



Can it be me?
Marjory Foyle

- Christian Medical Fellowship 2006
- £8.00 Pb 152pp
- ISBN 0 90674 7368

CMF member Marjory Foyle is a recognised expert on the effects of stress in Christians working cross-culturally. *Can it be me?* is her autobiography, detailing a life spent serving God as a medical missionary in India and Nepal and later as a psychiatrist.

Marjory stepped out in faith as a young woman fresh from medical school and let God lead her overseas. She travelled to India and began working as an obstetrician and gynaecologist. As a female doctor, she was a rare breed on the mission field and her skills were desperately needed as many women would rather die than be treated by a male doctor. Her hours were long but she was sustained through regular prayer and continual communication with God and other Christians. She recounts many anecdotal stories of the operations she performed and the unusual conditions that were rife in her population.

God then called her from India to Nepal. Initially this was difficult for her to accept, but she went on to establish vital medical infrastructure in the country and was instrumental in the building of a new hospital.

Her work was gruelling and there was little time for rest. During her time overseas, she became clinically depressed. Later she began to recognise the inherent stressors for Christians working in cross-cultural mission. She returned to the UK and successfully obtained her diploma in psychiatry, a fore-runner to the modern-day MRCPsych. At the time, there wasn't any psychi-

atric provision for Christian workers in India so Marjory pioneered and later directed the Nur Manzil Christian Psychiatric Centre in Lucknow.

Marjory writes beautifully and *Can it be me?* contains many humorous stories

Marjory's stamina is phenomenal. After retiring from conventional medical mission work aged 60, she still continues to travel and establish mental health services for missionaries. This book is relevant to every Christian, medical missionary or not, as it is packed full of reminders that God is faithful if we entrust our lives to him.

Marjory writes beautifully and *Can it be me?* contains many humorous stories of her experiences. She traces the change in mission from the forties where women had to dress in long skirts with hats to the more liberal shorts and T-shirts of the sixties and seventies! There are also many personal photographs, spanning 40 years, of the people whose lives she has touched and the places she has influenced. I was extremely encouraged by Marjory's constant praying and the delight she takes in Scripture through all adversity. *Can it be me?* is a lesson to us all when we face trials in our earthly lives.

Liz Croton is a GP Registrar in Birmingham



Transforming Care
A Christian Vision of Nursing Practice
Mary Molewyk Doornbos et al

- Wm B Eerdmans Publishing Company 2005
- £9.00 Pb 211pp
- ISBN 0 20282 8744

This book explores the distinctives that Christians bring to their professional practice. Starting with theological perspectives on nursing practice, personhood, health and healing, the authors explore the values and interpersonal ethics that underpin a consistent Christian ethic of nursing.

They go on to look at how these values are worked out in practice in mental health, community and acute nursing. Vignettes explore the practical outworking of the theoretical sections and the authors seek to show how biblical faith should act as a springboard to treating patients and colleagues in a

distinctively Christian manner. This is a useful book to start a serious exploration of how faith and practice intersect. However, this book raises more questions than it answers. It eschews a didactic approach for one that explores issues through illustrative narratives and reflective questioning. This may be frustrating for some, but can be very helpful in enabling us to think around the issues.

While this book is squarely aimed at American nurses, it asks questions highly relevant to non-American doctors and medical students as well.

Steven Fouch is a nurse and supports allied professions at CMF



The Morning After Pill
John Ling

- The Christian Institute 2007
- FREE (0191 281 5664) Pb 88pp
- ISBN 1 90108 6364

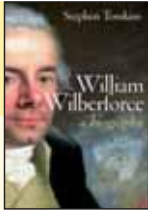
'Human life begins when a man's sperm fertilises a woman's ovum.' This is the starting point for John Ling's elegant, thoroughly researched but hard hitting book on the morning after pill (MAP).

Ling reviews MAP's history and social/personal impact. Then he demonstrates how society has been brainwashed into accepting a 'new biology' that states that, since life begins post-fertilisation, drugs such as the MAP are contraceptives not abortifacients. Ling provides extremely useful pointers from Scripture and simple logic to refute this new biology and the counterarguments that are used to defend the MAP. Finally, he suggests

what our Christian response should be.

Not everyone will like this book. Ling writes with a passion that may be construed as confrontational. Some Christians will not agree with his definition of the beginning of life whilst others see the MAP as the 'lesser evil' in the abortion debate. However, this accessible book has a usefulness that goes beyond its subject matter and could be used as a handbook for anyone wishing to apply Christian ethics in a firm but loving manner. I strongly recommend it.

Oluseyi Hotonu is a specialist registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology in Wylam



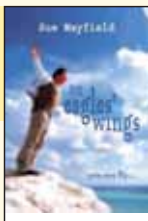
William Wilberforce
A Biography
 Stephen Tomkins

- Lion Books 2007
- £8.99 Pb 256pp
- ISBN 0 80282 5931

I have always been fascinated by Wilberforce: we were both born and bred in Hull and even attended the same school, admittedly 200 years apart! He was a truly great Christian, using his immense wealth and power to achieve his life-long mission statement: 'God has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners'. Stephen Tomkins reveals fascinating details about Wilberforce's upbringing, exposure to Methodism and education, and political career. I was moved by the account of his conversion and discovery of God's call on his life. His momentous perseverance – the

abolition of slavery took up the rest of his life – made particularly sobering reading. Tomkins has been particularly fair when weighing up conflicting literary evidence – Wilberforce's sons' huge biography of their father disagrees in places with other abolitionists' accounts. This is a middleweight biography – meatier than Piper's spiritually orientated *Amazing Grace in the Life of William Wilberforce*, yet lighter than Hague's incredibly referenced *William Wilberforce*. This is essential reading for every modern-day Christian campaigner!

Rachael Pickering is a GP in London



On Eagles' Wings
 Sue Mayfield

- Lion Books 2004
- £4.99 Pb 144pp
- ISBN 0 74594 8901

osing a parent as a teenager is devastating and these books deal sensitively with this difficult subject. They tell the story of Tony, a fifteen year old boy whose mother is dying from multiple sclerosis. His father is the local vicar and Tony has to juggle schoolwork with nursing his mum and fending off questions about her from concerned friends and teachers.

On Eagles' Wings is set in the final weeks of his mother's life and *Patterns in the Sand* picks up the story one year after her death so ideally they are best read in succession. I lost my father at the age of 14 and was impressed with the author's intuitive writing style. Tony's

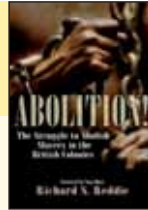
Patterns in the Sand
 Sue Mayfield

- Lion Books 2004
- £4.99 Pb 142pp
- ISBN 0 74594 891X

emotional rollercoaster is very believable. Brought up as a Christian, he burns with anger towards the God who has taken his mum from him. Happily though he eventually rediscovered faith.

The Christian thread through both books is thoughtfully written and so would be ideal for non-Christians to read. I would happily recommend them, when appropriate, to my patients. Both books though do contain mild swear words and sexual references and so may not be suitable for younger children.

Liz Croton is a GP registrar in Birmingham



Abolition

The struggle to abolish slavery in the British Colonies
 Richard S Reddie

- Lion 2007
- £9.99 Pb 235pp
- ISBN 0 74595 2291

British colonial slavery was finally outlawed in 1838 after 276 years. The British were not the first to start this outrage, but they were the first to end it.

Abolition is a well presented book. Richard Reddie describes three types of African slavery: Trans-Saharan slavery, African indigenous Chattel slavery, and the infamous Transatlantic Triangular slave trade. In addition to Wilberforce, he pays tribute to the Quakers, Thomas Clarkson and Olaudah Equiano, John Newton and John Wesley.

Bristol, Liverpool and London were the main British profiteering seaports. Surprisingly, famous

Elizabethans such as Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins (who transported 1200 slaves) profited from the slave trade, as did Queen Elizabeth I herself. The Transatlantic slave trade started in earnest under Charles II around 1662 with the development of the West Indian Colonies.

Crucial dates are 1807 (the ending of transatlantic slavery), 1833 (the total abolition of colonial slavery) and 1838 (final freedom from the deceptive apprenticeship system). The book is full of little known facts and makes fascinating reading.

Jeremy Franklin is a retired GP in London



DVD: Romance Academy

No Sex Please – we're teenagers

- IWC Media 2005
- Available from CMF for £20.00 (£10.00 for students) inclusive of postage & packaging

Can twelve teenagers give up all sexual activity for five months? Can they explore the value of relationships, learn about themselves and develop confidence and self esteem? Only one is a virgin and most have been sexually active for years. But as they abstain from sex, they experience more, not less, respect from their friends.

This DVD charts two Christian youth workers taking the group on a five month journey that includes visiting the USA to see evangelical abstinence projects such as the Silver Ring Thing. Their faith and commitment to these young people shines throughout the series. Some of

the group appear to make a Christian commitment; all of them grow in maturity and confidence.

Watch this with your teenagers and discuss what they and their friends think, say and do – and why. Pass it on to your youth leader or your local secondary school. Challenge the apparent norm in society and give our young people some reasons – other than 'you shouldn't' – for abstaining from sex. Stocks of this brilliant resource are running low so email alex@cmf.org.uk for your copy today.

Liz Walker is a GP in Farnborough