

# Discuss...

Where do you see yourself from a Christian medical perspective in 20-30 years time?

1. Realistic plan
2. 'Adventurous dream' plan

# Being a Christian Medic in an international world

Aaron Poppleton

# Talk points

1. What is a Christian medic?
2. Why be an international Christian medic?
3. How can I be an international Christian medic?
4. General tips and advice

# What does being a Christian medic look like?

Training to be a Christian doctor

Being a 'good doctor' - what does this mean?

How can Christ shape our practice and thinking?

# What does being a Christian medic look like?

## What do patients think? - Survey

1. What sort of doctor would you like to be treating yourself or a member of your family?
2. From a list of characteristics, rate how important you feel each are for a doctor to have

Leahy M, Cullen W, Bury G. "What makes a good doctor?" A cross sectional survey of public opinion. *Ir Med J.* 2003 Feb;96(2):38-41.

# What does being a Christian Medic look like?

What does the Bible say? **Proverbs 17:22**

A cheerful heart is good medicine,  
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

# What does being a Christian Medic look like?

What does the Bible say? **Proverbs 4:5-7**

Get wisdom, get understanding;  
do not forget my words or turn away from them.  
Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;  
love her, and she will watch over you.  
The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.  
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

# What does being a Christian Medic look like?

What does the Bible say? **Proverbs 9:10**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.



# Celebrity doctor - Dr House

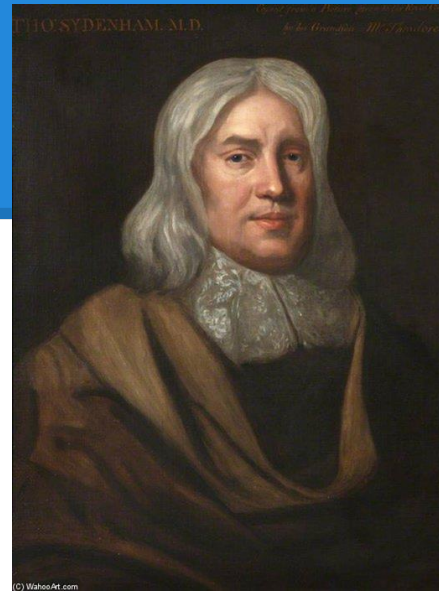
Intelligent  
Hard working  
Well respected



‘So you will trust my diagnosis and you’ll let me treat her,  
because in this temple [scarily] I am Dr Yahweh’

# Celebrity doctor - Sydenham

Intelligent  
Hard working  
Practised under God



"the prince of practical medicine, whose character is as beautiful and as genuinely English as his name"

# Celebrity doctor - Sydenham

"It becomes every man who purposes to give himself to the care of others, seriously to consider the four following things:

First, that he must one day give an account to the Supreme Judge of all the lives entrusted to his care.

Secondly, that all his skill, and knowledge, and energy as they have been given him by God, so they should be exercised for his glory, and the good of mankind, and not for mere gain or ambition.

# Celebrity doctor - Sydenham

Thirdly, and not more beautifully than truly, let him reflect that he has undertaken the care of no mean creature, for, in order that he may estimate the value, the greatness of the human race, the only begotten Son of God became himself a man, and thus ennobled it with his divine dignity, and far more than this, died to redeem it.

And fourthly, that the doctor being himself a mortal man, should be diligent and tender in relieving his suffering patients, inasmuch as he himself must one day be a like sufferer."

# Having Christ shape our practice and thinking

Good foundations

Using our assets

Great publications and resources

# Having Christ shape our practice and thinking

## **Good foundations**

- Church, Bible, Prayer, Fellowship, Reflection

## **Using our assets**

- Older Christians
- CMF
- Mentorship

# Having Christ shape our practice and thinking

## Great publications and resources

- ***Courses***: Saline Solution, Confident Christianity
- ***Publications***: Triple helix, Nucleus, CMF files [all online :-)]
- **Books!!!!!!!!!!** (10 of those stall downstairs)

‘We are just thinking God’s thoughts after him’

*Johannes Kepler*

# The Hungarian Experience





# The Hungarian Experience

Reflection...

- God answers prayers!
- God is fully in control

## 2. Why be an international medic?

- Faith based reasons:
  - Rev 7:9, Mat 28:19-20
- Meeting physical and spiritual needs
  - Luke 9:11
- Practical reasons

# The German Experience

- Studying in Germany
- The delayed prayer
- The dangerous prayer
- God teaches functional trust (2 Cor 1:3-5)
- The frustrating cowboy



# The German experience

Reflecting on the event...

- God is fully in control
- Living for him makes a difference

# 3. How can I be an international Christian Medic?

Where would/should I go?

1. Home
2. Long-term relocation
3. Short-term trips abroad

# 3. How can I be an international Christian Medic?

## The need at home

### Top 20 countries of qualification

PMQ country	No. of doctors	%
United Kingdom	169,006	63.3%
India	24,995	9.4%
Pakistan	9,826	3.7%
South Africa	5,256	2.0%
Nigeria	4,206	1.6%
Ireland	4,046	1.5%
Italy	3,565	1.3%
Greece	3,444	1.3%
Egypt	3,344	1.3%
Germany	3,234	1.2%

Sri Lanka	2,430	0.9%
Iraq	2,389	0.9%
Romania	2,322	0.9%
Poland	2,090	0.8%
Australia	1,973	0.7%
Spain	1,749	0.7%
Sudan	1,660	0.6%
Hungary	1,499	0.6%
Czech Republic	1,237	0.5%
Bulgaria	972	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249,243</b>	<b>93.6%</b>

Data taken from: Gmc-uk.org, (2015). GMC | List of Registered Medical Practitioners - statistics. [online]  
Available at: [http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/register/search\\_stats.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/register/search_stats.asp) [Accessed 13 Feb. 2015].

# 3. How can I be an international Christian Medic?

Short-term trips - why we should consider **Europe**

1. The **need** of Europe
2. The **ease** of Europe
3. Our **place** in Europe

# Our place in Europe

- We are Cool Britannia!
- The language is ours
- We have supportive churches
- Culturally we understand them
  - We share their cultural and spiritual challenges





# The European Experience - CMF



# The European Experience - CMF/PRIME



# The European Experience

## Reflections...

- We need more pioneers!
- Our brothers and sisters really value it
- Nothing learned is ever wasted (God can use it!)
  
- There's never been a better time for us UK Christian medics to go to Europe!!!

# Tips and advice

Pray!!!!

Encourage those that are abroad

Go, taste, see!

Plan to be an international Christian medic

- Grow **personally**
- Grow **spiritually**
- Grow **medically**

Upcoming opportunities

# Upcoming chances to get involved

Evangelistic Medical English conference - ***Madrid, 5-7 June 2015***

Baltic Christian medical camp - ***Estonia, 6-10 July 2015***

Russian medical outreach camp - ***Russia, 3-9 August 2015***

International student conference - ***Ukraine, October 2015***

Western Europe ICMDA meetings - **Various locations!**

Other locations possible - we have the links if you have the willing

The world is your oyster!

(get in touch! [aaron.poppleton@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.poppleton@gmail.com))

# Conclusions

God is fully in control

He answers prayers - just not as we always want/expect!

Step out for him for a **functional trust**

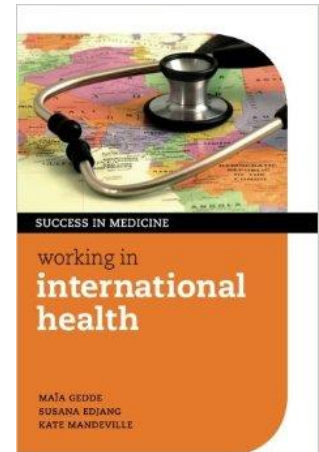
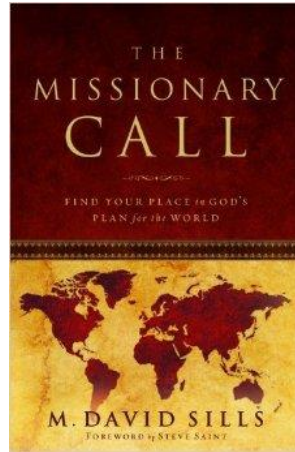
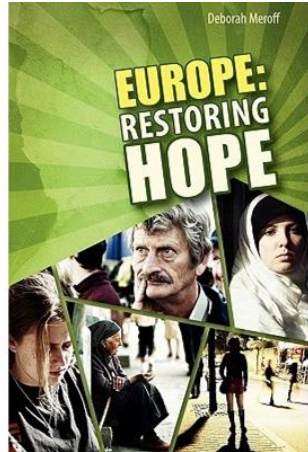
Serve him in the UK and/or abroad!

Go for it!

Book reviews

# Book recommendations

1. Europe - Restoring hope (Deborah Meroff)
2. The Missionary Call (M. David Sills)
3. Morning and Evening (C.H.Spurgeon)
4. Working in International Health (Maia Gedde et al)



# Thank you for your attention



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