**Speakers Track (Scotland) Invitation**

CMF wants to train Christian doctors and other healthcare professionals to be ‘thought leaders’ and speakers on key issues in medical ethics. Medicine is a profoundly moral practice, speaking into what it is to be human and into issues of life and death.

As medical professionals, it is particularly important that we speak into these issues, both because they will affect our own moral practice and because we have an authority that many others will not.

Speakers’ Track seeks to understand how to root medical ethics in truth and life.

Many conferences and groups are looking for Christian medics to speak with wisdom and clarity on a number of issues. We would love to see a core group raised up in a more intentional way to do this.

The proposal is as follows:

**Participants** – 8-10 people (based in Scotland or northern part of England) commit to an 18-month journey together.

**Training** – Professor David Galloway will lead the training input (supplemented by guest speakers) which will happen up to six times in year 1 usually on a Saturday. The first date has been set as Saturday 14th November 2020. Dates and venues would be at times most acceptable to the group and COVID-dependant (with some being online via Zoom).

Training will include topics such as:

* Beginning of Life Ethics
	+ Abortion
		- What is the heart of the debate? What are the common pro-abortion concerns or questions? Engagement with pro-choice arguments e.g. The Moral Case For Abortion by Anne Furedi. Group Presentations.
	+ Contraception
		- What is the theological debate surrounding contraception? When do different contraceptives act?
	+ Surrogacy
		- What are the arguments for surrogacy? What is the legal framework regulating surrogacy? What is the biblical model of parenthood? What are the dangers both practical and philosophical with surrogacy?
	+ Artificial Reproduction
		- What is the biblical model of parenthood? Does the artificial reproductive model fit into this biblical framework?
* End of Life Ethics
	+ Euthanasia
		- Contrast and compare Oregon approach vs Netherlands Approach e.g. focus on personal autonomy vs ending suffering. What has been the practical outworking of such approaches?
	+ Withdrawal of hydration and nutrition
		- To what degree can mechanisms of hydration or nutrition be classed as ‘treatment’? What is the law in this area? What does the bible say of feeding the hungry and thirsty?
	+ Organ Donation and Presumed consent
		- What is the rationale behind Presumed consent for organ donation? What are the practical/philosophical implications?
* Ethics around Sex and Gender
	+ What is gender dysphoria? What is meant by the terms sex and gender? What is the medical evidence in these areas? What is the Christian model of male and female?
		- Why might God have given us this model? What is appealing about it? What is misunderstood?
* Brain death
* Resource Allocation
* Conscientious Objection

At each meeting there will be prayer and discussion around the topic of the day. 2-3 group members will present **talks ranging from 20-40 minutes (as specified):**

* Target Audience defined e.g. Secular/Christian; Medical/Non-Medical; Age Range
* Setting defined: Church/Christian Union Event/Medical Ethics Discussion Group/School
* Time Limit agreed beforehand by the senior leaders.

**Speaking** – you will be expected to take up at least two opportunities in the two years by joining the CMF Speakers list. This might be at churches, apologetics events and other conferences.

**Cost** – there is no cost to the track; you will need to cover all associated expenses including travel. CMF Office involvement will be minimal, and we will ask one of you to administrate the Track i.e. be the key contact point, set Doodle polls for meeting dates, correspond with David Galloway etc.

**Growing** – overall this is a chance to grow. You will be able to share talks/PowerPoints, ask questions, ask for feedback on your talks etc. We will encourage you to share material, opportunities, and generally grow in a mutually edifying environment.

**Commendation** - one of the members of the current Track writes:
*“I've loved being part of the Speakers’ Track. We've covered a wealth of topics - how to prepare for public talks (spiritually and practically); how to approach different audiences (both Christian and secular, church and medical); how to handle difficult interviews. The most interesting for me has been debating moral theology - trying to discern and convey God's truth in areas that especially affect medics re the theology of the body. The group have become very close knit and have provided an invaluable support and prayer network. God's truth is made to be shared and lived out. This group helps you to be part of that.*

We aim to see this track start in September with 6 sessions over the first year. If you are keen, please count the cost as to whether you can make such a commitment at this stage.

**Closing date for expression of interest is 28th September 2020.**

Please see the attached application form and send to john.greenall@cmf.org.uk

Yours in Him

David Galloway, John Greenall and Audrey Chalmers