

Why CMF is much more than just an office

John Greenall explores CMF's vision in his new role as CMF National Field Director

The mission of CMF is to unite and equip Christian doctors and nurses to live and speak for Jesus Christ. We long to see lives transformed by the power of the Gospel, through discipleship, evangelism, mission and promotion of Christian values. And yet we only accomplish a fraction of what is possible.

Picture more medics and nurses grasping opportunities for mission. Imagine resourcing churches more widely. Consider how we could support burnt out healthcare professionals more thoroughly. I'm sure you can add examples.

You see, CMF isn't just a staff team in an office; it's each and every one of us. To grow to full maturity in Christ we need each other – in order to be both encouraged (Hebrews 10:24–25) and equipped (Ephesians 4:11–13).

As I look at our membership, I am reminded that God has prepared in advance good works for each of us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Could it be that many of those might be in the places we spend most of our time? And then I ask myself some questions. How can church leaders effectively disciple individuals in their specific circumstances when 50 or 60 professions might be represented in their congregations?

How do we reach unbelievers who attend appointments, but no longer set foot in church? How do we inspire students to live out their faith for their whole career? And how will we prepare and send those who can cross cultures with medicine to reach the unreached?

Over the last two years we have been assessing how we equip and support members in their regions. We long to see a multiplication of volunteers, members who have grasped this vision. Building on the work of the links scheme, we are prioritising a new volunteer ministry. Our vision is to establish teams in each region, which we believe will result in, among other things:



- **A local expression of faith in and through our vocation.** Supported by the staff team and volunteer leaders, allowing us to provide stronger training, advice and support for all volunteers to be more effective at home and overseas, as students and graduates.
- **Ministry to multiply.** Members supported in a difficult working environment, resourced to grow in their gifts and encouraged to live out their faith in their day to day lives.
- **Flourishing prayer.** Prayer requests more rapidly disseminated and locally applicable. Stories of transformed lives gathered and communicated to members to pray with greater clarity.
- **A more integrated way to connect.** Better connected networks means new members in regions can be more efficiently contacted and linked.
- **An opportunity for growth.** As the network grows, passionate volunteers get the opportunity to pray for one another and share best practice. Training and equipping is ongoing and specific to develop each member's unique gifts and passions.

This is a time of significant change for us, changes that will be seen slowly but surely across the UK and Ireland. Would you pray about this? Would you ask yourself if God might be calling you to a deeper level of service and engagement? Would you consider giving generously to support this vision?

We believe that CMF is a vehicle to see the Kingdom of God through healthcare, to the ends of the earth. Excited? I hope so.

Please join us on this new journey as we work together to Connect & Grow, Speak & Serve. For what goal? The most compelling, satisfying and life-giving of all – 'so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 4:11).

New senior appointments



Felicia

Felicia Wong has been appointed Head of Graduate Ministries from September, succeeding Pablo Fernandez who is retiring. Felicia is a GP and has been active in local CMF work in South London. She is a member of Christ Church Earlsfield. Look out for more about Felicia in the next *CMF News*.



Rachel

Rachel Owusu-Ankomah will succeed John Greenall as Head of Student Ministries starting this autumn. Rachel joined the team last year as Associate Staffworker at St George's, London. She says: 'I'm excited to meet and encourage CMF students and see how God will use us this year and beyond'.

Finance update

On Saturday 17 June, the Board approved the audited accounts for 2016. CMF had an operating deficit of £109,672. We had planned on a deficit of £75,000 so we were almost £35,000 above that level. The results were impacted by a shortfall in income from membership subscriptions, book sales and the appeal to the Friends of CMF. However, the encouraging response to the Spring and Christmas Appeals helped to offset some of the shortfall. Costs were broadly in line with those budgeted.

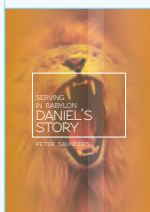
The budget for 2017 is a deficit of £35,000; this is the last year of the intentional deficits authorised by the Board in 2011. Going forward from 2017, CMF is aiming for cash surpluses every year to give the ministry a firm foundation for the future.

Communications

Resources from CMF

Four booklets

So far this year CMF has launched a new booklet series written by Dr Peter Saunders, CMF CEO. Each booklet costs £2.00 +P&P and is available from the CMF bookstore: www.cmf.org.uk/resources/bookstore



Serving in Babylon

– an overview of the early chapters of Daniel. Christians living in 21st century Britain and serving in the NHS face challenges like those faced by Daniel and his friends in exile in Babylon. This booklet encourages Christian healthcare professionals to be fruitful yet distinctive as they serve God in the NHS.

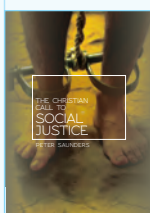


Changing Culture, Changing Values

– an exposition about ethics and new technologies. Explores how we can engage with these often difficult issues as doctors and health professionals and show Christ's character and compassion to people around us.



The Divine Drama – an overview of how the Bible fits together. It has many authors and was written over a long span of years, but has a golden thread running through it. The unfolding divine drama of creation, fall, salvation and new creation. In a nutshell, it's all about Jesus, his person and work.



The Christian Call to Social Justice – draws inspiration from the life and work of William Wilberforce, best known for abolishing the slave trade but also an evangelical

Christian committed to social reform. A helpful guide on how Christians can view and work for social justice.

More staff changes

Meet Marolin Watson

Marolin Watson joined the staff of CMF in April 2017, taking over as maternity cover for **Dion Ayeni** as Student and International Ministries Coordinator. She told *CMF News*, 'I liked the idea of working for another Christian charity and have always had an interest in medical matters. Before joining CMF, I was the Business Manager of Hope UK, a Christian drug and alcohol education charity for children and young people, working there for over 23 years.'



Marolin Watson

She is a member of Belvedere Baptist Church where she serves as a deacon. She is married and has a 26-year-old daughter who moved out this year.

'I love walking with my dog (and sometimes my husband), working on our allotment, gardening, writing, reading, learning (mainly Geology but interested in all areas of science) and doing voluntary work.'

'Attending the National Conference in April gave me a real vision for the work, especially the way it encourages and equips medics to serve overseas. I can see the need to support Christian medics as they seek to work in ways that are consistent with Christian ethics in a culture that is increasingly indifferent or hostile to Christian values.'

Genome editing under scrutiny

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics' latest call is an update to their 2016 consultation on the moral implications of genome editing. With increased use of techniques such as CRISPR, the ability to bring about widespread changes to genetic material is there. However, we need to be wary. Our analysis of current trends show that there is a great potential of advance to come out of adult stem cell research, which can lead to effective gene therapies for conditions as diverse as Parkinson's and diabetes. But there have been far more questionable uses, in embryo research, animal-human hybrids and the potential of unscrupulous biotechnology companies. Genome scientists and governments have a duty to ensure that moral and ethical concerns are heard and carried through during the course of research. These major concerns include the ethics of germline editing, eugenic considerations, safety and the unfair distribution of resources that may cause research to be prioritised over care.

Nurses

News from the nursing department

New Head of Nursing

Pippa Peppiatt will be stepping up into the role of Head of Nursing as **Steve Fouch** becomes Connections Manager. He will work with the Communications, Advocacy, International and Nursing teams and coordinate work with social media.



Pippa Peppiatt

Accent on expansion and training

Off the back of a busy winter and spring, several new student groups have started around the country.

We have been training a new intake of student leaders and building a network of graduate nurse supporters locally and nationally.

Aware that we need Christian nurses and midwives to be leaders, not just within CMF but within their professions, this autumn we are piloting a course called Biblical Leadership for Nurses. To run on three Saturdays between September and November, the course offers an approach to leadership developed by Nurses' Christian Fellowship International.

It looks at the biblical models of the leader as shepherd, steward, servant and scholar and looks critically at how these relate to secular models of workplace leadership being taught to nurses. The aim is to equip individual Christian nurses and midwives to develop their leadership skills spiritually and clinically and make an impact for Christ in their workplaces. If you are interested in this, do get in touch.

Finally, we are working on the fourth edition of our nurses and midwives' publication, *Spotlight*, due to come out in the early autumn. If you harbour an ambition to write, do get in touch. We are looking for personal testimonies and interviews on living out faith in the workplace, book reviews, devotional pieces and articles grappling with professional, ethical, moral and spiritual issues relevant to Christians working in nursing and midwifery. While we commission most of our articles, unsolicited items will be gratefully received and considered for publication.

Please contact Steve Fouch if you're interested in writing for *Spotlight* or the Biblical Leadership for Nurses course: steve.fouch@cmf.org.uk

National Conference 2017

Pablo Fernandez and Olive Frost reflect on this year's conference

Pablo says, 'Since 2011 the National Conference has been the highlight of my year in CMF. Each year it has been a great encouragement and 2017 did not disappoint. With the current format designed to include all sectors of the Fellowship, it was fantastic to see older members mixing with students, nurses with consultants and parents with young children being able to enjoy the sessions and seminars, while the excellent children's programme looked after them.'

'The Bible talks around the Lord's Prayer left us all in equal parts comforted and challenged, as Richard Coekin took us through what it means to speak to God as our Father. Feedback on the conference showed how much attendees had appreciated these studies, as well as



the extensive seminar programme. A particular highlight for me? Having my daughter and her family there and seeing all enjoy the conference. See you there in 2018!'

Olive Frost first came to a CMF conference in 1963. She told *CMF News*, 'I enjoy the all age fellowship with little ones looking remarkably like people I know running round. I enjoy chats with younger people, which now of course include the middle agers. And it's good to see others who have been coming for years. The Bible Readings are always good (even if they never start on time) and the seminars of good value...

'This year's CMF report showed what can be done! So the likelihood is that I will turn up again!'

BMA vote 'defies common sense' says CMF

The recent vote to support abortion on demand (27 June) 'defies common sense and the BMA will dismay thousands of ordinary doctors and nurses', CMF CEO Peter Saunders has declared. 'Should Parliament bring forward legislation on a similar basis we would be only the third country in the world after China and Canada to remove all safeguards to unborn children.'

He said the BMA does not have support from the general public. A recent ComRes survey found that only one percent of women wanted to see the time limit for abortion extended above 24 weeks. Seven in ten (70 percent) wanted to see the abortion time limit reduced to 20 weeks or below. 91 percent wanted a total ban on sex-selective abortion.

Several CMF members were visible in the BMA ARM debate opposing the motion.



Rachael Pickering

Melody Redman

Rachael Pickering warned that the motion 'did not come from a groundswell of opinion among BMA members' but from 'a very small minority of extreme campaigners.' Melody Redman, a junior doctor, said, 'law has an important role in safeguarding and protecting the vulnerable.'

The Hippocratic Oath forbids abortion and ironically the BMA in 1947 called abortion 'the greatest crime'. Abortion is still illegal in Britain but the Abortion Act 1967 allows doctors to perform it on grounds of mental or physical health. This law is openly flouted. With one in five pregnancies now ending in abortion and

8.5 million abortions since 1967 doctors have now sadly become its most ardent promoters and facilitators.

Going Deep:ER

Joanna Obire reflects a year on

Deep:ER, CMF's volunteer programme for medical students and juniors, has just finished a second year and is enrolling participants for 2017-18. Joanna, Deep:ER volunteer this year, says: 'I can honestly say I have received so much more than what I have given. I thank God for the opportunity. I'd encourage anyone who is undecided



about it to give it a shot.

'From our first team day away the year involved a lot of exciting adventures. Everything from creating advertisements and creative props to a trip to L'Abri where the accent was apologetics and jam making.

'Without doubt the highlight for me was organising the Sydenham Conference, leadership training for students from around the world. Many of them were from places where student groups are small and struggling. I worked alongside Chris Borges Da Silva and other members of the Deep:ER team. It was a truly blessed time. Many of the students who came still stay in touch, sharing how they are using skills they learned at the conference, in their lives and ministries. It's really satisfying to have a part in this.

'Looking back I sense I have grown in confidence over the year. I've learnt basic office skills, like how to set up and send emails via mail merge. I've learnt new ways to share my faith. I led CMF staff morning prayers and benefitted from the Deep:ER weekly teaching programme.

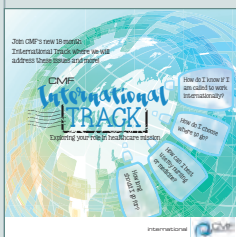
'At the start of the year I tended to see my faith and medicine as two separate entities. Deep:ER has helped me begin to better integrate the two – living and speaking for Jesus while I study and work to give him the utmost glory. Even in learning office skills I've been able to find joy and satisfaction, knowing that even the smallest things we do are done for Christ and that what I do helps others.

'Deep:ER was without doubt the highlight of my intercalating year. I truly recommend it.'

International

News and notes

International Track update



We are delighted to report that 24 medical and nursing students have joined this new programme tailored for people who feel called to medical mission. CMF has a rich heritage of supporting health professionals in cross cultural mission. Over 200 members work in various forms of cross-cultural work in resource-poor contexts. International Track seeks to provide a more coherent strategy for students at the end of their studies. The 17-month programme will progress students to more advanced considerations of mission applied specifically to medicine and nursing. Each participant is being mentored by an experienced person with cross cultural mission experience. Participants will experience an international mission trip as part of the programme. The first meeting took place on 20 May where participants met their mentors.

Why go alone?

Fi McLachlan reports on the gatherings in Belarus and on the Isle of Man

BELARUS: Our brothers and sisters in Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus held a conference from 6–9 May. They had invited me [Fi] along to share on international issues. But why go alone? A small team of us went over, meeting in Warsaw and travelling across the border into the still very much state-controlled Belarus. It was great to work alongside Iain McDonald, who has spent eleven years working in the region and speaks Russian (a definite advantage), Aaron Poppleton, part of CMF's International Committee with a keen interest to support those in Eastern Europe and Maarten van Brekel, studying psychiatry in the Netherlands and a participant in a CMF Sydenham course.

We ran seminars on how Christian healthcare professionals should respond to homosexuality and gender dysphoria; whether corruption can be overcome in medicine; how Christ's love motivates us as doctors and nurses; how Christians have succeeded and failed to influence recent healthcare development in the UK; and global health needs across the world.

Returning

Adrian Delpert (May 2017)

Going

Rory Wilson to Uganda (April 2017)

Emma Todd to Uganda (April 2017)

Obituaries

Caroline Dunn (*q* St Mary's, 1957) was a retired rheumatologist. CMF was informed in April 2017.

Huw Wesley Stephen Francis (*q* Cambridge, 1952) was a Medical Officer of Health to many local authorities and served on government committees. Died on 30 March 2017.

Paul Mackenzie Bremer, former President of ICMDA and friend of CMF UK, died on 11 June 2017.

Alan Wilson (*q* St Mary's, 1954) was a retired psychiatrist. CMF was informed in May 2017.

Keep in touch

We appreciate information about Members returning and moving or notices about those who are 'promoted to higher service'. Please contact John Martin at: john.martin@cmf.org.uk

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Dates for your diary

SEPTEMBER

7–9 Global Missions Health Conference, Nairobi, Kenya

25–27 Retirees Conference, King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton

OCTOBER

13 RCGP Breakfast, Liverpool
27–29 Junior Doctors' Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

NOVEMBER

11 Saline Solution, Newcastle
11 Saline Solution, Southampton

For more details see www.cmf.org.uk

ISLE OF MAN: Spearheaded by CMF member



Dave Moore this four day event took place on the Isle of Man at the start of May. The short learning and reflection time together was an opportunity for those who have perhaps had a taste

of overseas work, not done formal missiological training, but want to consider and have time to think about their journey into this work with other healthcare professionals. All who came really appreciated the time out to think, learn, talk and pray about their possible future service.

In addition we had great food, courtesy of Graham and Jenny McAll, and time out on the beautiful and (fortunately) sunny coastline of the island. If you wish to participate in another such event please let Fi McLachlan know: fi@cmf.org.uk

CMF's membership of ICMDA opens up many international opportunities. If you are interested | in such a trip please contact Fi McLachlan: fi@cmf.org.uk

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