

Student Conference: 'Thank you for everything'

John Greenall, new CMF Head of Student Ministries, reports

It's like this leaf with three bits sticking out... or a bit like an egg: the shell, the white and the yoke. Or water in three states: liquid, ice and air. This is the way many people battle to describe the Trinity'. But as nearly 400 delegates at the CMF Student Conference heard from Mike Reeves, of Union Theology and Wales Evangelical School of Theology (WEST), Christians believe in the Trinity 'because of Jesus Christ the son of God'.

'To be honest, Trinity is a subject most Christians seem like they want to avoid.' As a result, many Christians in their witness are keen to 'wax lyrical about the gospel but not about the God whose gospel it is. The Trinity gives our gospel its character and its flavour. If God were not Father, Son and Holy Spirit, there would be no salvation at all'.

It was our first year at Yarnfield Park and let's be honest, the students loved the food. 'Oh baby was it good' was one insightful comment, as was another - 'possibly too good'.

Students enjoyed Aaron Poppleton giving an inspiring address on 'Being a Christian medic in an international world', focusing especially on the opportunities closest to us in Europe. Seminars on topics such as 'When Christians disagree' and 'Suffering' were, as usual, popular and highly rated. Again there were great offers at the



bookstall including the new Human Journey course, currently being used by a number of student groups.

Overall the students loved meeting with friends and making new ones, with large numbers this year from HYMS, Southampton and Imperial in particular. It was great to welcome international students from the SYD conference and a privilege to be inspired by and to pray with them. We were sad

to say goodbye to Laura Risdale this year who has organised the conference for over ten years – she will be sadly missed and received a great send off from the students.

A comment from one of the delegates just about sums it up: 'Thank you for everything! I couldn't feel more blessed to attend your amazing conference. I learnt so much, got to know so many Christian brothers and sisters around the UK and the world. I was encouraged and inspired. It was a little piece of heaven.'

Next year we will be back 12–14 February and are delighted that Tim Chester, pastor, associate director of the Porterbrook Seminary and author of over 20 books, will be joining us for the Bible readings based on the book of Revelation. We hope to see you there!

Another great SYD

Some 19 students from 17 countries attended the 2015 Sydenham Conference (formerly International Medical Students Conference (IMSC)) held in London from 8–13



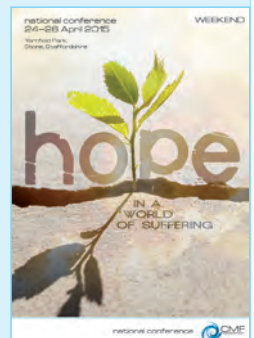
February. We were delighted to welcome student leaders from as far away as Namibia, Brazil, Jordan and China in this equipping week for student leaders. Many will return with a vision for pioneering CMF-type work in their home countries, building on seminars on ethics,

leadership, partnership and our talks from 2 Timothy. Do pray for these students and that the door would remain open for CMF UK to continue to play a key role in this strategic ministry.

A great national coming up

Lindsay Brown, a former general secretary of IFES, will give the Bible readings at the CMF National Conference at Yarnfield Park, Stone, 24–26 April. Glynn Harrison, formerly a consultant clinical psychiatrist and chair of the Psychiatry department at Bristol University, gives this year's Rendle Short Lecture. There are separate tracks for doctors, junior doctors and nurses, plus an invitation-only track for student leaders.

This is a family friendly event with a team from YWAM England running children and youth programmes. For more info see our website www.cmf.org.uk or email events@cmf.org.uk



Nurses

Updates

- At the CMF National Conference in April, there will be a separate seminar track for nurses.
- There are continuing discussions with NCF Scotland over future direction. Currently the fellowship is a state of legal 'abeyance'. CMF Scotland staffworker Audrey Chalmers is actively involved in consultation.
- The first Nurses & Midwives eNews was sent out in early March (quarterly thereafter).
- Work is ongoing connecting nursing contacts to CMF regional team leaders, medical school and workplace Links.

RCN Congress

For nurses attending the 2015 RCN Congress in Bournemouth, 21–25 June, there will be a CMF get together one afternoon or evening. If you are interested in attending contact Steve.Fouch@cmf.org.uk

Birmingham Coffee Morning

Following on from small local events for nurses in North Kent and Peterborough, plans are underway for a further nurses meeting in the Midlands. The venue is the Birmingham diocesan offices at Snow Hill. For more details contact Steve.Fouch@cmf.org.uk

Other events

- Nurses Refreshment Dinner, London, 26 May (email Steve.Fouch@cmf.org.uk)
- Medical Ethics Alliance conference on The Ethics of Whistleblowing, Royal Society of Medicine, 3 June – email info@medethics-alliance.org

Saline is a bridgehead

Looking for a way to launch a local or workplace CMF Group? A Saline Solution training day at Coventry on 7 March proved just the ticket. None of the 27 participants, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals, had done Saline before. As they learnt new skills about how to share their faith in the workplace it made sense to form workplace groups to pray for colleagues and patients. There and then three lots of participants formed local CMF groups.

The unique value of CMF groups

Julian Churcher puts the case for CMF groups in your area or workplace

Why do we encourage CMF members to meet? Isn't local church fellowship sufficient, especially with time so seemingly scarce nowadays?



Julian Churcher

There is unique value in gathering with others who are dealing with similar challenges in the workplace – and without doubt these are challenging times. Between us there are no illusions about the title 'doctor', and we have invaluable shared experiences of training and day-to-day medical practice.

The guiding principles we suggest for anyone leading a local group, or considering doing so, are:

- **Benefit.** For all the cost of time and energy, there should be net gain, a sense afterwards of 'That was well worth it!'
- **Relationship.** For most of us the diary already has plenty of meetings, such that 'meeting' has become a dreaded noun. But 'meeting' as a verb is quite another matter. Gathering in person, with others committed to our good, builds friendship and trust.

- **Sustainability.** Sustainability. Decide what you're happy to continue with in terms of frequency and preparation. Some groups will meet over a meal, but for others a hot drink and a snack is more practicable. Eating out is another option, given the right venue.
- **Flexibility.** Flexibility. What's called for is whatever best serves the local membership. Most groups gather on weekday evenings but Saturday brunch, or a weekend afternoon tea, are options that some have found fruitful – especially as an occasion for bringing along family members.

Together we can explore scriptures particularly relevant to medicine and healthcare, share any current burdens, discuss and debate ethical issues or cultural themes, worship, and pray for each other.

Please get in touch if you're looking for, or thinking of starting a group. We're here to help. To explore next steps email events@cmf.org.uk or call 020 7234 9660.

Julian Churcher is CMF Staffworker for London and the Southeast.

The Human Journey rollout



So far at least ten Human Journey courses are already underway

across the UK. One church had 45 people attend their first session. We are already reprinting because of demand. Over the next few weeks we will be following up people who have bought a Human Journey Sample Pack or Starter Pack, and will be encouraging CMF Links to work on getting the Human Journey embedded in their churches. If you have started running a course, please let us know by emailing info@humanjourney.org.uk

We have also been encouraged by the response from other Christian leaders. Rev Rico Tice from All Souls Langham Place and Christianity Explored gave it this plaudit: 'The Human Journey raises issues that are of critical importance to the future of our culture in Britain. I wholeheartedly recommend this resource to individual Christians and to the wider church.' We are excited about the blessing this resource could be to the church.

If you haven't yet had a look at this new resource, visit humanjourney.org.uk for more information.

Next DLS in production

CMF UK members have contributed 66 contributions to the next issue of *The Doctor's Life Support*, the ever-popular daily devotional for Christian doctors. With help from our International department we managed to recruit most of these contributors from doctors currently working overseas, mostly in resource-poor settings. This set of contributions is full of real gems.

New: Facing Serious Illness



Facing death was never easy. But in the modern world it has become even more confusing. Hospitals offer an array of treatments to relieve symptoms, improve the quality of life and postpone death. Even so,

decisions need to be based on good communication and trust. *Facing Serious Illness* draws on the joint expertise of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship and CMF to clarify the key medical and legal terms. The booklet includes a sample Note of Wishes to help dying people and their relatives. £3.00 plus p&p available from www.cmf.org.uk

Meet John Greenall

Introducing the new CMF Head of Student Ministries

John Greenall has been appointed new CMF Head of Student Ministries. We asked him a few questions about his life and how he sees the job.



John Greenall

Can you recall your first contact with CMF?

I was on the computers at my university campus. The current student link asked me if I would replace her as link. I said yes without thinking and without looking up; look what she's got me into!

What other CMF involvements have you had?

I was the first student chair of the CMF National Student Council and I visited Zimbabwe representing CMF during the cholera crisis a few years ago.

Tell us about your career to date.

I've done five years of paediatric training and some GP training. I continue to work one day a week as a paediatric registrar. My wife Heidi and I spent a year at All Nations Bible College.

What church involvements do you have?

I am an elder at Barton Evangelical Church in Canterbury, Kent. It is a growing church in a densely student-populated city.

Tell us about your wife & family.

I am married to Heidi (nearly ten years now) who is a wonderful mummy to our three children aged five, three months and six months. She is a palliative care nurse and I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful wife and best friend.

How do you spend your leisure time?

I love any sport, including darts! I support Harlequins and Arsenal. I enjoy swimming, riding my bike, reading big theology books, walking with the family in the Kent countryside, brushing up on my French and spending time with friends.

What do you see as the main opportunities Christian medics face today?

The NHS environment is increasingly cynical and pressurised. Therefore there are tremendous opportunities for Christian medics to be willing to go to the hard places, to speak and model excellence and hope. Will we get the strength to do this by being satisfied in Christ alone, following him to the cross by risking our reputation, ambitions and security? Or will we miss our unique



opportunity because we succumbed to cynicism, apathy, comfort or placing our identity in career and status?

Farewell Laura

We bid a fond farewell to Laura Risdale after eleven years of valued service at CMF, as coordinator of the Student and International teams. She is moving to Cheltenham where she will be administrator of St Philip's and St James' church (aka Pip & Jim's). Our thanks go to Laura and we wish her well for her marriage to Ben Evans in May.



Laura Risdale

...and Dimity

After more than three years ministering to student nurses, Dimity Grant-Frost left the staff at the end of March. She plans to further her career as a palliative care and oncology nurse and marries Aidan Simmons later in the year. Pray that God will lead CMF to the right replacement to fill her post.



Dimity Grant-Frost

A new role for Dion

Taking over from Laura is Dionysia (Dion) Ayeni who has worked with CMF as Admin Assistant in Central Services since February 2012. She is married to Kolade and worships at Liberty Church in north London.



Dion Ayeni

CMF Prayer Summit

Over the weekend of 16–18 January, about 80 CMF members, a blend of students, junior doctors and more seasoned graduates, met for a special CMF Prayer Summit. It's widely agreed that Christian doctors are facing tougher challenges than perhaps ever before: tightening budgets but increased demands as well as heightening hostility to matters of faith. The gathering was an opportunity to review aspects of the past and seek God's direction for the future.

Public policy

Submissions

So far this year CMF has made three submissions to government inquiries, as follows:

Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill (January 2015)

CMF's purpose was to affirm the importance of free speech on campus, while recognising the potential risk of misuse of higher education institutions as platforms for drawing people into terrorism.

Northern Ireland: Abortion for lethal fetal abnormality and sexual crime (January 2015)

CMF's submission claimed (among other things) that accurate assessment of the degree of disability is very difficult. The DoH figure for the number of Irish women coming to England and Wales for terminations of pregnancy on Ground E (those for fetal abnormality) in 2011 was 51.

House of Lords legislation on mitochondrial disease (January 2015)

For an extensive treatment of this issue see CMF File 51 bit.ly/1C01AGg. To read these submissions in full see website, www.cmf.org.uk/publicpolicy/submissions

Peter Saunders: Oral evidence



In other public policy work, CMF CEO Peter Saunders gave oral evidence as

the Scottish Parliament considered the Harvie Bill to allow assisted suicide.

Database

A gentle reminder. Please make sure your contact details on the CMF Database are up to date. Log in today at members.cmf.org.uk to check and update your details. If you encounter difficulties don't hesitate to contact CMF office staff for help.

Links: Expanding still

CMF regional team leaders now support 235 Link people in 405 roles. Links keep the local groups going, connecting members and organising local networking activities.

General election: a nation decides

The countdown is well and truly underway for the general election on 7 May 2015. With the polls showing support for the major parties keenly divided, Christians have an opportunity to be of influence. So it's important that Christians use their democratic right to vote, take an intelligent interest in the key policy issues, get along to local hustings and take the opportunity to quiz candidates about their views and voting intentions. Clearly for Christian doctors and health professionals, the NHS and its future looms large as an electoral issue.

To get a measure of where each of the political parties stand on key issues, the BBC's Manifesto Watch (bbc.in/1xvhm86) is a useful and concise guide to where parties stand on these ten top issues. To track how your local MP voted

on key issues consult the Public Whip website: www.publicwhip.org.uk

For more detailed Christian analysis a good starting place is the Evangelical Alliance (EA) of which CMF is a member. Its website (bit.ly/1x0hC2s) is packed full of helpful information. The EA has devoted an entire issue of its magazine *Idea* to Christian commentary on the elections. There is, for example, advice on one of the big questions exercising Christians: Can I support a particular party where one or more of its policies is in opposition to my beliefs? There are also succinct thumbnail guides to the parties and their policies. In an uncertain world our faith offers one certainty: God is sovereign in human affairs. Our votes count. So too do our prayers.

Mission opportunities: one stop shop

Wondering about international work? Interested in a short-term team? Planning your elective?

CMF's annual mission fair is a unique opportunity to find out about the work of different mission organisations and see what possibilities there are for you to get involved. Up to 20 agencies will be there to inform, inspire and advise those investigating opportunities.

It takes place at Oak Hill College, North London on 24 June, 7-9pm. Doctors, nurses, students and friends are all welcome and admission is free.

ICMDA roundup

In the ICMDA Eurasia region there are many historically Roman Catholic countries. Even so there has been a lot of work building links between Christian medics. There have been two conferences for junior doctors, held first in Rome in the spring, then last autumn in Madrid, which drew 70 people. There are growing movements in France, Belgium and Spain and a new group in Italy.

The next ICMDA World Congress will be in Hyderabad in 2018.

Developing Health Course

This two-week annual event continues to be much appreciated. It is for people exploring doing medical work (short or long term) in resource-poor settings or people working overseas wishing to update their skills. There is a blend of lectures, practical skills workshops and tutorials, plus Bible teaching, prayer and reflection. It offers unique networking opportunities. Full details including fees, see cmf.li/DHC2015

CMF Christmas 2014 appeal

Students and Junior Doctors were the focus of the Christmas Appeal. At the time of writing in mid-March, we have received almost £67,000 towards supporting the future of CMF. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Results for 2014

As we went to press the external auditors were reviewing our accounts for 2014. At the moment we are looking at a small deficit of around £35,000 for 2014.

Development Plan

This was a major undertaking. We have now achieved the target of £700,000 set in 2011 with £702,000 received to date. Praise God for his generous provision to us.

Homecoming

Stephen Cockeram (Birmingham) from Sri Lanka
Philip Davies (Birmingham) from Uganda

Outgoing

Claire Ferrer to Nepal

Obituaries

Geoffrey Wilson (q Oxford, 1952)
Robert Balfour (q Liverpool, 1966)
Sheila Borkett-Jones (q London, 1979)
Gillian Wells (q Leicester, 1987)
John Lowther Milligan (q Cambridge, 1950)
Phyllis Fleury (q 1954)
David Chapat de Saintonge (q The London, 1966)

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Dates for your diary

April
24-26 CMF NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffs
29 CMF PAEDIATRIC BREAKFAST
ICC Birmingham

May
22-24 JUNIOR DOCTORS' RETREAT
Moyallon Centre, Portadown,
Northern Ireland

June
6 SALINE SOLUTION
Poole, Dorset
21 June - 3 July
DEVELOPING HEALTH COURSE
Oak Hill College, Southgate, London
24 MISSION FAIR
Oak Hill College, Southgate, London

For more details see www.cmf.org.uk

CMF News

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