

WEEKEND

Isaiah 40
Isaiah 41
Isaiah 44

EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE
RAISED UP, EVRY MOUNTAIN
AND HILL MADE LOW...

grasshopper

comfort?



how **BIG** is our

NC24

19-21|4|24

**BIG
GODS**

4/24

cmf.li/Nat...

rivers flow

creation

John 3:16

EVIDENCE ♦ EVIDENCE ♦

44:5

cmf.li/NatCon24

blacksmith

Lift up your
voice with a
shout

~~All people are like grass.~~

tends his flock?

Who can fathom
the spirit of the
Lord?

evidence
③

DO YOU
NOT KNOW?
HAVE YOU
NOT HEARD?

eales??

sits
enthroned?



national conference 2024



national conference
19 – 21 April 2024

Yarnfield Park, Stone,
Staffordshire



Join us for a fantastic residential weekend conference for all Christian healthcare workers and their families for excellent teaching from God's Word, wonderful fellowship, and great food!

How big is our big God?

'Bewitched, bothered and bewildered'. The title of this old jazz standard is an apt description of how many of us feel in our current cultural moment. We can often feel downcast, dispirited, and dishevelled. We need something to pull us out of ourselves. We need something to pull ourselves together! In order to do this, we will need to see the big picture. More importantly, we will need to see our big God. It is this vision alone that will give us the reorientation and rejuvenation we badly need. In this case, the book of Isaiah is the appropriate medicine to prescribe.

At this year's CMF National Conference, we will be looking at three chapters in Isaiah. These chapters are familiar to us, but far from being pretty and sentimental, they are powerful and cutting, as they constantly contrast the living and life-giving God to dead and death-giving idolatry. It is in this comparison that we will rediscover our identity, our strength, and our witness to declare hope in a hope-less world. In our cultural climate, meeting together is more important than ever, so we look forward to seeing you at our annual conference.



PLENARY SESSION

Surviving & thriving in the workplace

Amidst today's cultural landscape, how can Christian healthcare professionals effectively address workplace challenges while being a blessing to those around us? What defines success in the eyes of God?

Join us in this plenary session as John shares personal insights, draws wisdom from Scripture, and integrates these with findings from staff surveys. Together, we will explore how to survive and thrive as God's ambassadors in healthcare. And how we do we do this with kindness and consistency amidst the inevitable tensions we face in healthcare leadership, and in so doing bear fruit that glorifies the Lord. This session offers a space for honest conversations and prayer.

PLENARY SPEAKER



John Drew has been Director of Staff Experience and Engagement at NHS England for the last three years, which includes responsibility for the annual NHS staff survey and the national health and

wellbeing team. He also led the implementation of the NHS People Plan during the pandemic.

He joined the NHS in 2017, as Director of Improvement and Culture at a large teaching hospital, having previously been a partner at McKinsey working in the Operations and Healthcare practices. He is an Associate Fellow at Green Templeton College, Oxford where he teaches on the Management in Medicine programme, and is a trustee of Samaritans and 4Front Theatre, a Christian theatre company. He is married with three grown up daughters and lives in Worcester, where he is part of All Saints church. He is hooked on parkrun and is the proud owner of a Morris Minor pickup.

MAIN SPEAKER



Dan Strange is the Director of Crosslands Forum, a centre for cultural engagement. Formerly he was College Director at Oak Hill College, London. He is a visiting professor at

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, contributing editor for Themelios, Vice President of The Southgate Fellowship, and a Fellow of The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics. His most recent books are *Plugged In* (The Good Book Company, 2019), and *Making Faith Magnetic* (The Good Book Company, 2021). Dan is married to Elly, has seven children and a foster child, and is an elder of Hope Community Church in Gateshead in the North East of England.



GENERAL INFO

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORK

This year, the Youth & Children's program will be led by a team of passionate and dedicated YWAM (Youth with a Mission) workers who are committed to making a positive impact in the lives of young participants.

They will organise the young people in age groups, creating activities that inspire each one to live a life of purpose and meaning. YWAM is committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment where they can discover and develop their talents and abilities.

PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING



CMF's Pastoral Care Team will be available for times of listening and prayer. We would be pleased to make time to meet with you.

ONLINE GATHERING

We are offering an online option for those who are unable to join us in person at Yarnfield Park. This is an online gathering via zoom to join only the main sessions at the following times:

- **FRIDAY - 19.45-22.00**
The great big God – Isaiah 40
- **SATURDAY - 09.15-11.30**
Identity: his, and ours – Isaiah 41
- **SATURDAY - 19.30-21.30**
Plenary Session: Surviving & thriving in the workplace
- **SUNDAY - 11.00-13.00**
Idol comments – Isaiah 44

In addition, there will be interviews, time for reflection and break out groups.

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 19 APRIL

From 17:00	Registration
18:30	Dinner
20:00	MAIN SESSION 1: The great big God – Isaiah 40 <i>Dan Strange</i>
22:00-22.30	Night prayers

SATURDAY 20 APRIL

From 07:00	Breakfast
08:00-08.30	Morning prayers
09:30	MAIN SESSION 2: Identity: his, and ours – Isaiah 41 <i>Dan Strange</i>
11:15	Coffee break
11:30	SEMINAR SESSION 1
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Free Time
15:30	Coffee
16:00	CMF CONNECT meet others near where you live & work
17:15	SEMINAR SESSION 2
18:30-19:30	Dinner (Optional early family dinner at 18:00)
19:45	PLENARY SESSION: Surviving & thriving in the workplace <i>John Drew</i>
21:00	Free time
22:00-22.30	Night prayers

SUNDAY 21 APRIL

From 07:00	Breakfast
08:00-08.30	Morning prayers
09:30	SEMINAR SESSION 3
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	MAIN SESSION 3: (plus Communion) Idol comments – Isaiah 44 <i>Dan Strange</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Depart



REGISTRATION

Due to significant increases in CMF overheads and Yarnfield utilities, food, and employee costs, we have sadly had to raise our conference prices.

CMF members, however, benefit from a discounted rate, and you can still save on early-bird rates if you book soon! The weekend costs cover the conference, an ensuite/family room, and all meals and refreshments from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

If you are serving overseas or other similar circumstances where earnings are substantially less than NHS work, please email events@cmf.org.uk

BOOKING

EARLY BIRD RATE

for bookings made **BEFORE 29 February** (not applicable for day visitor rate)

STANDARD RATE

for bookings made **AFTER 1 March**

IN PERSON

BOOKING CLOSES: 2 APRIL

ONLINE GATHERING

BOOKING CLOSES: 19 APRIL

Please note: we regret that any bookings after 2 April 2024 will incur an additional late booking fee of £30 to cover extra administration costs and only if spaces are available.

CANCELLATIONS

No refunds will be given for cancellations after 2 April 2024 except under special circumstances. If you cancel your booking, payment will be returned with the deduction of a £40 administration fee per adult.

COST

Standard (Including non-healthcare professionals)

NON-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£300

STANDARD RATE

£340

CMF-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£270

STANDARD RATE

£310

FY1/Nurse/AHP/non-medic healthcare worker

NON-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£210

STANDARD RATE

£250

CMF-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£180

STANDARD RATE

£220

Junior Doctor (two to four years post qualification)

NON-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£230

STANDARD RATE

£270

CMF-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£200

STANDARD RATE

£240

Student

NON-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£160

STANDARD RATE

£200

CMF-MEMBER

EARLY BIRD

£130

STANDARD RATE

£170

Child (member or non-member)

AGE 0 - 3

FREE

AGE 4 - 11

£65

AGE 12 - 17

£100

Day Visitor (Full Day)

SATURDAY

ADULT

£100

CHILD

£35

SUNDAY

ADULT

£50

CHILD

£20

Online Gathering (via Zoom)

SELECTED EVENTS

£50



SEMINARS

You will need to choose your first three preferences and one reserve choice on the application form in this brochure or online cmf.li/NatCon24

1

Dealing with tricky situations as a Christian – what do we uniquely bring and how do we apply it?

We all have influence, and therefore lead, however junior or senior we are. Even saying nothing and doing nothing is saying something and doing something! It is often not the tricky clinical scenarios that are difficult, but rather those areas where we lead, where we are trying to make a difference for God in a resource strapped and often ungodly workplace that are difficult.

LEADER

Chris Holcombe is a recently retired breast surgeon who has held multiple leadership roles within the NHS. He is passionate about the difference that good Christian Leadership can make to Healthcare. It can transform both the working environment and quality of care given. Chris leads CMF's Christians in Healthcare Leadership Network. Chris is married to Sue, has four children and eight grandchildren, and goes to the mountains whenever he can.

2

The ripple effect: vicarious trauma and vicarious resilience in medicine

As John Donne reminds us, no-one is an island. Because we are involved with people, their stories impact on us. In the context of medicine this includes dealing with and hearing stories of trauma, which can result in what is now known as vicarious trauma. In this workshop we will explore the nature of vicarious trauma in the context of medicine, what can be done to identify it, to minimise the risk, and to manage it. We will also touch on the concept of vicarious resilience, and on the positive impact on others of the resilience of many trauma survivors.

LEADER

Rhona Knight was a GP, medical educationalist, and academic for over 25 years, focusing latterly on the health and wellbeing of healthcare professionals. Following ordination she has developed an interest in ministering in times of trauma. She is the author of the Grove Booklet *Mission in a Time of Trauma*.

3

The pursuit of excellence and the perils of perfectionism

There is obviously nothing wrong with striving for excellence, but sometimes that pursuit seduces us into the unhealthy realms of perfectionism. Our culture surrounds us with images of perfect bodies, perfect houses, perfect cars, etc. We will explore the assets and liabilities of perfectionism, delve into what produces the perfectionist drive, and finally look at ways to work against extreme thoughts to find a healthy balance. Ultimately it is a deep understanding and experience of grace that begins to free us from the chains of unhealthy perfectionism.

LEADER

Richard Winter is Professor Emeritus of Practical Theology and Counseling at Covenant Theological Seminary in St Louis, MO, USA. He is also a Psychotherapist/Counselor who was trained in medicine and psychiatry in England before being on the staff of and a Director of the English branch of the L'Abri Fellowship. He was a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He is the author of *Perfecting Ourselves to Death: The Pursuit of Excellence and the Perils of Perfectionism*, and books on depression and on boredom.



4

Building a just society: Implications of biblical justice for healthcare

SEMINAR
SLOTS
1 & 2
ONLY

What is God's design for a just society? How we can address inequities in healthcare to bring whole-person health to the vulnerable? This seminar will unpack some of the rich biblical descriptions of God's design for a just society and how to apply it to our practice in healthcare.

LEADERS

Joe Watson is a Core Anaesthetics Trainee in the Mersey Region. He was raised in Sudan and has a passion for alleviating global health inequalities. He has an MA in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response and currently serves on the committee for the Global Anaesthetics, Surgery, and Obstetrics Collaboration (GASOC).

Felicia Wong is CMF Head of Conferences & Equipping, and a GP in London. She is passionate about encouraging Christians to embody justice, and reflecting hearts aligned with God's own.

5

Dare you share the gospel at work?

Come and have a taste of the renowned Saline course. This has been a helpful tool for over 1,000 healthcare workers in the UK, helping them to be salt and light in the workplace with patients and colleagues. It is practical, full of real-life stories and guaranteed not to make you feel guilty. Various trainers will contribute. Bring your questions and leave feeling inspired and equipped. Previous participants are welcome to share their stories or just have a refresher.

LEADERS

CMF Saline team

6

Riding the current of God's global heart

Ever fancied a helicopter ride? Come for a helicopter view of the nations, then come down to land on how we can daily live with God's heart for the nations

LEADERS

Fi McLachlan is CMF Head of Global. After years at the 'coalface' of need in the UK, God pushed Fi's mental map out to 'urgent needs around the world'. Since that time Fi has worked in mission, lived overseas, and has been heading up CMF's global work for the last seven years. She is passionate about enabling others to develop a global perspective, reflecting God's heart.

Katherine Aiken is a broad-based trainee based in Northern Ireland, and a current member of the CMF Junior Doctors' Committee. She is a past participant of CMF's Global Track.



SEMINARS

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7

Marriage & family life in healthcare

'You can have it all' - bold aspiration or dangerous lie? 'I can do everything through him who gives me strength' - so why does it feel as though I am collapsing under the strain? How do we work out priorities in marriage and family life, while also trying to serve the Lord in our work, church, and wider lives? What role is there for sacrifice, compromise, trying harder, settling for less, paid-for childcare, stay-at-home parents, career success, or family first? Don't come expecting experts or easy answers.

LEADERS

David Randall is a nephrologist who works full-time;

Abigail Randall is a salaried GP whose clinical work commitment oscillates with an alarming frequency in the unrelenting search for a sweet spot. Family life varies between occasional calm waters and regular total chaos. They live, work, and worship in Tower Hamlets with their four school-aged children.

8

Abortion choices; valuing both lives

What would make a difference to reducing abortion? How can we make abortion less common? Abortion remains one of the most divisive topics of our day, and yet whilst many have strong opinions, the people at the centre of the debate can often be sidelined. We want to explore how we can support and counsel women considering abortion, encouraging and enabling more women to choose life. We will share some of the resources and work CMF is currently doing to better equip those in the community to speak compassionately on this topic.

LEADERS

Mark Pickering is CMF Chief Executive and a secure environment GP. He oversees CMF's public policy ministry on issues at the beginning and end of life, and gender & sexuality, often in collaboration with other Christian organisations.

Paula Busuulwa is an obstetrics and gynaecology trainee in Merseyside, and the chair of the CMF Junior Doctors Committee. She enjoys singing and spending time with family and friends, preferably while enjoying a good meal.

9

Walking with God: the adventure of prayer

We all know that prayer is vital in our walk with God, and yet we consistently find it a challenge. We frequently feel guilty about our failing to make prayer the priority in our lives we believe we should. This seminar is not a burdensome series of 'steps to a successful prayer life'; rather it is an exploration of the amazing opportunity we have of an interactive relationship with the Creator of the Universe. It really is a wonderful, joyful adventure, this two-way communion with the Lord. It is this exciting and immensely rewarding adventure that we shall explore in greater depth, through Scripture and real-life experiences. There is no greater joy than finding our communion with God to be vibrant and life-giving!

LEADER

Alasdair Fyfe is a retired paediatric surgeon, from Scotland. He is married to Lena, with three grown-up children, and five grandsons. Having left his Christian faith in his mid-twenties to mid-thirties, his restored relationship with the Lord left him longing to know God better, learning to listen for his voice, and to encourage others. Initially as youth-leader, then an elder in his home church, he has extensive experience in leading, preaching, and pastoral care. Alasdair is still very active in his own church, and a Pastoral Partner with CMF.

SEMINAR
SLOTS
1 & 2
ONLY



10

Trans-identification and gender identity – walking with our children!

As parents, grandparents, youth workers, or medical professionals, we may feel this is a whole world that we don't understand. We feel at a loss to know how to engage and walk with children or youth who are struggling with distress around gender. This seminar will help you gain some understanding and begin to equip you to engage in a biblical and compassionate way.

LEADER

Julie Maxwell is married to Alistair and they have three adult children (all still living at home). She has over 20-years experience as a Community Paediatrician and has been involved in Christian youth work for most of her adult life. She is the Deputy Director of Lovewise (a Charity that seeks to help teach young people about marriage, sex, and relationships from a Christian perspective). She also supports young people and families experiencing distress around gender.

11

Embodied anxiety

SEMINAR
SLOTS
1 & 2
ONLY

Anxiety can feel an unwelcome and debilitating part of everyday life. We see it everywhere: in our patients, our colleagues, our friends, and our families. And many of us also see it in ourselves. Anxiety feels overwhelming, isolating, and exhausting physically and emotionally. There are many sources of help for anxiety, but do we ever consider the spiritual component? God has created us with an external, physical body and brain, and an internal, covenantal soul. The two are inextricably intertwined, including when we are anxious. This seminar will help us to connect all aspects of anxiety together to give us a deeper, embodied understanding of what we're experiencing.

LEADER

Catherine Haddow is a psychologist who runs The Cornerstone Ministry near Trowbridge in Wiltshire. She works 1-2-1 with believers struggling in areas such as abuse, trauma, anxiety, and anger from an embodied-soul, biblical perspective. Catherine also writes on pastoral care topics as well as providing training for church leaders and theological students in these areas. She lives on a working beef farm and is married to Richard. They have three children and numerous pets.

12

Giving, generosity, and Christian philanthropy

We will explore the profound wisdom of Christian giving and philanthropy through our seminar, 'biblical foundations of giving'. In this event, we explore key biblical principles of giving and delve into stories of remarkable generosity in the Bible. Together, we will celebrate the transformation that comes with a generous heart. There will be time for reflection and testimony on how these principles can be practically applied to your life. Together, we will find inspiration to make a lasting impact through Christian giving and philanthropy.

LEADER

Hannah Gibney is Head of Growth & Relationships – Philanthropy at Stewardship. Hannah joined the Philanthropy Services Team in 2019 to help reach out to new and emerging philanthropists. Her previous roles have been in the Christian and secular spheres, and she is passionate about seeing people released into the fullness that God has for them. She loves working in a team with the primary aim to help people experience freedom through generosity. She lives and worships in Bristol, and is concerned about justice, children, and youth.



SEMINARS

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13

Magnetic faith, magnetic spaces

SEMINAR
SLOT
3
ONLY

In this seminar Dan will outline the major themes from his book *Making Faith Magnetic*. Our focus will be the 'religious consciousness' of all human beings which can be summarised as 'magnetic points' – perennial themes and questions which all humans beings answer in their lives. These magnetic points are a fruitful way of thinking about evangelism, discipleship, and cultural renewal in whatever cultural context God has placed you.

LEADER

Dan Strange is the director of Crosslands Forum, a centre for cultural engagement. Formerly he was college director at Oak Hill College, London. He is a visiting professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, contributing editor for *Themelios*, and vice president of The Southgate Fellowship, a Fellow of The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics and author of *Plugged In*, and *Making Faith Magnetic*. Dan is married to Elly, has seven children and a foster child, and is an elder of Hope Community Church, Gateshead.

14

NURSES AND MIDWIVES SEMINAR: Spiritual skills drill

Is your spiritual practice portfolio out of date? Are you overdue your continuous spiritual development training? Would you like to brush up your spiritual skills in preparation for your VIVA or OSCE? If the answer is 'yes' to any of these questions, come along to our spiritual skills lab where you can learn the theory, but also put into practice how to live out your faith on the frontline. We will run scenarios covering topics such as:

- How to avoid being drawn into gossip and negative conversations with colleagues.
- How to glorify God in our interactions with our patients.
- How we can spiritually debrief with friends/family/God instead of using numbing or avoidance strategies

LEADER

Bex Lawton has been practising as a paediatric nurse for 18 years in Oxford and is CMF Head of Nurses and Midwives (N&M); Gemma Griffiths works as a midwife helping to deliver the 'saving babies lives' care bundle, and is our N&M Staff worker; Sue Holcombe is a nurse trustee for the Association of Breast Surgery, a CMF Pastoral Partner, and CMF Associate for Whole Life Faith

CMF BOOKSTORE



cmf.org.uk/bookstore

10 of those

Don't forget to check out the CMF Bookstore throughout the conference. There will be a wide selection of challenging and relevant Christian books from *10 of Those* and CMF. Cash, cards and phone app payments all accepted.

BOOK-AID.ORG



Book Aid Charitable Trust collects Bibles and Christian books to send overseas to resource poor areas to provide good quality material at affordable prices. There will be a collecting point at conference. Any questions to Sheila.matthews.cmf.org.uk