

## Meeting the needs of Christian medics

### ■ National Student Conference (NSC), at Swanwick, 10-12 February.

About 400 gathered together for an excellent weekend conference. John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford and well known for his debates with the New Atheists, spoke superbly from Genesis about Joseph. Abi Boys, a max-fax trainee currently studying dentistry, inspired everyone in her conference address; 'Developing World Mission', 'live out the love of Jesus in overseas medical mission', 'see the one, love the one'.

There were great seminars, a brilliant bookstall from 10offthose, and a lot of fun. Pray that the enthusiasm of these students to live and speak for Jesus would carry on back in medical school and F1, at work and at home, in the UK and abroad.

### ■ International Medical Student Leaders' Conference (IMSC), at CMF in London, 6-10 February.

This year's IMSC was the largest we've ever held. 26 international student leaders attended, from 21 countries: from South Africa to Russia, from Norway to Jordan. Half the delegates were from former Communist countries, but this year we also targeted countries in the southwest of Europe: France, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Portugal. In some of these countries there is very little Christian witness, and no Christian medical group. It was wonderful to be able to help connect and equip these young leaders for service back home. We started each morning with readings from 2 Timothy, studying what it means to be a young leader in difficult circumstances, keeping a clear focus on the gospel. Let's pray that they use what they learned as they work for the growth of God's kingdom in healthcare in their own countries and beyond.

### ■ Looking forward

Do pray for our deepening partnership with UCCF and IFES Ireland.



And please pray for the leaders of CMF student groups across the UK and Ireland, as they work together with their CUs to reach others for Christ and learn what it means to be a Christian medic.

### ■ Student testimonials

*'It was a life changing weekend and God has already started to open doors to share my experience with others'.*

National Students' Conference delegate

### IMSC

*I loved the conference, it [was] a blessing since the moment I arrived. It made me reflect about what means to be a Christian doctor and it gave me the opportunity to talk to amazing Christian doctors and see how they live their faith and their practice. Definitely it challenged me to be a better doctor, to be more open about my faith and to build my national CMF. IMSC renewed my vision for our CMF and it also made me think broader than before. It reminded me [sic] that God is God and even if we are a few, He can use us to encourage more Christian doctors, to join CMF and also to reach more doctors for Christ. I realise I have to pay more attention to students, spend more time with junior doctors and encourage all of them to follow Christ and share him with our patients and colleagues.*

International Medical Students' Conference delegate



### A new Christian doctor says 'Thank you'

A recent graduate writes: I'll be the first to admit I was a late starter to CMF. I knew of it in the first year at Queen's University Belfast but never attended any events. As my second year progressed I went along to a doctors' panel night and then a weekly prayer breakfast meeting for CMF's week of prayer and I was hooked! I saw how CMF met the needs of Christian medics. I had my eyes opened to the challenges that constantly face Christian healthcare professionals and how CMF endeavours to be that supporting link and guide towards Christ.

I became more involved, first as a rep then starting up weekly prayer meetings. My time serving Christ through CMF at Queen's could not have been better. I cannot express how great CMF conferences have been either. I can wholeheartedly say that they have strengthened me in my Christian walk in areas where I didn't even know I was weak, and have challenged me on issues I hadn't even thought about. They were great fun too!

And so now as a graduate and a working doctor I know I would not be the Christian doctor I am today without the role CMF has played in my life over the last four years. Thank you for your service and support to me.



Peter Saunders

## Bringing members together, drawing others in

**C**MF exists to unite and equip Christian doctors and medical students to live and speak for Jesus. And there is no better way of facilitating being united and equipped than meeting together, preferably

face to face, as the writer of Hebrews reminds us:

*'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another –*

*and all the more as you see the Day approaching'* (Hebrews 10:24,25).

The Spring *Triple Helix*, included in this mailing, carries an excellent article by Mark Pickering which I strongly recommend that every CMF member should read. Mark was formerly our head of student ministries and is now our North Yorkshire regional secretary where he has used his skills and experience to help build a strong local group.

He argues that although much can be done through conferences, literature and public policy work, our real priority must be to strengthen and support the grassroots networks and relationships between ordinary Christian doctors and medical students at a local and regional level.

Local networks are essential. Although membership of the local church is vital, doctors often need to talk and pray with others who understand the challenges of medicine. And yet building closer links is not easy. Doctors are busy with family, church and work responsibilities. Churches don't always understand why medics need the support of Christian peers and often it is difficult to identify fellow Christians in the workplace.

We want to rectify this. During 2012 our main priority is to build local fellowship to support you better and to help us recruit new members and retain existing members more effectively. To this end we are looking for members who are willing to act as local links in every church, workplace and local area and we are developing the website to provide much better links between members.

When the website changes are complete, a secure, personal log-in will give access to personalised pages and online links with other members and help to supply you with connections, opportunities, resources, training and support to help you fulfil Christ's calling in this generation.

Our CMF staff are also on hand to provide you with the information, resources, guidance and support you need to get together to pray and share together and to support and encourage others in their service through medicine.

If you would like to help us by being a church, workplace or local link, please let us know at [info@cmf.org.uk](mailto:info@cmf.org.uk).

*Peter Saunders is CMF Chief Executive*

## New starters

**G**raham Sopp is CMF's new Head of Operations, taking over this key role overseeing CMF's administration and finance from Marcus Watkins.



Graham Sopp

### **Graham - tell us about your professional life to date**

I've been working for over 30 years so my CV is quite long and varied! I started work in finance and accounting (finance is still my core skill) but along the way I've been particularly involved in sales and marketing, information technology and publishing at various times. Also during my career I've lived and worked in Germany for over five years and in the USA for 18 months.

### **What are you most looking forward to in your new role?**

I enjoy variety in my work and my new role offers Finance, Legal, IT, Human Resources and Premises work – I won't be bored.

### **And any challenges you face?**

The biggest challenge will be to do the job as well as my predecessor Marcus Watkins.

### **Who are your nearest and dearest?**

My wife Rachel and I have three children – one girl and two boys. My daughter is now 23 and working; the elder of my sons is at university and the younger doing his GCSEs this year.

### **What do you enjoy outside of work?**

I'm an enthusiastic cook and determined gardener. I also enjoy classical music and theatre.

### **Briefly, how can we best pray for you?**

There is a lot happening in CMF at the moment especially with IT. Please pray that I would get to grips with all aspects of the role as fast as possible.

**Dionysia Ayesi** is CMF's new administrative assistant



Dionysia Ayesi

### **Dionysia – what did you do before joining CMF?**

I worked at Wesley Owen Bookstores as a deputy manager for five years until it closed down and was taken over by the Nationwide Christian Trust and the name changed to Living Oasis. Unfortunately they closed down the store after only a year of business. Because I thoroughly enjoyed working for a Christian company I sought out similar positions until I came across CMF.

### **What are you hoping to achieve?**

I am hoping to learn how to improve my skills as an administrator and become more involved with different aspects and departments of the organisation.

### **What do you enjoy outside of work?**

Outside of work I tutor and very much enjoy teaching young children between the ages of 5 and 11 years old on subjects such as Maths and English. They can be challenging at times, especially the more familiar they become with you, but so rewarding when they actually learn and get good reports from their schools. I also make clothes for myself and close friends.

### **Your church?**

I attend Liberty Ministries based in Turnpike Lane in North London and I'm involved in the bookstall (among other things). As reading is another passion of mine, I try very much to promote Christian literature (including the Bible!).

### **How can members best pray for you?**

That I settle into the role quickly and learn all I need to learn so that I can help out as much as I can and be as effective as possible with the admin at CMF.

## Encouraging nurses and midwives

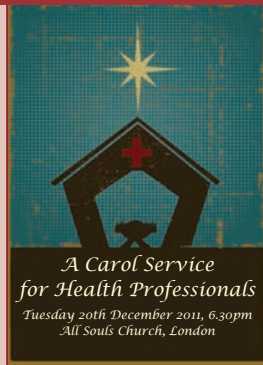


Steve Fouch

With one report after another coming out about the failings in nursing care, care for the elderly and disabled, along with the struggles over pensions, the Health and Social Care Bill and the cost savings imposed on the NHS in England and Wales, there has not been a lot of good news for nurses in the last twelve months.

Against that gloomy background, the CMF Christmas Carol Service at All Souls Langham Place drew around 300 health professionals from all over London, and seemed to lift spirits, especially with John Wyatt's inspiring talk on the scandal and miracle of the incarnation.

Also, we ran a day conference for nurses in Nottingham in March on keeping a pure heart in our ministry,



with Giles Cattermole sharing from 1 John. In London we have been running bi-monthly 'Refreshment Suppers' for student and qualified nurses which have seen a growing number of regular and occasional attendees. In other parts of the country, Annie and Dimity have been running evening and lunchtime meetings for student nurses, including Manchester, Oxford and Nottingham.

Everywhere we go and at every event, we are finding Christian nurses, midwives and students who are keen to see how their faith can influence their work, and how they can live out their faith in Jesus in their interaction with patients and colleagues. Please pray for us as we reach out to those that God leads us to, and for the provision of the resources we need to support them.

### London & SE Update

Our regional day conference last November brought together 40 of us to consider resilience to stress in ourselves and our organisations, healthy boundaries in our lives, and the relationship between love and work, within the framework of Jesus' ministry to us as the Good Shepherd.

We have two new local member groups now meeting in Hertfordshire. I recently visited the first of these, and the variety and intensity of challenges people are facing at work demonstrated again the value of such fellowship. In Surrey, a recent Reigate social meeting brought together old friends, and we've a second Guildford one forthcoming. In Essex, a Colchester date is planned.

The SW London group (my 'local') met recently to review hospital chaplaincy and our experiences of, and relationships with those serving in this ministry. The presence of our local student member rep led to fruitful discussion of graduate support for students, and new friendships were formed.

Colleagues arriving in London from Canada and India respectively - to visit or to stay - have been welcomed, and several members put in touch with senior colleagues for mentoring or professional support.

**Julian Churcher**  
is CMF Staffworker London & South East

### Making connections

'I wish I'd known about CMF sooner,' says Dr Jason Roach. 'I don't think there could be any greater endorsement than seeing how it's supported me and matured me in the Christian faith - and enabled me to live and speak as a Christian doctor.'

Jason is one of several members we've interviewed for new promotional resources being produced to help recruit new members. And it's not only medics who think highly of CMF.

Revd Hugh Palmer, Rector of All Souls, Langham Place, London, says: 'CMF is a great help both for equipping Christian doctors to relate their faith to the challenges and opportunities in medicine, and for providing fellowship and evangelistic opportunities with their fellow medics.'

We are also continuing to improve our website. A new members' section will provide secure log-ins, personalised pages, and improved links with other members. We hope you will benefit from being able to connect with others in the same locality, specialty, workplace, church or medical school, as we seek to grow the fellowship and make it more effective.

**Catherine Butcher**  
is CMF Head of Communications

## PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



CMF is working with PRIME to develop the Values Added course. The course, which is being piloted this spring, is designed to help doctors in the first four years after qualification to build a Christian worldview into their routine practice. PRIME has developed the 6-module Values Added course from experience gained working in Europe, Asia and Africa. In the last year PRIME has delivered 55 separate programmes in 15 countries involving 74 different tutors, teaching and training more than 3,750 individuals. The Course aims to:

- **provide** supportive fellowship through small local groups for Christian doctors in the first four years of their postgraduate experience
- **enable** Christian junior doctors to maintain and increase their faith during formative training by providing a challenge to the pervading secularism of the scientific and clinical training they receive
- **empower** Christian juniors to demonstrate, defend and advocate with confidence to others, a practice of medicine built on the life, model and teaching of Jesus

### Annual conference

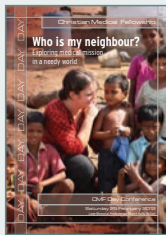
PRIME's annual conference is an opportunity to hear from PRIME's tutors and to help shape PRIME's programmes in the future. 'Teaching to Change Hearts in Healthcare' is the title of the conference to be held in Aylesford, near Maidstone from 9-11 May. This three-day conference is designed for PRIME tutors and other healthcare educators and professionals wishing to see better healthcare education in the UK and overseas.

Find out more at [www.prime-international.org](http://www.prime-international.org).

## International

### Who is my neighbour?

Have you been to our one-day workshop on medical mission? It's a day for those who are exploring possibilities in international work, and also for those who plan to stay put but want to support others. We've now run eight workshops - up to Edinburgh, down to Southampton, across to Belfast - but there are lots of places we haven't yet visited. Could you host an event where you are? A shorter half-day version is also a possibility - contact [vicky.lavy@cmf.org.uk](mailto:vicky.lavy@cmf.org.uk) if you're interested.



### STAT - Short Term, Able to Travel

Are you interested in serving overseas? The STAT list is a register of members who want to hear about short-term needs such as locums in mission hospitals, help with training or extra support in a crisis. We send intermittent email alerts to members on the STAT list - you might be the person to fill the gap, or might know someone who could. The list is growing - if you would like to be added to it, email [vicky.lavy@cmf.org.uk](mailto:vicky.lavy@cmf.org.uk). Short and long term needs abroad are listed on the CMF website at [www.cmf.org.uk/international](http://www.cmf.org.uk/international)

### Developing Health course 24 June - 6 July 2012

This year's course on medicine in resource-poor settings will take place at Oak Hill College in North London. A must for anyone planning to work overseas - come for a day, a week or a fortnight for excellent teaching and practical skills workshops. RCP accreditation applied for. Programme and booking on the website.



### New electives database

International intern Sooyoung Lee has been working hard to improve our database of elective opportunities. We think we now have the most up-to-date directory in existence, giving details for over 80 Christian hospitals and 30 organisations offering electives, along with other useful information and advice - all available on the website [www.cmf.org.uk/international](http://www.cmf.org.uk/international)

### Congratulations

To **Alan Budd MBE** on his award of FRCGP

### Outgoing

**Philip Davies** (Birmingham) to Uganda  
**Ros Howles** (King's College London) to Uganda  
**Alison Leeder** (Newcastle) to Central Asia

### Homecoming

**Godfrey & Angela Harverson** (The London Hospital)  
**Victor & Rachel Hu** (Trinity College Dublin) from Tanzania  
**Peter Knight** (Southampton) from Yemen  
**Mark Macdonald** from the Philippines  
**Helen Shawyer** (Sheffield) from South Sudan

### Obituaries

**Frank Assinder, VRD**  
(*q* St Thomas' 1949, *d* - CMF informed December 2011) was a GP in Surrey until his retirement.

**John Billingham**  
(*q* Oxford 1952, *d* 8 February 2012) was a retired consultant neurologist at Kent and Sussex Hospital.

**Fiona Burslem OBE**  
(*q* Manchester 1964, *d* 20 November 2011)  
As a missionary doctor, Fiona had worked in some of the world's poorest countries and personally delivered over 5,000 babies.

**Eva Drown**  
(*q* London 1937, *d* 22 December 2011) peacefully in her 101st year. She was a retired surgeon in Worthing.

**Ralph Leech**  
(*q* Cambridge 1938, *d* 18 June 2011) in his 100th year. Previously with CMS in Uganda and Kenya until his retirement in 1964.

**John Talbot**  
(*q* King's College Hospital 1945, *d* 3 December 2011) was a consultant bacteriologist who became Medical Director of Priscilla Bacon Lodge in Norwich until retirement in 1988.

**Antony Wing**  
(*q* St Thomas' 1958, *d* 13 January 2012) after many years of Parkinson's disease. He was formerly a consultant renal physician at St George's.

**Lionel Wright**  
(*q* Guy's Hospital 1942, *d* - CMF informed January 2012) was a retired GP in Surrey.

### Regional CMF meetings

See [www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship](http://www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship) for information about local groups

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### Dates for your diary

- April**  
27-29 National Graduates' Conference  
The Hayes, Swanwick
- May**  
2 Rheumatology Breakfast, Glasgow  
12 Board of Trustees, London  
16 Ophthalmology Breakfast, Liverpool
- June**  
27 BMA Breakfast, Bournemouth  
24-4 July Developing Health Course, London
- July**  
5 Dermatology Breakfast, Birmingham  
10 Psychiatry Breakfast, Liverpool  
14 General Committee

For more details of upcoming events, see [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk)

### CMF News

is issued by the CMF Office

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