

Wider, Clearer, Closer

Mark Pickering sketches out our next three-year plan

It's an odd time to be planning for the future, when COVID means that organising holidays, weddings or conferences feels like pinning the tail on a moving donkey whilst blindfolded.

CMF has completed its current five-year plan, ACTIVE 2020, and along with responding to all the specific challenges of this year, we've been discerning our priorities for the coming months and years. Our next strategic plan will last for three years rather than five, due to the current uncertainties. However, we believe that God has used COVID to clarify a number of timely priorities to make us stronger and more agile to face the uncertainties of the coming years.

In October, the Board approved our draft strategic plan for 2021-2023, with three main areas of emphasis. Our core ministry activity continues, as does our overall mission of uniting and equipping Christian doctors and nurses to live and speak for Jesus. But this lays out a broad trajectory of how we want to develop CMF's ministry over these three years. What would look and feel different about CMF in three years if we succeed?

Here's a taster for you:

Going Wider, by extending our reach – CMF is the premier community of Christian healthcare workers in the UK. But far too many don't know about us, or only know one aspect of what we do. We plan to extend the influence of CMF yet further, by:

- Renewing our focus on growing total membership numbers, especially amongst nurse and midwife members – not because numbers are an end in themselves, but because we know there are many who are aligned with our values but are not yet part of CMF;
- Specifically emphasising poorly represented groups, such as certain ethnic groups, or geographical areas such as the Republic of Ireland;
- Developing key specialty groups and networks, encouraging members to speak into the unique issues within their own specialist communities;
- Continuing our churches engagement, helping church leaders engage with relevant CMF resources and encourage healthcare workers in their own congregations to join us.

Growing Clearer, by refining our communications – Many of our members need no convincing of the vital importance of CMF's ministry. But others on the fringe need clear messages to help them grasp this. We will be working on this, along with continuing to



adapt our resources; by adjusting our ratio of print to digital resources; by refining and upgrading our website to an industry-standard platform that is more resilient and adaptable, and by investing further in our membership database, to be responsive to the ways that our members live, work and communicate.

COVID has made us adapt our conferences and meetings, from all physical to all online. Now as we look to the next phase of the pandemic, we are planning our first truly hybrid event, the Junior Doctors' Conference on 23-25 October, combining physical and online attendance as a prototype for future events. This brings new challenges but significant opportunities.

Drawing Closer, by improving our local networks – We now have 14 Catalyst Teams at varying stages of development. The next three years will be a crucial time to continue this growth, integrating key emphases such as global, prayer and pastoral care. We aim to cover the whole UK and Ireland with organic, supportive local networks of praying members that will replicate the national resources of CMF at a local level.

Underpinning these three priorities will be two foundational principles of **membership** and **engagement**.

CMF is not like a gym – it's not just about 'what I get out of it'; it's more like a family – we receive and give mutual support appropriate to our own circumstances. Membership fees are vital to multiplying our ministry, and we see them as missionary giving to a strategic people group. We want to be intentional about drawing people in and increasing this commitment at every level.

We also want to be giving back to our members wherever they are – as part of a local network, a training track, a specialty group, a committee or other forum; equipping them with what they need to be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus, wherever he calls them to serve.

Wider, Clearer, Closer – that's where we believe God is leading us in the coming months and years. Could you help us? Could you introduce a colleague to CMF membership? Could you get involved in a growing local network? Could you support local students or junior graduates? Is there a training track or a specialty network you could be part of? Wherever you are on your journey as a Christian doctor, nurse or midwife, there's something for you in CMF. Let's walk that journey together.

Mark Pickering is CMF Chief Executive

National Gathering

New online National Conference



When the COVID-19 lockdown caused us to cancel the National Conference at the end of April, we were determined to keep the essence of the conference going in some manner. So it was that we were able to gather over 800 participants from the UK and many nations beyond on 25 April on Zoom for CMF's first-ever **National Online Gathering**.

Pastor Jonty Allcock of the Globe Church in London walked us through the Book of Habakkuk, looking at the question, 'How long Lord? Finding hope in Christ when the storm clouds gather'. Dr Patrick Dixon - author, business consultant, futurist, and chairman of Global Change Ltd - looked at Life Beyond COVID-19, exploring what the future holds and how Christians should think and act in these incredible times.

If you want to relive the day, or if you missed it and want to hear the wisdom and inspiration that was shared, you can find links to all the resources from the day at cmf.li/2020NOGLinks

CMF Readers' Survey

One of our strategic aims in the next three years is a complete overhaul of all of CMF's communications. A vital aspect of that is our regular magazines – *Triple Helix*, *CMF News*, *CMF Files*, *Nucleus*, and *Spotlight*. We are considering making all of these primarily digital publications, but with an opt-in print version for those who request it.

However, we want to know what our members need from our publications, and what else we can do to make them more relevant and useful to you.

We would love to hear from you – either by e-mail to steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk or using our quick questionnaire at surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RPHZ3JB – it should take you about five minutes to fill in.

Catalyst Teams Training - online

John Greenall writes about our first online Catalyst Team training

If you could see God do one thing in your region, what would that be? Such was the opening question to 60 nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and

medics gathered on Zoom for our first online **Catalyst Teams Training** on Saturday 5 September. We now have 14 Catalyst Teams across the UK. It was great to hear stories of what God has been doing in these teams, reminding us that we are called to pray and trust God to move in us first and foremost and then out to those around us.

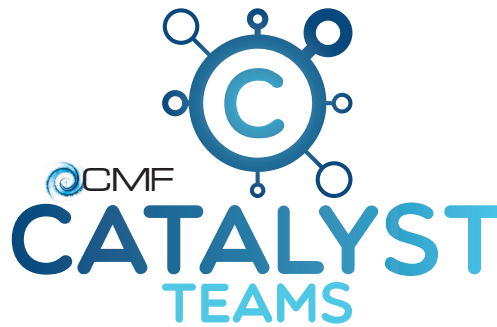
Ros Loaker from Transform Work UK exhorted us to speak out confidently and be a blessing to our workplaces, reminding us that religious belief is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Dr Steve Sturman shared the growing pastoral care work around the UK, and Fi McLachlan taught us about working as high-performing teams. It was great to share and pray with one another too.

We long to see Catalyst Teams embody the work of CMF locally with members fulfilling both the call God has placed on their lives – using their gifts to serve him gladly – as well as fulfilling the mission of CMF where they are. This may include Pastoral Care Partners in team regions who then link up for training nationally. It might be Christian Workplace Groups who are salt and light in their organisations, who also link nationally. This locally vibrant and nationally networked pattern is what we want to extend through other roles including students, medical school links, global catalysts, small group catalysts and much more. That's the power of an envisioned and equipped network of teams across the UK.

Do be praying for our teams and that we might, by God's grace, see the UK covered by Catalyst Teams over the next three years of CMF's strategic plan. In the words of some of the delegates:

'(It's) exciting to see how the Lord is empowering medics and nurses in the workplaces'

'(It gave me a) sense of being part of a bigger vision across the country.'



'(I) so enjoyed this morning. Great to hear what is happening in other areas.'

'My ideas for training? How to engage people/build support for your work. Ideas for how CMF could serve

local churches and approaches to evangelism.'

You can see video highlights from the event on a YouTube playlist at cmf.li/3jb9Yfjq

Deep:ER Fellowship 2020



From left to right: Naa Quaye, Imani Looby, Joe Northway, Omolayo Soruna, Diana Pereira, Alex Scott, Enpei Zhang, Farai Chiwah, Daniel Lange and Soorin Park. Not included - Oduwayo Oyedele and Panashe Chinya.

Twelve people gathering for twelve months to grow in faith as applied to medicine? That's the dream, and for the fifth year our Deep:ER Fellowship programme kicked off in early September. We are joined by a dynamic group of intercalating medical students and F3 doctors. They will be carrying out a range of projects across CMF across all departments, as well as being taught across 20 teaching sessions and away days.

We see teaching in these cohorted learning communities as key to growing leader disciples across CMF (see also our work in our other Tracks: Health and Justice, Evangelism and Apologetics, Speakers and Global). As Christians, we live more than ever as exiles in a 'Digital Babylon'. Here at CMF, we want to see leaders of the future raised up who faithfully love Jesus, engage with culture, live for the sake of others, take risks for the sake of what is right, and live out their faith in the vocations of medicine, midwifery and nursing. Please be praying for this year's Deep:ER Fellows!

Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

Steve Sturman shares what's happening

Have you ever received a difficult complaint and wished there was somebody with whom you could talk and pray about it? Have you faced conflict in the workplace, struggled to cope with anti-social shifts, exams and keeping your friendship network going?



Would you like to learn not only how to survive but how to thrive as a Christian in healthcare?

CMF Pastoral Care and Wellbeing (PCW) is interested in supporting Christian health professionals through precisely these sorts of situations.

Over the last nine months, there have been some important developments in PCW, accelerated by COVID-19. In early March, we established the *Pastoral Care Advisory Group*, with members experienced and qualified in providing spiritual support. To date, they have overseen the appointment of twelve Pastoral Care Partners (PCPs). A *Wellbeing Helpline*, offering support, prayer and advice has been set up and is available via wellbeing@cmf.org.uk.

We offer listening, prayer, and opportunities for reflection, as well as signposting to other sources of help. For details of local support and encouragement groups, contact your nearest Catalyst Team.

We aim to start an informal *Mentoring Scheme* early next year, providing an opportunity for members to 'walk with' a PCP during any phase of professional life.

We aim to have PCPs operating in every Catalyst Team across the country, where they can offer one to one and group pastoral care. The evolving Pastoral Care Team already has a vast range of experience and skills, and we will, in time, be seeking to develop specialised pastoral care in areas such as time management, medicine and the family, individual spiritual appraisal and conflict resolution.

We are seeking to enlarge the Team, and anyone interested in providing pastoral care or mentoring should get in touch with us confidentially via wellbeing@cmf.org.uk. PCPs are appointed through a simple application and screening process. As a PCP, you would receive training and development of your pastoral skills. You would be encouraged to serve locally

but also to use any unique gifts or experience nationally. This may take many forms including writing, preparing media for pastoral care, facilitating special interest groups or supporting the helpline.

There is much to thank God for. Do continue to pray for the work of the Pastoral Care Team as they seek to support Christian doctors and nurses to live and speak for Jesus Christ.

Northern Ireland Abortion Conference

We are living in unprecedented times in Northern Ireland. That is not a reference to the Coronavirus pandemic, but to the abortion law changes which have come into force in Northern Ireland in the last few months. Despite this being a devolved issue, despite a consultation in which 79 per cent of respondents rejected any change in the legislation, despite a further consultation about details of practice under the new law, and despite a reconvened Northern Ireland Assembly voting 46-40 against the new law, it was nevertheless cunningly introduced so that, as things currently stand, it cannot be repealed. Presently in Northern Ireland, the health secretary has not commissioned abortion services in hospitals due to COVID-19. However, like other parts of the UK, medical abortion at home has become the pattern, with the only difference to England being that the first drug (misoprostol) must still be administered on registered premises.

We at CMF and LCF (Lawyers' Christian Fellowship) Northern Ireland arranged a morning conference in two parts on Zoom in September to look at the implications for us as Christian health professionals.

We looked in detail at the professional, training and legal implications of this legislation for clinicians in Northern Ireland. We also considered the roots of Christian opposition to abortion in scripture and church history, being reminded that size and functional capabilities do not determine our value as human beings made in the image of God. The whole conference was very helpful, and a reminder that we should pray as well as plan our response, because we have a good God who sees all and who loves us greatly.

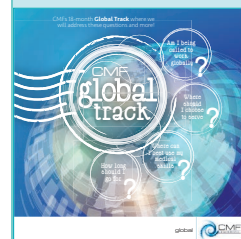
If you wish to receive speakers' materials, please contact Rebekah Wilson at rebekah.wilson@hotmail.co.uk.

Global Track

Fi McLachlan reflects



Also up, running, and meeting since early September is the third intake to our Global



Track. 19 students and newly qualified doctors, nurses and midwives have signed up to the 18-month

programme exploring global health and mission. All Nations Christian College were able to host our first event from 11-12 September face-to-face. We were also joined by a good number of our course mentors, who will work with participants throughout the course to support them on their journey to explore God's calling on their life.

Please pray for these young healthcare professionals as they seek God for the way ahead. For more information visit cmf.org.uk/global/global-track

Short Term Mission survey

The CMF Global Department is considering how best to organise short term overseas trips after the COVID pandemic. We want such trips to expand our thinking about God's work in global health and mission, and to be a blessing to those we meet.

We would therefore be grateful if you would complete a short survey (it takes less than five minutes) as you think if and how you or others like yourself would consider such a trip surveyMonkey.co.uk/r/KGHXLPJ

Health + Justice Track

We have been working with Integritas Healthcare for several months on the creation of a year-long Health + Justice training track. As of September, this is now up and running. After an August pre-track reading month, September's theme 'What is Justice?' is being explored by the twelve, hand-picked participants. We held our first Zoom webinar last week, and we were thrilled to see just how deeply the participants are engaging with the material.


The aim of the Track is to train a small cohort

of CMF members in the care of vulnerable patient groups, equipping them to grow in their knowledge of biblical justice, swelling their hearts with love for the vulnerable. We want to equip and empower UK-based CMF members to live out Proverbs 31:8-9, both personally and professionally in the service of vulnerable patient groups. We're already taking names of folk interested in the possibility of a 2021-2022 cohort. Interested? Visit cmf.li/HandJTrack20

ALSO: Integritas are looking for an IT support assistant to help manage this Track and other services. integritas-healthcare.squarespace.com/work.

Obituaries


Dr Mary Baines OBE, *q* Cambridge and St

 Thomas' Hospital, 1958, died 21 August 2020. Mary worked for a decade as a GP when, in 1968, Cicely Saunders approached her to be the medical lead for the first-ever home-based palliative care team. Her core focus was always patient-centred compassion, which enlarged to embrace family members, and she taught this approach powerfully to others by role modelling it. Her own role model was Jesus. Knowing and following him was her priority, and his love and compassion shone through her. She also had a zest for knowledge and retained this to the end of her life. She would not just want to treat a patient's symptom but would always be asking *why* the symptom was there, and what significance it had to that individual patient.

Her 'hospice family' hugely loved Mary. These were the innumerable colleagues she has trained, guided, visited, e-mailed and prayed for all over the world. She had the ability to forge strong bonds of friendship, and these gave those working in isolated situations strength to pioneer palliative care in their settings and persevere in difficult times.

It was a gift both to her and to St Christopher's Hospice that the Lord arranged that the two weeks before her homecoming were spent in the place where she had given so much.

Dr Jany Haddad, *q* Damascus (born Teheran, Iran,

 13 March 1954, died Aleppo, Syria, 14 August 2020). Dr Jany was a monumental figure and a leader among leaders, deeply loved by many across the world, and was very well known by the ICMDA family and many CMF members. His achievements were breathtaking, and he will be very much missed. As the founder and president of both the **Armenian Christian Medical Association (ACMA)** and **Living Hope for Family Ministries**, he touched the lives of thousands, and he inspired many others to join him and share in the work to which God had called him. When the Armenian earthquake struck in 1988, killing 50,000 and injuring 130,000, he felt God calling him to help this nation

and chartered two shipments of medical supplies. Out of this grew the ongoing ministry of ACMA. He also founded a Baptist church in Aleppo, Syria, and this was to become a seed which led to the planting of other new Syrian churches. In 2003, during the Iraqi war, Jany began ministering among the Iraqi refugees, with medical care, food and supplies.

Through the ten years of the Syrian civil war, Jany stayed in Aleppo, operating on the wounded, caring for the sick and ministering to the broken while the bombs fell, and the bullets flew.

Jany died from complications of COVID-19 on 14 August 2020. *This obituary first appeared in the blog of the International Christian Medical & Dental Association (ICMDA) on 26 August 2020.*

Dr Colin R Paterson, *q* Oxford, 1962, died 30 March 2020. He worked as a bone physician and researcher; he courageously defended parents wrongly accused of non-accidental injury until the end of his life. He was also a strong supporter of CMF and medical missions and was involved in the organisation of many Scottish CMF conferences and local meetings.

Staff Movements



Graham Sopp

In July, **Graham Sopp**, our long-serving Head of Central Services, retired. After seven years of faithful service, Graham has been a vital part of the smooth running of the CMF Office and our continued financial stability as an organisation. He is greatly missed. Please pray for him as he starts a well-earned retirement.



Olu Lampejo

In June we were delighted to welcome **Olu Lampejo** as the new Operations Director. Taking over from Graham with a month-long virtual handover, Olu comes with a history of leading the core administrative and financial operations of several charities. She has also had to take over the reins amid lockdown and a major review of our strategic plan and operations. Do pray for her and her team as she takes the core operations of the CMF Office forward in the coming year.

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Dates for your diary

All events are currently under review due to COVID-19. Some of these events will be happening online rather than in person. Further news on specific events will be circulated by email and on our website

However, please keep the following dates in your diary:

OCTOBER

22 Saline Solution Online
23-25 Junior Doctors' Hybrid Conference, Hothorpe Hall & online

NOVEMBER

5 Saline Solution Online
7 Scottish Day Conference
12 Saline Solution Online

JANUARY 2021

22-24 Student Conference 2021
Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffordshire

APRIL 2021

23-25 National Conference
Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffordshire

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

CMF News

is issued by the CMF Office

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Items for inclusion in the Spring 2021 issue should be sent to CMF Head of Communications Steve Fouch by 31 March 2021.

A company limited by guarantee
Registered in England no. 6949436
Registered Charity no. 1131658
Registered office: 6 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL

Design: S2 Design & Advertising Ltd
Print: Partridge & Print Ltd