

## Taking a stand

The story of Caroline Petrie,<sup>1</sup> suspended from duty as a community nurse on 17 December 2008 for offering to pray with a patient, is part of increasing intolerance towards Christian faith and values in contemporary Britain.

Caroline was employed by North Somerset Primary Care Trust to carry out home visits. After completing a dressing on an elderly woman, she politely inquired if the patient wanted her to pray for her – either in her presence or after she had left. The patient declined, but has since stated she was not offended. She happened to mention the offer to another nurse the next day, and the subsequent report went back up the chain at the PCT.

Caroline was accused of failing to demonstrate a 'personal and professional commitment to equality and diversity', was suspended from her part-time job (without pay), and later faced an internal disciplinary meeting. She sought help from the Christian Legal Centre who brought the case to national attention and the rest, as they say, is history. CMF was widely quoted in articles supporting Caroline, and there was an extraordinary outpouring of support from people, of all faiths and none, who felt she had been treated unfairly. Her suspension was lifted within a week and she returned to work.

Caroline Petrie did nothing wrong. Appropriate enquiries about patients' beliefs are an essential part of whole person care and a sensitive inquiry as to



Photo: PA

whether a patient would value prayer may well be an appropriate part of a consultation, especially in an NHS where some trusts actually pay spiritual healers in the care team.

### Religion or Belief

The media subsequently launched an offensive against what they viewed as unacceptable political correctness. First they uncovered a new set of guidance, *Religion or Belief*, which had appeared on the Department of Health website. The guidance contained non-controversial material about respecting religious observance in the workplace (dietary requirements, prayer rooms, cultural dress codes, etc) but there were also worrying paragraphs that could have been used to discriminate against Christians who sought to share their faith at work, exercise conscientious objection on abortion, or express a biblical view on sexuality.

The *Daily Telegraph* specifically targeted the guidance on

evangelism: 'it should be made clear to everyone from the first day of training and/or employment, and regularly restated, that (preaching and trying to convert other people), notwithstanding religious beliefs, could be construed as harassment under the disciplinary and grievance procedures'.

CMF was asked to comment. We pointed out that much of the NHS' ethos arose in a Christian environment, and that many great medical pioneers were motivated by a strong Christian faith. It was therefore ironic that Christian belief was being seen as something unhelpful, and that it no longer seemed acceptable to express orthodox Christian beliefs, share one's faith with others, or exercise Christian conscience. The guidance had been put together by a small consulting firm (Barbara Burford Consulting) who had little or no knowledge of religious belief, but rather a background in 'ethnic and sexual diversity', and had not consulted any major faith groups beforehand.

### More discrimination

Shortly afterwards, further cases of discrimination came to national attention. A Christian foster carer was suspended because a 17-year-old Muslim girl in her charge had chosen to be baptised as a Christian. A school secretary was suspended because she had asked friends for prayer after her six-year-old daughter was disciplined for mentioning 'hell' to a classmate.

These events led to a BBC poll showing that 62% of people

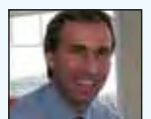
wanted religion and its values to play an important role in British public life.<sup>2</sup> Moreover 63% of those questioned agreed that laws should respect and be influenced by the UK's religious values, findings which sharply contrast with calls from some politicians and secularist groups to exclude faith from the public arena.

Reflecting, I was reminded of Daniel, thrown into the lions' den for continuing his normal daily habit of public prayer, simply because of a change in the law brought about by a few malicious people hostile to him personally, and ill-disposed towards his faith and values. As Britain becomes increasingly post-Christian, we need to be increasingly vigilant about such changes in public sector 'guidance' or law. Graciously to challenge discriminatory moves early will at least make aggressors think twice about 'trying it on'. But more importantly, we need to decide now that come what may we are not ashamed about belonging to Jesus Christ, and will not be intimidated into silence, ethical compromise or abstaining from normal Christian behaviour such as verbal witness and prayer. As the Apostles said when asked to desist from sharing their faith: 'We obey God and not men'.

### references

1. [www.cmf.org.uk/news/?id=117](http://www.cmf.org.uk/news/?id=117)
2. Public 'favour religious values'. *BBC News Online* 2009; 25 February. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7906595.stm>

**Peter Saunders**  
is CMF General  
Secretary



## Member news



Marcus Watkins

### Your support

**W**e now have 974 members signed up to pay subscriptions and make donations by Direct Debit. 381 of you signed up online, and 593 did so on paper. Given the subscription increase, many of you paying the full £180 have decided to pay monthly or quarterly. We made our first collection on 3 February (£15,851.99 from 201 members) and the second on 3 March (£13,838.31 from 263 members). Direct Debiting saves you time once it is set up, and saves us much administrative time and therefore money.

God is blessing us in our finances. The totals on 13 March for the Appeals still current were

- Autumn Appeal: £183,975 (including £16,597 Gift Aid)
- Zimbabwe Appeal: £28,013 (including £2,262 Gift Aid)

Thankfully, regarding the 2008 accounts, we ended with a small surplus of income over expenditure, which is wonderful given the economic climate. The accounts will be audited in April and presented to the General Committee on 6 June. Thank you all!

*Marcus Watkins is Head of Finance and Administration*

### Congratulations

**Geoff Foster** – the ICMDA HIV Initiative *Dignity and Right to Health* award for 2008, for compassionate response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a practising paediatrician in Zimbabwe

**John Jenkins** – CBE for services to medicine in Northern Ireland

**Paul Johnson** – Professor of Paediatric Surgery at the University of Oxford

**Heather Nunnerley** – MBE

**Mark Pickering** – MRCPG (with merit)

**Peter Saunders** – MA Bioethics

**Justin Thacker** – Head of Theology at the World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission

**Hugh Thomas** – Clinical Teaching Fellow in Public Health at St George's Hospital, London

### Outgoing

Susan Burslem (Leicester) to New Zealand

Elizabeth Prince (Sheffield) to India

### Homecoming

Stroma Beattie (Edinburgh) from Malaysia

Emma Emanuel from Israel

Roy Jones (Sheffield) from Chad/Cameroon

Chris and Karinya Lewis (Southampton) from Sudan

Elspeth Paterson (Edinburgh) from Pakistan

### Obituaries

**Doreen Aitken** (*d* 21 December 2008) was the widow of Jack Aitken, one of the 'founding fathers' of CMF. They were 'lifelong supporters of CMF, appreciated their involvement and loved the support of intellect and more importantly friendship received over the years from so many'.

**David Charley** (*q* St Thomas's 1942; *d* 7 November 2008) became a consultant chest physician in Leeds and later medical director of Wheatfields Hospice. He was elected president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain in 1982, and was a regular at CMF conferences.

**Eileen Coats** (*q* Cambridge and Liverpool 1951; *d* 11 November 2008) was a GP at Bethnal Green Medical Mission in London, and retired to Devon.

**Eric Douglas** (*q* Cambridge and The London 1952; *d* 26 December 2008) was a GP in Northwood all his professional life. He sat for many years on CMF's Medical Study Group and in early retirement worked as a volunteer with HIV/AIDS patients at ACET.

**Fletcher Lunn** (*d* 21 February 2009 aged 92) was a surgeon at Guy's and 'a good friend of Douglas Johnson many years ago'. His son writes 'He was a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus and a lifelong member and supporter of the CMF and very much valued the work you do'.

**Fiona Jameson** (*q* Durham 1958; *d* 2 January 2009) worked as a GP on Tyneside and then when Robin, her husband who survives her, was appointed a consultant surgeon in Liverpool, she became a GP there. In retirement she worked for the Disability Agency, and was an active member of CMF. 'She loved her work and her family.'

**James Scott** (*q* Glasgow 1944; *d* 30 December 2008) was active in World War Two with RAMC Airborne Forces, and was then a GP in Southampton for 37 years. He was president of the local BMA, and with his first wife ran a maternity nursing home where they delivered 1,000 babies. He served long term on CMF's General Committee.

**Dorothy Toop** (*q* Edinburgh 1944; *d* January 2009) became the medical officer at Saiburi Christian Hospital in southern Thailand. Her husband William survives her, also a member of CMF, as is their son Ken, an O&G consultant who sits on the Executive Committee.

### Regional CMF meetings

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



## Uniting and equipping



Alex Bunn

### Mark moves on

After seven years at the helm, **Mark Pickering** has just handed over the tiller as head of the Student Department. Like



Mark Pickering

Jacob's work for Laban, the time has flown by, but Mark has worked tirelessly not to win a Rachel (as he has Rachael already), but to join Peter and Andrew in winning men for Christ (Matthew 4:19).

Mark's focus has been developing key leaders across Britain, sharing the wealth of CMF resources, and modelling faithfulness even in the smallest detail. We wish him well as with Rachael and Zoe he takes on new challenges in York. Already they have agreed to become Regional Secretary (Mark) and Medical School Secretary (Rachael), which just goes to show that the faithful servant



Alex Bunn

never quite retires (John 6:67-9).

**Alex Bunn** is Acting Head and **Laurence**



Laurence Crutchlow

**Crutchlow** Acting Associate Head of Student Ministries from 1 March,

and we hope to recruit a new Head soon. Please pray that God would raise up the right person, in time for the next academic year.

### National students' conference

This remains the highpoint of the student year. In February we welcomed 411 people (possibly the most we've ever had) to the theme *Living in the light of tomorrow*. Steve Brady tackled Revelation superbly, reminding us not to treat God Almighty as 'God all matey', that we are all going to die *on time*, and that ultimately, we can be sure that



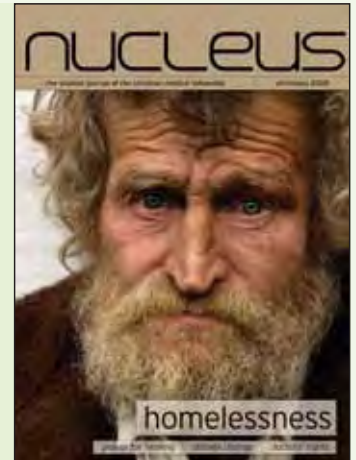
International preconference

Christ is faithful, so believers win.

The international students' preconference was attended by some 20 from Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia and South Africa. The training and encouragement they received will be taken back home to accelerate the tremendous growth of Christian medical movements in those countries. Well done to our intern, **Will Taylor**, for all his hard work over the months running up to this.

### Nucleus

This continues to be the best CMF publication, so the students say! After a gruelling spell of campaigning on ethical issues, it has been a relief to turn our eyes to other needs such as homelessness, creation care and global poverty.



### Student member joins Chairman on TV



The Big Questions

Cardiff medic Tom Roberts appeared on BBC1 *The Big Questions* on 1 March, and stoutly defended the idea that parents should teach moral values regarding sex outside marriage, if they have their children's best interests at heart. CMF chairman Trevor Stammers also featured in the same clip which you can watch at [www.ccfon.org/mediacentre.php?avid=169&avap=1](http://www.ccfon.org/mediacentre.php?avid=169&avap=1)

### Training courses

The flagship evangelism training course, *Confident*

*Christianity*, continued to equip a new generation of students in Cambridge and Bristol to 'give the reason for the hope' we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). Its sister course *Answering Other Faiths* was pioneered by students living on today's multicultural campuses, and challenged 35 Cardiff students to affirm the truth in other worldviews, build bridges, challenge falsehood, and share Christ. Both courses have been applauded by UCCF for blessing medics and non-medics alike.

### Student leaders' conference

This has proved its worth to a host of doctors who cut their teeth as student reps, and runs on 20-22 March in the Peak District. Peter Saunders will speak on 2 Timothy, 'I give you this charge', complementing a range of practical seminars.

### Electives day

Our annual student electives day takes place at Johnson House, London, on 29 April. It's great to meet so many students who see electives as a taster for serving the Two Thirds World longer term.

*Alex Bunn* is Acting Head of Student Ministries

# Keep on keeping on



Kevin Vaughan

## Keep on praying

In the wake of the publicity over the Caroline Petrie case (see front page), I was chatting recently with several members who have been involved in praying with patients. One spoke of an opportunity to pray which arose naturally at the hospital bedside while chatting with a patient about where we find support in times of need. Another spoke of praying a prayer of thanks with a patient for whom good diagnosis and prompt hospital intervention had averted a potential health crisis.

One GP said how she had felt led to pray for a cancer patient over the phone and after the patient had agreed to this, the doctor found herself among other things praying for the patient's daughter. At the end of the phone call, the patient said he now realised he had something he must say to his daughter before it was too late. Yet another doctor had been encouraged with feedback from a third party a couple of weeks after she had promised to pray for a patient's wife.

One GP member has recently carried out a random survey of 200 patients about what they would feel if the doctor offered to pray for them. About half said they were not particularly interested, but would still be happy to go on seeing the doctor in question. The other half said they were comfortable with the idea and would appreciate it. It remains important that we are sensitive to our patients and to the Spirit's prompting, but praying with patients is clearly still one of the ways that God is using his people in healthcare.

Trevor Stammers, current CMF chairman and a GP, has

## Keep on coming

We look forward to welcoming all those who have already booked for our annual National Graduates' Conference at Swanwick, 24-26 April on the theme of *Joy in Turbulent Times*. It promises to be a great weekend with Bible readings from 1 Peter given by Dick Dowsett and the keynote lecture on *The Doctor in the Workplace* given by John Wyatt. There will be a wide choice of seminars and plenty of time to relax. If you would like to come, book quickly while there are still places.



been quoted in the national press on the subject of Caroline Petrie and praying with patients:

*To sack her on the basis of making an inquiry about whether a patient would like to pray would mean that thousands of people – including me – would be up before the General Medical Council. (www.telegraph.co.uk)*

I am also encouraged to hear of more and more members becoming involved in prayer groups connected with the workplace – some groups in hospitals, some in GP surgeries, and some in members' homes. This is something we could all do, both for our own benefit and the benefit of others. Peter Phillips from Ipswich has written in *Final Thoughts* in the current edition of *Triple Helix* about his experience in a prayer triplet.



Saline Solution in Sheffield

## Keep on in training

It is vital that we do all we can to support junior doctors in these uncertain days. The junior doctors committee had a weekend away in January to pray, plan and relax together. Recently I have come across several doctors in training who have faced severe bullying at the hands of their consultants or tutors. Practical and prayerful support was key in enabling them to get through.

Junior doctors recently led seminars at the national students' conference helping final year students to prepare for their first foundation jobs, and we are planning a career-focused day conference for doctors applying through the specialty recruitment process later this year.

CMF provides training opportunities too, and we have planned more *Saline Solution* days to help members sensitively express faith issues in interactions with colleagues and patients. See back page for details.

## Keep your eyes open

One member has reported to us that because of an IT policy based on key words, her Trust had blocked the CMF website at work with a warning sign worded *Cult/Religious Belief*. However, when she asked the IT department to allow access, they were happy to do so! What is happening in your Trust?

**Kevin Vaughan** is Head of Graduate Ministries



# In and out of Johnson House



Andrew Fergusson

## IN

### Medical cover for Keswick

Last year CMF members responded very helpfully to a request for GPs, attending the Keswick Convention anyway, to be available to be called upon in case of need for medical cover at the main meetings.

If you are attending for any time 11-31 July and think you could help, please contact Simon Overend, Operations Manager, Keswick Ministries, Skiddaw Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4BY. Tel. 017687 80075. Email [Simon.Overend@keswickministries.org](mailto:Simon.Overend@keswickministries.org)

### Medicine of the Person - Annual Conference

Paul Tournier lives on in that the British group he inspired is holding their annual conference at Holland House near Pershore from 24-26 April, for those working or training within the health and allied professions.

The group, which includes CMF members, seeks to interpret Paul Tournier's ideas and teaching in the light of modern medical practice. The aim is to promote whole person medicine that includes the spiritual dimension. This year's topic is 'Healing and Wholeness in Christian Perspective' and the keynote speaker is Rev Chris Mackenna, director of the St Marylebone Healing and Counselling Centre in London. While the emphasis is strongly Christian, those of other faiths or none are welcome.

CPD certificates for 7 hours are available. Cost £155 fully inclusive; bursary help available. Details: Mrs Rosemary Booth. Email [r.e.booth@btinternet.com](mailto:r.e.booth@btinternet.com) Tel. 01271 326306

### Bridge Pastoral Foundation

This organisation incorporates the Clinical Theology Association set up by Frank Lake, and runs training seminars for clergy and doctors involved in pastoral care. These introduce the 'Dynamic Cycle' and show the way different personality types have developed. Teaching is based on the life of Christ in John's Gospel.

Seminars take place weekly during term time although can also be taken as a half weekend. Charge is about £15 per session. Contact Dr Jane Thompson, chair BPF, 2 Gar Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8GQ. Tel. 01962 843040. Email [jane.louise@ntlworld.com](mailto:jane.louise@ntlworld.com)

### Events

Do keep an eye on the *Upcoming Events* section of the website, [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk). Although this mainly features CMF activities, other events we judge to be of Christian and medical relevance are listed.

### Advance care planning

In association with many other medical bodies, the Clinical Standards Department of the Royal College of Physicians released these 'concise evidence-based guidelines for clinical management' in February. The Medical Study Group has considered them, and we will be commenting further in due course. See [www.cmf.org.uk/news/?id=125](http://www.cmf.org.uk/news/?id=125)

## OUT

### Chlamydia and You



With this mailing you should have received a sample copy of a new information leaflet from Family Education Trust. Prices for bulk copies are:

- 10 copies - £1.50 + 75p p&p
- 25 copies - £3.00 + £1.00 p&p
- 50 copies - £5.00 + £2.00 p&p
- 100 copies - £9.00 + £4.00 p&p

Prices for larger quantities and for overseas orders are available on request. See [www.famyouth.org.uk/publications.php](http://www.famyouth.org.uk/publications.php)

### Healthcare Sunday

You should also have received a little bookmark giving advance notice of this year's Healthcare Sunday on 18 October. Do try and arrange something in your church.

### We submit!

CMF has recently made Submissions:

- A formal submission from CMF (Scotland) to Margo MacDonald MSP's Consultation Document: The Proposed End of Life Choices (Scotland) Bill
- A brief informal response to the General Medical Council's 'Tomorrow's Doctors' consultation
- A preliminary response as part of the Panel of Reference to the draft of the forthcoming General Medical Council consultation on End of Life Treatment and Care: Good Practice in Decision-Making

You can see the first two of these by clicking on 'Government Submissions' under 'Ethics and Issues' on the CMF homepage.

### Public policy

It has been a particularly busy few months on euthanasia-related matters and with developments about stem cells and the HFE Act. See the accompanying *Triple Helix* and always keep an eye on the website.

### eNewsletters

Because there have been so many public policy developments, and other news we think you will want to know about, we have been sending out *eNewsletters* more frequently this year. We do try to balance the importance of issues against not over-burdening you. If you are not getting these, it may be because we don't have your email address...if not, do let us know at [memberadmin@cmf.org.uk](mailto:memberadmin@cmf.org.uk)

*Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications*



Vicky Lavy

## The wider horizon

### 'God works in mysterious ways - these days he even works by text'

This was the headline on Radio 4 reporting the story of David Nott, a Christian surgeon who gives one month every year to work for Medecins Sans Frontieres in conflict zones. Last year he was sent to the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, where he faced a boy needing an emergency forequarter amputation for a gangrenous gunshot wound. David, a vascular surgeon, had never even seen this operation performed. In this remote part of the world the internet rarely works but mobile phones do, so with great resourcefulness he texted a colleague in the UK for advice. Back came details of the anatomy and full surgical instructions. The operation was a success and the 16-year-old who had faced a miserable death was given another chance at life. Now 'See one, do one, teach one' can be replaced by 'Text one, do one, teach one'.

### Developing Health Course

28 June - 10 July 2009

Bookings are coming in for this popular course which equips doctors and nurses for work in resource-poor settings. The two week course includes special interest days on paediatrics, tropical medicine, HIV, community medicine, surgery, obstetrics, and women's health. Participants can attend for specific days, for one week, or the fortnight. Details at [www.healthserve.org/developing\\_health/](http://www.healthserve.org/developing_health/)

### Revalidation

The introduction this year of licensing and revalidation will create challenges for doctors working overseas. The regulations have not yet been

fully formulated and it is unclear how doctors going abroad can remain within the appraisal system, how those already overseas can enter the revalidation process, and what the re-entry criteria will be for those who lose their licence. Retired doctors not able to revalidate here may be unable to register in another country or obtain insurance.

A CMF working group is in dialogue with the royal colleges and the GMC. We want to ensure that requirements for revalidation do not become a barrier to doctors going to serve where medical work is so badly needed.

### 'Missionaries, not aid money, are the solution'

So says Matthew Parris, who describes himself as a confirmed atheist. His surprising article in *The Times*<sup>1</sup> describes the 'enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa'. Having grown up in Malawi and travelled through other parts of the continent, he has observed a striking difference in those who have become believers through the work of missionaries. Far from deploring it as cultural colonialism as many who share his world view would do, he states that 'Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good.' An unexpected testimony to the faithful service of many missionaries and the transforming power of God.

### Opportunities to serve

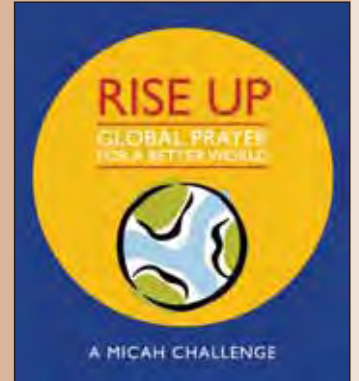
■ **Kijabe Hospital, Kenya** is one of the oldest and best established mission hospitals in Africa. Three long term positions become vacant this summer, and there is always a need for shorter term locums. [meddir.kh@kijabe.net](mailto:meddir.kh@kijabe.net)

### Micah Challenge - Rise up and pray

The credit crunch hits the world's poorest people the hardest and will make the UN Millennium Development Goals more difficult to achieve than ever. The Global Monitoring Report from Unesco estimates the 390 million poorest Africans will see their income drop by around 20%, far more than in the developed world. Concern is growing that progress towards the MDGs of poverty eradication and reduction in maternal and child mortality will not only be slowed, but may be reversed.<sup>2</sup>

As the leaders of the world's most powerful economies meet at the G20 summit, Micah Challenge is calling Christians worldwide to rise up and join together in prayer: that our new global economy might be more squarely founded on the values of our creator God; that the poor amongst us would be lifted up; and that out of the rubble of our global economy there might emerge the hope for a better world. Will you rise up and join?

[www.micahchallenge.org.uk/g20](http://www.micahchallenge.org.uk/g20)



■ **Medics for Burma** - A&E consultant Stephen Nash has been taking medical teams to Burma for the past five years. They train local doctors, dentists, paramedics and lay people to respond to the enormous needs in their communities and refugee camps. Doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives are all needed. [admin@hope4theworld.org](mailto:admin@hope4theworld.org)

■ **Maasai Medical Mission** - GP Richard Scott has done evangelistic mission trips to Maasailand, Kenya since 2002. He has been asked to bring a medical team in March 2010 for a two and a half week mobile medical outreach, and needs 10-15 people from different specialties. [richard.scott@gp-G82105.nhs.uk](mailto:richard.scott@gp-G82105.nhs.uk)  
The HealthServe website [www.healthserve.org/overseas\\_opportunities](http://www.healthserve.org/overseas_opportunities) lists a variety of needs, vacancies and opportunities.

### Zimbabwe

Our appeal to help CMF Zimbabwe respond to the cholera crisis has had a great response and as we go to press has almost reached our target of £30,000. Thank you to all who have given so generously. This has not only bought supplies but has sent a huge message of support to the team there. One of the doctors said 'In places like Zimbabwe it's possible to feel abandoned, but your partnership has shown us that we are not alone and we have been overwhelmed by your support'. There is much more in the accompanying *Triple Helix*.

*Vicky Lavy is Head of International Ministries*

### references

1. The Times 27 December 2008, [www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/matthew\\_parris/article5400568.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/matthew_parris/article5400568.ece)
2. [www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/mar/05/poverty-credit-crunch-un-development](http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/mar/05/poverty-credit-crunch-un-development)

# ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



James Tomlinson

## Eurasia

The ICMDA Eurasia region covers Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa. I am writing this report in mid-March from Vilnius, Lithuania where we are halfway through a time of team development for the Area Student Representatives (ASRs) and the Eurasia committee. Times such as this are vital for strengthening the team and refining our vision as we support the work of the national movements, and contact groups across our region as they support Christian medics and dentists.

### ASRs

Eight volunteer junior doctors serve the region as ASRs by encouraging work among medical and dental students in an area of the region. We are in the process of appointing new ASRs for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Baltic and Nordic countries and Western Europe.

**Euan Dodds** has been the ICMDA Area Student Representative (ASR) for the countries in Western Europe for almost four years now. As ASR, Euan has sought to encourage and support the student work in each of the countries of Western Europe through, among other things, encouraging prayer, visiting key conferences, encouraging attendance at the recent Europe-Eurasia conference and the UK CMF preconference for international students, and maintaining contact with student leaders.

In doing this Euan has been part of a valued team of ASRs across the world. The role of ASR is very much that of encourager and enabler, connecting people together with



Schladming conference, September 2008

resources and with each other through the international family of ICMDA. As Euan now needs to hand over his responsibility as ASR we are seeking someone to take over this voluntary role for Western Europe. If you would be interested, or know someone who may be appropriate, contact James on [Eurasia@icmda-online.org](mailto:Eurasia@icmda-online.org)

### International students preconference

In February I had the privilege of joining the group of students from across the Eurasia region who were attending the international preconference week in London organised by CMF. We explored how small groups of Christian medical students meeting together can be a place of support and discipleship to help one another in following Jesus in medicine. Discussions highlighted the challenge of making such groups effective in places as diverse as Hungary, Austria and the Middle East.

A number of those present came with another student leader from their country, emphasising the benefit of working with a co-leader and developing a vision together. Particularly encouraging for me was the opportunity to consider with two students from Belgium how they might enable Christian medical students in their cities to pursue God's kingdom in and through their medical studies. Let's pray that

### ICMDA World Conference 2010



The next ICMDA World Conference will be held in South America at Punta del Este, Uruguay. The Students and Juniors conference is 4-6 July 2010, and the Main Congress is 7-11 July. The World Congress is a wonderful opportunity to connect with what God is doing through Christian medical and dental students and graduates around the world. Daryl Hackland, ICMDA General Secretary, writes:

*The organising committee is working strongly on the logistics and programme content for the preconference and the main congress. A large supportive team has been assembled by the Congress Director, Jorge Patpatian, and Chairman of the Programme Committee, Ricardo Zandrino, to address matters of organisation and planning. As in the past, special support for economically poorer countries is being promoted through the establishment of a Bursary Fund. Each region is called upon to support this appeal to help ensure that delegates from each member and contact group country are enabled to attend.*

For more information or to express an intention to attend, go to [www.icmda2010.org](http://www.icmda2010.org)

God would continue to grow and bless his work among medical and dental students across Eurasia. The preconference week has for years been a blessing to many – six of our current ASR team benefited from attending previously.

### Leaders' training in Romania

ICMDA Balkans ASR, Dana Galchis, reports from the second student leaders' training in Romania held in December:

*We had 2 days of heaven! 46 people came, 7 from Moldova and the rest from Romania. The students became friends and connected so well! We worshipped together, prayed together, discussed and shared ideas, encouraged one another, and just had so much fun at times.*

*The Bible talks on 2 Timothy given by Paul, a student leader from Romania, were just superb. Then there were 4 seminars, also led by students, which looked at leading a local group; fund-raising; sharing faith; and penetrating your university (through involvement in the university's committees and*

*structures). It is a great joy to me that we already have people who not only can speak beautifully on these topics, but all had spoken from their own experience. Those leading seminars had not done so before. This was therefore the perfect opportunity for them to come out and see that **they can do it!***

*A leader's duty is to replicate, so that when they step down or move elsewhere, the work of God does not suffer. I am beginning to see this happening in my country of Romania. As students in Romania we have been blessed to be a blessing for the other Balkan countries. My hope for this year is that, with God's grace and help, we meet key people in the surrounding countries and help them reach their full potential in influencing their medicine for the kingdom...*

**James Tomlinson** is the ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary

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## Allied professions



Steve Fouch

### Christian Nurses and Midwives Christian Therapists' Network

The national conference had to be cancelled due to the severe weather in February. There are two day conferences planned in its stead this June and autumn. Numbers at weekend conferences have been declining in the last couple of years, and there is a rethink going on about running smaller regional day conferences rather than one big national event each year. Both movements are struggling and not growing, and are reviewing their focus and where to put their time and resources. I continue to work alongside both in a supportive and advisory role.

My main focus this year is to find the funds to employ a development worker to start networking with student and local groups for both organisations. I will also be spending some time visiting and supporting local groups.

### National and international partnerships

We now hold regular Skype calls between all the European Christian health professional networks, including International Saline Partnerships, PRIME, ICMDA, NCFI and Healthcare Christian Fellowship International (HCFI). This has grown out of co-ordinating the ICMDA Eurasia preconference. All involved value the opportunity to network, share news and resources and work on joint projects, and it should increase co-operation and communication.

### Nurses Christian Fellowship International

Our main focus is planning and finding funding and administrative support for the 2010 European Christian Nurses conference in Romania, and supporting a network of Christian nurse educators currently forming in Europe around the Students' Spirituality and Care conferences. The next is in Bergen, Norway, this April.

### ICMDA HIV Network

The network of ICMDA member bodies and individuals working in the HIV/AIDS area has been asked to contribute to the ICMDA World Conference in Uruguay next July.

### UK Consortium on AIDS & Development: Faith Working Group (FWG)

We had a follow up meeting in January with UNAIDS on the UN framework for engagement with faith communities. The FWG will consider joint projects around religious healing and

## PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



John Caroe

**W**e need your advice! How can we best enthuse you about advancing this front line of the Kingdom into the secular core of medical educational establishments? Please can you help us?

In PRIME we have peaks of real reward, such as seeing the faces of hundreds of Romanian students as they sense a spiritual firework of joy lighting their medical struggles, or discovering the number of open doors in Russia at the highest academic level of influence. We want to convince you of the need to draw in your expertise in sharing your medical skills with learners who are so hungry. The fields are open; the number of core labourers is just tiny and, please note, increasingly stressed and getting older! No longer is PRIME just a hopeful vision but a rapidly expanding network of activity across 25-30 countries. We must build up this core army of courageous teachers.

Imminent opportunities include visits of 1-4 weeks by:

- Specialist consultants in most disciplines eg a female obstetrician for North Africa, a dermatologist for East Africa
- Medical education consultants for Russia
- GP trainers for India and East Africa
- Plus the particular need for planners and course designers here in the UK

You can help us even if you never leave the UK by kindly contributing to the much needed financial support! For all the news, teaching opportunities and ways to give your support, please contact [admin@prime-international.org.uk](mailto:admin@prime-international.org.uk) or go to [www.prime-international.org.uk](http://www.prime-international.org.uk)

**John Caroe** is Chairman of PRIME

compliance, gender, prevention and faith, and minimum standards for faith communities and faith based organisations responding to HIV/AIDS.

### Micah Challenge

Last December I attended the induction of Joel Edwards (former Director of Evangelical Alliance) as the new Director of the International Micah Challenge – this promises to accelerate the campaign on the Millennium Development Goals in terms of activity, proactivity and global profile.

**Steve Fouch** is Head of Allied Professions Ministries

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## Dates for your Diary

### April

- 2 Paediatrics Breakfast, York
- 18 Scotland Day Conference, Dundee
- 24-26 National Graduates' Conference
- 29 Electives Day, London
- 30 Rheumatology Breakfast, Glasgow

### May

- 16 Saline Solution, St Albans
- 20 Ophthalmology Breakfast, B'ham
- 30 Saline Solution, London

### June

- 4 Psychiatry Breakfast, Liverpool
- 6 General Committee, London
- 28-10 July Developing Health Course

### July

- 1 BMA Breakfast, Liverpool
- 9 Dermatology Breakfast, Glasgow
- 18/25 Saline Solution, Oxford (TBC)

### September

- 19 Saline Solution, Dundee
- 26 Junior Doctors' Day Conference

### October

- 2 Psychiatry Day Conference
- 3 London & SE Day Conference
- 6-8 Retirees Conference
- 16-18 Northern Conference
- 23-25 Junior Doctors Conference

### November

- 14 Midlands Day Conference
- 21-23 Scottish Conference

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

## CMF News

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