

Looking back to look forwards

Mark Pickering considers how understanding the past can give us strength for the future

Do not say, 'Why were the old days better than these?' For it is not wise to ask such questions. (Ecclesiastes 7:10)

Times are bad. Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book.
(Cicero, c43BC)

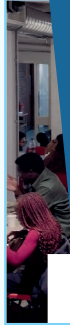
Digging into the archives has become something of a passion for me. It is always encouraging to see what our forebears did in the service of Christ in the medical and nursing professions. But a love of history can become a vice as well as a virtue.

Setting sins dog us as we grow longer in life. We are to see the past in a halcyon glow. 'The good old days' becomes one of our favourite phrases. We edit our memories, looking back at the summers were warmer, society was more sophisticated. Consequently, we decide to live for the future. This is the sin of the new and the innovative. We develop a forward, future-facing attitude. History as irrelevant. We are called on to rise to the challenge. We will put things in perspective. Paris.

of nostalgia is that we were in the good old days. It is an illusion that leads us on the way to ruin. *It is inexcusable*. The hubris is already relevant or even previous generations in connection to the world that holds



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today is without precedent. Nostalgia
 fears where things are going, and hubris
 struggles to find the answers but believe
 that the future must be better. Godly
 wisdom tells us that things can get worse
 and stay bad for a long time, but God
 remains faithful. There is always a way
 through the present darkness. We may be
 living on Easter Saturday, but we know
 that with the dawn of Easter Sunday,
 things will change in marvellous ways!

In this autumn's *Triple Helix*, I have written about the history of the nineteenth-century medical mission movements that helped inspire and give birth to CMF. It is striking how some rose quickly, burned brightly, but soon collapsed, or faded away over time. Others are with us to this day, growing, changing, and adapting. We still have a lot to learn from those who went before us. But we are not constrained by that history – because God did not stop working when the twentieth century dawned. Where is he leading us today? What is the Spirit doing in our day and age, and how do we join him?

One thing we have learned is that spiritual resilience is vital. We have researched what makes for resilient disciples of Christ among CMF members and how CMF's ministry can help foster such resilience.¹ You'll see examples of that in this edition of *CMF News*. Another is that we see the power of building community. CMF can never replace the fellowship of the local church. But we are building local networks uniquely placed to support Christians in the workplace through work-based fellowships and specialist Christian communities of practice. As the author of Ecclesiastes reminds us, *'Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up.'* (Ecclesiastes 4:10-11)

As we look back, around, and forward, CMF's three-year (now five-year) strategy to go wider, clearer, and closer seems more relevant than ever. Please join us in the coming year to go $\Delta \Rightarrow$ by drawing in new members to the fellowship. Help our communication to be $2x$; \Rightarrow by spreading the word to colleagues and friends about all we are doing. Help us to grow $2x$ \Rightarrow by getting involved with local workplace fellowships, Catalyst teams, or specialist networks.

To quote another famous author who understood the power of history to shape the present and the future: *"I wish none of this had happened." "So do all who live to see such times, but that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."* (JRR Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings)

Mark Pickering is CMF Chief Executive.

References (accessed 4/10/22)

Rayel I, Greenall J. Factors Contributing to Resilient Discipleship in Healthcare. *CMF*. September 2002. cmf.lj/ResilientDisciple

Leadership

Christians in Healthcare Leadership Network

On Saturday, 17 September, over 60 healthcare leaders joined in-person and online for the first hybrid day conference of CMF's Christians in Healthcare Leadership Network (CHLN). Talks from five experienced leaders complemented breakout groups and discussions.

There was time to dream of how we could better unite and equip Christian healthcare leaders to live and speak for Jesus in their places of influence. CHLN exists to unite and equip Christians in healthcare leadership – both current and future – and welcomes non-clinical leaders and managers. We meet monthly to pray. For more information and to register your interest, see cmf.li/CHLN.

Saline Solution

Hundreds of thousands of people have now been touched by the Saline Solution course worldwide. Saline courses have continued in the UK over the last few years, in-person and online. The course aims to give health professionals the confidence to share their faith at work by providing tools they can use with permission, sensitivity, and respect. We have been encouraged by testimonies from participants about how God has used their witness to break down spiritual barriers and plant seeds of hope. The online course has allowed CMF to reach Christian health professionals in many different countries. Many participants ask to attend the course again or train to teach it themselves. Saline courses can be adapted to suit individual groups or localities. Please get in touch via marolin.watson@cmf.org.uk

Global

Global Track and overseas trips

CMF's fourth Global Track has started! Do pray for the 14 participants and the mentors supporting them after our introductory weekend at All Nations Christian College in September. Global Track is an 18-month programme to help Christian health professionals explore their calling to global mission. Find out more at cmf.li/GlobalTrack

Forthcoming overseas trips

CMF Global organises visits to overseas healthcare mission partners to allow members to grasp a vision of how they might serve God in global health and mission, short or longer-term. We organise the visits in conjunction with well-established mission and health organisations in each country.

\$: >7 =>8?> : join us on a trip to encourage our brothers and sisters in Health Outreach Middle East as we serve the needs of refugees and internally displaced people. The eight-day trip is planned for early April. ~ 8<7-1? > * 1 / < 7-9 join us to catch a vision for how we can serve in a Christian hospital in the Middle East. Many specialties are required! Dates 3-10 March 2023.

Please register your interest or chat about these trips, email Fi McLachlan (Head of CMF Global) at fi@cmf.org.uk

Christian workplace groups

Christian workplace groups are a fantastic opportunity for prayer and fellowship – to be part of a Christian healthcare community to encourage and spur one another on in Christ, and to pray for your workplace.

We are very grateful to Dr Karen Flood for her role as CMF Workplace Associate over the past year, and we wish her all the best in the new season that God has for her. But there is still much work to be done to build more workplace fellowships. If you feel you have a passion and calling in this area, please do get in touch.

Also, if you know of any Christian

Students

all change for the new academic year

The beginning of a new academic year marks the start of a fresh cycle of activity for the Student team.

This year, the team consists of Rachel Owusu-Ankomah (Head of Student Ministries), Laurence Crutchlow and Chris Borges da Silva (Associate Heads),

Marolin Watson (Field Team Coordinator), and Liz Birdie Ong (Deep:ER Fellow). Chris steps into Ashley Stewart's shoes, though she continues to be active as a volunteer in Northern Ireland.

Our big event this term will be the joint ICMDA Western Europe/Irish Conference taking place 21-23 October 2023 in Athlone, Ireland. Here we hope to see not just students from Ireland, but students and graduates from across Western Europe gathering for fellowship, fun and food. Our main speaker is Dr Paul Coulter, who will talk about our living hope from the book of 1 Peter.

On 12 November, the National Student Council (NSC) meets. One or two student representatives from each region and two nurse/midwife reps gather at Johnson House in London to report, help plan the National Student Conference, pray for student groups in their region, and plan the forthcoming issues of *Nucleus*, CMF's student magazine.

National Student Conference

Booking for the National Student Conference (3-5 February 2023) will open soon. There is a reduced rate until December. This year's keynote speaker is Dr Giles Cattermole on the theme "The Church and the World".

Based on Luke's Gospel and the book of Acts.

Once the dust has settled from the Student Conference, we will prepare for Student Leaders training at the National Conference. All our 60 student links are encouraged to attend, especially those new to the role. Backed by online resources and a student leaders' manual, the training hones their leadership and practical skills leading CMF

student groups. It also gives them an invaluable introduction to the wider CMF family.

Between these highlights, the Student team are busy interacting with students remotely and in person. In an increasingly challenging healthcare environment, pastoral care and student welfare is more needed than ever.

Junior doctors

The turn of the season comes with many exciting changes. For us this has meant a new Junior Doctors' Committee.

Whilst it was sad to say goodbye to our wonderful 2020-22 team (Ella Kim, Silas Anderson, Roy Edward, and Leo Hacking),

we are very thankful to God for a group of equally enthusiastic junior doctors committed to serve (Lucy Reville, Eve Thangaraj, Daniel Nie, Katherine Aiken, and Annika Wilder-Smith).

We were happy to welcome our new committee, which met for the first time on 3 September for a fun day filled with biblical encouragement, prayer, food, and sunshine.

CMF Junior Doctors' Conference

Preparations are in progress for the 11-13 November CMF Junior Doctors' Conference at The Hayes, Swanwick. This year we will explore the theme of identity in Christ with Professor Glynn Harrison and a host of fantastic seminars.

We would value your continued prayers for the ongoing work of the junior doctors' ministry as we seek to equip and build up today's generation to change tomorrow's healthcare for Christ.

If you would like to meet (or already are meeting) with other Christian junior doctors for prayer and fellowship, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Felicia Wong, at felicia.wong@cmf.org.uk

Volunteers

Deep:ER Fellowship

This autumn, we welcomed six new Deep:ER Fellows onto the Deep:ER Fellowship

programme. Lizzy Alexander, Olivia Abrams, Liz Birdie Ong, Susanna Enongene, Onahi Idikwu, and Rachel Mitchell. All six live in almost all four corners of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and we joined in London for our kick-off day on 14 September. Now in its sixth year, we continue to train student and junior medics and nurses through a range of seminars and away days. They also get to put this training into practice through serving on various projects. In this autumn's *Triple Helix*, John Greenall has written an article describing how we develop resilient disciples through CMF's training tracks, including Deep:ER, the Speakers, Health + Justice, and Global Tracks.



Lizzy Alexander



Olivia Abrams



Liz Birdie Ong



Susanna Enongene



Onahi Idikwu



Rachel Mitchell

CMF Speciality Links

It is a privilege to introduce Professor David Cahill as the new CMF Specialty Link for Obstetrics

& Gynaecology (O&G). David is a retired O&G consultant in Bristol, with a clinical interest in reproductive medicine and education. We are looking for members to join a multidisciplinary O&G working group to make a difference for Christ. If you are interested, contact David at david.cahill@cmf.org.uk



David Cahill



Angharad Gray

Angharad Gray is our CMF Psychiatry Link. Together with the CMF Psychiatry Working Group, she has set up online discussion forums for those working in mental health over the past year.

If you want to know more or are interested in getting involved, email Felicia Wong at felicia.wong@cmf.org.uk

staff news

Movements

incoming, outgoing staff & volunteer Associates

Trevor Stammers (Public Policy Associate) known to many as a former Chair of CMF is joining the Public Policy team. In a long and varied career, he has been a GP, a lecturer in bioethics at St Mary's University, Twickenham, and most recently, the editor of *The New Bioethics*. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge across a wide range of issues. You can contact Trevor at trevor.stammers@cmf.org.uk

Vicky McIlroy (Global Coordinator) took over from Sonia Quane in early September, coordinating and organising all our CMF Global events, trips, committees, and resources. Vicki has recently returned to the UK after living in West Africa. She has also lived in Hong Kong, Serbia, and Austria. You can contact her at globalcoordinator@cmf.org.uk

Dave Moore (Associate Head of Global) steps into a new role supporting Fi McLachlan leading the work of CMF Global. Dave is a GP from Sheffield who has served in medical mission in DR Congo and Papua New Guinea training health workers in rural church hospitals and as a team doctor for New Tribes Mission. You can contact him at dave.moore@cmf.org.uk

Roxann Dixon (Field Team Coordinator) takes over from Simi Iyore, coordinating events and training programmes. You will doubtless be communicating with Roxann if you email the office about any event or booking, so do say hi. Roxann previously worked as Senior Team Administrator for an NHS Community Trust. You can contact her at roxann.dixon@cmf.org.uk

Chris Borges Da Silva (Associate Head of Student Ministries) takes over from Ashley Stewart, helping to lead CMF's student ministry. Chris is a trainee GP but will be known to many as a former Chair of the CMF National Student Committee. You can contact him at chrisborgesdasilva@cmf.org.uk

Marvin Gowdy (Facilities and Resources Coordinator) took over from Dianne Jarrett in June to take care of CMF's building, Johnson House, and manage our resources for members. Marvin has worked in various areas of retail and recently graduated with a business studies degree. You can contact Marvin at marvin.gowdy@cmf.org.uk

outgoing staff

Simi Iyore left her role as CMF's Field Team Coordinator in September to work at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Sonia Quane left her role as CMF Global Coordinator in July to start training in social work.

Ashely Stewart left her role as CMF Associate Head of Student Ministries in the summer to work full time as a counsellor.

Obituaries

Keith Douglas John Vowles (b 1923, q Bristol 1946, d October 2021). Keith worked in several mission hospitals in India, Kenya, Zambia, and Thailand, teaching surgery in resource-poor contexts.

Desmond Guy (q Belfast 1958, d 17 April 2022). Desmond worked as a GP in the UK and Nigeria with Mission Africa. He retired in 2016.

Iain McVicar (b 12 August 1958, q Sheffield, d 11 June 2022). Iain was a specialist in Nottingham in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, sub-specialising in Head and Neck Cancer, and Facial Trauma.

Richard Drysdale-Anderson (q Barts 1951, d 8 July 2022). Richard worked as a GP until his retirement in 2002.

Jo Blaker (d January 2022). Jo was a registered nurse who worked with a Hospice at Home Team, as a flight nurse, as a PRIME Tutor, and as the Team Leader for a prison healthcare programme in Uganda. She wrote about this in the winter 2019 edition of *Triple Helix*.

John Kirkham, a great friend, confidante, and mentor went to be with the Lord on 5 March 2022, aged 68. He had suffered from metastatic prostate carcinoma for seven years. A GP and GP trainer in Leeds, John attracted massive respect for his kind, wise, and caring nature. John came to faith at university and was an elder at his local Baptist church for many years. Aware of the inevitable nature of his prognosis during the last few weeks and months of his illness, John's godly confidence in his eternal destiny shone through as a beautiful example of true, saving faith.

Save the Date!

Come to our first in-person \$ + 3 £=97 gathering of nurses and midwives! Worship, prayer, reflection on God's word, and workshops to refresh and restore the soul!

20-21 April, Yarnfield Park conference centre. More details coming soon! cmf.li/NAMfest23

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Dates for your diary

OCTOBER

21-23 ICMDA Western Europe/CMF Irish Conference – A Living Hope Castledaly Manor, Athlone, Eire

NOVEMBER

31 Oct–6 Nov CMF National Week of Prayer
11-13 Junior Doctors' Conference, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick
19 Refugees and Asylum Seekers Health Course, Dovecot Evangelical Church, Liverpool
26 Oxford Catalyst Team conference

DECEMBER

3 CMF Board
11 Early booking deadline for National Student Conference 2023

FEBRUARY 2023

3-5 Student Conference, Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre, Staffs

APRIL 2023

21-23 National Conference, Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre, Staffs

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

CMF News

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