

## CMF's future plans – 2020 ACTIVE Vision

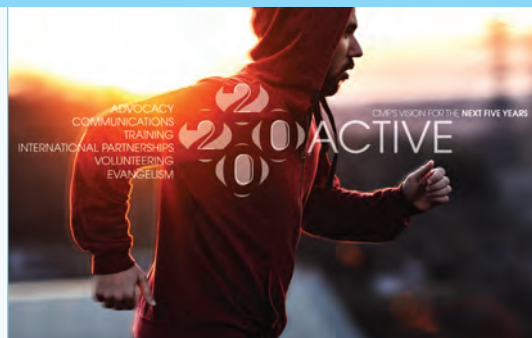
Message from CEO Peter Saunders

**C**MF exists to unite and equip Christian doctors and nurses to live and speak for Jesus Christ and last year we launched our **ACTIVE 2020 Vision** with the theme 'Connect & Grow, Speak & Serve'.

This edition of CMF News reports much to encourage and excite – our biggest ever Student Conference with almost 500 attendees, a growing nurses' ministry with our first book for Christian nurses, refreshed resources for evangelism and a new International Track.

This year we aim to achieve the following:

- Our Head of Student Ministries, John Greenall, will step up into the new role of 'National Field Director' to spearhead CMF's regional development and implement a new 'high-impact' volunteer programme with teams of speakers, media spokespeople, writers and evangelists.
- A new Head of Student Ministries will work under John in leading our rapidly growing student ministry.
- Two new volunteer regional directors will pilot a projects in two of CMF's twelve regions.
- The Deep:ER volunteer programme will expand from six to 15 part-time voluntary workers to support all of CMF's six ministry departments.
- Four volunteer associate staffworkers will give two days a week to serve doctors, students and nurses.
- A new training platform will be launched with online modules including videos, articles and study guides.
- A new evangelism and apologetics initiative with training, resources and events.



- A new Head of Graduate Ministries to take over from Pablo Fernandez, who retires in October 2017.

These developments will provide a springboard for further developments over the next five years as we expand the Deep:ER programme, eventually appoint twelve volunteer area team directors, expand our voluntary Associate Staffworker programme across graduate, student and

nurses departments and appoint part-time heads for training and evangelism.

These various changes will involve some CMF staff changing roles, new people being appointed and many others with the necessary gifts and time stepping up into key volunteer roles.

It will also require a 12% increase in CMF's baseline income – from £1.3m to £1.46m annually over the next five years.

Currently 32% of CMF's £1.3m income is given by just 250 of our 6,000 doctor and nurse members. To raise the additional £160k per year we need others to join them: ten more people to give at the level of our top 20 givers, 20 more to give at the level of our next 30 top givers and 50 to give at the level of our next 200 givers.

Might God be calling you to give of your time or resources to make this happen? Or might you offer CMF an interest free loan to help bridge the gap in order that we might start right away?

Please pray for all these developments – that God would raise up the needed people and resources – and for wisdom for the board and senior staff as they take the vision forward.

*'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it' (Malachi 3:10).*

### An invitation from Richard Coekin, speaker at the 2017 CMF National Conference

**I**'m hugely looking forward to being with you at the CMF National Conference. I'm married to a doctor. In fact, I'm the son of a doctor and the father of a doctor. So I'm very



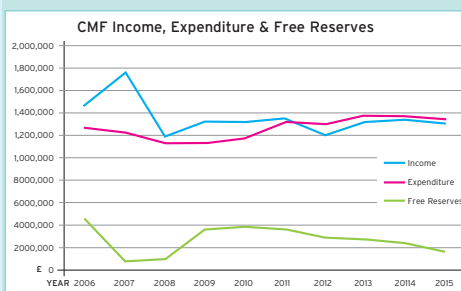
Richard Coekin

conscious that the medical profession in general, and perhaps Christians in particular, are under immense pressure at the moment.

I'm thrilled that our theme will be 'Rediscovering Prayer'. I guess many of us struggle with prayer, the reasons are familiar: we're very busy and stressed, we're often disappointed that prayers we've prayed in the past haven't been answered as we'd hoped, and we're confused about what we're supposed to be praying for. It was a great discovery for me to find that when Jesus' disciples asked for help he actually taught them about God. I'm convinced that the best place to start is with the Lord's Prayer. I hope you can join us.'

### CMF finance update

**T**hank you to all those who support our ministry through subscriptions and donations. Production of accounts has been running slower than normal as we get used to a new database. The most recent accounts are for October 2016 showing



income for the year to 31 October to be £18k lower than budget while expenditure was £3k lower than budget. The overall result showed an actual deficit of £122k against a budgeted deficit of £107k. However,

based on our experience of November and December, we think the actual year end result will be close to the budgeted deficit of £73k.

## Publications

### New releases

#### **Cure for Life gets a new life**



Bernard Palmer's *Cure for Life* has been re-issued in an attractive, updated edition. Bernard, a retired surgeon and pastor from Hertfordshire, is passionate about sharing the gospel.

The original, written over two decades ago, has been carefully revised and updated.

Rico Tice (co-author of the Christianity Explored course) wrote: 'In his book he brings his fine medical mind to diagnose our human condition and then with an array of evidence prescribes the remedy we all need in Jesus Christ.'

Order through the CMF website, £6.00 plus P&P. [cmf.org.uk/resources/bookstore](http://cmf.org.uk/resources/bookstore)

#### **Lighting the Way**



A short review of CMF's new resource for nurses & midwives: 'This is a treasure trove of godly wisdom for nurses and midwives. It gives a tried and tested biblical

perspective on a wide range of key issues for today's professionals. For the individual it is inspirational but also would provide great discussion material for groups. Highly recommended.'

Liz Capper, retired nurse executive.

#### **George Verwer visits CMF**

George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilisation (OM), addressed CMF staff in March.



George Verwer

Now aged 79 George is still a highly inspirational mission speaker. He recounted how he embraced 'messiology', working in what 'humanly-speaking are messy situations' and how OM gradually widened its focus from evangelism-only to a blend of proclamation, social action and church planting. The outcome he says has been a much greater harvest of people finding faith in Christ through the work of OM than ever imagined. His calling card reels off a whole series of social and spiritual problems and confidently declares 'Christ is the answer.'

## New staff members

### Two new recruits for CMF

#### **André Woolgar**

##### **Junior Researcher**



André Woolgar

#### **What prompted you to consider taking on this role with CMF?**

Having just left university, I was going through the job listings, wondering what I would do with my life. The opportunity to work at CMF jumped out at me, as it provided the opportunity to work on ethics and research and engaged my interest in politics. Working for a Christian organisation also appealed as I wanted to develop my faith in a working environment.

#### **What did you study at university?**

I studied Geography at the University of Cambridge. I graduated in 2016, so am trying to become integrated in the 'real' adult world!

**Church?** Since returning to London, I have rejoined to New Life Christian Centre in Croydon, South London. It's a lively Pentecostal church with great diversity, which I really love – showing what the kingdom of God will be like on earth. My experience of church at university means I am getting involved in some of the

ministries, particularly work with Muslims and Christians Against Poverty.

**Family? Hobbies?** I am from a mixed background, with a British dad and Indonesian mum, which means my family contains a mixture of different groups and worldviews. Therefore, trying to understand different traditions and talking with people from different cultures is really stimulating for me. In terms of other hobbies, I've started getting involved with martial arts and love playing and listening to music. I have a keen interest in reading philosophy, theology, history and science – God's world in general really! I also love campaigning and being involved with social justice projects.

#### **What are your impressions of CMF so far?**

It has been a great introduction into the world of work, as everyone cares about what is going on in the work of everyone else. This, and bringing everything before God at the beginning of the day, is brilliant and gets me going in the morning. Besides this, it is great to be involved with the great work CMF is doing and learning lots about ethics.

#### **Rachel Owusu-Ankomah**

##### **Associate Staffworker, St George's, University of London**



Rachel Owusu-Ankomah

#### **What prompted you to consider taking on this role with CMF?**

I joined CMF as a fresher and have been hooked ever since! I was inspired by seeing Christian doctors living out their faith wholeheartedly in every aspect of their lives – I wanted to emulate that. I became involved in running my local CMF group at medical school. Taking up the role is just an extension of that passion to see the gospel transform lives. God in his providence made a way for me to do this as I came to the end of core surgical training.

**Church?** I attend Brixton Local Church (BLoc), a church plant that is part of the Co-Mission network. It is a great place to grow and for fellowship. We are like a family; we do life together in all its ups and downs and have a passion to reach Brixton with the gospel.

**Family? Hobbies?** I live in Kent and have a massive extended family, including 30 first cousins! Going to their weddings, events and

looking after their children keeps me very busy. I also love to sing, cook (I'm a bit of a feeder) and eat good food. CMF has put this to good use as I have already catered for two Sydenham conferences.

#### **What are your impressions of CMF so far?**

It's great being in the office and seeing how things work centrally and how much time and effort is put in behind the scenes. I have loved working with the student team, getting to know the other volunteers has been a particular highlight. John, Alex and Laurence have also really encouraged, inspired and challenged me, which has been a wonderful growing experience. I'm very excited to see what God will do with me at CMF.

### Staff news



Rob Yaxley



Hazel Hepner

Many thanks to **Rob Yaxley** (website manager) and **Hazel Hepner** (membership administrator) who were made redundant at the beginning of this year. We are very grateful for their service to CMF and wish them every blessing in their next roles.



# Student Conference report

Esther Chevassut reflects on John Lennox, seminars & a 'techno ceilidh'

*If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.*



*But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the*

*image of gold you have set up (Daniel 3:17-18).*

Yarnfield Park saw a record 500 medical and nursing students unite to be challenged by this example of faith in the book of Daniel.

After long journeys from universities far and wide, and a hearty dinner, we gathered for our first main meeting. We were introduced to John Lennox – Oxford Mathematics professor, apologetics lecturer, author and renowned multilingual debater – our gift and main speaker for the weekend. He helpfully and honestly shared some of his experiences, recounting the pressure from his professors when he was a student to 'get rid of this God stuff – it will hold you back academically'. However, Lennox challenged and encouraged us that we, like Daniel, can stand firm in Christ despite opposition and the pressures of secular society.

Over three talks during the weekend, Lennox exposed questions Daniel raises – language, authenticity, organisation, history, values, identity and image. There are many parallels between living as a Christian today and Daniel and his friends living in exile – out of their comfort zone and out of



their culture in idolatrous Babylon. We face the same challenges of asking whether God is behind global and personal history and the world that treats things of absolute value as relative. We can learn from these young students whose faith wasn't eroded under pressure; if deeply rooted in Christ it is possible to live in the world whilst not conforming to it.

Alongside digesting these big challenges in the main sessions, we were spoilt with a choice of four seminars out of 18 wide-ranging topics. Brilliant speakers shared their wisdom, insights and experience, bringing Christian perspectives to light on medical careers, mission, gender dysphoria, embryonic ethics, psychosis and evangelism, to name a few.

Free time activities included a walk, a jungle speed competition, watching rugby, playing football and the opportunity to tease out a few more of John Lennox's pearls of wisdom during a Q&A session. A Saturday evening favourite, led by some of our wonderful Scottish representatives, was a fantastic 'techno ceilidh' – organised chaos or skillful dancing, depending on where you witnessed it from!

Meeting others from the Wessex area on the Sunday was a great time to discuss ways we can further Connect & Grow, Speak & Serve together in our region and how we can pray for one another. It was a true joy and privilege being with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the UK (and further afield) on the brink of our careers in healthcare. We finished the weekend by sharing communion before returning home, better equipped to face the challenges ahead.

## Public Policy

New abortion challenge

**D**iana Johnson's radical abortion-up-to-birth motion narrowly passed in the House of Commons 172-142. In practice it would render the Abortion Act null and void and allow abortion on demand, for any reason. Johnson's motion has influential backers including BPAS and the Royal College of Midwives. This is a Ten Minute Rule Bill. Governments rarely give parliamentary time to a Ten Minute Rule Bill and so they go no further. It is highly likely however, given the level of support, that this one may return in May as a Private Member's Bill. If so it will constitute a serious threat. A 2011 YouGov poll showed that 88% of UK women either want to keep the current law and time limit on abortions (24 weeks) or restrict it further. In contrast only 2% of women support an increase in the abortion time limit beyond 24 weeks. The gap is narrowing between the 24-week limit and the ability of premature babies to survive. In some parts of the country over the past five years, up to 70% of babies born at 23 survived at some hospitals. Meanwhile the private abortion industry is under a dark cloud because of unethical, unsafe and unprofessional practices.

### Recent CMF submissions

- Scottish Government: Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (March 2017).
- General Pharmaceutical Council: Personals Values and Beliefs (March 2017).
- Parliamentary Inquiry into genomics and genome-editing by the Science and Technology Committee (December 2016).

### Staff moves



Dion Ayeni

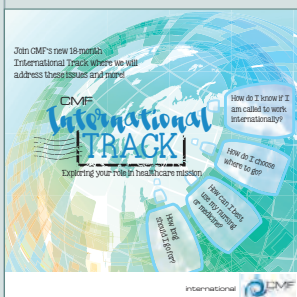
**Marolin Watson** will be joining CMF to take over as Student and International Ministries Coordinator while **Dion Ayeni** is away on maternity leave.

Marolin will start on 18 April to allow for a period of handover before Dion leaves.

## International

### New Track launched

CMF is committed to training and mentoring emerging leaders for international work. So we are delighted to announce the launch of the International Track in partnership with All Nations Christian College.



Participants will benefit from engaging with some of the best of contemporary missional thought available in the UK. They will meet and learn from experienced missionary doctors

and nurses sharing expertise in cross-cultural and poorly-resourced settings.

This 16-month part-time course will blend day-long Saturday sessions at the CMF office and at All Nations Christian College. There will be online webinars, supervised reading and writing assignments. Course members will attend at least two days of the Developing Health Course. Finally, towards the end of the track there will be a two-week long team 'mission' to Africa or India.

Interviews for applicants take place in early April and the programme starts on 20 May 2017.

### Mentors wanted

There are opportunities for people with relevant international experience to mentor an International Track participant. To find out more get in touch with Fi McLachlan: [fi@cmf.org.uk](mailto:fi@cmf.org.uk)

### Movements

**Nathan Lawrence** to Madagascar (January 2017)

**Tina Lovell** to Thailand (March 2017)

**Jonathan Thurlow** to Kenya (August 2016)

### Obituaries

**Peter Bewes** (*q* St Thomas', 1956) a member of a well-known CMS missionary dynasty, served for many years in East Africa. His last assignment was a travelling role providing training in government hospitals in Uganda. He played an important part in pioneering CMF's Developing Health Course. He and his wife Hilary, also a doctor, retired to Swaffham in Norfolk. Died 2 December 2016.

**Keith Batten** (*q* Bart's, 1948) was a retired Ophthalmologist based in Bath.

**Forrest Brewer** (*q* Glasgow, 1956) was a GP based in Newton Stewart.

**Barbara McMeekin** (*q* Bristol, 1960) was a retired doctor based in Preston. Died 12 November 2016.

**Catherine Lindsay** (*q* Dublin, 1949) was a doctor based in Hindhead.

**David Toms** (*q* Nottingham) was a Consultant Psychiatrist and founder member of the Nottingham CMF group. Died 4 March 2017.

**Patricia Turner** (*q* Cardiff, 1965) was a GP based in Stoke-on-Trent.

**Jack Yearsley** (*q* St Thomas') was a doctor in Kachhwa, India, and then a GP in Ramsgate. Died 23 October 2016.

### CMF senior staff



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### Dates for your diary

#### APRIL

28-30 CMF National Conference, Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffs

#### JUNE

3 Who is my neighbor?, Edinburgh  
10 I was Lost, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health day, Leicester  
10 Saline Solution, Cumbria

#### JULY

2-14 Developing Health Course, London School of Theology, Northwood

#### JULY

5 Dermatology Breakfast, Liverpool

#### OCTOBER

13 RCGP Breakfast, Liverpool  
14 Saline Solution, London  
27-29 Junior Doctors' Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leicester

#### NOVEMBER

11 Saline Solution, Newcastle

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

### CMF News

is issued by the CMF Office

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## Nurses: Growing opportunities in Scotland

Steve Fouch and Pippa Peppiatt had a full and productive week in Scotland at the beginning of February. They were responding to the growing request by student nurses to explore starting CMF nurses groups there.

[Pippa writes.] We spent a day in each city: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

In each place we met with local nursing and midwifery students and graduate nurses to share the vision of CMF. It was a precious opportunity to show some of our new CMF nursing resources, to run through the practical steps of how to start a CMF student group and to try to identify student leaders (Reps). Of the newly qualified nurses we met, two immediately offered to become local hosts for these groups in Edinburgh and Dundee.

We also managed to speak at a healthcare campus Christian Union, to meet up with a local

CMF medical Rep, two UCCF workers who were also nurses, and local CMF medical links who were all very supportive. The Lord is at work in the Celtic lands. Having recently started student nurse groups in Cardiff and Swansea, we are now responding to a new influx of invitations and requests from nurses in Northern Ireland. I [Pippa] may go over to meet nurses in Belfast at the end of March for a similar initial trip, meeting and recruiting.

Please pray for the fruitful process of establishing new groups, whether it is gathering students, identifying Reps and hosts, writing resources, or training and encouraging student leaders. We don't just want to create more activity for already stretched and tired nurses, but rather to keep in step with what the Lord's doing, and help provide ways to encourage, inspire and refresh these wonderful servants of his.