

Heeding the cry

Mark Pickering writes on how we can respond to the war in Ukraine as Christian health professionals

The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: 'Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.' (Joshua 10:6)

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'. After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:9-10)

The church is one of the most global, multilingual, networked organisations on Earth. Facebook, Amazon, Disney – they may have the money and the reach, but when it comes to boots on the ground, not even the Chinese Red Army can mobilise as quickly or as widely. God knew what he was doing when he set up his bride at the beginning of Acts!

Starting with just twelve men – a ragtag collection of fishermen, farmers, and a tax collector or two, Jesus established a community that would take his good news as far as India and China, Britain, and Spain, within a generation.

That mission has continued throughout the last two thousand years. In 862, the Byzantine theologians and brothers Cyril and Methodius were sent to take the gospel to the Slavic subjects of Prince Rastislav of Moravia. They devised a writing system to enable the Scriptures to be translated and read in the native tongue of the Slavs, the descendant of which is the Cyrillic alphabet still used to this day. A century later, Vladimir the Great of the Kyivan Rus was baptised at the capital of his kingdom, Kyiv, making his nation Christian. The territory of the Kyivan Rus covered much of what is now Ukraine, Belarus, and Western Russia.

The subsequent history of Russia and Ukraine is too long and too complex even to summarise here. But when we see them at war, we see brother fighting brother. In some cases, literally – many Ukrainians have relatives in Russia. More than half the Ukrainian population speak Russian as a first or second language. Their churches share a long common history. Kyiv has been the cultural and spiritual heartland of this region's peoples for over a thousand years.

That is the horror of this war, and both nations will carry the scars for generations. But we all feel this – Ukraine and Russia are not so far away from the UK, both in geography and shared history. Which brings me back to the church. Christians are mobilising, not to shed blood but to help one another. Across Europe,



they are welcoming refugees and providing aid to those still in Ukraine.

CMF has the wonderful privilege to be part of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA). This is a network of over 80 Christian medical and dental fellowships across the globe. We have enjoyed meeting with our brothers and sisters from Ukraine and Russia at many ICMDA events across Europe and at our regular SYD (Students and Young Doctors) leadership conferences in the UK. We hear from these friends and siblings in Christ about what is happening on the ground, their needs, and how we can help them.

We have heard the cry out of Gibeon and Macedonia, and we cannot but respond to our Christian family's call for help.

Through ICMDA, we can get real help and medical supplies to where they are needed the most. The Christian Medical Association of Ukraine (CMAU), working under the Ukraine Ministry of Health's authority, is providing a portal to get medicines, consumables, and equipment to hospitals, health centres, and frontline paramedics across Ukraine. ICMDA member bodies across Europe are gathering supplies, arranging transport, and warehousing. In the UK, a warehouse in Derby has been set up to collect medical aid. However, with the Russian invasion moving into West Ukraine, there is a narrowing window of opportunity to get supplies into the country. And with the increasing attacks on civilian targets, the tolls of the injured and dead are rising. These supplies will save lives.

CMF and ICMDA are working hand in glove on this. We need volunteers from the UK to collect, store, catalogue and pack drugs, dressings, infusions, equipment, and other supplies. We need donations to fund the cost of buying and shipping, as well as donations of specific items.

If you can help in any way, visit the ICMDA website at icmda.net/ukraineappeal.

Please, above all else, pray! Pray for those families torn apart by the war; for the millions of refugees (mostly women and children) now in Western Europe; for those in the country ministering to the sick, treating the wounded, and facing the risk of bombardment as they do so. Finally, pray in the words of Psalm 46:9-10 that God would end this war, break the weapons of destruction, and cause the nations to stop and know his name and his power!

Mark Pickering is CMF Chief Executive.

JD Conference

CMF Junior Doctors' Committee report



On 19-21 November 2021, junior doctors from across the UK met at the first in-person CMF Junior Doctors' Conference since the pandemic. We were grateful to God that, despite lockdown uncertainties, over 150 juniors could gather for a weekend full of fun and fellowship.

David Randall gave three fantastic talks from the book of Isaiah. David was himself a junior doctor who has been working on the frontline throughout the pandemic. These talks were complemented by a superb set of seminars on various topics, including global health, whole-life discipleship, and relationships, to name but a few.

One of the highlights (and there were many) was the opportunity to enjoy in-person fellowship over food, games, and of course, a very lively ceilidh. This was incredibly refreshing after such a long period of isolation. Once again, we were reminded of the blessings of gathering together as believers.

Unfortunately, not all juniors were able to attend due to Covid restrictions. Even so, we are glad that our Scottish brothers and sisters could join in remotely. We were also blessed to receive video messages from previous SYD delegates. These were alumni of the CMF training programme for Students and Young Doctors from around the world.

Of course, this weekend would not have been possible without the support of the CMF staff team, pastoral care partners, and our excellent speakers and volunteers. Above all, we give all glory and honour to God (Jude 1:25).

Please don't forget to follow us on social media for regular updates. You can find us on our Instagram, @cmfjuniors, and join our Facebook group, CMF Junior Doctors. Our next conference will be 11-13 November 2022 at The Hayes. Block it off in your diary now!

Workplace groups

Karen Flood

I work for CMF as a Workplace Associate, establishing new workplace groups and building up existing ones. Let me share a bit of my story. I was about to go off on maternity leave when I felt God



Karen Flood

prompting me to set up a Christian workplace group in Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT), where I'd worked for the last 18 years. When I returned to work, the business of family and work-life took over, and then the pandemic started. So many of my colleagues were exhausted and disheartened, without regular face-to-face interactions or social and spiritual support from church, friends, and family. We were, however, all going into work each day and seeing each other. The acute need to establish our church family at work became clear.

There was already a small WhatsApp prayer group in LTHT led by one of the Christian Chaplains. So, I joined this and together we chatted and prayed about the group's vision. By word of mouth at work, through CMF, and advertising in local churches, the group grew to over 100 members in a couple of months. Our group is open to anyone working in or linked to the Trust. Our main aim is to support and encourage each other to be salt and light in the workplace and shine God's love out to others.

We share a daily Bible verse and any prayer needs via a WhatsApp group. We hold a prayer meeting every Tuesday lunchtime on Zoom. We have also had a few social events, including a picnic and an NHS carol service at the start of December.

In time we felt it was right to establish groups across the other hospitals in the region, developing a Yorkshire Network. A friend asked me what my vision was for these groups. I said it would be great to have as many healthcare groups as possible across the UK and Ireland, but that wasn't something I would be organising. A couple of weeks later, I was contacted by Felicia from CMF and found myself agreeing to take on this role with CMF!

I have spent the last six months working with CMF and collaborating with Transform Work UK (TWUK), Chaplaincy teams, and

Everyday Faith to establish where the current NHS Christian workplace groups are in the British Isles. We have looked at ways to grow these groups and help them register as official networks with their NHS Trusts. This helps

raise their profile. Where there are no workplace groups, I have been trying to find one or two individuals who will help me set one up. We start by setting up a WhatsApp group, praying and inviting people to join either through word of mouth or via local churches. We've seen some exciting growth and change in these groups over the past months.

I have enjoyed watching the list of workplace groups across the country grow steadily. It's been great to get to know different people within them. There are currently around 35 such groups. I'm hoping and, more importantly, praying that this number will increase with

the help of you all. A workplace group might be in one hospital or across several hospitals in a Trust or region. It may involve only people working in the Trust or may connect to healthcare professionals working in the community. Different models can be used depending on what best suits the place that you work in.

If you are in a workplace group, even if small, I would encourage you to register this on the TWUK website so that others can find out about it and join you. The TWUK website (see below) has some great information and advice on becoming a registered group in your Trust. I am happy to chat this through with anyone interested.

I hope you are encouraged by what God is doing in our workplaces. Remember, it is always essential to have a vision so great that it is only possible to achieve it with the help of God! Be encouraged and think big.

I would love to hear from you if you'd like to join a workplace group or be involved in helping set one up. For more information on healthcare Christian Workplace Groups, please get in touch with me on: karen.flood@cmf.org.uk

Also, have a look at the fantastic work and resources on the Transform Work UK website: transformworkuk.org



Pastoral care, wellbeing & mentoring

Steve Sturman

CMF is a fellowship, which means we care for one another. The Pastoral Care Wellbeing and Mentoring Service has been growing over the last two years to expand how we work this out.

We aim to listen well, pray faithfully, and signpost to the next steps when needed. We now have a team of 20 Pastoral Partner-Mentors (PP-Ms) serving in many ways. The CMF Wellbeing inbox is monitored 365 days a year to answer enquiries through our web pages.



Wellbeing teams support our conferences, and their input was highly valued at our recent Junior Doctors and Student conferences. Here's some of the feedback we received:

'Really thankful for this provision.'

'Thank you very much for the opportunity for one-to-one prayer.'

'Excellent – I really appreciated having a talk and cry with a member of the team!'

'God clearly ministered to the one thing on my heart. I'm so grateful.'

The team also takes referrals from Catalyst Teams and local groups where there might be a need for special experience that is not locally available.

Our PP-Ms are available to run seminars and group events on wellbeing topics. We believe this is particularly valuable when we can frame these times biblically and draw out the impact of our faith on the issues being discussed. Sessions on 'Compassion Fatigue' and 'Christian Wellbeing in the Workplace' have been much appreciated. If you are a group leader and would like a Pastoral Partner-Mentor to speak at one of your events about a specific topic, please let us know. We would love to be able to help.

Mentoring

We are most excited about the launch of the Mentoring Scheme last autumn. We have been much encouraged by the number of people who have come forward wanting to support this. Our Mentoring Associate, Monica Hrabovsky, has worked on this for the last two years. It is great to see it moving forward. We see mentoring as a key component to support workplace discipleship and encouraging resilient faith. We are looking for people who will serve

through the national mentoring scheme and who would like to be recognised as CMF PP-Ms. So, please get in touch with us if you have a heart for this area of ministry. You do not have to be very senior; mentoring occurs at every stage of our professional lives. But we do want mentors and mentees to be FAT: Faithful, Available, and Teachable. Please pray for the next extension of this scheme as we seek to build local mentoring networks during 2022 organised at the Catalyst Team level.

Team news

We are incredibly grateful to God for the highly gifted and committed PP-Ms who have joined the team. They bring wide experience and a depth of spirituality that is a great blessing. We want to welcome Liz Miller, Sarah Wain, Christine Scott, Anne Mcorrie, and Jane Clark, who have joined the team in the last year. We also said goodbye to Fiona Logan this autumn. We want to register our thanks for her insights and wisdom that were vital as we started out on this project. A big thanks, too, for our Resource Group, who are gathering and organising online specialised information to support the Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Service. Thanks are also due for the completion of CMF's Safeguarding Policy, led by Olu Lampejo, our Safeguarding Lead.

What next?

Do pray for us over the next twelve months as we seek to build local pastoral care and mentoring networks that will support and encourage one another in our Christian vocations. If you would like to get involved and join the team as a Pastoral Partner-Mentor, then don't hesitate to get in touch with us at wellbeing@cmf.org.uk.

And, if you would like to someone walk with, talk to, pray with, or if you need any encouragement, do contact us via cmf.org.uk/doctors/cmf-local-contacts/, quoting #wellbeing in the subject line. Also, look out for the team at our conferences where you can book time or just 'bump into us'. We will be available to listen and pray as necessary.

We would love to hear from you.
Steve Sturman – wellbeing@cmf.org.uk

RASH report

CMF Global conference report

CMF Global was delighted to run the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health course in Birmingham



on Saturday 12 February with the support of the CMF West Midlands Catalyst Team. Forty people attended, including doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, and charity workers,

both Christians and non-Christians. The Bevan practice in Bradford gave us clinical examples and we heard via Zoom from a Dutch transcultural psychiatrist. We also heard stories from those who have experienced the health system as asylum seekers themselves.

One delegate said that the course 'got me thinking about opportunities to work with refugees in my future practice and made me rethink how I communicate with those from different backgrounds'.

The course aims to equip healthcare professionals to better care for refugees and asylum seekers. This ties in with CMF's other efforts to address this issue. A CMF blog post by Margaret Hooper (see cmf.li/337JWqI) highlights the challenges of the Nationality and Borders Bill making its way through parliament, as well as the ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic. With a new refugee crisis from the Ukraine war, these needs and challenges are only going to increase.

CMF has recently signed a joint letter from faith leaders to the government about the Nationality and Borders Bill (see bit.ly/3i8OzVq). The letter highlights problems with the Bill and calls on the government to not discriminate between refugees based on their route of travel and to expand and restart resettlement schemes to enable safe passage for those who are vulnerable.

If you would like to take further action on this issue, there is a helpful guide about writing to your MP available at bit.ly/3MU6Mns. The CMF Global Advocacy Group would also love to hear from you if you think there are further areas that we should be speaking out on. Contact us at globalcoordinator@cmf.org.uk

Upcoming events



National Conference 2022
New Times: Old Agenda
– knowing, feeling and living well as a disciple of Christ

29 April-1 May 2022
Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffs.
For news, further information about seminars, and bookings, go to cmf.org.uk/nationalconference



Who is my Neighbour Now?
14 May, Edinburgh.

Exploring your calling to global health and mission. Further details and booking at cmf.li/WIMNN-Ed-22



Developing Health Course (DHC)

10-16 July 2022, London School of Theology, Northwood, Middlesex. If you are committed to global health, whether you are preparing to go outside of the UK to work or returning for a short break, the DHC in an essential clinical and spiritual update. Face-to-face for the first time in two years! Details and booking at cmf.li/DHC2022.



NAMfest on Tour

26-29 August at the David's Tent festival, West Sussex. Camp with us in our own designated area, engaging as much as you like with the main event's sessions, or simply hanging out with other nurses and midwives at base camp. We can't wait to connect with you in person! To find out more go to cmf.li/NAMfestOnTour



Serving not Sinking

Saturday 17 September, Johnson House, London. A day conference for current and aspiring Christian healthcare leaders and managers cmf.li/CHLN

Check our website regularly for updates at cmf.org.uk

Obituaries



Alan Loveless

Alan Loveless (b 16 June 1919, q 1943 Cambridge, d 28 June 2021) enjoyed nearly 80 years as a medic! He had a brief spell as a junior doctor in the Midlands following his graduation. In an era where antibiotics were only just being discovered, he encountered significant morbidity and mortality, especially on a children's ward, with a 25 per cent mortality rate.

Towards the end of World War Two, while stationed in the Far East, he faced one of his greatest challenges. He performed a successful appendectomy on a young Japanese officer in Changi jail who was on death row for war crimes. My father took a considerable interest in this man and led him to faith in Jesus Christ. He regained contact with the man's family in later years through an Anglo-Japanese link.

From its early years, Alan was a keen supporter of CMF. He served on several committees and 'led from the front'. His enthusiasm for both medicine and his Christian faith is illustrated by his appointment as a medic at a Christian hospital in North India at the age of 88, where he brought great encouragement to both patients and staff.

He married Mary in 1951. Together they established a lovely home for their six children (and many friends) in East Kent, where he served as a GP. The theme of his funeral was that of 'living hope' (1 Peter 1:3). Prayers in the service included the words 'May we be encouraged to follow in his footsteps and discover the same living hope'.

Dr Richard Loveless

Peter Campion (b 1946, q 1970 Oxford/London, d 28 December 2021)

Staff movements



Dianne Jarrett

Leaving

Dianne Jarrett retires from her role as CMF Resources Coordinator in April. CMF staff and volunteers wish her well for her retirement.



Bex Lawton

Joining

Bex Lawton joined CMF in the autumn as the Associate Head of Nurses and Midwives. She is a staff nurse in a paediatric ITU, a worship leader and poet (you can see performances of her Christian, nursing focused poetry on Instagram as *possiblybex*).



Kevina Kiganda

Kevina Kiganda joined us in March as the Digital Communications Coordinator, developing CMF social media and digital communications strategy and resources.

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Dates for your diary

APRIL

25 **CMF Psychiatry network online gathering** (on Zoom)
29- **CMF National Conference**
1 May **New times: old agenda**
Yarnfield Park Conference Centre, Staffs

MAY

7 **CMF Board meeting**, London.
14 **Who is my Neighbour Now?**
Edinburgh

JUNE

11 **AGM** - London and on Zoom

JULY

10-16 **Developing Health Course**,
London School of Theology

AUGUST

26-29 **NAMfest on Tour**
David's Tent Festival, West Sussex

SEPTEMBER

17 **Serving not Sinking**
Johnson House, London

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

CMF News

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Items for inclusion in the Autumn 2022 issue should be sent to CMF Head of Communications Steve Fouch by 1 September 2022.

A company limited by guarantee
Registered in England no. 6949436
Registered Charity no. 1131658
Registered office: 6 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL
Design: S2 Design 020 8771 9108
Print: Partridge & Print Ltd