

## 'We follow a person, not an ideology'

**B**etter **biblical literacy** is one of the great challenges for Christians – not least Christian doctors – living in these challenging times.



Liam Goligher



Vinod Shah

Members attending the 2014 National Conference were treated to valuable teaching about how the Bible's message is a coherent whole.

**Liam Goligher** drew appreciation from delegates for his Bible readings from Genesis 1-3. 'Everything in the human story hangs on two men: Adam the First and Adam the Second,' he said. Scottish-born Liam, now based in Philadelphia, USA, added: 'The Bible is a book where we are meant to look backwards through the story.'



Viewed in this way we can see that all the Scriptures are about Jesus.'

**Vinod Shah**, CEO of ICMDA delivered the 2014 Rendle Short lecture exploring how Christians can make a difference in medicine. The key point that distinguishes Christians from other worldviews, he said, was that 'we follow a person, not an ideology'. Held in parallel was a student leader training programme with 49 students from most medical schools throughout the country attending.

The National Conference used a new venue, **Yarnfield Park**, Staffs, a facility capable of accommodating our growing numbers. It won accolades for 'a high standard of accommodation and excellent food.'

**Keep an eye on the CMF website for details of next year's event.**

## Public Policy Matters

**C**MF, through its Public Policy team, has submitted detailed responses to public consultations on three very different topics since April 2014. In May, comments were submitted to the Department of Health on their **draft regulations for mitochondrial donation**. These regulations would permit the use of new techniques that aim to avoid serious mitochondrial diseases through creating three-parent children. Our response primarily focused on our concerns with the lack of evidence for the safety of these techniques.

In June CMF responded to a consultation by the Welsh Aneurin Bevan University Health Board that sought to clarify a **consistent practice for 'do not attempt resuscitation' (DNAR) decisions**. We suggested that evidence-based survival prospects, not subjective value-of-life criteria, should guide the decision-making process.

Also in June, CMF responded to a request from the House of Commons Education Committee for views on **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)** and on **Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)** in schools. Our submission emphasised the importance of parental involvement and argued that primary schools should remain free to decide whether or not to provide SRE. We said secondary schools should remain free to formulate their own policies, in close consultation with parents.

■ These responses can be read in full at: [www.cmf.org.uk/publicpolicy/submissions](http://www.cmf.org.uk/publicpolicy/submissions)

### ■ Falconer members' alert

CMF has been active in the countdown to the House of Lords debate on Lord Falconer's **Assisted Dying Bill** (18 July). CMF CEO Peter Saunders has recorded a video message and written to members of the Fellowship, encouraging them to make known their views to members of the Lords.

### ■ Nicklinson/Lamb/'Martin' verdict

After long deliberations, the nine judges in the Supreme Court delivered their verdict on the **Nicklinson/Lamb/'Martin' case** in mid-June. On the surface, the judgment rejected a change in the law, but some of its 'fine print' is worrying.

### ■ RCGP

The RCGP has thankfully decided to maintain its opposition to any change in the law to allow assisted suicide.

### ■ Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill

This is now being reviewed by a **parliamentary committee** and its consultation on the bill closed in early June. CMF expects the first stage debate to take place in the autumn. **Margo MacDonald** died in early April so the bill is now being championed by Patrick Harvie MSP of the Green Party. It proposes an Oregon type system with trained 'facilitators' but with a wide scope for mentally competent adults with a 'terminal condition'.

## Students

### Pray for Freshers

Between 1 September and mid-October a new generation of Freshers arrive at medical school. Most CMF campus groups man a stall and hold welcome events. Even so it's easy for students to fall between the cracks. Pray that new Freshers will find the CMF group and a helpful local church. Pray for the CMF groups as they reach out to Freshers.

### UCCF Forum

CMF student leaders have an open invitation to take part in the UCCF leadership forum being held 1-5 September. The programme is packed with Jesus-centred Bible teaching and practical training for frontline leadership and public witness. For details see [www.uccf.org.uk/forum](http://www.uccf.org.uk/forum)

### Welcome Lydia Grace

**Sarah Whitaker**, who has been on CMF Staff since 2008 became a mum for the second time in April. The lovely Lydia Grace (born 8lb 2oz) is daughter to Nathan and sister to Daniel.



### CARE publish CEO booklet



CEO Peter Saunders has authored a new booklet, *Live and Let Live* published by CARE. As well as including biblical material relevant to current debates on assisted suicide it includes advice on how to campaign about the issues involved.

### Joined-up fellowship

Over 1,000 CMF members have so far logged in to **our new online members' portal**. If you've not yet visited the members' portal to log in and update your details, please do so. Please email our Membership Manager, Martin Parsons ([martin@cmf.org.uk](mailto:martin@cmf.org.uk)) if you are experiencing problems.

## Where do our funds come from?

CMF recognises unparalleled and growing opportunities to show Christ-like compassion, speak up for the voiceless and demonstrate whole person care. To make this possible the Fellowship relies on its members for a strong and stable financial base.

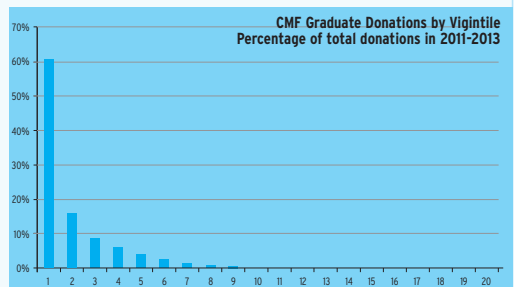
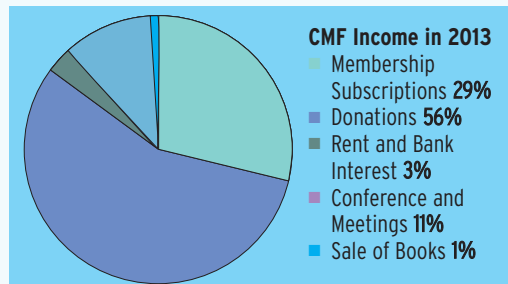
This pie chart (opposite) provides a breakdown of CMF income in 2013.

It's very clear that if CMF relied on subscription income alone, it would be able to do much less. Closer analysis indicates, however, that like many other charities and Christian agencies, 80 per cent of the income comes from just 20 per cent of those who give.

Here is a further breakdown:

Top 240	£1,845pa
Next 720	£307pa
Bottom 2,400	£0pa

This is illustrated in the graph opposite.



■ May we encourage you to locate where you are on the graph and prayerfully consider increasing what you give to CMF?

## Meet Rick Thomas

**Rick Thomas** from Worcester has joined the staff as a researcher within the CMF Public Policy team. To find out more about him and his hopes for the job we put some questions to Rick:



Rick Thomas

### What interested you in working with CMF?

Bioethics is an obvious meeting-point for the two main streams of activity in my working life to date – medicine and church leadership. Like Peter Saunders and Philippa Taylor, I did the St Mary's Bioethics Masters as a distance-learning option a few years ago. Having handed on some local church leadership responsibilities, a small window of time and focus appeared just as CMF advertised.

### Tell us about your career to date?

I went to Worcester to do a first 'housejob', intending to stay only six months. That was 40 years ago, and we are still there! After a succession of junior hospital posts, I spent seven years in general practice, during which time I married Liz and we helped plant a church.

### What are your church involvements?

We are part of the UK leadership team for the **Salt and Light** family of churches, and involved in a number of inter-church initiatives in Worcester. As church and family

grew, life became more than a little congested. Eventually I left the practice in order to focus on the church work. I continued to do some hospital sessions in **respiratory medicine**, and still do. We recently handed on leadership of the local church but continue to encourage and resource a number of other churches in our region, some of which were planted from the church we led.

### Tell us about your wife.

My wife, Liz, trained as a nursery nurse and returned to part-time work after the children started school. She works with pre-school, developmentally-challenged children, encouraging and monitoring their progress and supporting their parents, under the auspices of the local education authority.

### What do you do for leisure?

I love rugby, especially watching Wales; music, especially Rachmaninov; and curry, especially if it's hot! I try to keep total decrepidation at bay on the squash court or the fells.

### What do you see as the main challenges Christian doctors face today?

To be on the front foot, not intimidated, positive not defensive, biblically literate and reflective, and in love with Jesus!

## Where the 'F' in CMF counts

For many CMF members August is holiday month. In contrast, for students entering the **foundation years** it means transition to work. It signals lifestyle change: a lot of upheaval goes with the territory with new work patterns, new colleagues, unfamiliar surroundings, changes in accommodation and housemates. It means leaving behind a lot that was familiar, not least church and community.

So this is a critical time and for CMF this is one of those times when the 'F' in our name really counts. For the first time the CMF Local Links scheme is **fully operational**. We now have powerful tools for keeping track of members on the move. Our new and improved database system will help ensure Junior Doctors don't fall through the cracks and enable members to be ready with a welcome.

Two other CMF initiatives are in place with this time of transition in mind. At the end of



May we sent out free to Junior Members in transition (149 copies in all) the booklet *Surviving the Foundation Years* by Peter Saunders.

We have also just updated and reprinted *Foundations*, which all CMF members receive free on graduation.



It's packed full of practical information and advice for a whole range of issues in the life of Junior Doctors. It is the work of the CMF Junior Doctors' Committee and first published in 2011, edited by Laurence Crutchlow. **Also available**

**to buy at the knockdown price of £10.** Every Junior Doctor should have one.

- Not to be missed is the **National Junior Doctors' Conference**, 24-26 October at Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire. Bible teaching from Matt Lillicrap. Great food and fellowship, an array of informative seminars. A must for every Christian Junior Doctor.

### Nurses ministry headlines

Our Nurses' Student Staffworker **Dimity Grant-Frost** reports encouraging contacts in Birmingham, Manchester and Southampton. She says, 'Several of our students graduate



Steve Fouch

this summer and one has just got engaged. So it's a time of change and there will be a need to pray for them during the transition.'



Dimity Grant-Frost

A special prayer request is for fresh contact with students, particularly in **London** and **Cardiff**, where many group members will graduate by the end of the summer.

**Saline Solution training** in Glasgow in conjunction with NCF Scotland attracted 17 people, a mixture of nurses, midwives, medical and nursing students.

**Nurses' Refreshment Dinners** have become a core part of nurses work. In London they are held on the last Tuesday of every other month, with 10-15 attending regularly. Contact Steve ([steve@cmf.org.uk](mailto:steve@cmf.org.uk)) or Dimity ([dimity@cmf.org.uk](mailto:dimity@cmf.org.uk)) if you are interested in coming or bringing along a friend.

Work is underway on **new resources for nurses**. One task is to create Bible studies tailored to the professional and spiritual needs of nurses.

A small group from the UK are attending the **Nurses Christian Fellowship International European Conference** this September in Madrid.

Partnering with university **Christian Unions, IFES** in Ireland and church student staffworkers is a priority for the CMF Student Team. All of our student staff are UCCF Associate Staff and regularly attend the UCCF Forum and other events.

### Gift memberships for nurses



Our **gift membership scheme** has now been extended to nurses. It would be a rare CMF member who doesn't know a Christian nurse, so why not put out a hand in friendship?

A one year gift membership costs £38 for a qualified nurse or midwife. We will send you a gift card containing an online activation code, along with an *Introducing CMF* booklet to give a Christian nurse you know. When they join we will send them a **CMF flask** as a welcome gift. A great way to tell nurses that CMF is for them too.

- Buy a gift membership from [www.cmf.org.uk/gift/buy](http://www.cmf.org.uk/gift/buy)

## Notes from our regional staffworkers

### From Julian Churcher



Julian Churcher

CMF is joining in local prayer support for a GP based in **East London** whose practice faces financial collapse (see the current issue of *Triple Helix*).

At **New Wine**, CMF is joining with London Institute for Contemporary Christianity in a talk on the healthcare workplace. A former community doctor in **China** spoke of his experiences at a Link members meeting in Kingston-upon-Thames. There was a presentation on the work of CMF nearby at a church in New Malden. CMF supported a psychiatrist member during a **complaint process**, on the phone and in person.

### From Audrey Chalmers



Audrey Chalmers

The weekend of 9-11 May found 29 doctors in training from both **Scotland** and **Northern Ireland** (oh and two from Birmingham!)

spending a great time together at Ardeonaig on Loch Tay. The weekend was organised, and led, by a small team of junior doctors supported by CMF staff. There was plenty of time for fellowship, and some exciting outdoor activities – almost too exciting, as the gorge walk was abandoned when the lovely hillside stream became a raging torrent in the afternoon rain. It was an opportunity to study the Bible together using John Piper's book *Don't Waste Your Life* as a discussion starter. Look out for a repeat event in 2015.

### From Stephanie Moss



Stephanie Moss

Encouraged by the idea of **spiritual referral** taught in the Saline course, I am always looking for networking opportunities in my locality.

I have been caring for a middle aged lady with many longstanding problems and despite much psychiatric input we have made little headway. This lady is a Roman Catholic and we have had several conversations about faith, guilt, acceptance and forgiveness, but recently the phrase 'freedom in Christ' has kept coming to me whenever I see her. Now my job is to pray and see how God works in her life.

## DHC 'biggest ever'

This year's **Developing Health Course** was the biggest ever in the course's 40 year history, with 77 participants in total. It's encouraging to see that interest and involvement in international health and mission

is as strong as ever. As always, we had an interesting group from both the UK and beyond, including doctors and nurses, juniors and seniors.

One of the unique aspects of the course is its integration of medical and spiritual aspects of healthcare.

As we learnt from our **30 expert speakers** about the treatment of cholera and cataracts, mental illness and malaria, we also heard a little about their faith and how it shapes their work and their lives. By the end of the fortnight, the participants (and course organisers!) were exhausted, but also equipped and excited about the opportunity to share God's love through holistic healthcare all around the world.



## Farewell to Student Volunteers

Over the last year, **Rachel Perry** and **Emma Pedlar** have worked as CMF volunteers while intercalating. They were both involved in rewriting *The Electives Handbook*. Rachel also updated in-house resources for elective students and CMF members working overseas, tasks she completed alongside an elective at a mission hospital in Nepal.



Emma Pedlar



Rachel Perry

The rest of Emma's time was spent organising the International Medical Student Conference (IMSC). She said of her year with CMF: 'I loved being part of a team and getting to contribute. I've learnt new skills, made friends from around the world and now have a passion to stay connected and involved with CMF for the rest of my career.'

Rachel said that attending the IMSC was a highlight of her year: '[It was] a fantastic week of teaching and fellowship with medical students from Eastern Europe and Asia... a wonderful opportunity to hear the experiences of students and doctors working abroad.' She also told *CMF News*: 'Volunteering for CMF has broadened my understanding of my role as a future Christian doctor, especially with regards to overseas mission. The experience has been a privilege and will help me as I strive to serve Christ in medicine.'

## Homecoming

**Felicity Mussell** (Liverpool) from Bangladesh  
**Victoria Parsonson** (Birmingham) from Madagascar  
**Elizabeth Harwood** (King's College) from India

## Obituaries

**James Burton OBE** (q Edinburgh, 1946), served as a Medical Missionary in Congo and went on to develop Equipment for Charitable Hospitals Overseas (ECHO). Past President of the Medical Missionary Association. Died 18 June 2014.

**John Davies** (q King's College, 1964) served as a missionary doctor in Uganda, then from 1982-1990 as a GP in Cheshire. For the last 17 years of his career worked as medical advisor for health authorities. Died 29 May 2014.

**Michael Elwin** (q King's College, 1955) worked for over 40 years as a GP in Bridgwater, Somerset and was a much-loved family doctor. Died 23 March 2014.

**David Kerr CBE** (q Edinburgh, 1951) a nephrologist who was a founding member of the European Dialysis and Transplantation Association (1963); President of the Renal Association (1980-1983) and President of Kidney Research UK (2000-02). Died 20 April 2014.

**Clement Maddock** (q Cambridge, 1951)  
 CMF notified 29 May 2014.

**Graham Martin** (q St Andrews, 1962)  
 CMF notified 26 March 2014.



Alice Quaintance

A warm thank you to **Alice Quaintance** who has also finished just under a year with CMF as a volunteer staffworker based in Birmingham. Alice has been supporting the Birmingham junior doctors group and the student group, while training with the Midlands Ministry Training course, her assignment with CMF sandwiched between FY2 and GP training.

■ If you are interested in volunteering for CMF, please contact the office: [info@cmf.org.uk](mailto:info@cmf.org.uk)

## A big thank you

Thank you to members who gave generously to support the ICMDA Bursary Fund to assist students from resource poor countries to attend the World Congress in Rotterdam, 19-26 July. We raised **£24,640** - which is fantastic. In total ICMDA raised **\$182,000**, which has enabled them to reach their target of **200**



bursaries for students and doctors from over 50 countries. CMF is providing a free book pack of our titles for those receiving bursaries. Pray that joining with brothers and sisters from all over the world will be a life-changing experience for them.

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## Dates for your diary

### September

- 13 CAREERS DAY CONFERENCE  
 CMF, London
- 27 SALINE SOLUTION  
 St Timothy's Church, Sheffield

### October

- 17-19 NORTHERN CONFERENCE  
 Cober Hill, Scarborough
- 18 SALINE SOLUTION  
 St John's Downshire Hill, Hampstead
- 24-26 NATIONAL JUNIOR DOCTORS' CONFERENCE  
 Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

### November

- 7-9 SCOTTISH CONFERENCE  
 Gartmore House, Stirlingshire
- 8 LONDON AND SE DAY CONFERENCE  
 CMF, London

### December

- 10 HEALTHCARE CAROL SERVICE  
 All Souls Langham Place, London

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

## CMF News

is issued by the CMF Office

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Items for inclusion in the Winter 2014 issue should be sent to the CMF Head of Communications John Martin by 4 November 2014.

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 Ltd  
 Print: Partridge & Print Ltd

