

## Breakdown Britain

One million children have alcohol addicted parents; 70% of young offenders come from lone parent families; 44,000 school leavers each year are illiterate; and British household debt is twice that in continental Europe. And things are getting worse! The number of children born outside marriage has gone from 8% in 1970 to 41% in 2003; lone parent families have increased by 40,000 per year since 1980, and children's alcohol consumption has doubled in the last 15 years.

### Five 'pathways to poverty'

Britain is breaking down. Many of the mental and physical health problems that daily fill our GP surgeries, hospital wards and outpatient departments are symptoms of this. The main drivers are the five 'pathways to poverty': family breakdown, educational failure, economic dependence, indebtedness, and addiction. This social breakdown costs us £102 billion per annum and will keep rising unless we act.

These are some of the findings of an extensive evidence-based analysis by the Centre for Social Justice,<sup>1</sup> a think tank set up by former opposition leader Iain Duncan-Smith. CEO Philippa Stroud gave the keynote address at our recent CMF South-East day conference. 3,000 hours of hearings, submissions from 2,000 organisations and 50,000 people polled have led to the publication of two landmark documents, *Breakdown Britain*<sup>2</sup> and *Breakthrough Britain*<sup>3</sup> which



outline the problem and possible solutions respectively.

The five 'pathways' are all interrelated. Children from a broken home are twice as likely to have behavioural problems, perform worse at school, become sexually active at a younger age, suffer depression, and turn to drugs, smoking and heavy drinking. A parent who has a serious drug problem or is addicted to alcohol can exhibit destructive behaviour patterns which can destroy the quality of life for the other parent and for children, leading in turn to family breakdown. Furthermore, either because of addictions or for other reasons, those on low incomes who get into debt often find it almost impossible to pay off their debts.

### Possible solutions

*Breakthrough Britain* lists 191 policies aimed at reversing the breakdown, including

strengthening two parent families, relationship and parenting education and support, enhanced roles for health visitors, family fostering, incentivising work, pioneer schools, and expanding abstinence-based rehabilitation for addicts. Each £1 invested now in early intervention will save £7 in the future.

Solutions must be multilayered. We need sound legislation to strengthen and protect the vulnerable, a welfare system that helps those in genuine need and encourages independence, active corporate philanthropy, and flourishing voluntary organisations. All levels of society including government, the corporate and charitable sectors, communities, and families have a role to play in reversing the decline.

### A spiritual malaise

But at a deeper level the breakdown and its five 'drivers' are themselves symptoms of a more general spiritual malaise – a loss of Christian faith and values. The church has a huge role to play; not just in what it does directly to support families in the communities, but through the actions of individual Christians in positions of influence in health, education, local councils and government. Most importantly of all it is the love of Christ, the grace of God and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit that are the most powerful forces in the universe in transforming lives. People's greatest need is to be reconciled with the creator through faith in Jesus Christ.

### Equipping and supporting Christian doctors

The role of Christian doctors in all this is crucial, and CMF exists to equip and support doctors on the frontline. Following a massive year of central change in 2007 in which we reorganised our departmental structure and moved house, God has continued to bless CMF in 2008. He is doing this through our ongoing day to day ministry and public policy work, through staff transitions, through installation of our new database and financial systems and, thanks to the generosity of our members, through our finishing close to budget during a credit crunch.

We begin 2009, our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, with a stronger staff team, more robust administrative systems, greater financial soundness, and a higher public profile. The challenges are huge, but in God's strength we are up for them. I hope you will be encouraged by what you read in these pages about what God is doing in and through Christian doctors, as we seek to be Christ's agents of transformation in 'Breakdown Britain'. Let's keep running this race together.

### references

1. [www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)
2. *Breakdown Britain*. Social Justice Policy Group. December 2006
3. *Breakthrough Britain*. Social Justice Policy Group. July 2007

**Peter Saunders**  
is CMF General  
Secretary



## Personal assistance

### A sabbatical



'Pin'

Consultant nephrologist **Sui Phin Kon** ('Pin') describes spending five weeks of her sabbatical in the office this autumn:

*I was fortunate enough to have a sabbatical which allowed me a complete break from renal medicine.*

*However, I wanted to stay in London, surrounded by home comforts, having a nice long break with an opportunity to address my work-life balance. I also wanted to be involved in a Christian charity with a medical flavour. The choice was wide but it soon narrowed down to CMF.*

*Having been an inactive member for many years, I wanted to re-engage in encouraging Christian doctors and medical students in their faith and witness, in being a public voice for Christian values, and in taking more responsibility for the growth of new Christian medical groups throughout the world. These issues remain relevant as medical technology marches on and the world becomes more hostile to the Christian faith.*

*It was my privilege to spend some time with Peter Saunders and all his staff in Marshalsea Road. Travelling was easy, the hours were flexible, and Peter and his team accommodated me by identifying jobs which suited. Each day started with updates and news followed by Bible reading and prayer. This was a very useful time to get a big picture view before we all dispersed to our individual roles and tasks, knowing we were united in achieving common goals.*

*My needs were met. I interacted with all the staff members and now have a much better picture of how all the different departments work together. I would highly recommend any member with some spare time to consider the CMF office!*

### A PA for Peter



Gwen Gowers

On 31 March another part of the CMF plan fell into place when **Gwen Gowers** started as the personal assistant for Peter Saunders. After college and secretarial training she worked for BT and came to us from Christian Research Association after they merged with The Bible Society and moved away.

Gwen lives in Belvedere, Kent with her husband Neil and their son Joshua. They also have a daughter, Gemma. Gwen worships at a local New Frontiers church and relaxes at home by reading and doing jigsaw puzzles. She loves camping whenever possible – in their caravan!

### Congratulations

**Alex Bunn** – MRCPGP

**Janet Goodall** – ICMDA Honorary Life Award for her service

**David Misselbrook** – Dean, Royal Society of Medicine

**John Wyatt** – Professor of Ethics and Perinatology at University College London

### Outgoing

Matthew and Kate Burton (Cambridge) to Tanzania

Helen Nabwera (Nottingham) to Kenya

Sarah Petrie (Barts) to Kenya

Helen Scott-Cook (Bristol) to Germany

Cy Teoh to Malaysia

Emily Wilkinson (Oxford) to Tanzania

### Homecoming

Thomas Accialini (Germany) from Sudan

Iain Craighead (Aberdeen) from Nepal

Peter Knight (Southampton) from Yemen

Joy Rafferty (Dundee) from Malawi

Joan Richards (Dublin) from Brazil

Philip Simmons (Newcastle) from Tajikistan

Sarah Tucker (Bristol) from Nepal

Simon Walton (Newcastle) from Tanzania

### Change of address abroad

Karen Forrest (Oxford) from Gambia to Kenya

### Obituaries

**Norah Clarke** (q 1937; d 6 August 2008) was 'a keen supporter of your work for many years'. She died peacefully in a nursing home aged 94.

**David Edwards** (q Oxford 1962; d 14 July 2008) was a retired consultant orthopaedic surgeon in Stoke-on-Trent and had been a senior lecturer at the University of Keele.

**P A King-Lewis** (q 1965; d August 2008) was living in Corbridge-on-Tyne, Northumberland at the time of his death.

**Conrad Latto** (q St Andrew's 1937; d 2008) had been a consultant surgeon at the Royal Berks Hospital in Reading.

**Peter Cameron May** (q London 1971; d 28 June 2008) was a consultant orthopaedic and trauma surgeon at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

**Bryan Thompson** (q Cambridge/Barts 1949; d 2 June 2008) worked in St Luke's Hospital, Bihar, India for 35 years from 1955, becoming medical superintendent in 1959. He was awarded MBE and retired to Scotland.

**Helen Thompson** (q Glasgow 1947; d 5 February 2008) was born Helen Mair, married Bryan Thompson (see above) and worked with him in O&G in Bihar. 'Multitasking was her forte.'

**Michael Thomson** (q 1951; d 2008) was living in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia at the time of his death.

**Heather Sims Williams** (q Bristol 1970; d 1 October 2008) worked in general practice and rheumatology in Bristol, had a full family life, and was a medical adviser for OMF.

### Regional CMF meetings

See [www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship](http://www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship) for information about local groups

## Could you be the new me?



Mark Pickering

**A**fter seven years heading CMF student work, I will be moving on by February. For a mixture of family and professional reasons we are moving back to our roots in Yorkshire. It has been an incredible privilege and pleasure to lead this vital ministry and see so many students touched, changed, and trained as they work out what it means to live as a Christian doctor.

This means CMF needs to find a successor. We are looking for a Christian doctor with experience of student ministry and a passion for developing the many exciting aspects of the student work at CMF. This would be full time or nearly full time (compatible with up to one day of clinical medicine a week), based in the London office.

If you're interested in finding out more, email [peter.saunders@cmf.org.uk](mailto:peter.saunders@cmf.org.uk) and check out our website – see the link from the homepage at [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk). Many of you will not be in a position to consider this for yourselves, but do encourage anyone you think might be suitable, and, above all, please pray!

### New staff



Laurence Crutchlow

I'm delighted to announce that **Laurence Crutchlow** has been appointed a regional staffworker in London, mainly supporting the five London medical schools. Laurence is well known to CMF, having chaired our student committee, been an intern with us, and been active recently on the West Midlands committee. Having trained as a GP, he and his wife Abi have now moved back to Surrey where she is undertaking psychiatry training and Laurence is part time as a



Irish conference

salaried GP and two days a week with CMF for the next two years.

He has already found his feet and given solid support to the London schools – welcome back Laurence! You can contact [laurence@cmf.org.uk](mailto:laurence@cmf.org.uk) if you'd like to hear what he's up to, support him financially, or receive his prayer letter.

### Regional events

On 7-9 November Alex Bunn and I helped lead an **Irish conference** near Dublin – the first for a few years. Around 50 students and ten graduates came together for teaching on 'Answering Other Faiths', and a range of seminars. Five out of the seven schools in Ireland were represented, including a big cross-border contingent from Belfast. Galway and Limerick, the two missing schools, are the only two medical schools in the whole of the UK and Ireland where CMF is not represented – please pray for contacts.

We looked at God's plan throughout history, the importance of worldviews, understanding the key distinctive features of Christianity, and utilising Paul's methods from Acts 17. We should *identify* the truth people of other religions already have, *prosecute* the false beliefs that keep them from understanding God as he is, then *invite* them to consider Jesus in ways that resonate with their own understanding and culture.



We heard inspiring testimonies from participants who had come to Christ from Hindu and Buddhist backgrounds – a fitting end to a great weekend.

The same weekend, 27 **Northern students** from Manchester, Leeds, Durham and Hull/York came together in Leeds, also for evangelism training but this time using CMF's well-known 'Confident Christianity' material. It was a great weekend of fun and fellowship, especially seeing the new York group take their place.

On 27 October, CMF students in Dundee welcomed 300 people from across **Scotland** to hear an excellent debate on 'This house believes that physician-assisted suicide should not be legalised in Scotland'. An impressive range of speakers included MSP Jeremy Purvis, whose own assisted dying bill had failed in the Scottish Parliament. In a robust three-hour event, the arguments were given a very good airing.

### John Patrick tour

Based in Canada, Dr John Patrick is a well-known speaker on the ICMCA circuit. From 13-17 October he did his first UK tour, giving nine talks in eight

medical schools on subjects such as 'Can we be good without God?' and 'What Hippocrates knew and we have forgotten'. Over 400 came to hear him, and it was hugely encouraging for the student groups involved. You can listen to some of his talks at [www.johnpatrick.ca](http://www.johnpatrick.ca)

### Freshers joining

During the first month of the academic year 94 students from 30 different medical schools joined CMF. Many did so online at [www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship/signup](http://www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship/signup) (currently only for students joining). Students are our lifeblood so new members are always exciting. Do you have friends you can encourage to join? It's free for the first year and only £12 a year after that.

### To the ends of the earth



Steve Brady



Trevor Stammers

National Student Conference will soon be upon us – 13-15 February. Steve Brady from Moorlands College will be teaching from Revelation and CMF chairman

Trevor Stammers will consider 'Sex and the Maker's Instructions'. There will be the usual excellent range of seminars and we hope to fill The Hayes once more with students from the UK, Ireland and further afield.

Plan to be there and bring a group from your medical school! Brochures available from [laura.risdale@cmf.org.uk](mailto:laura.risdale@cmf.org.uk) or download from [www.cmf.org.uk/events](http://www.cmf.org.uk/events)

**Mark Pickering** is Head of Student Ministries until February

# How could CMF help more?



Kevin Vaughan

## Making a difference

I continue to be encouraged and challenged as I receive your correspondence and meet many of you around the country. On the one hand I find some are discovering new ways of making a difference for Christ as they apply *Saline Solution* principles in their daily practice; some are engaging in creative ways with medical education or the BMA or the Royal Colleges; and some are working with colleagues in management to make a difference to local services.

Recently I was chatting with someone who persevered for some years trying to set up a new oncology ward in his hospital, and is now rejoicing that although he has moved on, the ward is up and running and making a difference!

## Making time to pray

On the other hand I find many struggle to manage all their responsibilities in the time available and feel their lives are spinning out of control.

One member wrote recently of trying to keep up with emails in the evening, struggling to finish a postgraduate diploma, caring for teenage children, and finding it hard to get to CMF evening meetings as there were so many other competing activities including commissioning meetings and church groups!

How can we review our priorities and 'get a life' again? What about the abundant life Jesus came to bring? Have we lost it? I would be happy to hear of ways that CMF could help more as we battle with the daily routine. One thing has stood out for me as I travel around – members who make time to pray with one or two colleagues in their workplace all say it's worth it. Is this something you could start where you are?



## National Conference 2009

Our next annual graduates' conference at Swanwick will be from 24-26 April 2009 on the theme *Joy in Turbulent Times*. The flyer enclosed with this mailing gives details. Do book early; it should be a great weekend.

## Reflecting our struggles

At a quick glance, the titles for our recent conferences reflect our daily struggles. *Rising to the challenge* for psychiatrists, *What do you expect?* in the North, *Breakdown Britain* in the South-East, *Holistic Medicine in an image driven culture* in the Midlands, *Keeping the faith* for the retired, *Do not lose heart* for juniors, and so on.

## Juniors

Junior doctors especially need our prayer as they face uncertainty in the jobs market again next year. A doctor who qualified in 2006 wrote:

*One thing I have most valued about CMF since I have graduated has been the family that I was linked with in my F1 year. A local GP got in touch with me when I*

*first started and I went for several meals at her house and also several of my non-Christian colleagues came with me at different times. They were a wonderful support and encouragement to me and I appreciated their welcome and witness to my colleagues. I did wonder if CMF could increase this ministry beyond the first year after qualification?*

*Would there be enough people willing to support junior doctors? I have also benefited from the resources available on ethical issues and have read a lot of information on the CMF website. I am sad that I am working the first weekend in December or I think the Junior Doctors' weekend at Hothorpe Hall would also be an excellent chance to be taught and have fellowship.*

## Staff changes



Judy Wilson

This autumn we said goodbye to **Judy Wilson** who has moved on to new things after

18 years of faithful service. Many of you will remember her friendly welcome at the desk as you came to conferences at Swanwick and other venues over the years. Others will have spoken on the phone when making enquiries, or been in touch when planning national, regional and local events. Judy loved to facilitate whatever members were doing, and will be remembered with gratitude by many who came to know her personally. However, she also paid marvellous attention to detail and her quiet unsung work behind the scenes means our debt to Judy is great. We wish her God's richest blessing as she explores new avenues for her creative talents.



Sarah Whitaker

We are delighted to welcome **Sarah Whitaker** as our new Graduate Ministries

Coordinator. Sarah has a background in nutrition and worked in the NHS as a dietician for 2½ years. She lives in Sidcup, Kent with her husband Nathan, and they worship at a local New Frontiers church. She loves cooking, entertaining and organising events, and has been drawn to CMF by a keen desire to support Christians in healthcare. She will be working mainly in the Graduates department but also with Andrew Fergusson in Communications, and is looking forward to getting to know many of you.

**Kevin Vaughan** is Head of Graduate Ministries

## Changes in the department



Andrew Fergusson

At the end of August, **Jacky Engel** left to pursue a full time course in tailoring, wanting a new outlet for her creative talents. Jacky came to CMF as a researcher, with several degrees in biosciences and an MA in Medical Law and Ethics, and subsequently maintained high quality information resources. She did much of the groundwork for CMF's Submissions and press releases, and was closely involved in many aspects of publications and periodicals.



Jacky Engel

However, her creative and IT skills meant she also came to work more and more with CMF's websites, alongside our web designer **Nick Mott** who is an online part time contractor. When Jacky gave notice of her career move we felt it right to seek a full time replacement in a new 'web manager' role.



Robert Yaxley

We were delighted when **Robert Yaxley** started with us in late October. Robert also has a background in biomedical science, and was working in website design and maintenance. He lives in Croydon with his wife Louise and they belong to Selsdon Baptist church, where they were recently baptised. His interests include running and military history.

You will have read opposite that **Sarah Whitaker** is giving some PA support to the department, and **Wai-Ting So** ('Ting') continues serving faithfully in many areas of distribution and logistics. Already these staff developments are helping us to communicate more effectively within the membership and further afield.

### www.cmf.org.uk



Almost all of us become ever more dependent on the internet for information and entertainment, and we are trying to keep CMF up to speed. Our main site already receives an average 800 visits a day (a 'visit' represents a person going to the website). Our closely related



[www.healthserve.org](http://www.healthserve.org) gets 120 visits a day, and even the earlier [www.ethicsforschools.org](http://www.ethicsforschools.org) site whose future is currently being decided gets 100/day.



With a full time web manager in post the new-look homepage will soon be with us, easier to read and to navigate from, and all the thousands of pages behind it will be reviewed, updated, and refreshed as necessary. We are also exploring the use of audio and video material, and subject to funding for this hope to make our website an even more exciting place to visit. Keep an eye on it!

### Broadcasting

Many of the journalists and media researchers and producers who contact CMF almost daily have come via our website, demonstrating its importance for the CMF Aim in ethics: 'To promote Christian values, especially in bioethics and healthcare, among doctors and medical students, in the church and in society'.

CMF staff alone have done exactly 100 radio and television broadcasts between January and end October this year, and a number of members have also been involved around the UK. So far CMF's broadcasting has mainly been reactive to enquiries, but we hope now to be more proactive in 2009.

## Publications

### New Publications Catalogue



With this mailing you should have received the new *CMF Publications Catalogue*. We hope you will want to order some titles for yourself, or for others (though we appreciate it's a bit late for Christmas – this year!) but as you will see from the *Introduction* we hope it will also be used 'to introduce these books and periodicals to a wider audience'.

There are plenty of further copies available on request from the office. Could you pass a copy on to a colleague or friend? Could you pass one on to whoever runs the bookstall in your church? Could you arrange finance to stock your church library with selected titles? Is there even a small Christian bookshop in your town you have a good relationship with? We certainly do standard trade discounts, and might discount for bulk orders from a church library.

### Promotion to Christian bookshops

'Small Christian bookshops' were mentioned but centrally we are promoting CMF books to the largest 150 or so of the UK's Christian bookshops.

We would be grateful for your prayer and for any practical support as we try to get CMF's excellent titles across to a broader Christian readership.

### Books for 2009

We hope that *Foundations*, the book for juniors, will be out by the summer and are also making good progress with a collection of short snappy autobiographies provisionally titled *I could do that!* This is intended to encourage people to realise that those who work overseas are not superhuman – most 'missionary' books leave us with the feeling 'I couldn't do that', but Steve Fouch and I as editors want to turn that conclusion right round.

### A new committee

With all these changes, and particularly recognising the extension of electronic media, CMF's current committee needs to evolve. We would welcome expressions of interest to join this expanded oversight at three evening meetings a year in London.

And finally, at the last 2008 meeting, we richly thanked **Allister Vale** and **Andrew Brown** who have each served on the various incarnations of the committee for some 40 years!

*Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications*

## The wider horizon



Vicky Lavy

### Raising the profile

I am enjoying being part of the team at Marshalsea Road as CMF's new Head of International Ministries and am looking forward to meeting many of you. My aims are to raise the profile of global healthcare issues within CMF, and to raise the profile of CMF among healthcare workers and mission agencies. CMF has a wealth of experience and expertise which can be a resource for others by giving advice, support, and encouragement to those already working abroad and those planning to go.

### Partnerships

I will be working alongside Steve Fouch, keeping the multi-disciplinary approach of the international department, and building on the partnerships he has forged with other Christian healthcare organisations (see box). We will be linking with sister fellowships in other countries through ICMDA, supporting each other and working together wherever we can. The world's healthcare needs are so enormous that we cannot afford to work in isolation:

*If you want to travel quickly, go alone. But if you want to travel far, you must go together.*  
(African proverb)

### ICMDA HIV Initiative

My first week at work was at the ICMDA Eurasia conference in Schladming – a great start to the job. One of the highlights was being part of the HIV conference track. Having worked in Malawi for ten years, I had thought of HIV as an African disease, but the figures for Eastern Europe and Central Asia are alarming, with an adult prevalence rate of almost 1% and coverage of anti-retroviral treatment (ART) much

lower than in Africa.<sup>1</sup> In Ukraine only 8% of those who need ART receive it.

The track proved the value of linking people, as Canon Gideon Byamugisha shared his African experience with those from Eastern Europe. He was the first churchman to declare his HIV-positive status in the early days of the Ugandan epidemic and is a powerful campaigner for openness and honesty. This has been a significant part of the successful response to HIV in Uganda, bringing about early action instead of denial. His message to those working in Eastern Europe was 'Act now – pay less; Act later – pay more'.

As a result of the conference, Christian doctors and national movements involved in HIV ministry in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are forming a network. Read more at [www.icmdahivinitiative.org](http://www.icmdahivinitiative.org)

### Developing Health course

This is one of the biggest CMF events each year – two weeks equipping doctors and nurses for work in resource-poor settings. This year's was the biggest course to date, with 69 participants – some doing the whole fortnight, others coming for one week, or for individual 'specialist' days.

Christian doctors have a great heritage of serving in needy places – often in places where others will not go. Mission and church hospitals are major health providers in developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, faith-based organisations provide an average of 40% of health services.<sup>2</sup> In CMF we can be proud many of our members have given years of service all over the world – some pioneering new work, some becoming leaders in their fields. The *Developing Health* course is privileged to use them to offer excellent teaching in lectures,

## Partnerships



Steve Fouch

Further to Vicky's comments about the HIV-AIDS track which I was involved in organising, CMF is a member of the Christian HIV & AIDS Alliance in the UK. I am also working with UNAIDS and the UK Consortium of AIDS and International Development. We aim to get British faith-based organisations working with UNAIDS on their new global strategy to help governments and international bodies work more constructively with faith-based groups.

### NCFI World Congress

Nurses Christian Fellowship International held their world congress in Nigeria in September. The focus was on the global health crisis and the role of Christian nurses in shaping policy at all levels, and the week was very inspiring, challenging Christian nurses to take their calling and profession seriously by making their voices heard in the corridors of power. A new leadership development programme was launched, and NCFI's main aim over the coming years will be to identify and develop the next generation of Christian nurse leaders.

*Steve Fouch is Head of Allied Professions Ministries*



seminars and practical workshops.

The 2009 course runs from 28 June to 10 July at Oak Hill College in north London. Keep an eye on [www.healthserve.org](http://www.healthserve.org) for details.

### Micah Sunday



was marked on 19 October by hundreds of churches in the UK and thousands worldwide, to send a clear message to global leaders: keep your promises to help the poor. **Micah Challenge** is an international movement of churches and Christian agencies seeking to galvanise Christians towards greater practical and political engagement with the issues of poverty and injustice, and to put pressure on governments to honour their commitments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Read more at [www.micahchallenge.org.uk](http://www.micahchallenge.org.uk)

*Vicky Lavy is Head of International Ministries*

### references

1. UNAIDS 2007
2. WHO 2008 - Building from Common Foundations

# ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



James Tomlinson

## Eurasia

Comprising a third of the world's nations and a fifth of its population, the ICMDA Eurasia region is vast and varied – Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa.

### Resources [un]limited

The regional conference this September brought together 650 Christian medical and dental students and graduates, and allied health professionals, from 60 countries. United by a desire to follow Jesus in healthcare but from many different settings and cultures, we enjoyed rich fellowship and teaching in Schladming, Austria. Opening his address, Professor John Wyatt said:

*It is a great privilege to be here and be one with Christian people who have come from all over the world. For all our differences and barriers between us; north versus south, different languages and cultures, the history of conflict in Europe and the Middle East over the centuries... Despite all this, we recognise one other as brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus. We are part of an amazing people.*

Highlights included daily Bible readings from Genesis, keynote addresses developing the conference theme **resources [un]limited**, and an extensive seminar programme. Times of worship and prayer directed us to the One whose resources really are unlimited. We were encouraged to see our work as God created it to be, as our worship and service, were reminded of the dangers and opportunities in the workplace, and of the need to maintain a right relationship with God ourselves.

Two thirds of those attending joined one of the pre-conference streams: students and juniors, HIV-AIDS, medical education, allied health professionals and *International Saline*. These were run in



partnership with IHS (International Health Services), PRIME (Partnerships in International Medical Education), HCFI (Healthcare Christian Fellowship International) and the ICMDA HIV Initiative.

It was encouraging to see delegates from countries not previously represented. Through the bursary fund over €50,000 was raised which enabled 130 delegates from the eastern and southern borders of the region to attend. We are thankful to God and to those who gave.

## Work a day for ICMDA

### WORK A DAY FOR ICMDA

Recent years have witnessed amazing growth across Eurasia. Alongside this, regional expenditure has increased as we keep pace with what God is doing. A new initiative to support the work of ICMDA in Eurasia was launched at the end of the conference, encouraging people to 'Work a day for ICMDA' by giving the equivalent of one day's salary a year. For more information on this initiative or on ICMDA in Eurasia, contact the Eurasia email address below.

### Regional staff



Peter Pattison

The months prior to Austria were a time of transition between myself and **Peter Pattison** as incoming and outgoing Eurasia regional secretaries. During the conference, we publicly thanked Peter and his wife Audrey for their willing service over the past six years. Peter will continue as Secretary to the ICMDA UK Trust for the time being.

As I take up the role of regional secretary I am conscious we remain in a time of change with a number of Area Student Representatives and Eurasia committee members needing to hand over their responsibilities. A team development time planned for March will bring the opportunity to look back over recent years and consider where God is leading us as ICMDA in Eurasia.

### XIV Congress



The next ICMDA World Conference will be held in South America at Punta del Este, **Uruguay**, 4-11 July 2010. See [www.icmda2010.org](http://www.icmda2010.org)



*to the conference are grateful to God for the opportunity. They are encouraged and willing to do new projects in our country. One student was able to open up during the Conference. Another, a doctor, said that the time during the Conference was one of the best in her life.*



The leader of the delegation of bursary recipients said:  
*All those who were able to come*

**James Tomlinson** is ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary  
Email [Eurasia@icmda-online.org](mailto:Eurasia@icmda-online.org)

## The department



Marcus Watkins

**W**e exist to serve both the members of CMF and staff in the ministry departments. We are responsible for maintaining the membership database, finances, the building at Marshalsea Road, our IT facilities, health and safety matters, and human resources.



Martin Parsons

I oversee the work done by Martin Parsons (membership administrator), Eleanor Orr (accountant), Wai-Ting So (stationery, post, and fire alarms), Geoff Smith (accounting support), and David Clark (IT support). Martin, Ting and Marcus are employed full time, while Eleanor is employed two days per week. Geoff and David come in one day a week.



Eleanor Orr



Rupert Rea

A new volunteer, Rupert Rea, a retired GP member, comes in one day a week to help record financial transactions and he replaces Robin Russell who has finished after years of volunteering for CMF since he retired as office manager in 1990.

### New database

Much of the focus of the past six months has been the new database, ProgressCRM from Fisk Brett Ltd, a system specifically developed for membership charities like CMF. The system went live in mid-October, and we are now learning to use it and exploit the benefits it brings. We are having to change our procedures, and hope this will make a noticeable difference to our performance for members and for other staff.

The next step will be the implementation of direct debits. We have received approval for running a direct debit scheme, and will start offering this as a means of payment with the next reminder letters, followed by a more active campaign in December and January.

### Finance

The accounts for the 8 months to 31 August show a total income of £647k and expenditure of £737k. This is £1k ahead of our budgeted position at this point, because the budget anticipates income expected later in the year from the Autumn Appeal. Assuming we receive from members the £150k budgeted for the appeal, we would end the year with a small surplus – for which in faith we praise the Lord!

Meanwhile we are preparing workplans and budgets for 2009. In 2008 the amounts were overestimated in both income and expenditure, so we will want to learn from that and continue to improve the quality of the budget for 2009.

### Staff changes



Sandra Hartley

Another long-term servant of CMF left this summer. **Sandra Hartley** moved down from the Midlands in 1982 to work with the then all-new computer and many evolutions in her work followed as the technology progressed and roles changed. She gave long notice of her planned return to Newark and stayed with us to see CMF through the move and associated transitions. We are very grateful for half a working lifetime of service.

She has been replaced by **Martin Parsons** in his first full time job after training in IT networking. Martin lives in Bexleyheath, worships at St Michael's and All Angels C of E and also at Welling Evangelical Free Church where he plays flute as part of the music group and is the youth club leader. He relaxes with online computer gaming, cricket, and skiing.

Also new this autumn is accountant **Eleanor Orr** who previously worked at nearby Southwark Cathedral. She cycles to work and last June did the London to Brighton ride for the British Heart Foundation. She is married to Roger and they have lived in the Peckham/New Cross area for the last 27 years. They have three adult daughters, all still in education. Eleanor worships at All Saints Peckham and enjoys its youthful and lively environment.

*Marcus Watkins is Head of Finance and Administration*

### CMF staff

#### General Secretary

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#### Head of International Ministries

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#### Head of Student Ministries (Until Feb 2009)

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#### Head of Communications

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#### Head of Allied Professions Ministries

Steve Fouch. [steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk](mailto:steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk)

### Dates for your Diary

#### February 2009

- 13-15 National Students' Conference
- 28 Executive Committee, London

#### March

- 7 East Anglia Day Conference
- 27-29 Student Leaders' Conference

#### April

- 2 Paediatrics Breakfast
- 24-26 National Graduates' Conference, Swanwick
- 30 Rheumatology Breakfast, Glasgow

#### May

- 9 Executive Committee, London
- 20 Ophthalmology Breakfast, Birmingham

#### June

- 6 General Committee

For more details of upcoming events, see [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk)

### CMF News

is issued by the Office of the CMF

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Items for inclusion in the Easter 2009 issue should be sent to the Head of Communications, Dr Andrew Fergusson, by Friday 27 February.

Christian Medical Fellowship is a Registered Charity No. 1039823

Design: S2 Design + Advertising  
Print: Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd