



**A**s well as a modicum of cricket (Heroes and Heretics, page 32), this issue begins a new series of articles explaining CMF's beliefs and values. CMF holds to an evangelical basis of faith, shared with UCCF, which outlines our core beliefs. CMF members sign the simple affirmation: 'I am in sympathy with the Aims of the Christian Medical Fellowship. I declare my faith in God the Father and in God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is my Saviour, and in God the Holy Spirit. I accept the Bible as the supreme authority in matters of faith and conduct.'

The full doctrinal basis (DB) is set out in CMF's constitution, and is signed by staff and office holders. A copy can be found on page 7 and online at [cmf.org.uk/about/our-beliefs](http://cmf.org.uk/about/our-beliefs). A doctrinal basis is useful not only in laying out our core beliefs, but also in reminding us of the great truths God has revealed to us. Doctrinal statements may seem restricting, but are helpful in cases of disagreement. Perhaps as important for a non-denominational fellowship like CMF is what is *not* in the DB, reminding us that we can work together for God's kingdom even if we don't agree over every secondary issue.<sup>1</sup> The UCCF website has a good article outlining why a DB is necessary in more detail.<sup>2</sup>

CMF's Christian values can be summed up in Christ's two great commandments (Luke 10:27). 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' (Deuteronomy 6:5); and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Leviticus 19:18). A set of ten values (page 7) outline what the Bible's statements mean in the day-to-day life of a Christian medic.

We hope to cover one 'belief' and one 'value' in each *Nucleus* over the next three or four years, showing why these are true, important and relevant today. We especially want to show how the 'beliefs' shape our practice of medicine, and how the 'values' are based on what the Bible teaches, giving practical examples throughout.

We're also including some more of the great material in CMF's archives. Most of what we've published from the mid-1990s onwards is online, but there is much good material that predates this. Although some of the illustrations may occasionally seem dated, or the language formal, the eternal truths of God's Word remain. God's glory is for all generations (Ephesians 3:21).

Articles and letters for *Nucleus* are always welcome. These can be sent to the CMF office at any time – you don't have to wait for publication day! We are always happy to give feedback and suggestions on articles; the only 'rule' is that articles must be consistent with the Christian faith as expressed in the Bible. Most articles cover topics that are both Christian and medical, with a few being Christian but less medically specific.

We look forward to receiving more letters and articles – why not start by telling us what you think about the articles in this issue? =

REFERENCES

1. For a fuller treatment of disagreements, see Crutchlow L. When Christians Disagree. *Nucleus* Spring 2012:10-14 [cmf.ji/18A3IH9](http://cmf.ji/18A3IH9)
2. [www.uccf.org.uk/about/why-we-have-a-db.htm](http://www.uccf.org.uk/about/why-we-have-a-db.htm)