

## Biblical faith in the matrix of history

2016 sees record conference attendances

If Christ is not raised, the apostles are knaves and the church deserves to die, declared Professor Don Carson at the CMF National Conference in April. At the heart of our faith is the fact that 'Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures... was buried... raised and will return' (1 Corinthians 15).

The gospel, he said, is

christological, irrevocably Christ-centred. It embraces with equal fervour his death and resurrection. It is theological, bound up with the reality of judgement, which is the backdrop to all that Christ came to do. It is biblical. Christ died for our sins 'according to the Scriptures', the fulfilment of OT story lines. It is apostolic. The witness of the apostles is our access to God's self-disclosed revelation. It is historical, 1 Corinthians specifies that Jesus was buried and rose. The biblical faith is given in the matrix of history; it turns on the resurrection of Jesus and does not expect us to believe what is not true.

Professor Andrew Tomkins in his Rendle Short Lecture 'Tackling Global Health Inequalities' explored the impact of exclusion in global healthcare. Being poor is 'bad for your health' he told the conference. 'There are many jobs with Christian, multi-faith or secular organisations overseas. It is nearly always possible to join and contribute to a local Christian fellowship. The term "Christians in Global Health" is now used to describe the remarkable range of ways in which Christian healthcare professionals can make a difference.'

CMF is mightily encouraged with record attendances at our student and national conferences, 450 and 470 respectively.

### John Wyatt is new CMF President

Professor John Wyatt has accepted the invitation to be the next CMF President. He is a long-standing and honoured member of the Fellowship, formerly Professor of Ethics and Perinatology at University College London and served on the Ethics Committees of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. For over 20 years he was a consultant neonatologist at University College Hospital. CMF roles include chairing the Medical Study Group. He is also the author of *Matters of Life and Death* and *Right to Die*.



### Prayer summit shares the vision

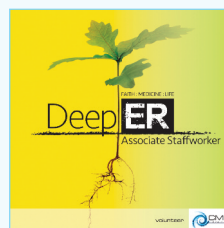
Our CMF Prayer Summit brought together nearly 70 members and staff at Yarnfield Park, Staffs, over the weekend of 17-19 June. It was an opportunity to pray in depth for the life and witness of the Fellowship. The context in which we are set is full of challenges: an NHS under pressure, global instability, threats posed by militant Islam and increasing hostility to Christian beliefs. Participants considered the 2020 ACTIVEVision – our key priorities for the next five years. Roundtables contributed and fleshed out ideas for Advocacy, Communications, Training, International partnerships, Volunteering and Evangelism. One innovation was holding the CMF General Committee and annual meeting at a non-London venue.

### 'Watchers' launched

CMF is launching a new prayer strategy, and we want to explore the use of social media platforms to boost and enrich intentional prayer. We are launching a closed Facebook Group named 'Watchers' to share prayer updates. Participants are invited to develop new ways to boost prayer, drawing inspiration from Isaiah 62:6. The group is open to CMF members, visit [facebook.com/groups/CMF.Watchers](https://facebook.com/groups/CMF.Watchers)

### High impact volunteering

Chuck Noll, a famous American football coach, once said, 'The mercenaries will always beat the draftees, but the volunteers will crush them all.' The new Deep:ER programme is an avenue for younger doctors and students to take time out to learn new skills and work among students. As volunteers, we long to see them grow in understanding of how God is calling them to live out their faith through medicine, building foundations for life. This mirrors our desire better to equip and train those passionate to see God's kingdom built through the work of the Fellowship, for example our 230 Links, filling over 400 posts connected to workplaces, churches, specialties, foundations and deaneries. There's more to come so look out for more details in print and online.



### CMF Finances

The April accounts show an encouraging picture. The overall income was just above budget and expenditure just below budget giving an overall deficit of £9,000. This is £8,000 better than budget. Thank you to all who continue to support the ministry of CMF through donations and subscriptions.

### Spring Appeal

A reminder. CMF hopes to raise £80,000 to ensure our work is properly resourced and can continue. Please prayerfully consider making a generous contribution. [cmf.org.uk/appeal](https://cmf.org.uk/appeal)

## Nurses

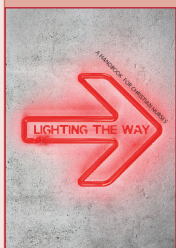
Watching faith grow

One of the joys of my role as Nurses' Student Staffworker is seeing nursing and midwifery student leaders grow in their faith, confidence and gifting [writes Staffworker Pippa Peppiatt]. As I travel the country trying, with God's grace, to start new CMF groups, my prayer is that I can spot and recruit the right student leaders who will truly serve the groups and personally flourish at the same time.

Sophie, a rep from Southampton, writes: 'I have loved being a student rep for CMF Nurses and Midwives this year. The group has allowed us to establish a great support network of students, helping us to explore issues that we face as Christians in healthcare, and share experiences and coping mechanisms.'

Membership among nurses and midwives continues to grow slowly. CMF now boasts 210 qualified nurse-midwife members. Some 18 qualified nurses attended the CMF National Conference. Social media is proving an excellent way to contact nurses and the CMF Nurses' Facebook Page has over 700 participants.

### Lighting the Way



The title of our new Handbook for Christian nurses, due for publication later this year. *Lighting the Way* runs to 40 chapters and includes biblically-based advice on some of the

key spiritual, ethical and professional issues nurses face. There are, in addition, 40 devotional 'thoughts'.

### Updating the conference room

A generous donation has enabled CMF to replace audio and video equipment and install a hearing loop in the conference room at Johnson House in Borough, London.

The next project will be replacement of library shelving. There is a high demand for CMF's conference facilities and this is a valuable income stream for the Fellowship. The kitchen has also been upgraded with a durable industrial-standard dishwasher. A big thank you to an anonymous supporter for these generous gifts.

## New staff members

CMF's two new recruits

### Meet Fi McLachlan

On 1 September Fi McLachlan takes the baton from Vicky Lavy as Head of International Ministries. We put some questions to Fi:



Fi McLachlan

**What inspired you to apply for the role?** You know the joke: the Sunday school child on being asked 'What's grey and climbs up a tree?' replied 'I know the answer's Jesus but it sure sounds like a squirrel!' So the easy answer would be to say God – but I had been looking for what might be my next step. Having 'dabbled' at the edge of the medical world for some years, and having a concern for urgent needs around the world, this seemed like a good fit.

**Can you tell us something about your past work experience and how this led into your coming to CMF?** I started life in social work – some GP attached, some hospital – and progressed into management within the Christian voluntary sector. I became more interested in how organisations can be most effective so undertook an MBA on this theme. I've worked with some organisations where doctors have been part of CMF, have advertised through CMF for roles – and hey presto. I have now accepted a role with CMF.

**Can you tell about what you bring in terms of international experience?** I started working overseas with organisations in Eastern Europe involved in child care. I sensed God opening my

### Meet Charis Fisher

Charis joined the staff on 21 June, succeeding Tom Roberts as Editorial Assistant with the Communications team.



Charis Fisher

**We asked how she first heard of CMF.** I first came across CMF in my first year of university when I went to a talk on *Matters of Life and Death* by Peter Saunders. I was struck by some of the statistics concerning abortion and it showed me the need for Christians to defend what the Bible says about life.

**What did you study at university?** I studied English and History at Southampton.

**Tell us about your family and church** I'm grateful that my family are Christians and

eyes to urgent needs around the world. This led to me moving to work with Interserve, living in Malaysia, and travelling extensively in Asia, Eurasia and the Middle East. Latterly I have worked more in Africa doing HIV-related work.

**Your church?** I have been in a number of different churches and denominations as a Christian – from Baptist to Assemblies of God, Anglican to New Frontiers and I currently worship in a Baptist church, where I sometimes lead or preach, and share in home group.

**Family?** I was brought up in Scotland where two of my brothers and wider family still live. I live in Sussex with my husband Mark.

**Your impressions of CMF, why it's important, what attracted to join us?** Having travelled widely, met and worked alongside a good number of doctors, who may be working away from their own birth country - I realise the importance of staying connected with a network of those who have similar passions and beliefs and where you can receive encouragement, training and support. I see CMF as a wonderful resource for Christians seeking to live out their faith through their work. I hope I can contribute to helping CMF develop.

**What else?** I love meeting people and would welcome the opportunity to meet groups or individuals and explore how people can serve God with their talents and skills in the workplace. Do get in touch (after 1 September).

enjoy being the youngest of four. (One of my sisters is getting married this year, which I'm really excited about.) I'd like to get settled quickly into a church in London; at university my church family was Christ Church Southampton, of which I loved being a part.

**What prompted you to consider coming to CMF?** Both the talk in my first year and the great things I was hearing about CMF from medic friends and family were influential. As an English student, I hadn't thought about working in anything related to medicine (unsurprisingly) until I was forwarded the job advert by a friend. I enjoy editing and proofreading and thought it would be a great way to use my degree, help support Christian students and doctors, and learn about Christian medical ethics.

## Advocacy & Public Policy

### Decisions and submissions

#### BMA decides

The British Medical Association (BMA) has reaffirmed its opposition to assisted suicide with a vote at its annual conference in Belfast (21 June). Two CMF members, Mark Pickering and Will Sapwell, were prominent in the debate and the final vote was 198 to 115. Peter Saunders, CMF CEO, commented that neutrality is 'the worst of all positions' and the margin of the defeat 'surely means this matter should be settled for the foreseeable future.'

#### Abortion and conscience

We encouraged CMF members to participate in the parliamentary inquiry into freedom of conscience over abortion. The deadline for submissions was 11 July as CMF News went to press. Fiona Bruce MP is the prime mover in the inquiry which seeks to examine whether the Conscience Clause in the 1967 Abortion Act provides adequate protection for doctors and other healthcare professionals who do not wish to be involved in termination of pregnancies. There are worries that freedoms envisaged in the Act are being eroded. See *CMF Blogs* for details.

#### Recent submissions

Some recent CMF submissions: All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health (February 2016), Nuffield Council on Bioethics on Genome Editing (February 2016), Nuffield Council on Bioethics: Cosmetic procedures (March 2016), NHS Public Consultation on Gender Identity Development Service (April 2016).

#### Farewell Andrew



Andrew Horton

After five years as CMF Media Producer Andrew Horton leaves us this summer to join the staff of Tearfund. Andrew has made a huge contribution to CMF, both with his video and photography skills and his go-to contributions to our Communications Team. We wish him (and Rhiannon) God's blessing in this new stage.

#### Other staff appointments

Philip Martin succeeds Andrew Horton as Senior Digital Producer and Sean Gilmore succeeds Wai Ting So as Resources Coordinator. There will be more information about them in the next issue of *CMF News*.

#### Three-parent embryos spin

The media 'spin' on the recent UK decision to treat women with inheritable mitochondrial disorders claimed that it is both safe and effective. Not according to careful research findings. The decision leaves many ethical dilemmas and confirms concerns about safety, which US research has highlighted.

#### NIPT consultation

CMF is responding to the call from the Nuffield Council on Bioethics for views and evidence on non-invasive prenatal testing. The Council will explore the ethical, legal and regulatory implications of recent and potential future scientific developments in non-invasive prenatal testing, including its use in both the NHS and commercial services. A report from the working group is expected towards the end of 2016.

NIPT measures fetal cells present in the mother's blood which is claimed to be 99% accurate in detecting Down Syndrome and fetal sex. At stake here is that if it is possible to predict all potential disabilities in unborn children, it will open the door to increased demands from parents for terminations, not only on grounds of disability but for other spurious reasons, including the sex of a child.

#### Juniors on the move

The early autumn season is crucial for junior doctors moving to new locations. The CMF Welcome Scheme is now in its fifth year. It ensures that students moving to F1 jobs can be linked to local CMF members and don't get 'lost'. Letters are sent to all graduating students and those who respond receive a free copy of *Foundations*, one of CMF's most popular publications.

#### Special Interest Links expand

A fresh initiative is the formation of CMF Special Interest Links. So far 13 have been formed. They are for CMF members with shared professional or personal circumstances and interests with the aim to disseminate news, information and resources, broaden connections and deepen fellowship. Examples include: army and navy medics, drug and alcohol recovery, cross-cultural communication, coaching and mentoring, working with torture victims, prison medics, women in surgery.

## Students

### A busy world

John Greenall, Head of Student Ministries, writes: So much is happening in the student world. God is at work and he is calling medical and nursing students to join him; our role is to listen and then encourage and exhort them to follow him with their whole lives.

This must be fuelled by prayer to have any impact, so please pray for:

- **The Deep:ER programme** which launches in September – as we finalise the details, and for our new volunteers.
- **Nursing student groups** – one year into the process and nine groups have been established! Do pray for them and the new leaders, that God would direct and grow this work as we depend on him in prayer.
- **The three summer teams going to Lithuania, Belarus and Philippines.** We have launched a short-term missions committee and are looking at several exciting opportunities to envision students and juniors for mission; please pray for students to have a heart for mission.
- **Freshers** – we are launching a Freshers' *Nucleus* edition later this year; please pray for the thousands of students who will arrive at medical and nursing schools in the UK over the coming months. We long for them to begin well; please pray for student links and graduates as they welcome them and call them to live and speak for Jesus.
- **Resources** – for wisdom as we review and develop our multimedia resources.
- **The National Students' Committee,** that they would develop as godly leaders as they oversee the work.

#### Congratulations



Howard Lyons

Warmest congratulations to Howard Lyons, former CMF Treasurer, who was awarded the CBE in the 2016 Queen's Birthday

Honours for services to Healthcare Management. Howard was until recently Managing Director of Healthcare UK.

# ICMDA

a vision for global witness

**K**evin Vaughan writes: The vision of the International Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) is to have a Christian witness through doctors and dentists in every community in every nation. Currently 75 countries are members. However this represents only half of the countries in the world. More needs to be done, especially in the 'closed' countries where we have a few contacts but no national movement. To facilitate regional activities ICMDA has been divided into twelve regions. This year many of the regions are having their own conferences: East Africa in December, Southern Africa in July, West Africa in August, South Asian in October; Oceania in August. Recently in Georgia there was an excellent consultation for leaders in the Eurasia region.

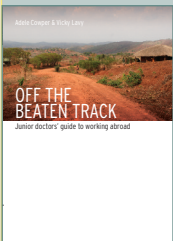
In 2014 it was decided to develop language groups and now at least five language groups have their own identities within ICMDA. Many of them will be having conferences in their own language the coming year; French in August, Portuguese in March, Russian and Arabic in February, Spanish in October.

Online training is being developed, working with students and doctors. This is an interactive way for individuals or groups to learn at their own pace. Subjects available for training will include leadership, ethics, worldview, vocation and governance.

ICMDA runs an online Masters in Family Medicine course in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. Occasional face-to-face sessions are held in Uganda, Egypt, India and Nigeria. Those interested in volunteering to teach please contact Dr Sangeeta in the ICMDA office at [geeth03@gmail.com](mailto:geeth03@gmail.com).

*Kevin Vaughan recently completed his term as Board Chair of ICMDA.*

## Off the Beaten Track... a new resource for junior doctors



When should I go? What could I do? Would I be any use? How can I get ready? These are questions junior doctors ask as they wonder about the possibility of working overseas. Our UK training system can sometimes feel like an endless conveyor belt, but there are opportunities to take a sideways step...off the beaten track. Paediatric trainee Adele Cowper set out to answer some of these questions and, with Vicky Lavy, has written a practical handbook specifically for junior doctors. Alongside all the information and advice are stories and reflections from others who have already walked this path.

# Governance

Changes agreed

## Constitutional changes

**A** Special General Meeting of the Fellowship met on 18 June and approved a raft of constitutional changes to bring it into line with CMF's Memorandum and Articles. The key change is the inclusion of the CMF mission and values statements and changes to how committee members are chosen.

## Board ins and outs

**W**e welcome Sam Leinster, Phoebe Owen, Johnson Samuel, John Scriven, Maggy Spence, Sam Strain and Kevin Vaughan as new Board members. We bid a fond farewell and thanks to Helen Barratt, Clare Bird, Chris Borges da Silva, Mark Houghton, Bernard Palmer, Peter Phillips, Mark Pickering and Philip Ross-Smith who have stepped down on completion of their terms of appointment. We thank them for their contributions. Phoebe Owen is the new chair of the Junior Doctors' Committee and Sam Strain is the new chair of the National Student Committee. We welcome new members of the CMF Council of Reference: Andrew Fergusson, Glynn Harrison, Margaret Hodson, Trevor Stammers, Andrew Tomkins and John Wyatt.

## Obituaries

**Marion Sanders**, wife of Keith, the second CMF General Secretary (1974-1989), went to be with the Lord on 23 May after a long battle with Alzheimer's dementia. A service of thanksgiving was held at Tewkesbury Abbey on 17 June, where CMF was represented. Please uphold Keith and the family in your prayers.

**John Berkeley** (q 1949) was a GP in Fort William for 13 years; he worked in India & Bhutan with the Leprosy Mission, and was involved with mountain rescue. He was the first president of the Scottish Mountain Rescue Society. Died 6 March 2016.

**Joy Paterson** (q Cambridge, 1953; MRCP, 1963) was involved in geriatric medicine in Scotland for most of her career. Died 1 April 2016.

**Joanna Peacock** (q 1956) was a Scottish GP; she worked at the Duncan Hospital in India for over ten years. Died 4 March 2016.

## Movements

**Andrew McArdle** (Cambridge) to Sierra Leone  
**Rachel Greer** (Manchester) to Thailand  
**Nicholas Radcliffe** (Liverpool) to Cambodia

## CMF senior staff

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## Dates for your diary

- SEPTEMBER**
- 10 Careers Day Conference, CMF HQ, Johnson House
  - 24 Saline Solution, St Mark's Battersea Rise
- OCTOBER**
- 7 RCGP breakfast, Harrogate
  - 7-9 Northern Conference, The Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley
  - 15 Saline Solution, Bottesford Baptist Church, Scunthorpe
  - 28-30 Junior Doctors' Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire
- NOVEMBER**
- 5 London & South East Day Conference, CMF Johnson House
  - 11-13 Scottish Conference, Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Dundee

For more details see [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk)

## CMF News

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