

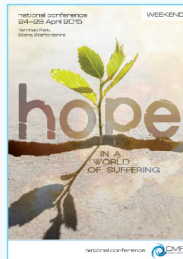
National Conference: Understanding our times

The men of Issachar, who rallied to the cause of King David, 'understood the times and knew what to do' (1 Chronicles 12:32). The need to take inspiration from these ancient leaders was the keynote of Glynn Harrison's Rendle Short Lecture.

The sexual revolution, declared the Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, is 'rooted in ideas, it didn't just happen'.

In the situation we now find ourselves in, it is people who 'hold to traditional values who find themselves on the wrong side of popular opinion and sometimes even the law'. People of faith are portrayed as promoting a way of life that is 'harmful, implausible...

pretended'. Ideologies like radical feminism and queer theory are modern forms of Gnosticism and they are driving the sexual revolution forward. They are 'the plausibility structures of a new moral order'. So Christians need to be confident that they have a better story to tell. He asked his audience, 'Where are the Christian apologists and theologians who are grappling with these ideas?'



Glynn Harrison

Lindsay Brown, of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), encouraged younger Christian doctors to ask those of earlier generations how they combined clinical work and witness,



and about the challenges they faced, how they overcame them and how God helped. 'A Christian doctor without an historical perspective will be spiritually impoverished,' he said. His three talks on 'hope in a world of suffering' began with Psalm 73's piercing lament about the apparent silence or absence of God. He later turned to the book of Job as a starting point for a biblical answer to the problem of pain and suffering, and from 1 Peter encouraged



Lindsay Brown

us to stand firm in adversity.

For the first time the conference ran a nurses' stream. Sixteen nurses from around the UK attended seminars looking at the Christian basis for the '6 Cs of nursing', an overview of the Christian history of nursing and application of this to nursing today. It was a great time of fellowship and encouragement and we trust seeds sown will bear fruit with many more joining us next year.

Over 40 student leaders gathered and attended tailored training sessions. Subjects included 'Why CMF?' and 'how to plan a programme'. Needless to say there was lots of fun and banter. Please pray for these leaders as they seek to impact and inspire their local groups to live for Jesus.



New CMF Chairman

Ken Toop has succeeded Peter Phillips as CMF Chairman. Before retirement Ken was a consultant gynaecologist based at James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, and he worships at Stockton Baptist Church. Outgoing Chairman Peter Phillips gave his endorsement: 'I recognise him to be a man of considerable spiritual strength and wide experience in healthcare.' We thank Peter for his service as Chairman.



Ken Toop

Finance: Your gifts make a difference

The outturn for 2014 was better than budget – a deficit of £36k against a budgeted deficit of £99k. The key factor in meeting our 2015 budget target will be the response of members to our Spring Appeal where we hope to raise £80k.

New approaches being tried this year include: an appeal to Friends of CMF; team support for staffworkers, especially those in face-to-face ministries; refreshing efforts with grant-making trusts for projects like the Human Journey and to support medical student leaders in other parts of the world.

We thank God for the generous support from members, particularly those who give over and above their CMF subscriptions. One of CMF's strengths is our broad base of support through subscriptions, but voluntary gifts make up over 40% of our income and make a huge difference to the work we can undertake.

Graduates

Updates

Special Interest Links

Special Interest groups are a new Link category for CMF members with shared interests. Their purpose is the dissemination of news, information and resources, with the aim of broadening connections and deepening fellowship. Members can now join one of the existing groups – such as secure environments, refugee doctors, North Korea, coaching & mentoring and each of the armed forces – or offer to be a Link in a new category of their choice by contacting julian.churcher@cmf.org.uk.

Graduate breakfasts

Over the last few months, there have been breakfasts for CMF members who work in Rheumatology, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, and for the first time, Cardiology. There was also a breakfast for those at the BMA Annual Representatives' Meeting. These breakfasts are great times for those working in the same specialty to share fellowship together and encourage one another. Why not think about organising a breakfast for your specialty? Contact ruth.haley@cmf.org.uk for more details.

London & South-East report

At an evening for healthcare workers near Hastings, Julian Churcher writes, we considered the core issues that underlie consultations, such as trust, mutual respect and consent. The oppressive – sometimes intimidating – environment in which some have to work was evident. The fact we are on the ultimate victor's side, and could encourage each other in solidarity of purpose and prayer, made all the difference.

In a south London group we prayed for the success of a high level meeting with implications for inner-city GP funding (and indeed viability) and heard later of a very positive outcome. In Poole, Dorset recently a dozen assorted professionals swapped sea, sand, sail and sun for Saline one Saturday, and a fortnight later in Battersea three of us tackled the same material again. It's different every time depending on the situations and professional experiences of those attending, but always worthwhile and encouraging.

Nursing: 'A wonderful vocation'

Meet Pippa Peppiatt, CMF's new Nurses Student Staffworker

In September, Pippa Peppiatt will be joining the CMF team as our new Nurses Student Staffworker. We asked her a bit about herself:



Pippa Peppiatt

What do you see as the challenges and opportunities of the nursing profession today?

Nursing is a wonderful vocation. Nurses are in a unique and privileged position caring for people at some of their most vulnerable times, being Christ's hands and feet. At the same time nursing can be tough, isolating and exhausting, and many nurses have lost confidence in practising their faith in the workplace – something I would love to see restored.

What caught your attention about this job?

I felt the job description had been tailor-made for me! It combined many of my passions: pioneering, networking, pastoring, training, mission and writing. To put these to use building up a vitally needed work encouraging Christian student nurses will be a great opportunity and privilege.

What is your vision for building a movement of Christian nursing students?

To support and encourage Christian nursing students to grow in their faith and love for Jesus. To help them connect with, pray for, and be inspired by each other. To help inform and equip these nurses to make godly ethical

choices and to offer spiritual care for patients in an appropriate manner. To invest in and train individuals to become leaders who then help mentor younger nursing students.

Can you tell us about your career so far?

I've had a happy and mixed career, from nursing (both in hospitals and as a school nurse) to church and charity work. I've studied at Bible school in Holland and London, worked in the church, been a Friends International student staff worker, and for the last eight years started and led a charity.

Tell us about your experience with church planting?

My husband Tim and I have always had a heart for students. When asked in 1998 to plant a Vineyard church, we first looked at which UK student cities didn't yet have a Vineyard and landed on Cambridge. As we started out with just our own family and the next-door neighbour's cat, we had to attract and identify student leaders quickly to help grow the church. It was hard work, good fun, and we certainly saw God at work.

...and your family life?

Tim is a GP with special interests in dermatology and theology – an interesting combination! We have four children ranging from eleven to 21 years. Our eldest two are at University, one studying medicine.

Junior doctors' NI retreat

This year's retreat, attended by 22 participants, was at Moyallon House near Portadown, Northern Ireland.

Rev Dr Harold Cunningham was the main speaker, his theme was 'What makes us human?'. He looked at theology and psychological theories with applications on living for Christ in medicine. Callum Webster (Christian Institute) gave an update on how recent changes to the law might affect Christian doctors. Rev Dr Pat Mollan spoke on God at work through healing ministry. All these topics stimulated plenty of discussion and reflection. To relax, participants held a Saturday afternoon photo challenge in the beautiful Gosford Forest Park.



The Human Journey



So far we know at least 10 groups have run the Human Journey

course. Students all over the country are using it in their local meetings, and there are encouraging reports from members running the course in their churches.

Nearly 100 members took away Human Journey Sample Packs from the National Conference bookstall: we hope this will lead to many more churches and local groups doing the course.

We will soon be contacting all CMF Church Links to energise them to explore getting the Human Journey into the teaching programmes of their churches. Please continue to pray for this resource to grow and bless the church. For more info visit www.humanjourney.org.uk

Meet Hazel Hepner

CMF's new Membership Administrator

Hazel recently joined the CMF team as our new membership administrator. We learnt a bit about her:



Hazel Hepner

What experience have you brought to the role?

Having worked in a GP practice I am aware of the need to support doctors. I used to work in a school office and before then in a GP surgery. Many of the skills learned, especially around databases, correspondence, recording finances and reminder letters I've been able to transfer to CMF.

Tell us about your church

I attend a multicultural, community-focused Baptist Church in Hackney. I've been part of the leadership team for five years. We are due to move into a brand new building in the autumn. I'm part of the music group, singing about once a month. I've previously been involved in teaching children and young people.

Your family life? Leisure time?

I've been married for almost 36 years and have two sons, one married to a paediatrician and an eleven-month-old grandson. Opportunities for hobbies have been few in recent years but I enjoy photography, choral singing, doing jigsaws, swimming, walking and reading murder mysteries.

Call to Action

Rob Marris MP has brought a bill to the House of Commons Bill aimed at legalising assisted suicide for mentally competent adults who are terminally ill.

CMF is encouraging healthcare professionals to write to their Member of Parliament, urging them to vote against the bill.

The second reading debate of the bill is expected to take place on 11 September; it is essential that it is defeated at this stage. MPs rise for the summer recess on 21 July and return on 7 September, so time available to influence them before the vote is short.

'This bill is probably the most serious legal threat we have faced in this area in the last ten years,' comments CMF CEO Peter Saunders.

For information on how to write to your MP, see www.carenotkilling.org.uk/marris-bill

Staff changes and volunteers

Liz Poppleton (née McClenaghan) has been appointed as an associate staffworker for the north-west, based near Preston, starting in August. She has previously served as a CMF intern and chair of the CMF Student Council. She will work with students while continuing to work part time in medicine.

Miriam Brandon, an F2 junior doctor, will join us for one day a week from August for a year to work on the SYD conference and do some writing.

Eve Thangaraj, who has been with CMF on placement through 2014 stayed on until February seeing through the SYD Conference. She will represent CMF at an ICMDA Regional Rep training conference in the US in August.

Alice Campbell has been on work experience with CMF over the summer. Says Alice: 'I've been working predominately in the International and Student departments, with Vicky Lavy as my mentor. One of the biggest tasks was helping organise the Developing Health Course. I became acquainted with CMF due to the numerous medics in my family. My dad is a local CMF Link in Sheffield, so I have often been roped in to help at events and conferences, which gave me the chance to learn more about CMF's extensive and diverse work.'

Putting faith in global healthcare

The Lancet (7 July) has launched a series of papers calling for greater engagement with faith-based organisations in healthcare delivery in the UK and globally. The key message, writes Steve Fouch, is that indifference or active hostility towards FBOs in the development and global health communities is, 'frankly, counterproductive', since globally 80% of patients have a personal faith or some form of spirituality. CMF member Andrew Tomkins is a key player in the project. Papers and an audio interview with Andrew is available at bit.ly/1eBMtdm

Strengthening governance

With the help of external consultants a new development programme and governance manual are being created to strengthen the way CMF is run. Please pray for our Board and Senior Management Team as they seek to lead CMF effectively.

Students

Updates

Summer teams

This year's summer teams head to Ukraine, Belarus, Philippines, Estonia and Russia. Please believe and pray that these would be eternally significant trips in the lives of the students and those they reach whilst there.

Student talks draw a crowd

Some great recent student events. Laurence Crutchlow spoke at Bart's on 'The resurrection' with over 50 in attendance. John Greenall spoke at St George's on 'Why would a loving God allow children to suffer?' and drew an audience of over 70 in attendance. Alex Bunn has been on the road visiting groups in locations such as Bristol and Norwich. There are always good conversation afterwards, not least with Muslim medics – do pray for eternal fruit. If you would like someone to come and speak at your medical school, contact students@cmf.org.uk.

Graduating?

If you're a student, do remember to update your contact details online at www.cmf.org.uk/students/graduating. Everyone who updates their details online will get a free copy of *Foundations*, a great manual for the Christian junior doctor.

Praying for students

During the autumn, thousands of students will arrive at medical schools up and down the country. Please pray for boldness and clarity as CMF student members encourage them to sign up to join their campus-based CMF and enthuse them with CMF literature. Please pray for Christians starting at university that they would quickly settle in and make wise decisions early on.

UCCF Forum

Several CMF leaders will be attending the UCCF Forum (1–5 September). CMF enjoys long-standing strategic links with UCCF and we want to continue to strengthen our partnership: to evangelise and disciple students on campus by training and equipping our student leaders. Please put this on your prayer list.

Developing Health Course

This year's Developing Health Course was filled to capacity, with over 75 people attending across the two weeks. Over ten nationalities were represented, with delegates from as far afield as Kyrgyzstan. One delegate from Uganda found the training came in handy sooner than expected, on his flight home: 'When commencing descent to Entebbe, a loud shout came from the Flight Bursar, "we need doctors urgently at the back". A member of the crew had collapsed and was shivering, complaining of headache, nausea, slight vomiting and mild chest pain, difficulty in breathing and very anxious. Together with another doctor, I responded and in 20 minutes, he was much better. Dr Giles Cattermole's session on emergency medicine was spot on for me!'



Mission Fair

On 24 June, 20 mission agencies set out their stalls for the CMF Mission Fair, held at Oak Hill College in conjunction with the Developing Health Course. Over 70 eager visitors of all ages, nationalities and medical specialities attended, all united by a common interest of working overseas.



The fair is in its fourth year. It has proved an invaluable networking opportunity for healthcare professionals seeking mission opportunities. Last year Friends of Mandritsara Trust needed a new doctor to join their team at the Good News Hospital. To their great delight, their need was met by a doctor attending the fair.

Richard Morrison, who works for Cairdeas International Palliative Trust, noticed the vibrant positive attitude of those attending as they 'actively knocked on doors to discover what God is planning for them'. A big thank you to organisers Ian and Hanna Spillman, Mary Hopper and Vicky Lavy for their hard work.

VIDEO: Tackling Ebola in Sierra Leone

Dr Sam Dunnet was one of several CMF members who bravely travelled to West Africa in 2014 to tackle the Ebola epidemic. Setting off with trepidation but determined in her faith, she arrived in Sierra Leone to work as a Staff Health Manager. In a short video, produced by CMF, Sam speaks of the crisis and desperation she arrived into, and how God carried her through. She says: 'I'm not afraid of dying... just because you're a Christian doesn't mean you're not going to die, but I trusted my life into God's hands that he would look after me.' Do share the video with those you think it would inspire. Available at www.cmf.org.uk/international



Speaking up for volunteers



Rachael Pickering

CMF member Rachael Pickering spoke at the BMA ARM in June, raising concerns over the difficulties obtaining indemnity for medical volunteers. Her indemnity provider refused to extend her cover while she volunteered in southeast Asian prisons, because the risks were considered 'incalculable'. However, cover would have been provided had she been going to Sierra Leone to help with the Ebola crisis. She described this situation as 'ridiculous'. She added: 'a conversation needs to be had with indemnifiers if the BMA is serious about continuing to promote medical volunteering.'

Partnering with Christian lawyers

CMF appreciates opportunities to work alongside the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship (LCF). LCF shares office space at Johnson House and recently collaborated with CMF in the publication of the booklet *Facing Serious Illness*. Mark Barrell, CEO of LCF, took the lead in drafting the latest *CMF File*, titled *Hard cases and the law*. Our Student Team is keen to encourage LCF as it expands its work among law students, with new workers starting in August.

Movements

Helen Sims-Williams (Oxford) from Uganda
Hugh Sims-Williams (Bristol) from Uganda
Helen Shawyer (Sheffield) to Kenya

Obituaries

Monty Barker (q St Andrew's, 1960)
John Breeze (q Aberdeen, 1950)
Hugh Coleridge (q Bart's, 1965)
George Moles (q Belfast, 1950)
Rita Shannon (q 1953)
John Wilkinson (q Edinburgh, 1941)

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Dates for your diary

August

10-14 STUDENT SUMMER CAMP
 Moor Monkton, near York

September

5 CAREERS DAY CONFERENCE
 CMF, London

October

10 MIDLANDS DAY CONFERENCE
 The Welcome Centre, Coventry
 16-18 NORTHERN CONFERENCE
 Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley
 23-25 IRISH CONFERENCE
 Durrow, County Laois
 26-28 RETIREES' CONFERENCE
 King's Park Conference Centre,
 Northampton

November

6-8 SCOTLAND CONFERENCE
 Abernethy Centre, Inverness-shire
 7 LONDON & SOUTH EAST DAY
 CONFERENCE
 CMF, London
 13-15 NATIONAL JUNIOR DOCTORS'
 CONFERENCE
 Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

For more details see www.cmf.org.uk

CMF News

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