

EAT update

New training track

The track has been a huge encouragement already—effective evangelism is absolutely imperative, it's incredibly personal, and it's much more possible than you may think' said Anna.

The Evangelism and Apologetics Track (EAT) has hit the ground running with their first training session of the year. The track members travelled to beautiful



Oxfordshire in May for an extremely hospitable and intensive Persuaders conference, hosted by Head of UCCF, Richard Cunningham and CU Staff

Worker, Ollie Lansdowne. After a hearty meal (the first of many), the conference saw the enthusiastic participants rise to the challenge of persuasive evangelism by giving 15-minute lunch-bar style talks. They then engaged in a Q&A session, before receiving feedback from all in attendance. Talks drilled down into a variety of topics, including Christianity as a psychological crutch, arrogant Christianity, and the problem of pain.

At the conference, track members reflected on Paul's example of persuasion (Acts 17:16-34). He took deliberate care to meet his audience where they were, to challenge their position and then to move them towards God. A framework of 'Identification, Persuasion and Invitation' became the working basis for the talks.

'Men despise religion. They hate it and are afraid it may be true. The cure for this is to show that religion is not contrary to reason, but worthy of reverence and respect. Next, make it attractive. Make good men wish it were true, and then show them that it is.' – Blaise Pascal, 17th century mathematician and physicist

The conference proved a valuable opportunity to meet and learn from friends in UCCF, Mark Pickering (CMF Chief Executive) and Richard Scott (CMF Evangelism Associate). Richard is developing a new evangelism course for track members ready for September.

CMF Biblical Justice

Felicia Wong, CMF Head of Graduate Ministries explores bringing health to the vulnerable

Does your heart burn within you to 'defend the weak and the fatherless, to uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed?' (Psalm 82:3)

Justice ministry is on the hearts and



minds of many in CMF. There are myriad opportunities to address injustices and inequalities in healthcare.

We are in the first stages of thinking about and developing a CMF Biblical Justice programme, which will look at how we can address inequities in healthcare to bring whole person health to



the vulnerable; at how we can stand up and speak out for the voiceless; at how we can unite and equip members to engage with biblical justice; and at how we can connect and share stories of the work that members are already doing.

Why 'biblical justice' rather than 'social justice'? Social justice focuses on addressing temporal injustices in society. Biblical justice starts with the eternal in mind, seeing people as created in the image of God.

The Hebrew word for justice is *mishpat*, outworked by advocating for the vulnerable (eg. Isaiah 1:17) and changing social and political structures to prevent injustice (eg. Ezra 7:25).

Righteousness and justice are inextricably linked in the heart of God. He is the God who upholds the cause of the oppressed, who provides for the poor and liberates the prisoner; he sustains the marginalised and the vulnerable.

So, what might CMF Biblical Justice look like? It will be distinctly Christian and medical, unashamedly pointing to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The basis for our actions and definitions of justice will be clearly framed by Scripture, rather than the secular values of society.

Who and what are some of the areas where we can 'do biblical justice' and 'bring health to the vulnerable'? Refugees and asylum seekers, addicts, prisoners, the homeless, those suffering from mental health conditions, and survivors of domestic abuse or human trafficking are just a few groups of

people to consider. There are areas such as the inequity of resource allocation, priorities in public health, biased attitudes, undelivered healthcare promises, poor service provision, the pharmaceutical industry and service planning where biblical justice could also be applied.

As healthcare professionals, we see and know more than anyone else in the church about the inequities and disparities in healthcare. But we can also see solutions. We have a duty to stand up, speak out and make a difference.

CMF has a significant part to play and affords a unique and appropriate platform for Christian doctors and nurses in the UK to 'do justice'. We want to see members involved in advocating for the vulnerable and changing social structures to prevent injustice wherever God has placed us.

And by doing so, we want to be known by the NHS and society as people who love and care and 'stick out our necks' for people for whom no one else is willing to, because we are disciples of the one true and living God, who has a heart for the vulnerable, the God *'...who though rich, yet for our sakes, became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich'*. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Watch this space for more information in the coming months.

New CMF podcast

We are launching a new CMF Podcast in July. Produced and hosted by CMF Associate

James Howitt, each episode of *1st Incision*

will be a 20-30 minute interview with a Christian working at the cutting edge of medicine, nursing and other related fields. Upcoming episodes will look at topics

as diverse as: mindfulness, caring for transgender patients, end of life care and burnout etc.

Episodes will be available fortnightly, firstly on the CMF website (cmf.org.uk/resources) and subsequently from your usual podcast providers (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Acast, Soundcloud etc.). Please subscribe and remember to rate us on your podcast provider of choice.

