



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

updates from across the Christian Medical Fellowship

GLOBAL

Developing Health Course 2023

The Developing Health Course (DHC), which in 2023 was on 8-15 July, is aimed at health workers serving in global health and



mission and those preparing to go. The input of bursary students from around the world enriches the learning experience for everyone. This year, we welcomed health professionals from Burundi, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Poland, and Nigeria. The course has also become a focal point for Christians in the UK involved in global health and mission and has fostered the building of relationships and a 'community of practice' that continues through the year. It runs each July at the



London School of Theology.



London School of Theology.

Alison, a midwife working for several years in South-East Asia, shared:

When I first went overseas it was very difficult. The year after I went, I came to the Developing Health Course. It was so inspiring, and I learned a lot and met such great people. The spiritual side of it was such a blessing. It was great to meet up with people who know what it's like to live in a low-resource setting, and to learn from each other. It inspired me to go back and do even more. I think I probably would have given up if I hadn't had something like this course to learn from and to be encouraged.

This year we added a Saturday afternoon

Mission Fair event with talks on 'Why mission?', 'The role of the Church in Mission', and how you can engage with the national believers when you go to work outside of the UK (including the work of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association - ICMDA). We were joined by twelve mission agencies who had exhibition stands and were available to talk with participants.

The theme for this year's course was 'Serving with Humility in Global Health'. The clinical teaching programme included training on building healthier communities, disability, mental health, paediatrics, acute care, palliative care, non-communicable diseases, women's health, and leadership. Many clinicians with significant cross-cultural experience gave their time to deliver stimulating and relevant teaching.

In the evenings, we covered topics such as integral mission, working in multicultural teams, handling conflict, engaging in a post-colonial world, and going out and returning to the NHS.

We used a wide range of learning activities - case studies, workshops, small group presentations, skills stations, complex learning scenarios, and online teaching by subject experts from India, Germany, and Uganda.

Relationships grew through sharing meals, a BBQ, a frisbee, and walks, providing significant personal encouragement. The course has evolved in the 50 years it has been running. Most of the course participants are now younger healthcare professionals planning to serve abroad for a year or two. Health workers serving overseas now come back to the UK more frequently for shorter periods. A two-week course has become one week, with online training events offered through the year.

Contact us if you are interested in attending next year (13-20 July 2024 at London School of Theology) or if there are other ways that we can support you in your journey in global health and mission. Email globalcoordinator@cmf.org.uk or visit cmf.org.uk/global/dhc ◉

Dave Moore is Associate Head of CMF Global

MEMBERS

CMF member Shirley Heywood receives health award

In September of 2023, Shirley Heywood, a UK trained gynaecologist working in West Nepal since 2003, received the eleventh annual Swasthya Khabar



Health Award from Nepal's Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, for her work with International Nepal Fellowship (INF) over the past 20 years

establishing a service for repair of obstetric fistulae.

The Swasthya Khabar Health Award is a flagship annual event of Nepal Live Group, honouring health professionals and organisations working in Nepal's health sector. This is a recognition for the work of Shirley and her team towards Nepal achieving the third Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages.^{1,2}

INF's small team of outreach workers covers three provinces in West Nepal, speaking to government at provincial, district, and local levels, giving orientation to community groups, mothers' groups, health workers, and female community health volunteers to find women with fistulae and to encourage safe birth practice. They have partnered with the Nepali government hospital in Surkhet to provide fistula surgery since 2009, initially through annual camps, but since 2018 in a 17-bed specialist fistula treatment centre.

CMF would like to congratulate Shirley for this award, and also to give God the honour for the fantastic work he has done through her and her team to improve the lives of Nepali women. The recognition of the importance of this work by the government is very encouraging. ◉

1. Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. *United Nations. un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health*
2. Fouch S. The Sustainable Development Goals one year on: A great opportunity for the church to grasp. *Triple Helix. Autumn 2106. cmf.li/2lPP4te*



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

updates from across the Christian Medical Fellowship

STAFF & VOLUNTEER MOVEMENTS

This autumn has seen a significant change in in the CMF staff team at all levels. We welcome your prayers as the new staff establish themselves in the coming weeks and months.

leaving



Pippa Peppiatt left as Head of Nurses and Midwives at the start of December after many years of building and developing the nurses and midwives ministry of CMF. A network of volunteers and supporters, and a growing and God-honouring fellowship of Christians in nursing and midwifery across the UK and Ireland are her legacy. Her infectious energy and humour will be missed by all.



Trevor Stammers stepped down as Public Policy Associate in October. He has been a prolific blogger, writer, editor, and contributor while supporting the public policy team. He is stepping back to enjoy some more family time.



Jennie Pollock left as the Head of Public Policy at the end of October to get married! Jennie has worked tirelessly as we have sought to expand the range of engagement CMF has with health policy issues and bioethics, as well as developing new resources.



Steve Sturman stepped down as Associate Head of Doctors' Ministries this December. Steve has built CMF's pastoral care ministry over the last four years, establishing a strong team of pastoral carers across the fellowship. He has also been involved in a wide range of other projects, including the support of trainees from Ukraine and support for some of our end-of-life public policy work. Steve will continue as a volunteer Associate supporting the pastoral care work of CMF.



Bethany Fuller finishes as the Peer Support Coordinator for Newly Qualified Nurses and Midwives at the end of the year, having pioneered events and resources to connect newly qualified nurses and midwives with the fellowship and support them with their transition from being students to fully qualified professionals.

Grace Dalton finishes her term with us as the Operations Team Intern at the end of the year. Grace has been instrumental in helping the team keep up-to-date with the needs and changing circumstances of members. ◦

WEST MIDLANDS DAY CONFERENCE



This autumn's West Midlands Day Conference (*A broken NHS? – Finding Perspective to Navigate a Struggling Health Service*), saw 50 delegates gather together to reflect on the life and times of the prophet Jeremiah, helping us to navigate our experience as Christians in today's NHS.

The day included time for reflection and response as well as discussion and prayer. Organised by the West Midlands Catalyst Team, all were involved in some way during the day; welcoming, leading sessions and seminars, and providing refreshments. ◦

CMF SENIORS CONFERENCE 2023

why do the young need the old?

You might be forgiven for thinking I had arrived at the recent CMF Seniors' Conference by mistake, or that I somehow misunderstood what was meant by 'seniors'. Well, rest assured that it was entirely intentional on my part, and a great opportunity for me to share the important work of the junior doctors ministry within the CMF family.

The conference as whole was a blessing, from sharing stories with senior obstetric colleagues, to hearing about work being done both at home and abroad, as well as reflecting on Psalm 71, it was a truly encouraging time. Perhaps the most encouraging for me was the willingness of older brothers and sisters to learn about how they can support juniors in their local areas, including those they supervise and mentor. It was particularly touching when delegates came and shared with me personally and thanked me for coming to tell them about the very real challenges that juniors face in 2023, and the need for godly, older, and wiser Christians to support them in their walk of faith.

So in answer to the title question, why do the young need the old? I leave you with the words of the Psalmist:

'Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds. Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.' (Psalm 71:17-18) ◦

Paula Busuulwa is Chair of the Junior Doctors Committee

NURSES & MIDWIVES

the Emerald Isle

It was good to finally go to Ireland to connect with some of our new nurse members in Dublin and Galway, and also a few Christian nurses that aren't yet members. One nurse had already begun gathering others to pray but hadn't known about CMF until now and was keen to connect. Please pray that nurses and midwives in Ireland who are in need of connection and support will hear about CMF. Also pray for a new student nurse and midwife group in Dublin, being led by two enthusiastic student nurses called Adam and Temi, reaching out to students from both University College and Trinity College. ◦

Pippa Peppiatt was CMF's Head of Nurses and Midwives



SCAN FOR MORE

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you would like to share news and stories of CMF activities in your area or workplace, please contact us via communications@cmf.org.uk. We will need copy for the spring 2024 edition by 30 March.

NURSES & MIDWIVES

A number of our nurses and midwives' student groups have reported having successful freshers' week gatherings, with the CMF Freshers' Packs being well received and new members joining. We are looking



forward to meeting together at the Student Conference in February.

When we caught up with Lily, a student nurse at UCCF Forum this summer, she said:



Since the Student Conference I have been thinking more about how to include my faith and prayer in my care. One way I found that I was able to do that was whenever I was

physically in contact with my patients, whether that was washing them or giving them injections, I was able to pray for them and include God in their care. I also found that on my last placement, on a dementia ward, in my free time I was able to play one of the pianos to my patients, and found that many of them would respond very well to Christian music like 'Amazing Grace'. It was such an encouragement to hear Christian music through the ward and know that God was there with my patients in that difficult time.

In September we held an online Writers' Day for members who wanted to develop their writing skills. Some were putting pen to paper for the first time, whilst others were honing their skills. All rated the training as 'excellent' and said they would recommend it to their friends.

'I loved how vulnerable and open the group was. There was lots of space to express ourselves and thrash out inspired ideas. The teaching was wonderful – learning from Bex and Georgie was an absolute privilege. They are such encouragers.'

'You provided helpful content/resources, but I hadn't anticipated the joy and encouragement it would bring. God has met with us today - it has been a real blessing.'

'What a wonderful day! This training went above and beyond my expectations. I would recommend it to anyone, whether they would call themselves a writer or not. It will help you find a way to honour and glorify God with words, in a way you didn't think you could do'. ◉

Gemma Griffiths is CMF Associate Staff Worker for Nurses and Midwives

STAFF & VOLUNTEER MOVEMENTS

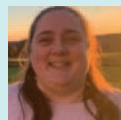
joining



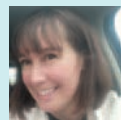
James Tomlinson joined the team at the start of October as the Head of Volunteers and Networks. James is a GP in the West Midlands and is the current West Midlands Catalyst Team Leader. He has also served as the ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary. James will be developing our ministry through and to volunteers and specialty networks.



Ben Daniel joins as the new Operations Director, taking over from **Graham Sopp**, who has held the role of Interim Operations Director since the summer. Ben has worked in various roles, including as Office Manager for an MP and Operations Manager for CARE. He brings a solid Human Resources and financial administration background, as well as a strong Christian faith and desire to serve God. Please pray for them both as Graham hands over and takes a well-earned retirement in the run up to Christmas, and Ben picks up the reins as we start a new and significant year in the life of CMF.

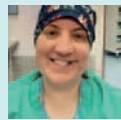


Susan Marriott joins the team as the new Associate Head of Public Policy in January, with agreement to progress to Head of Public Policy in June. Susan has worked as a GP and as a student worker with a city centre church. She is currently studying for a Masters in Theology in Christian Ministry at Oak Hill College.



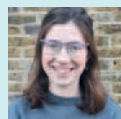
Bex Lawton has taken over from Pippa Peppiatt as Head of Nurses and Midwives having served as Associate Head of Nurses and Midwives for the last two years. She also works as a paediatric nurse in Oxford. Bex brings a passion for the spiritual growth of nurses and midwives, as well as many other creative gifts. Please pray for them both during this time of transition.

Lizzie Chitty joins our team as a new Associate Staff Worker for nurses and



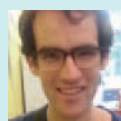
midwives, especially those with a global connection – either those working in the UK from other nations, or those from the UK working around the world. She will also be joining the European Committee of Nurses Christian Fellowship International (NCFI) to represent the UK and Ireland. Lizzie is a nurse based in Nottingham with many years' experience of nursing with Mercy Ships. She is volunteering with us one day a week, so please pray for her, as it is a lot to pack into just one day!

Sally Palmer joins the team as the new Field Team Administrator, taking over



from Marolin Watson, who stays on with the Field Team as a volunteer one day a week. Sally will manage a lot of the correspondence, event administration, and other work that keeps the Students, Nurses & Midwives, and Doctors teams working.

Leo Hacking has joined the Student team to help coordinate and support the running of the SYD (Student and Young Doctors) conference/training week in January. SYD brings together students and newly qualified health professionals from across Europe and the wider world for a week of intensive training culminating with the CMF student conference.



Paul Mehdi is working as a volunteer in the Global Department, and brings many skills, including film making, to the team.