmf.org.uk.

Autumn Appeal over £80,000 - thank you!

Against our prayed-for target of £100,000, on going to press we had received £83,332. At a time of economic constraint, this has come from significantly more members than last year, and is just one of many encouraging signs. Thank you all!

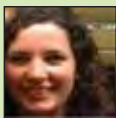
New staff and conferences

New student interns



Kerry Lim

Kerry Lim, who has completed her foundation training, joins us a 'Field Intern', working with students in Southampton while studying at the London School of Theology.



Liz McClenaghan

Liz McClenaghan and **Vongai Madanire** are intercalating by doing degrees in ethics in London. Liz is working for CMF two days a week, particularly with planning the International Medical Student Conference, and Vongai is able to spend a day each week in the office as the new student editor of *Nucleus*.

Summer camps in Eurasia



Several CMF students joined a couple of teams to camps in Eastern and Central Europe. Full reports in this issue of *Nucleus*. It's great that more and more students are getting involved with this key ministry to Eurasian countries, as we

help them develop their own fellowships and mission through medicine. We hope a good number of students from these countries will attend our International Medical Student Conference, 7-11 February. Your prayers and financial support would be much appreciated, as many of these students do not have the resources to travel here.

National graduates conference



Swanwick, 29 April – 1 May 2011. Bible readings from Isaiah by Hugh Thomson on *Soaring on Wings like Eagles*; Rendle Short Lecture on changing the world through medical mission; full supporting programme of worship sessions, seminars and free time! See brochure with this mailing (graduates), and book there or online.

National student conference



Swanwick, 11 – 13 February. Bible readings from 1 Peter by David Robertson on *Foreign Body? Following Christ in a world that rejects him*; full supporting programme of worship sessions, seminars, entertainment and free time! See brochure with this mailing (students), and book there or online.

Q&A

Fiona Schneider - new Graduate Staffworker



Fiona started part time with CMF in October, to support more senior doctors in the north of England:

What can you tell us about yourself?

I trained in O&G in London, Oxford and Leeds... US Army as a consultant in Frankfurt...various hospital posts in northern Germany...ran my own O&G practice in Hanover... returning to the UK, became clinical lead for the contraceptive and sexual health service in Leeds...Professional Executive Committee of NHS Leeds...currently studying for an MSc in medical management...married with two sons, keep bees, chickens and a dog, and run for fun...PCC secretary and help with vulnerable people.

What do you think of CMF today?

...always been a reference point for debating Christian ethics and standards in clinical care...thought-provoking literature...the Christian view on issues of life and health when often no other official Christian voice is heard...a meeting point for students and doctors to express their faith...encourages confidence in following Christ in our medical practice.

What appeals to you about this job?

...exciting new emphasis on closer mentoring and support of doctors...pressures on Christian professionals in the public sector are increased by some central policies...have witnessed doctors with burnout through lack of support networks...help to build these relationships to prevent some depression will be very worthwhile...hope to encourage doctors in their faith...expect to learn a great deal more from those I meet.

What would you like to see happen in CMF in the future?

I would love to see CMF maintain and enhance its national and international voice on ethics, and Christian standards...have a greater profile in the local communities where Christian doctors and healthcare professionals serve...channelled through local churches, GP practices and hospitals...a close working partnership with chaplains and church leaders...conferences and regional meetings would support this...hope CMF would attract many more Christian doctors into membership!

Conferences



More than 40 UK student leaders came to London for a weekend to work through what it means to lead a university CMF group. As well as discussing the nuts and bolts of planning programmes, a visiting speaker from UCCF helped us consider how best to work alongside Christian Unions.

Nearly 50 students from the island of Ireland came to Greystones, near Dublin for the annual Irish CMF conference. The bulk of the teaching was *Confident Christianity*, together with Bible readings and discussion with local CMF doctors.

New commitments

Q&A

Andrew Horton: new Media Producer



Andrew also started part time in October, to develop CMF use of audio, video, and social networking media:

Andrew, tell us about your background:

...graduated from Falmouth College of Arts in 2004 with a Postgraduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism...spent all my working career in the media...worked for the BBC as a local reporter and video journalist...365 Media group producing and presenting web TV sports bulletins...Premier Media Group as a producer and newsreader...freelance specialising in web video and communications strategy... very varied and challenging but great fun!

You recently scooped top prizes at the Jerusalem Awards?

One freelance project was a Passion Play told over Twitter and Facebook, which ran this Easter... I was the Creative Director and wrote the script... based on the 'tweets' of nine eyewitnesses to the events of Easter week...working alongside the Evangelical Alliance and Share Creative, Easter (LIVE) gained over 3,000 followers...featured in the *Daily Telegraph* on Easter Saturday...won two

Jerusalem Awards, recognising excellence in Christian media...team now considering how to take the project forward...also a Christmas version called 'Natwivity'.

Now what do you hope to bring to the role of CMF Media Producer?

...to enable CMF to maximise its already award winning web presence and content...CMF has great ambitions for its media...delighted to be involved steering this forward...beginning to realise how diverse and rich a remit CMF covers...current developments in social media platforms...exciting to be reaching new audiences and sharing great content...already producing audio podcasts and planning for a strong video presence too.

How have you found working at CMF so far?

...welcome terrific...really appreciate the sense of community and togetherness...get a lot out of the Bible studies which start each working day...just back from the Junior Doctors conference...really encouraged to meet and speak to people with such a heart for Jesus and medical practice...want to play a key part in resourcing, networking and inspiring them in their walk...it's a privilege – it really is.

'International' survey

This June we surveyed the graduate membership online to investigate their involvement in medical mission and international work – past, present and future. 1,121 members replied – a remarkable 30% response rate. Half have done some international work, and 230 have previously served overseas long term in 48 countries around the world. A proud heritage! We have almost 200 members currently living and working in resource-poor settings, and a similar number who do regular short term visits, most commonly for teaching but also to provide a specialist service in a wide range of specialties.

Many are involved in other ways: sitting on boards and committees, giving advice,

supporting individuals and praying. Thanks to all who offered to support overseas members as buddies, locums and appraisers – we will be in touch as needs arise.

Encouraging that 15% of respondents are actively

planning to get involved in the future. Our handbook *Working Abroad* gives information and guidance on this, and there is more survey detail and many resources at www.cmf.org.uk/internationalministries

Pakistan floods appeal - thank you!



A great response to our membership appeal to support two Christian hospitals caring for flood victims – reached our target of £20,000 in five days. Even after the appeal closed, members continued to send donations and altogether we have raised £28,700 so can help in other places as well. The money sent has provided two months' food, water and drugs for 200 families – almost 2,000 people. It has been a great privilege to stand with our Pakistani colleagues in this way, and through them to help some of those who have suffered from this tragedy. More on p18 in *Triple Helix*.

Drop a day for CMF?

We hope to develop a bigger team of volunteers for pastoral ministry across the country. Do make contact if you are interested in helping.

Head of Graduate Ministries

No replacement appointed yet to succeed Kevin Vaughan. Could this be you? Do you know someone who could apply? It may be possible for two to job share.

New CMF best seller



The late Andrew Drain's *Code Red* weaves together expositions of the book of Job with the moving story of the final illness of a young CMF cardiothoracic surgeon. It has sold 2,700 copies within a month of publication. Available online or from the office for £5 inc P&P, with a free copy of *Dying: the Greatest Adventure of my Life*.

Developing Health Course 2011



Oak Hill, 26 June – 8 July 2011. Bookings are open for CMF's popular



course equipping doctors and nurses to work in developing countries. Covering a broad range of topics and practical skills, this is a must



for anyone planning to work overseas short or long term. Full course runs for two weeks at Oak Hill College, London, but attending individual special interest days is also possible. Details: www.cmf.org.uk/internationalministries/dh.asp

ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association

Vision: to be a global movement bringing together national Christian medical and dental organisations in fellowship, witness and service. Mission: to encourage and equip Christian medical and dental students and graduates to grow to Christian maturity and live out their faith within their clinical practice and beyond.

Work a Day for ICMDA

The 3rd annual 'Work a Day' on 15 October encouraged participants to support ICMDA work in the regions through prayer and giving: www.icmdaeurasia.net/work-a-day. The autumn *Eurasia News* is available on request – contact James Tomlinson.

XIV ICMDA World Congress



In July, 700 participants from 60 nations gathered for the World Congress in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The theme *Priorities in professional practice: for whom are you working?* was explored in Bible readings, plenary sessions and seminars. Graciously hosted by the movements in Uruguay and Argentina, the congress had a vibrant South American flavour. Generous support of the bursary fund enabled attendance from around the world, including countries in South and Central America. The next World Congress will be in the Netherlands in July 2014.

I was particularly touched by the thought that study to become excellent in medicine is done as worship for Jesus Christ. (Junior doctor, Finland)

The theme for the pre-conference was a reminder of why I chose to study medicine in the first place. I had to ask myself once again: for whom are you studying? (Student, Romania)

New Team



During the Congress Dr Vinod Shah was confirmed as the incoming Chief Executive, taking over from Dr Daryl Hackland in February 2011. The international office will move to Vellore, India. CMF's Kevin Vaughan was appointed Chair of the ICMDA Board and has now passed his role as chair of the Eurasia regional committee to Dr Hans-Rudi Pfeifer (Switzerland).



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

Outgoing

Rosie Barnes (Liverpool) to Singapore
Louisa Barter (UCL) to New Zealand
Andrene Hamilton (Edinburgh) to Bangladesh
James Hayton (Edinburgh) to Bangladesh
Joseph Kandeh (Bulgaria) to Sierra Leone
Felicity Mussell (Liverpool) to Bangladesh
Hannah Pollard to Sudan
Jennifer Wilson (Edinburgh) to Pakistan

Homecoming

Karen Forrest (Oxford) from Kenya
Catriona Waitt (Liverpool) from Malawi
Peter Waitt (Liverpool) from Malawi
Alan Young (Cambridge) from Nepal

Change of address abroad

Karen Henriksen from Namibia to Angola

Obituaries

Moira Anderson died peacefully in the late summer after a long illness. As the sister of Anne Anderson, office secretary from the 1950s to 1990, she took a keen interest in CMF.

W G 'Bill' Benson (q Bristol 1951; d 18 August 2010) became a GP in Ramsgate and later Exeter before ten years as an occupational health physician at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. For some years he worked part time supporting CMF's overseas interests.

Geoffrey Clark (q Guy's Hospital 1973; d – CMF informed October 2010) was a consultant anaesthetist at the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport.

Andrew Drain (q Belfast 1998; d 3 July 2010) was a cardiothoracic surgical Fellow in New York when he became unwell in 2007 with leukaemia. His book *Code Red* has been published posthumously by CMF.

Anand Hegde (q King's College Hospital; d – CMF informed September 2010) was a GP and coroner in Ontario. He retired in 2007.

D J Findlay Macdonald (q St Andrew's 1956; d 3 October 2010) was a consultant anaesthetist at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

James Maden (q Manchester 1962; d – CMF informed September 2010) worked in paediatrics in Lancashire.

James West (q St Bartholomew's Hospital 1942; d 26 October 2010) was living in Wimborne at the time of his death.

Regional CMF meetings

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

CMF staff



Chief Executive
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 International Ministries
Vicky Lavy
vicky.lavy@cmf.org.uk



Head of Student Ministries
Giles Cattermole
giles.cattermole@cmf.org.uk



Head of Communications
Andrew Fergusson
andrew.fergusson@cmf.org.uk



Head of Allied Professions Ministries
Steve Fouch
steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

February 2011

- 5 Surgeons Day Conference, London
- 11-13 National Student Conference, Swanwick
- 26 Board of Trustees, London

March

- 12 East Anglia Day Conference
- 14-17 Gastroenterology Breakfast, Birmingham (TBC)
- 26 International Saline, Harrow

April

- 5-7 Paediatrics Breakfast, Warwick (TBC)
- 12-14 Rheumatology Breakfast, Brighton (TBC)
- 29- National Graduate Conference, 1 May Swanwick

May

- 7 Board of Trustees, London
- 24-26 Ophthalmology Breakfast, Birmingham (TBC)

June

- 26-8 July Developing Health Course

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

CMF News

is issued by the CMF Office

Tel 020 7234 9660
Fax 020 7234 9661
Email: info@cmf.org.uk
Website: www.cmf.org.uk

Items for inclusion in the Easter 2011 issue should be sent to the Head of Communications, Dr Andrew Fergusson, by Friday 11 March

A company limited by guarantee
Registered in England no. 6949436
Registered Charity no. 1131658
Registered office: 6 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL

Design: S2 Design & Advertising
Print: Partridge & Print Ltd