

Looking ahead to 2020

Mark Pickering anticipates a challenging year

The end of the year is always a busy time within CMF. The Student Team are engaging with the new intake of students up and down the country and we are in the midst of the autumn conference season. Inside this edition, you'll read more about the wonderful time we had at the Junior Doctors' Conference, where 150 juniors took time out from the mayhem of their working week to focus on 'Walking the Talk'. John Wyatt reminded them of the perils of unhealthy perfectionism and of how our frail and fleeting human existence can be captured for eternal significance as we submit ourselves to God's gracious plans.

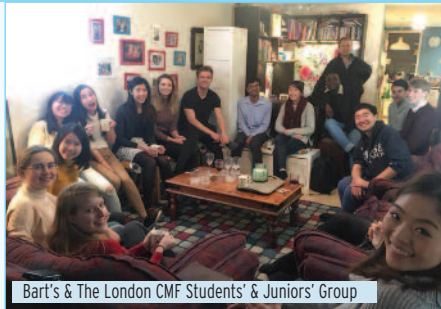
Prior to this, I was delighted to meet 13 international delegates at the Sydenham 2 Conference. All of them are serving the Lord in challenging situations, from Albania to Burkina Faso to India and Thailand. They went home hugely encouraged by the support and resources that CMF staff and members were able to give them; back to their own growing national movements where they will continue to apply the lessons learnt.

As I write, I am looking forward to meeting members during my first visits to the Scottish Conference in Edinburgh and the Seniors' Conference in Derbyshire. I'm excited to hear what God is doing north of the border and in the lives of those for whom decades of service are leading on to different opportunities and challenges in a new season of life.

Looking forward

At CMF, we are looking intently forward to the coming year, as we consider what the Lord is laying before us. At the CMF Board meeting on 5 October, our ministry plans for the year were met with enthusiastic approval. Here are a few tasters for you:

- Taking **Catalyst Teams** to the next level – we now have nine regional teams that are changing the local face of CMF around the country;
- Implementing the **Pastoral Care** project – the day conference on 7 December is the next step in embedding care for struggling members into our regular priorities;
- Increasing our **church engagement** – a new churches e-newsletter is due to launch soon (please let us know if your church or pastor would value this);
- Reshaping our **Public Policy** Department – increasing the focus on supporting members to engage with issues and to speak out;



Bart's & The London CMF Students' & Juniors' Group



SYD2 delegates



Saline training, Northern Ireland

- Launching new tracks and workshops – such as **Health and Justice** and **Medical Politics**, in order to resource and support members operating in challenging fields.

Our intrepid team of staff, along with our growing band of volunteers are well placed to move forward on these projects. We greatly value your prayers and ideas as we do this.

Challenges for the year ahead

We do, however, face a very significant financial challenge in making this vision a reality. The exciting ministry expansion of recent years has proved difficult to match with regular, sustained giving. We are now in a position of needing to be particularly focussed on sustainability and rebuilding our financial reserves.

As many of you will have read in my Christmas Appeal letter, we plan to achieve the above without employing new paid staff, but instead by focussing on growing our capacity through training and supporting key volunteers to help in specific areas. This is not only an increasingly efficient use of the resources that God has given us; it is a wonderful training opportunity that brings encouragement to staff and members alike.

Yet despite that commitment to operating within our existing finances, we still face very significant challenges in meeting our ministry aims. If you haven't done so, please do consider giving to our Christmas Appeal at cmf.org.uk/appeal. Please also pray for the staff and Board members as they look hard at ministry priorities and efficiency options in preparing for the Board meeting on 30 November, when the budget for 2020 will be decided.

CMF is a family. We're in it together. The office staff, Board members and volunteers up and down the country are all there to help you be better supported and more effective as a Christian doctor, nurse, midwife or student, both now and in the future.

During 2020, we'll be engaging with members as we begin to lay plans for our next five-year plan from 2021-2026. Do make the most of some of the various opportunities we have for support and service both nationally and within your region and do let me know your thoughts. It's always a joy to know what God is doing in the lives of members; I would love to hear from you.

Mark Pickering is CMF Chief Executive

Public Policy

Updates

Edinburgh debates

CMF, CDF (Christian Dental Fellowship) and LCF (Lawyers Christian Fellowship) organised a major series of debates on whether Christianity still has a role in the public square, particularly in health and healthcare. The debates were held at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh on 25 October. Around 140 people, Christians and non-Christians, including lawyers, doctors, dentists and lots of others gathered to hear a lively debate with plenty of contributions from the floor. There was a good atmosphere, with a willingness to listen and think about the issues. Mona Siddiqui was a brilliant Chair. Prof. David Galloway spoke well and thoughtfully against a robust opponent in Jeremy Purvis. Other debaters included Donald Findlay QC, Andy Bannister, Donald Macaskill and Paul Coleman. There was a good buzz afterwards and opportunities for some deep conversations.

Saline Solution training in Northern Ireland

In early October, we had a great weekend in Belfast running the last Saline Solution training of trainers course for this year. We now have an Irish team which comprises a midwife, a dentist (and her baby!) a retired physician, a GP and a medical student. What a great team God has put together and they are already planning their first Saline training event. We are hoping this team, although all from the North will be able to reach out to the whole island of Ireland with Saline training and help healthcare workers to be confident in living and speaking for Jesus in the workplace.

This is the last training of trainers planned in our current Saline strategy, as we now have trainers well-spread throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Stephanie Moss, Associate for Workplace Evangelism

Volunteers

Updates

Deep:ER

In September, we welcomed a new cohort of Deep:ER Fellows. The Deep:ER programme is a one year volunteering and training programme for students on an intercalating year, the newly qualified and those taking an early career break (eg an F3 year). Over the course of the year, each will be working on a specific project or series of projects within the wide range of CMF ministries. Alongside practical action, they will be trained and disciplined by CMF members and staff. The aim of a Deep:ER fellowship is to help young doctors and nurses go Deep:ER into their faith and profession and to discover how God is at work in the interface.



This year's Deep:ER Fellows are: **Anastasia Donnir**, **Leo Hacking**, **Jacob Oguntimehin**, **Caleb Owomoyela** and **Ros Revans**.

Associates

This autumn we also welcomed two new Associates:



Gemma Irvine

Gemma Irvine, who will be working one day a week as a Nurses Associate Staff Worker. Based in Glasgow, she will also be supporting student nurse groups in Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh.



David Smithard

David Smithard has joined the Communications and Public Policy Teams one afternoon

a week as the *Triple Helix* Editor and on various writing and research projects for the Public Policy Team

Associates are CMF members who give up anything from half a day to a couple of days each week to work on dedicated projects within CMF. Each role is tailor-made around the individual member, and can vary from student ministry to administrative support, to teaching and training in specialist programmes like Saline Solution.

If you want to know more about Associates, Deep:ER or other volunteering opportunities at CMF, visit cmf.org.uk/volunteer or contact John Greenall visit cmf.li/JG_Vols

CMF Pastoral Care Program update

Many thanks to those who have completed the National Pastoral Care Survey. Some early analysis suggests that a significant number of Christian doctors and nurses feel a need for pastoral support that is focussed and does not appear to be available in their church settings. Other major themes include managing expectations in themselves and from others, workload and burnout. We will be publishing the findings in depth in due course, but there is a clear message that the pastoral needs of Christian healthcare staff are real and significant.



Steve Sturman

It has also become clear that many members feel called to help in this area and CMF wants to encourage the development of pastoral gifts in members who want to be involved. We are exploring ways to recognise those who want to help other members pastorally by establishing a recognised Pastoral Care Partner role. We are also seeking to support these Partners by gathering together people with special experience to form a Pastoral Care Advisory Group. Do pray for wisdom as we think this through and that the Lord would lay this on the hearts of those who should be involved.

If you are interested in looking further into partnering with CMF to provide pastoral care, then please do contact Steve Sturman, Associate Head of Doctors Ministries: steve.sturman@cmf.org.uk

Christ Centred Pastoral Care for Healthcare Staff, 7 Dec, Johnson House, London



What might good Christian pastoral care and mentoring for clinicians look like? How do we help one another to 'grow in grace', recovering a sense of God's rule in our lives?

This one-day conference explores the need for pastoral care for clinicians and how we might be equipped to meet it. To book and for info, visit cmf.li/PastlCareConf19

Global

PRIME: Partnerships in International Medical Education



In addition to teaching whole person, values-based healthcare around the world, PRIME has been running several seminars in the UK on 'Compassion without Burnout' to mixed participants in various NHS settings (gently introducing Christian concepts in a secular context to support hard pressed colleagues). This is in addition to the 'Values Added' course, aimed at Christian junior doctors and other health professionals in the early years of their career. The course is for use in small discussion groups to explore practical ways of practising in a whole person, compassionate manner that points people to Jesus.

PRIME is currently in a process of leadership transition, as the original founders of the movement start stepping aside for younger and fresher faces to take it on, trusting that the Lord who has raised up this work will continue to lead and guide it into the future. Sadly John Geater, the original and main founder of PRIME, died in September 2019 (see his obituary on page 4). Meanwhile, the work continues. In 2018, 116 tutors ran 79 programmes in 32 countries providing 616 days of teaching to over 4,000 participants.

The next PRIME International Tutors' Conference will be in March 2020 in Northampton See prime-international.org.uk for more information.

Developing Health Course (DHC) 12-24 July, London School of Theology, Northwood, Middlesex



A two-week, residential course on Christian healthcare in global settings for doctors, nurses, midwives and other health professionals. To book and for info visit cmf.li/DHC2020

Window to heaven at Sydenham 2

Sydenham 2 (or SYD2) is CMF's annual week-long leadership course for junior doctors who are involved in leading Christian medical groups in their own countries. (SYD1 is for international student leaders and held in January or February).



This October we hosted 13 delegates from ten countries around the world (Thailand, India, Burkina Faso, Ukraine, Romania, Albania, Serbia, Canada, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines and Switzerland). These are young doctors and dentists who are passionate to live for Jesus Christ and to lead and train future generations to do the same.

We often forget how privileged we are in the UK to have such a wealth of resources for Christians in medicine and other health professions. This conference was a chance for us to share some of this through teaching on medical ethics, advocacy, evangelism, leadership, discipleship, and mentoring and global health.

My heart was overwhelmed, and I choked up with tears of joy when others within the group generously gave money for the relief of some of their number who found themselves in acute need – a beautiful picture of the church that Paul wrote about in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

A thank you from one of our African brothers: *'We have seen the love of Christ through your work in our lives. We have been touched by your sympathy. You bear our burdens. We are so grateful for your support. Thank you for your help. We pray that God will bless you. The Almighty fill you with His grace.'*

Sydenham is a glimpse of heaven as we see 'people from every nation, from all tribes and people and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb' (Rev 7:9-10). It is such an amazing privilege and blessing that CMF can be involved in this strategically vital ministry.

Please continue to remember and pray for our brothers and sisters in the medical profession in countries around the world.

If you would like to be involved in this kingdom work in any way (giving, volunteering, hosting a meal, meeting or sponsoring delegates) please contact Felicia: felicia.wong@cmf.org.uk

JDC2019

Building up a new generation for Christ



At the end of October, the Lord gathered together 150 junior doctors from around the UK at the CMF Junior Doctors' Conference. With the theme 'Walking the talk – practical obedience to Christ as a junior doctor', John Wyatt gave Bible talks on 'ambition', 'resilience' and 'presence', sharing his personal experiences of walking with Christ as a doctor.

The Junior Doctors' Committee did a great job in planning and organising the conference – from seminar content to regional and speciality tables at meal times to enabling junior doctors to share stories of God's goodness and faithfulness in their working lives among colleagues and patients.

Our current generation of Christian junior doctors need the help of the rest of the Fellowship to pray and walk with them in their work and witness to the Lord Jesus. Pray for and encourage them to be emboldened and empowered by the Holy Spirit to shine for Jesus, for they in turn will be the ones shaping the next generation of Christian doctors who are now medical students.

Please also pray for the Junior Doctors' Committee – for wisdom, and clarity of vision. Their vision is to ensure that no junior doctor is isolated but is within reach of other Christian doctors for fellowship encouragement and discipleship.

If you have a passion for building up CMF junior doctors in Christ and would like to be involved in our ministry in any way (hosting a group, training, giving, writing, social media, mentoring, pastoral care etc.) please contact Felicia: felicia.wong@cmf.org.uk

Nurses & Midwives

Nurses Christian Fellowship International (NCFI)

Pippa and team were at the NCFI European Regional Leaders' Training Conference at Felden Lodge in Hemel Hempstead in early



October. 33 delegates from Christian nursing fellowships and groups in Spain, Norway, Finland, Armenia, Romania, Germany, England and Scotland came for three

days. The aim was to gather the pooled but different experiences of the leaders of different Christian nursing movements across Europe shared between different fellowships and to bring together young, emerging and potential leaders with established leaders.

The overall feedback was positive, and the links and fellowship between individuals in different nations was very positive. New links and partnerships have begun to develop as a result, and it was a great encouragement for the CMF Nurses Team. They are now working towards our input into the NCFI World Congress in the US next year.

Nurses Team

As the number of nursing and midwifery groups around the UK (including Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland) grew to eighteen this autumn, with others coming online all the time, the team has had to grow to keep pace. Gemma Irvine has joined the team as an Associate Staff Worker in Glasgow, linking with the Catalyst Team there. Student nurse groups are now running in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee. We hope to get one off the ground in Glasgow soon, so she has plenty to keep her busy!

Rachel Denno will be joining the team in the New Year as a Nurses Associate Staff Worker with a particular focus on developing support for student nurses and midwives as they transition to becoming qualified staff.

Movements Going

Chris Hinton to Kyrgyzstan (July 2019)
Will & Daisy Taylor to Gambia (July 2019)
Nathan Lawrence to Madagascar (September 2019)

Returning

Katy Linley from Madagascar (July 2019)
Sarah Parry from Cambodia (July 2019)
Karen Michell (July 2019)
Nicholas Jackson (October 2019)
Alison Jackson (October 2019)

Obituaries

Dr John Geater MBE (q 1967, Birmingham)



John Geater

John served most of his working life as a GP in Hastings, but God had laid a wider world on his heart. Medicine, a profession that had once been an expression of the love of God, but which was now arid and secular. But all wisdom and knowledge were supposed to belong to God, so John was determined to win the knowledge and wisdom of the medical professions back for the kingdom of God. Starting with four friends in a pub garden, over 25 years he built up a ministry bringing a whole person, Christian values-based approach to the teaching of medicine. This is now practised in more than 60 countries. This ministry is now known as PRIME [see page 3].

Renowned for his tangential thinking, passionate communication, deep love of the Lord Jesus and mischievous sense of humour, John was a role model and inspiration to many. He went home to be with the Lord in September.

Dr David Hill (q 1959)

Dr Norah Campbell (q 1959, Oxford)

Mr Theodore Welch FRCS (q 1958, UCL)

Dr Andrew Williamson (q 1951, Edinburgh)

Dr Bruce Macartney (q 1952, Bart's & The London)

Staff Movements

Leaving



Philippa Taylor

Philippa Taylor, CMF Head of Public Policy for the last nine years left in September to head up the CARE Interns Programme.



Lavinia Miries

Lavinia Miries has been working as CMF Global Coordinator and supporting John Greenall with Volunteer department administration for several months. She will be doing some part-time work for membership services and communications for the next few months. She is looking to return to medicine.



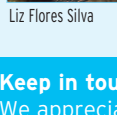
Rindai Sithole

Rindai Sithole joined as the Graduates Coordinator in August.



Jennie Pollock

Jennie Pollock joined at the start of October as Associate Head of Public Policy.



Liz Flores Silva

Liz Flores Silva joined in October as the CMF Global Co-ordinator.

Keep in touch

We appreciate information about members returning and moving or notices about those who are 'promoted to higher service'. Please contact Steve Fouch at: steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk

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Dates for your diary

NOVEMBER

18-20 **Seniors' Conference**, The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire
 23 **Saline Solution**, Leicester
 30 **Saline Solution**, Stratford
 30 **Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health Course**, Liverpool

DECEMBER

7 **Christ Centred Pastoral Care for Healthcare Staff**, Johnson House, London

JANUARY

31 January – 2 February
National Student Conference, Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire

APRIL

24-28 **National Conference**, Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire

JULY

12-24 **Developing Health Course**, London School of Theology, Northwood, Middlesex

For further information please contact: events@cmf.org.uk.

CMF News

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