

Developing Health Course 2009

'This course was all I had dreamed of and more' – so said one of the participants on this year's Developing Health Course who had travelled all the way from USA to take part. The course has been running for over 40 years, starting as the 'Nurses Refresher Course' for missionary nurses in the 1950s. Over the years it has changed and grown into a broad, multidisciplinary programme run by CMF for two weeks every year at Oak Hill College. It provides training for those preparing to go overseas and an update for those already working there, and is accredited by the Royal College of Physicians. In addition, many who are simply interested in international work have found it a useful opportunity to learn more about it and explore the possibilities of getting involved.



This year 44 doctors, nurses and midwives of 9 different nationalities came to the course, some for one day, some for one week and some for the full fortnight which covers a wide range of topics related to working in the developing world. 34 speakers shared their expertise and a wealth of experience – they are all drawn from within CMF and many of them are leaders in their field. The course includes practical skills training as well as lecture-based teaching and small group seminars. Participants had fun learning procedures ranging from scalp vein cannulation and paediatric resuscitation to suturing episiotomies and pulling teeth, and enjoyed resuscitating fellow students and even skin-grafting oranges.



Paediatric workshop



Plastering technique



Breech presentation



...safe delivery!

As well as the hard work, there was time for fellowship and worship. CMF member Jason Roach, now conveniently a student at Oak Hill, led our morning prayers each day with a fantastic series of talks from the psalms. We were blessed with a fortnight of sunshine so time was well spent sitting out in the long summer evenings hearing about the places people had come from and were going to.



Summer evenings at Oak Hill

It is exciting to think about the impact that this course has each year. This year's participants are returning or going for the first time to 17 different countries where they will use their newly acquired knowledge and skills to care for many hundreds of patients, and to teach others who will care for many hundreds more, so that thousands of people will be treated, healed and cared for in the name of Christ.