

Compassionate care needed

Care is the main theme in this CMF spring mailing: God's care for us, our care for our patients and our care for each other.

The Francis Report has highlighted a failure of care in the NHS and the Chief Nursing Officer for England has issued a call for nursing to recover its core values – particularly care, compassion, courage, commitment and communication.

In *Triple Helix*, Steve Fouch calls for Christian doctors and nurses to be 'agents of change and transformation' at this 'watershed moment'. CMF President Sam Leinster, in a reflection on the Beatitudes challenges us to work 'with colleagues and patients to create a merciful healthcare plan'. David Chaput de Saintonge gives us a ten point plan for 'staying compassionate' and David Cranston challenges us 'to care as Christ cared' with a 'servant heart'.

In a powerful testimony Verona Beckles relates her turning point back to faith in realising that nothing she could do could make God love her more or love her less. Like a 'prodigal daughter' God saw her from afar, pursued her and 'scooped' her up.

Vicky Lavy, in a fast-moving review of medical missions, shows how care for the sick and dying has been 'a hallmark of the Christian Church over the centuries' and how people of other faiths desire to be treated in mission hospitals as beacons of 'safe, compassionate care'.

Paul Adams takes us back to the very heart of Christian morality with the reminder that fulfilling 'the law of Christ' involves 'bearing one another's burdens' (Galatians 6:2) and dares to dream of a world where 'responsibilities come before rights and duty of care for others has priority over personal ambition'.

Helpful book reviews assess how effectively psychotherapies deliver care, how caring in the wrong way can hurt rather than help, how to care for those with unwanted same sex attraction and how to honour 'personhood in patients'.

But in all this I was particularly struck by Martin Lloyd Jones' reminder that humanity's ultimate need is 'not that he is sick, unhappy, poor or uneducated'. Our real need is for 'forgiveness, reconciliation and regeneration' through Christ's death which averts God's wrath and deals with our sin.

Good healthcare adds length and quality to this life and shows God's care and compassion but Jesus Christ came ultimately not to empty the hospitals but to empty the graveyards!

I do pray that these spring editions of *CMF News* and *Triple Helix* will encourage, equip and inspire us as we seek to serve Christ, our patients and each other.

The wonderful students' conference in February, the international leaders' conference which preceded it and the **National C0onference coming on 26-28 April – where I hope you will join us** – are all opportunities for us to build up and strengthen each other and learn from God's Word and each other's example.



We continue to rejoice that over 200 members have now volunteered to act as link people for their localities, workplaces, churches, deaneries, specialities and foundation schools to help build these connections and hope to welcome more.

Work on our new integrated online website and database has been delayed but the fruit will soon appear, enabling effective and secure connections between our members and giving you your own personalised pages. The challenges are many but our God is able and has promised to equip us for the task and walk by our side each day.

May I wish you all God's wisdom, blessing and enabling as you seek to serve Christ through medicine this year.

'His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature... Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election' (2 Peter 1:3-10).

Peter Saunders, CMF Chief Executive

What will you leave behind?

Many people avoid the issue of preparing a will because it forces them to face the fact of their own mortality. However, as followers of Jesus Christ, we should consider the preparation of a will as an important act of good Christian stewardship.

Scripture teaches us that everything in the world belongs to God (see, for example Psalm 24:1 and Psalm 50:12). Throughout the Bible, we are called to be good stewards (managers) of the assets the Lord has given us.

Jesus himself says this in Luke 12:42ff, 'who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.' Paul continues the theme in 1 Corinthians, 'Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful' (4:2). Therefore the preparation of a will is the distribution clause for the assets he has entrusted to us.

Over the years, donations left to CMF in wills have contributed significantly to the development of our ministry. Many reading this will have benefitted from membership of CMF over the decades. Could you leave a gift to CMF in your will which will help to continue this ministry for future generations?

For more information see <http://bit.ly/YJrsxG> or call 020 7234 9666 for a copy of our legacy brochure.

Graham Sopp, CMF Head of Operations

E-news Updates

February saw the launch of the new-look CMF E-news Updates. These can be tailored to members' interests. There were three versions of the first CMF Update – for Students, Juniors and Graduates. Please forward the Updates to potential members and spread the word about CMF.

Foundations

Last year, thanks to an anonymous donation, we gave 353 graduating student members a gift of *Foundations*. This beautifully designed, coffee-table style book, covers key Christian, medical and ethical issues. Work is underway to produce an edited version for non-medics.

Worldwide demand

CMF's books are in demand around the world. Last year *Cure for Life* was made available in Ethiopian, Albanian and Italian; a chapter from *Matters of Life and Death* on infertility was translated into Russian for medics in Azerbaijan; and *Matters of Life and Death* was published in Estonian, with financial support from CMF.

Follow us on Twitter

During CMF conferences there is instant feedback on Twitter. If you Tweet or use Facebook be sure to follow CMF – this year's hashtag is #UKCMF13. Our Facebook following has grown from 500 to 2,190 and our Twitter (UK_CMF) followers have doubled to 1,000. *Doctor's Life Support* features daily on Twitter.

CMF at CRE

We have booked exhibition space at the Christian Resources Exhibition in Esher 14-17 May to promote membership, links with churches and CMF Friends. Ask us if you'd like to attend – we have free tickets for CRE to give away to CMF members.

Global impact for CMF resources

CMF's work is making a difference to doctors being trained in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Recently we received an email from CMF member Dr Kambale Soheranda to say: 'Thank you so much for the pdf copies of the *CMF Files* I have just downloaded from the CMF website. They are very useful to us as we train young colleagues.' Dr Soheranda is Area Manager at Oicha Hospital, North Kivu, DRC.

Catherine Butcher, CMF Head of Communications

Discriminatory abortion for disability

In early March CMF provided a submission to a new Parliamentary Group inquiring into abortion on grounds of disability. The normal upper limit on abortion is 24 weeks. However abortion can be performed right up to term if 'there is substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or

mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped'. The CMF submission, being drafted as this issue of *CMF News* goes to press, contends there are problems of definition and, more importantly, of discrimination. See the website for details.

Philippa Taylor, CMF Head of Public Policy

Planting a 'faith flag'

In a London cab on the way to the CMF offices Bob Snyder, deviser of the International Saline course,



Bob Snyder

found himself caught in traffic outside the Houses of Parliament. 'What do you think of the politicians who work here?' he asked his driver. Here was a

question few London cabbies can resist and the words tumbled out.

Then he pointed to nearby Westminster Abbey. 'What do you think of the church?' Again the cabbie had plenty to say: in essence, 'No one goes there!' So what did he think about God? 'I'm not religious myself but I believe in God. I believe in football even more.'

This is an example of what Bob Snyder calls 'planting faith flags' and it's one of the core methods of Saline Solution, CMF's programme that helps Christians create opportunities to share their faith. 'How it works is you put down your flag in common ground you create. Then if the person grabs it you can talk more.' 'No pressure. Many people won't grab the flag, but when they do, you need to be ready and equipped to keep the conversation going.

Bob recalls years ago as a hospital emergency doctor plucking up the courage to plant a flag in one of the most sensitive moments that ever comes the way of a doctor. 'I had felt a conviction from God that I didn't take death seriously enough. So after an unsuccessful resuscitation procedure I went through the usual routine, pronouncing time of death and cause of death. Then I said, "Before we all leave we need to recognise something very important has happened here. Let's bow our heads and be quiet for 15 seconds."'

He had felt full of trepidation. But when he opened his eyes he found half of the group



not merely with damp eyes but openly weeping. It led to several conversations with colleagues over the next few weeks, all of them admitting they were scared to die and wanting to know more about what he was talking about.

The Saline Solution approach steers clear of arguments. 'No one will ever come to Christ because he or she lost an argument with

Bob Snyder,' he says. How did things end up with his London cab driver? 'Who knows? I simply gave him a good tip (too many people think Christians are mean) and said, "I hope you will think about God a bit more today!"'

CMF regularly runs Saline Solution courses. Contact CMF if you would like to attend or to host a Saline Solution training event at your church. The team will undertake as many courses as there are invitations.

John Martin, CMF Senior Editor

London & South-East News

At our autumn regional day conference at Johnson House we enjoyed Martin Goldsmith's exploration of Habakkuk. With his and others' testimonies following, we were treated to a rich tapestry of tales of God's call and leading amidst the chaos of life.

Setting up the nationwide links scheme has been a priority, with 'first wave' members providing the skeleton for future growth of contact between members.

Local open house groups now meet in all quadrants of London, and in growing numbers. Joint prayer initiatives with leading London churches, and our second annual Carol Service, have been encouraging signs of interdependence in the body of Christ as we support doctors at work.

Julian Churcher, CMF Graduate Staffworker



PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education

National Student Conference

'There's a difference between being associated with Jesus – kind of being there, hanging out with him – and being a disciple of Jesus,' Jason Clarke (top right) told the 2013 CMF Student Conference held at Swanwick from 8-10 February. Despite massive motorway travel disruptions more than 350 medical students attended.

Foundational to discipleship is an understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection, Jason declared. 'The disciple can only follow because Jesus has died and risen in his or her place. What Jesus did for us is always prior to how we live for him.' And this will enable us as disciples to do what Jesus calls us to do.

Jesus says that if God doesn't even forget a sparrow, the cheapest item in the market, he will not forget you when you have the courage to nail your colours to the mast and speak up for your faith in a tutorial group or with your family. 'It's impossible, says Jesus, to be a true follower of him and be a silent witness.'

Nick Land, CMF Vice Chairman, addressed the theme of work. The ancient Greeks, he said, believed work was a curse and their thinkers aspired to be free of it. Even very skilled people – lawyers, physicians – were slaves. The Christian faith affirms that God is a worker and he co-works with us in our daily vocation.



Seminar topics included healing, creation and evolution, practical ethics, homosexuality, international mission and how to survive the foundation years. A rich diet, along with much appreciated opportunities to meet new people and make new friends. CMF at its very best.

John Martin, CMF Senior Editor

PRIME

In 2012, 99 PRIME tutors carried out 57 separate programmes in 29 different countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Australasia providing teaching and training to over 4,000 individuals.

The PRIME team continues to experience an expanding sense of vision and blessing: 2012 saw growth in nearly every area of interest including geographic, resource building and training.

However, there is an urgent need for creative people to come forward to help develop this growing ministry and an equally urgent need for regular financial support to support and enlarge the overworked admin team.

For details of PRIME's work around the world, you can read the latest Annual Report at www.prime-international.org.uk/annualreport.htm

John Caroe, PRIME Chairman

International Medical Student Conference

'Absolutely amazing... beyond my expectations' was how one student summed up this year's IMSC on 4-8 February. Another said it meant 'friendships, inspiration, a wider prayer network'.

In all 27 students came from 23 countries for an intensive week of student leaders' training. With 2 Timothy as the launch pad they explored the challenges of leadership in an increasingly complex world. Among the visiting speakers were John Wyatt (on medical ethics) and Marcus Honeysett (of Living Leadership). Participants joined evangelist Jay Smith on a tour of the British Museum where he explained exhibits of ancient artefacts demonstrating the reliability of the documents of the Old Testament.

Participants then travelled north to Swanwick for the CMF National Student Conference and many were seen emerging laden with book purchases. 'Just getting to know so many people from all over, with the same goal in medicine was absolutely amazing,' is how one delegate summed up the experience.

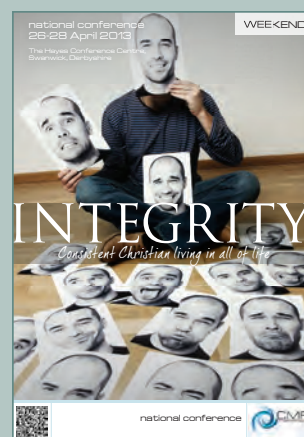
John Martin, CMF Senior Editor

National Conference

Don't miss the CMF National Conference set for 26-28 April 2013 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme is 'Integrity - consistent Christian living in all of life', with Jonathan Lamb as the main speaker.

Nick Land, CMF Vice-Chairman, delivers this year's Rendle Short Lecture, his theme 'Leadership in the NHS'. There are tracks for junior doctors and student leaders, with places available for students. Families are very welcome and there are good programmes for children and teens and a crèche for babies and toddlers.

Pablo Fernandez, CMF Head of Graduate Ministries



Junior Doctors

Mistakes in checking students' answer sheets led to delays in foundation job allocations. As CMF News went to press, student members who had expected to hear about their foundation year placements in February, were still waiting. Once the placements are made, CMF works to link new graduates with a Welcomer at their first place of work.

CMF links expanding

Efforts to sign up CMF link people have been an enormous success, so far. All CMF graduate members who have offered to help have been contacted. There are 200 appointed already. This helps ensure a substantial CMF 'reach' into workplaces, localities, deaneries, churches, foundation schools and specialities.

Pablo Fernandez, CMF Head of Graduate Ministries

International

International news and events

Who is my neighbour? This is the theme of a one-day workshop series on medical mission and international work. There was an excellent day in Cardiff just before Christmas and two more meetings are booked for **London on 18 May** and **Leeds on 8 June**. Essential for anyone even curious about opportunities for short or long-term international work. See website for details.

The annual **Developing Health Course** is set for **30 June – 12 July**. A unique training opportunity for people committed to practise medicine in resource-poor settings. Come for a fortnight, a week or a day to learn, meet others and be inspired. See website for details.

Read 'Faith Matters' – the CMF International Study Group's submission to the 'World we want post 2015' consultation. CMF argues that faith is a vitally important factor in health and healthcare and must not be forgotten as the global health agenda is discussed. To read the Faith Matters Submission, visit <http://bit.ly/12delgz>

Nurses: day conferences planned

We had a disappointing start to the year, having to cancel the nursing students' conference due to a lack of bookings, and we are reviewing the reasons (price, timing, and that we still have a low profile seem to be amongst the main reasons).

We are opening up the **CMF national conference on 26-28 April**, to nurses, midwives and students this year, and hope to be able to engage and enthuse people at this event. We also have plans for a couple of day conferences – one in Cardiff and another in London-South East England, and a programme of local nursing student events in London and other parts of the country. More details to follow soon.

Please pray for staffworkers Annie Leggett and Dimity Grant-Frost as they seek to meet with, network and encourage new student nurses around the country, and for the qualified nurses who are catching the vision and wanting to be involved at a local level supporting students and newly qualified nurses applying their faith to their nursing.

Change of location

Rachel King (Cardiff) to Tanzania
Michael Hughes (Liverpool) to Uganda
Kieran & Sarah Dinwoodie (Glasgow) to Uganda
Andrew Beckham (Nottingham) to Madagascar
Elizabeth Duncan (Edinburgh) to Ethiopia
Daniel Munday (Royal Free) to Nepal
Marcus Watkins (former CMF Head of Administration and Finance) from Madagascar

Philip Nicolls



Philip Nicolls

Former CMF Senior Editor Phil Nicolls went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, 22 January. He was at home with his wife and family, as he had wanted. He leaves his wife, Josie and three young daughters: Sophie, Faith and Isobel.

Phil joined CMF in April 2011. He edited *Triple Helix* and the other CMF publications and oversaw the production of two significant books: *Foundations* and *At A Given Moment*. He was diagnosed with terminal cancer in August 2012, when he left CMF. Phil wanted his life to count for the Saviour he loved. To the end he was able to say: *'Jesus is filling me with his love and peace. Please pray I can be a bright light for him in these days.'*

Phil was a valuable member of the communications team - we miss him. There was standing-room only at the service held at Banstead Baptist Church in Surrey to give thanks for Phil's life. He had grown up in the church and had ministered there, and at Sandcross Church, Redhill, as an assistant pastor. Alongside his part-time work at CMF, he was also Publishing Director at Beacon Light Trust.

Catherine Butcher, CMF Head of Communications

Obituaries

Alan Fowler (q UCH 1943; d CMF notified 13/02/2013) was an Orthopaedic Surgeon based in Bridgend, Wales.

David Tumath (q Belfast 1971; d 29/1/2013) was a GP with an interest in diabetes, based in Margate, Kent.

Harry Parry (q UCH 1957; d 20/12/2012) was a GP in Hastings, East Sussex, for over 30 years.

Francis Batson (q Guys 1955; d 18/11/2012) specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology, based in Hong Kong.

Stanley Bayley (q 1954 medical school unknown; d 26/1/2013) was a Psychiatrist, based in Oswestry, Shropshire.

Elizabeth Gardner (q Edinburgh 1951; d 18/2/2013) was an Ophthalmologist and CMF stalwart. Together with her late husband Rex, she was involved in missionary service first in Nigeria and then Uganda.

Mary Parker Smith Thomas MBE (q Edinburgh 1948; d 16/12/2012) based in Trentham, Staffordshire, appointed MBE for work with disabled children.

Ralph Settatre (q not notified; d February 2013) specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology, based in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and was also involved in missionary service in Uganda.

Regional CMF meetings

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

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Dates for your diary

May

- 7 An evening with Dr Helen Roseveare, missionary, doctor, Emmanuel Church, Wimbledon
- 11 Saline Solution, St Peter's Church, Harrow
- 18 'Who is my neighbour?', London
- 22 Ophthalmologists' Breakfast, Arena & Convention Centre, Liverpool
- 24-26 Junior Doctors' Retreat, Northern Ireland

June

- 8 'Who is my neighbour?', Leeds
- 30-12 Developing Health Course, Oak Hill
- July College, London

September

- 14 Junior Doctors' Careers Day Conference, London
- 30-2 Retirees' Conference, King's Park, Oct Northampton

October

- 4-6 Northern Conference, Cober Hill, Scarborough
- 25-27 Junior Doctors' Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

For more details see www.cmf.org.uk

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