1-4 July Pre Conferences
4-8 July Main Congress

1-8 JULY 2010 PUNTA-DEL-ESTE, URUGUAY

It’s Here!
As we go to press with this your second issue of News, Praise and Prayer for the year, eyes and minds are turned to the ICMDA World Congress in Uruguay, South America. Apart from many other items, the focus is certainly on Punta del Este. No longer is the question relevant – where is Punta del Este? We should all know. This I believe, is the first and most important “miracle” to come out of such a World Congress. The miracle is that fellow followers of Christ in a distant continent, country and from places previously unheard of suddenly become alive and real to us.

You may not be one of those who will shortly be standing on South American soil. But in the Spirit, you can be one with the delegates who will be coming together in Punta del Este, Uruguay, to worship, fellowship, hear God’s word, be challenged by many speakers, moved mentally and spiritually through group discussions as well as one to one communications, and be inspired to step out in faith once more to discover and fulfil God’s purposes for their lives. So we covet sincerely your prayers for the World Congress that all these things may be accomplished and “even more above all that we ask or think” (Eph 3:20) There is no doubt that the ICMDA World Congresses, each time they are held, expand significantly the boundaries of the Kingdom. New solid steps are taken and foundations laid through taking hold of the opportunities given to do so.

In this issue you will read of the recent exciting visit by Bill Hague, the ICMDA regional secretary for Oceania, to Fiji. Out of Sydney’s Congress has come so much fruit borne of the faithful obedience of God’s people. New Zealand has just held is third National Conference during which the exciting probable appointment of a new Area Student Representative for Oceania was explored. So many positive happenings move us along to inspire and encourage us to reach upwards and outwards for the Kingdom.

Back to our focus on Uruguay. For the very first time in the close to 50 years history of the ICMDA will South America be welcoming delegates from all corners of the globe. There is no doubt that Punta del Este 2010 will remain a beacon to mark the beginnings of significant growth and development of the ICMDA in South America. How magnificent is this that the two member organisations of Argentina (ACAPS) and Uruguay (ACUPS), numbering not more that a total national membership of 50, are hosting this Congress. Over the past four years they have striven tirelessly towards their goal of having a Congress in South America which brings honour and glory to God. Humbly they have seen this opportunity as a privilege. We give thanks to God for them.

Yes and out of this World Congress 2010 will come enduring expansion as delegates, especially from Latin America, return to their countries – Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru to join with Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil in becoming member organisations of the ICMDA. Our hope is that Venezuela will be revived as a member of the ICMDA, as New Zealand was after the 2006 World Congress in Australia. Then we shall see the fulfilling of the vision of the ICMDA of “Being a global organisation which brings together Christian National Medical and Dental movements in fellowship, witness and service.”

Expansion into such new areas of work takes resources of three kinds – human, material and financial. The investment ICMDA is able to make into people is seen to be of enormous value, this being done in partnership with and on behalf of those who have contributed through their personal commitment and generous giving to the ICMDA. The Bursary Fund this year is supporting close to 120 people who otherwise could not have afforded to attend. They will be coming from Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Oceania and Africa. Thank you to every member organisation and person who made all this possible.

We look to our Lord Jesus Christ to crown all these plans and arrangements with His blessings. May His name be lifted higher among us all. We trust that as you join in prayer for the many different needs of the World Congress, you will be filled with all joy in the Lord.

Prayer Items
- For the National Organising Committee. Pray for the encouragement of the Holy Spirit for all the many tasks before them. Pray that the whole team will be united in the desire for this great event to bring glory and honour to God.
- For the speakers that they will be inspired by the Holy Spirit in their preparation for the sessions.
- For the delegates that all will go smoothly in obtaining visas and making travel plans.
- For the whole Congress that it will be used by God to make His name known and His voice heard among His people gathered from around the world.

Daryl Hackland
ICMDA - WHO ARE WE?
Good Question!

The International Christian Medical and Dental Association as its name denotes, is both medical and dental. This is important. However there are certain national movements which provide membership to others from the allied health professions, including nursing. There are also countries with separate Christian medical and dental fellowships.

The ICMDA began by meeting a common felt need around the world for Christian health professionals to exchange views and experiences within their profession in relation to the demonstration of their faith and to their responses to ethical issues as well as its challenges. Furthermore the opportunity was provided to promote personal contact and fellowship among Christian health professionals. These purposes are now embodied in the stated aims of the Association which are in short to:

- **Deepen** the spiritual life of Christians practicing medicine and dentistry
- **Encourage** the sharing of their faith within their professions
- **Provide** a regular means of exchanging views, information and experiences
- **Promote** friendship and cooperation amongst Christian health professionals
- **Support** the mentoring of Christian health profession students and establishment of student/junior graduate groups
- **Encourage** and support the work of medical/dental missions at home and abroad.

The **Logo** is an ever present reminder of the challenging call to provide and to enhance compassionate caring according to the example of Christ. It is inspired by the passage of scripture in John's gospel Ch 13:4-16 where Jesus in humility washes the feet of His disciples and wipes them dry with the towel. The Cross together with a basin and towel symbolize sacrificial love for and humble service to all humankind.

Through a number of activities the movement gives expression to its aims and to its strategy of the 5 E’s - to Enable, Encourage, Educate, Equip and Evangelise.

**Conferences** are held regularly and a world congress is held every four years. In 2006 this was in Sydney, Australia and in 2010 it will be from 1 – 8 July 2010, you know where – URUGUAY!

**Regional conferences** are planned in the intervening years in each of the 11 regions.

Every organisation is encouraged to hold national conferences to encourage the deepening of personal faith in Christ and to applying Christian principles to the provision and conduct of professional practice.

**Information is exchanged** through the website (www.icmda.net) and a newsletter. The News, Praise and Prayer (NPP) is available as a hardcopy or preferably electronically by providing your details and request to office@icmda.net

Guidelines on the formation of a national fellowship or organising a Conference are available on request. Papers, presentations, seminars given at conferences can also be downloaded (www.icmda.net/resources)

**Publications** include daily inspirational readings and commentaries for each day in “Doctors Life Support.” Previous world congress presentations are collated in “Changing World, Unchanging Values” and the story of the first 25 years of the Association can be read in “Amazing.”

**Funding for the work of the ICMDA** is provided through annual membership subscription payments and contributions/donations made to the ICMDA Development Support Fund. A special bursary fund is launched to enable graduates and students from developing and economically needy countries to participate in the events of the World Congress.
United in this way groups are reaching out to make a difference through encouraging and exciting avenues – coming alongside colleagues in the Zimbabwe Cholera epidemic, training Christian leaders, setting up Open House Groups for Junior Grads, networking with the Healthcare Fellowship International, International Health Services (Saline Solution Programme) and PRIME (Partners in Medical Education). Many are the opportunities for witness and service to Christ.

This is truly what the ICMDA is about – Sharing God’s grace at the growing edges of medicine and dentistry and seeking to unite healthcare professionals in promoting their Christian faith and practice just where they are in all parts of the world each day.

ICMDA - WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM
A Short History of the Early Beginnings

Beyond the XIV World Congress in Punta del Este, Uruguay lies the celebration of 50 years since the holding of the first Congress of the International Congress of Christian Physicians from 15-18 July 1963 in the Netherlands.

With the exception of the Kristelig Laegeforening, Denmark (1897) Christian Medical Fellowships and Associations or Societies were founded in the early 20th century. Even before their formal establishment, groups of Christian doctors and dentists had met regularly in the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe and the East. These meetings set the stage for the holding of the first international congress in Amsterdam. Five groups played a leading role in the planning and eight countries were represented. In 1966 the number of countries participating in Oxford, UK, doubled to 16. To date the Association has 61 member organisations, over 35 contact groups and applications for membership continue to be received – new member organisations are added every year.

Through spiritual awakening in various countries and within churches, doctors/dentists were blessed and their faith strengthened. “They were encouraged to witness in their daily lives and practice, and they came to the defence of their faith when it was threatened. Student movements came into being and medical mission work was encouraged and supported” – quoted from Amazing – A quarter century of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association.


We give thanks to God for those who had the vision and obedience to further the work of the healing ministry and to build the Kingdom through this organisation.

NEWS
MEMBER REPORTS
Shared by Jean Kagia (ICMDA Regional Secretary’s Representative)

I want to thank the Lord for the work of the ICMDA, that it continues to grow in different regions. I am excited because it is the first time I have had this role and I have received many reports! I see us getting close to what Paul said in Philippians 2:1-2 “If there is any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in the spirit and purpose”. We are indeed fellows in the same ship heading for the same destination.
AROUND THE GLOBE

EURASIA

James Tomlinson – Regional Secretary

In terms of countries this is the largest region and a lot of work is going on. The partnership between high and low resourced countries has made work expand rapidly, especially in former Soviet Union countries. Highlights include:-
- Visits were made to many national movements and more will be visited next year which include Estonia, Latvia, Greece, Central Asia and Denmark.
- The appointment of new ASRs covering the Baltic and Nordic countries.
- ASR and committee meetings which took place in March 2010.
- Leadership training for students from Central Europe in April 2010.

CMDS CANADA

Celebrating 40 years - Roger Gingerich (CEO)

Praise to God:
- For His guidance and wisdom over the past 40 years.
- For the financial increase. We are now able to publish a quarterly focus which supports medical and dental students for overseas missions. There is also support for Associate Staff Programs and the publishing of an updated directory for members.
- For the increased attendance at the annual retreat.
- For strengthened student ministries.

We are trying to define CMDS through biblical advertisements. We wish to become a voice of conscience, and encourage medical missions, and bi-monthly emails for prayer requests.

Ghana held their annual convention, where the constitution was renewed and new officers were elected.

In Benin Dr Oss Martin has been very supportive and needs our prayers.

Dr Paul Aten from the Cameroon met with a group from Nigeria CMDA. They have been working together to start a national movement.

Gambia – The fellowship has registered with the government and are seeking ICMDA membership. Most of the doctors are Nigerian. Please pray for Gambians to feel called to the fellowship and take leadership.

Sierra Leone – There has been an exodus of local doctors. Nigerian doctors led a mission and mobilization. Student work is vibrant and some are planning to go to Uruguay.

Nigeria – Work is encouraging and many chapters are being formed. A new committee was elected in Feb which will be inaugurated in November during the conference. They have raised enough money to buy two hectares of land to build a permanent office and conference centre.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Our greatest challenge is reaching out to the Region, with strategies being laid down during the conference in Botswana. Dr Grave Singogo is taking over as the Regional Secretary from Dr. Jim Jewell.

A student conference was held in Zimbabwe late in 2009. Delegates were from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. The CMFSA conference was held in George in June. The Students conference took place in Pretoria in October. The focus was leadership training and deepening spiritual lives.

We give Praise:-
- For the enthusiasm in ICMDA in the region as Malawi and Botswana apply for membership.
- For Regional Students and Junior graduate representative Dr. Rudzani Muloiwa who is doing a very good job in providing support and encouragement to the groups.
OCEANIA
From Bill Hague - Regional Secretary

The region was inaugurated in 2009 and is composed of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. A regional committee, with Mr Matt Kehoe as the chair, Dr Bill Hague as secretary and Drs Michael Burke John Hagidimitriou and Glennis Mafi as committee members, was formed.

They are networking with John Geater (PRIME) and Bob Snyder (Saline Solution)

Australia CMDF is 60 years old and going strong. The group held a wonderful national IMPACT conference in July 2009 with at least 20 people going to Uruguay this year.

New Zealand is revitalized and holding national conferences. Student Ministry is strong and presents great enthusiasm for medical missions.

Please pray for both Papua New Guinea where the fellowship needs support, and Fiji, which has an enthusiastic fellowship amidst the unstable political situation.

EASTERN AFRICA
By Dr Jean Kagia – Regional Secretary

In the midst of all the problems in the region we have experienced God’s faithfulness.

Rwanda held a very successful students and junior doctors regional conference where the students promised to assist Burundi in 2011 as they organize the regional conference.

We praise God for CMF Rwanda which was launched on 10 July 2009. They continue to meet and mobilize Christian doctors and dentists.

Burundi - The students are planning to host an ICMDA student and junior doctors conference. A meeting was held with the students and one of the Christian doctors. All the logistics of organizing a conference were covered. They are keen to attract other students from private institutions and junior doctors.

I recently made another trip to the region and met with the doctors. We discussed Christian Medical Fellowship and the students conference. A new official Dr Aline was selected to encourage the development of this new group.

Ethiopia - The fellowship in Ethiopia is very active. They have quarterly meetings, are involved in medical missions, students, pro life and prisons ministries. They also organized an annual conference while they prepare for Uruguay.

Kenya - Kenya is very active in Continuing Medical Education. There is much work taking place in pro life advocacy particularly during this time of constitutional review. We now have a dinner and annual retreat in addition to the monthly meetings. We are in the process of changing the name from CMF to CMDA.

DRC - After a long silence, they have started meeting in the DRC. They hope that one doctor will be able to go to Uruguay. This region is still very unsettled and needs ongoing prayer for courage, hope, and the opportunity to support one another in fellowship.

Uganda - Uganda are active in monthly meetings, holding couples fellowship, annual and regional conferences. Please pray for better communication in the region.

Tanzania - We have had very little response from those in Tanzania, but we pray that they will respond to God’s call. Remember DRC and never give up!

CHALLENGES FOR PRAYER IN THE EAST AFRICA REGION

1) Communication – for responsible and supportive interest from all organizations.
2) Political instability – for the return to political stability.
3) Economic Problems – for the strengthening of work and employment opportunities.
4) Personal commitment and prioritization – to the work of the Lord in the medical fields.

I enjoyed working in the region and will give whoever comes in as Regional Secretary all the support I can.
The ministry continues to go on in spite of the economic and spiritual warfare challenges. God’s blessings continue to be experienced.

- This year we are reviewing the strategic plan for 5 years. After a leaders meeting of members, a survey will be undertaken to find out what they are thinking. Results will be out by the summer.
- The campus ministry is our greatest commitment in staff and resources. There are 240 campuses!
- There are some 600 medical missionaries.
- 1000 students have enrolled for career missions and they are busy mentoring the next generation.
- In the last 2 years, CMDA members participated in short term medical missions, other are involved in evangelism, many are involved in mentoring, caring for the poor at least part time, and personal disciplineship. Unfortunately satisfaction with medical careers has dropped within 5 years. Some are frustrated by the health systems. Many struggle with time management while others have challenges with stress, parenting, marriage, personal and family health. CMDA plans to offer publications, conferences and Biblical consulting to support medical & dental colleagues.
- The overwhelming majority are pleased with CMDA involvement in public policy.
- The great majority are happy with the publications: Today’s Christian Doctor, Doctor’s Digest, News and Views and the CMDA Website.

Praise God for His grace as the CMDA coordinates 40 ministries.

The 39th Regional Conference of Asian Christian Medical Worker’s and student Exchange Program involving Japan, Korea and Taiwan on Career Development was held in Taiwan and was attended by 89 people.

Taiwan - A National Conference was also held and 180 people attended.

The Nehemiah Movement provided a mobile clinic and health exam for Tsou tribe churches at Mt. Ali after the Typhoon Moracco disaster. Prayer meetings were held at Mt Ali. The Taiwanese Christian Medical Association will visit local Christian Doctors on their trip to other countries.

‘Angel Online’ is a Taiwanese outreach program providing medical and spiritual counselling service on the internet or by phone.

In February, Honduras was visited to organize the Central American Congress of Physicians, dentists and student Christians that will take place in August.

Dr. Rafael Montes has been appointed the students secretary.

In a visit to Guatemala a restoration of the association was promoted.

El Salvador has monthly meetings, church medical and evangelical missions. There are plans for involvement in national health issues and also a plan to open a clinic for needy people.

A group of AMCS (San Salvador CMF) visited Haiti after the earthquake together with Operation Blessing.

Contact has been made with Costa Rica and Panama and visits are planned. Student ministry in Panama is active. For the next two years the region will partner with Mexico to perform the first Mesoamerican Congress of Christian physicians and dentists. To all the ICMDA members I say:-

“Be steadfast and immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord; for the Lord your labour is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58)
The famous preacher Dr. Tony Campolo tells the story of a little preaching competition that he had with his pastor during services at the church he attends. Dr. Campolo tells how he preached the perfect sermon, perfect in every way. He had taken the congregation to the heights of glory. And as he sat down beside his pastor, Dr. Campolo patted him on the knee and simply said, “Top that!” The older black pastor looked at him and said, “Boy, watch the master.”

It was a simple sermon, starting softly, building up in volume and intensity until the entire congregation was completely involved, repeating the phrases in unison. The sermon went something like this.

It’s Friday. Jesus is arrested in the garden where He was praying. But Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. The disciples are hiding and Peter’s denying that he knows the Lord. But Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. Jesus us standing before the high priest of Israel, silent as a lamb before the slaughter. But Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. Jesus is beaten, mocked and spit upon. But Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. Those Roman soldiers are flogging our Lord with a leather scourge that has bits of bones and glass and metal, tearing at his flesh. But Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. The Son of man stands firm as they press the crown of thorns down into his brow. But Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. See Him walking to Calvary, the blood dripping from His Body. See the cross crashing down on His back as He stumbles beneath the load. It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. See those Roman soldiers driving the nails into the feet and hands of my Lord. Hear my Jesus cry, “Father, Forgive them.” It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. Jesus is handing on the cross, bloody and dying. But Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. The sky grows dark, the earth begins to tremble and He who knew no sin became sin for use. Holy God who will not abide with sin pours our His wrath on that perfect sacrificial lamb who cries out, “My God, My God, Why has thou forsaken me?” What a terrible cry, but Sunday’s coming.

It’s Friday. Jesus is hanging on the cross, Jesus the Christ, the Lord of Glory, the only begotten Son of God, the only perfect man died on the cross of Calvary. Satan thought that he had won the victory. Surely he had destroyed the Son of God. Finally he had disproved the prophecy God had uttered in the Garden and the one who was to crush his head had been destroyed. But that was Friday.

Now it’s Sunday. And just about dawn on that first day of the week, there was a great earthquake. But that wasn’t the only thing that was shaking because now it’s Sunday. And the angel of the Lord is coming down out of heaven and rolling the stone away from the door of the tomb. Yes, it’s Sunday, and the angel of the Lord is sitting on that stone and the guards posted at the tomb to keep the body from disappearing were shaking in their boots because it’s Sunday, and the lamb that was silent before the slaughter is now the resurrected lion from the tribe of Judah, for He is not here, the angel says. He is risen indeed.

It’s Sunday, and the crucified and resurrected Christ has defeated death, hell, sin and the grave. It’s Sunday. And now everything has changed. It’s the age of grace, God’s grace poured out on all who would look at that crucified lamb of Calvary. Grace freely given to all who would believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary was buried and rose again. All because it’s Sunday.

It’s Friday! But Sunday’s Coming!
MORE NEWS AND VIEWS
Taken From CMF UK

RAISING UP WORKERS
by Peter Saunders – CMF Chief Executive

During the heaviest snowfall of the winter I rose at 4am, abandoned my car in drifts at the side of the road near the station, got stranded in a darkened railway carriage during a power failure, and eventually arrived at Gatwick to find the airport closed and my flight diverted to Heathrow. The M25 closed 20 minutes after we passed through by bus, and by God’s grace found myself on a flight to Atlanta, Georgia, only seven hours late as opposed to not at all.

I was due to give the Bible Readings on the book of Acts at a missions conference run by a US sister organization called Medical Campus Outreach (MCO).

About 200 Christian Medical students from just two medical campuses attended the event at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina and before the conference I had the privilege of spending some time with brothers and sisters at one of these campuses in Charleston, South Carolina.

Disciplining the next generation.

The MCO ministry had started over a decade before with two paediatricians deciding to drop sessions in private practice in order to disciple medical students. By the time I visited there were seven paediatricians in a single private practice all of whom had decided to work just three days a week in clinical jobs so they could spend the rest of their time, unpaid, in student ministry. Each couple had bought a house in one suburb of the city where they lived with their families and were able to open their homes, model Christian community and share, in Paul’s words, “not just the Word of God but their lives as well.”

The fruit of this huge commitment in time and finance was obvious – in many mature, growing Christian students, a substantial proportion of whom had come to faith while at medical school, and who were now following in the footsteps of their older colleagues in mentoring and disciplining the next generation.

Another striking factor in the success of this ministry was the commitment and involvement of the local church. One local church had invested $100,000 per year in medical student ministry along in this one city, paying for a full time administrator, local events and resources. They ran an excellent teaching programme but the mainstay of the work was time spent in lives lived together. Their commitment to Christ was as much ‘caught’ as ‘taught’.

How much do we really value fellowship?

The trip made me reflect. How seriously do we really take Christ’s great commission to go and make disciples, and how much do we really value Christian fellowship? The writer to the Hebrews exhorted his readers to invest their lives in one another: ‘And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.’ (Hebrews 10:24,25) And Jesus asked his disciples to pray for God to raise up more workers:

‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’ (Luke 10:2)

Do we know the other Christian doctors in our churches, our hospitals, our cities? Are we taking an interest in the medical students in our local medical school? Are there a few key people in the next generation to whom we are passing on what Christ has taught us? Might we consider dropping a session or two to create more space for helping Christian colleagues – students of doctors – in this way?

CMF’s theme in 2010 is ‘building community, strengthening ministry’. This will involve additions to the staff team – and we have already advertised and are searching for a new nurses’ student staff worker and new staff worker for graduates. These people will be essential catalysts for achieving our aims.
AROUND THE GLOBE

But the real difference will be made by individuals who are more serious about creating space for others by getting involved where they are right now – stirring up, and encouraging one another, where God has already placed us in churches, hospitals and GP practices. Our vision is to have 20-30 members willing to drop sessions to focus on encouraging, discipling and developing others. But anybody making space to give any spare time at all to invest in Christian colleagues will make a difference. How about you?

‘From him the whole body, joined and held together by every ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work’ (Ephesians 4:16)

Let’s do it for Jesus!

WIDER HORIZONS
By Vicky Lavy – Head of International Ministries CMF UK

EN ROUTE TO ALL NATIONS...

En route is a new short course in cross-cultural mission at All Nations Christian College. This ten-week course is an excellent preparation for those preparing to work overseas and a short, one-week version En Route Express, would be ideal for those going on short mission trips or medical electives. Both can also be done online at www.allnations.ac.uk

BURN OUT HITS ALL DOCTORS

Dana Hanson, a Canadian dermatologist and the President of the World Medical Association, told the recent Global Forum of Health Leaders’ conference that 45% of physicians worldwide are in an advanced stage of burn out, with the figure even higher in developing countries. Women doctors have an increased risk of suicide and a significant proportion of all doctors have symptoms of anxiety and depression. ‘Physicians should not have to choose between saving themselves and serving their patients’, the president said (BMJ Careers, 21 November 2008: GP160)

UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD STEM CELLS

We told you so...

In January 2008 CMF UK welcomed a new bill which encouraged the donation at childbirth of umbilical cord blood and its storage for public use. It called on the government to invest more actively in developing a cord stem cell bank.

The Umbilical Cord Blood (Donation) Bill aimed to increase awareness of umbilical cord blood’s value in treating diseases and to promote further research for new treatment methods using cord blood stem cells. The bill required doctors to inform all parents of the benefits of collection and storage.

Sadly, the bill was not granted parliamentary time to progress, the government instead pursuing its agenda of cytoplasmic animal-human hybrid (cybrid) research through the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill – a bill that is now law. Very shortly after this bill was passed, new research suggested this avenue of research was unlikely ever to be successful. At the time CMF predicted animal-human hybrid research would become a ‘farcical footnote in history’.

This January scientists reported exciting new developments suggesting that cord blood may well hold the answer for people with Leukaemia requiring bone marrow transplants, and quite possibly for those suffering from other similar diseases.

If the government had been more active in encouraging cord blood storage in the last five years, rather than over-hyping hopes about hybrid embryonic stem cells, we could potentially have had millions of samples of stem cells banked for treatment by now.

Please keep this topic in your prayers, in addition to all Christians around the world in the Assisted Suicide and Voluntary Euthanasia campaigns globally.
BILL HAGUE, OCEANIA REGIONAL SECRETARY VISITS FIJI

I thought you might like to read about my recent first trip to the beautiful island of Fiji. Many of you were praying, and as will become clear, your prayers were both needed and answered in amazing ways.

It was not easy getting out of Sydney to Fiji! The flight was delayed, and we eventually got underway, arriving in Nadi (pronounced Nandi) too late for the last flight to Suva. I only realised on the day that Nadi was 3+ hours by car from Suva, and longer by bus: it was also too late to make the road trip that night.

Early the next morning as we walked out to the small 40 seater plane, everywhere looked so green and lush: we were certainly in the tropics!

Joji Ravolo was there to meet me at Suva airport. We set off to his wife Mereani’s sister Titi’s home where I was to be based for the next three days. Arrangements were in place for me to meet up with various folk. I met with Monica and Qoro (pron Goro), two local Christian GPs in their surgery. Qoro is also the chair of PSFC (Pacific Students for Christ), the AFES/UCCF equivalent in the Pacific, and it was good to share with them both. The idea was mooted of having a regional conference alongside PSFC, which might draw more of the Pacific Islanders, at Easter 2012 - interesting thought!

I met with Dr Ifereimi (Ephraim) Waqainabete, otherwise known as Dr Waqa (pronounced Wonga: q is ng in Fijian!), the Medical Superintendent of the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, the main hospital in Suva.

Waqa is a very cheery and energetic young general surgeon. He told me that he had been thinking and praying for a Christian doctors group to be established in Fiji for over a year. There and then he appointed Joji as the Chairman and himself as the Secretary, and planned the first meeting for three weeks time! The O & G registrars had asked for a talk on diabetes in pregnancy, and were amazed to hear of the possibility of using metformin tablets in pregnancy: the New England Journal of Medicine has clearly not reached their bookshelves! They were a delightful bunch and very interested/enthusiastic, with some ongoing interest for follow-up. I have already had an email asking for help with a research project!

A meeting of note was with the Permanent Secretary for Health, Dr Sala Saketa, the most senior medical person in the country. Sala is another lovely Christian lady, who feels very strongly that she has been called to serve God in her work: she later described herself as a “Moses” and Waqa as her “Joshua”! She has been thrilled to see a real revival of interest in Christian matters in the Department in recent months, following a three week session of prayer and fasting earlier in the year. Perhaps we could learn from their experience?! It was a real joy to pray with these Godly saints, and to sense their expectation of God at work in the country through the Christian doctors and dentists.

We had one final meeting to arrange in Suva at the Medical School. Dr Joji Malani is a senior physician at the hospital and the medical school, trained in Melbourne in Nephrology, and now a real generalist. There had been some difficulty in tracking him down, but just as we were going down to his office to talk to his secretary, we met him coming along the corridor to look for us! He is a lovely man. He first of all took
us over to the new little private hospital that had just been opened, a few hundred metres from the main hospital and looking out with a gorgeous view over the Suva harbour and the mountains beyond to the West. There we also met one of the leading business men of the country, running one of the oil companies. A mild mannered Christian man of great integrity, who has been helping to fund the hospital. Hope for Fiji, I thought, with people of this calibre in leadership. Before we parted, Joji Malani had no hesitation in bowing his head and praying quite openly and boldly for the hospital, the country, the new CMDF and for me: a very humbling experience.

We then drove west to Lautoka, which is the second city of the island with a moderately big hospital, where we were to meet up with Rachel, a young medical graduate, who had been in touch with me before I left Australia to ask about getting the work of ICMDA going in the country. She had been at the Sydney conference in 2006 as a young student, and had recently been transferred, rather unexpectedly, to Lautoka in a quite senior position, despite her youth, in HIV/AIDS work.

We found Rachel in her simple but pleasant government accommodation with her newly arrived Christian sister and another Christian friend. Rachel and I had a long talk about the situation in Fiji in relation to the younger medical/dental people, and she shared some of her vision for involving the other Pacific countries as well. We also arranged for her to come to the forthcoming CMF conference in New Zealand.

I felt as though I was back in the Acts of the Apostles. Maranatha – Lord come quickly!

SOUTH ASIA

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (CMAI)

Many of the members of CMAI are involved with activities, programmes and projects which are of interest to the wider family of the ICMDA. One of the positive values of this sharing with others of what is being done, is the sowing of new ideas and providing challenges to engage supportively in meeting the expressed needs of our communities. If you are engaged in Administration you could be interested in receiving Clipboard from CMAI. This is available electronically by emailing communication@cmai.org with your name, address and pincode, phone number, email id and membership number (if a CMAI member)

We feel sure you will benefit from linking up with the Administrators Section of CMAI.

NEWS FROM NETWORKING MINISTRIES

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
www.internationalhealthservices.org

The mission is: ‘Enabling medical professionals to share Christ’s love at the time of need patient by patient’

As International Saline spreads throughout the world, Hungary remains a fertile seedbed for ministry to the benefit of the entire region of Europe.

A new model of the training has been developed since 2008 – one different component of the new model is small accountability groups – meeting in prayer triplets.

LESSONS LEARNED ON THE JOURNEY

Free online weekly faith stories from Dr. Snyder illuminate biblical principles for followers of Jesus. With intimacy, honesty and openness, the lessons encourage readers to look for God in their own adventure of faith. Great as discussion starters in Sunday School or a small group.

Sign up Today! Visit www.lessonslearnedonthejourney.com One minute for your day… with eternity in focus.
Prime started out in GP education but now receives requests covering a huge range of specialty subjects. Unfortunately we still have relatively few specialists to call upon. Can you help?

Partner organizations often have gaps in their own teaching resources and ask for specific input – hepatologist for Egypt; anaesthetist and diabetologist for the Middle East; endoscopy teaching in East Africa; together with requests for trauma surgeons and paramedics, palliative care (doctors and nurses), mental health and more. All you need are expertise, a willingness to teach, a compassionate whole person approach to both patients and students, and willingness to travel at your own cost!

PRIME Training Courses
Why not come - Run at own cost in keeping with our servant ethos, and even if you never intend teaching with PRIME, you are welcome.

Recent courses have been held in Portugal 21-22 May in Lisbon, with PRIME Portugal called “Changing Values in a Changing Society,” and in Scotland 17-19 June, with Nurses Christian Fellowship International (NCFI). “Whole Person Care – an Integrated Approach.” Tutor training suitable for both doctors and nurses.

Read more at:- www.prime-international.org.uk

I went to the mission field to share the gospel through medicine. That is what missionaries do don’t they? But if that was the measure of my success, I was a dismal failure for the first year I was in Kenya.

Medicine and language study consumed me. I was learning new diseases and new procedures and how to speak a language that could put seven parts of speech in one word. There were unlimited needs and very limited resources in personnel, hospital space, equipment, and medications. I was working twelve-hour days and taking every third night call for 200 inpatients, and a busy OB service.

Don’t get me wrong, I was going to church. I encouraged patients to go to the chapel each morning and made sure I wasn’t doing rounds during that half hour so they would feel free to go. I prayed before each of my surgeries. I was cheering on the ministry team, but I wasn’t really in the game. I had the head knowledge, but was distracted by other important priorities – you know, what doctors do – save lives, stamp out disease.

And then God got a hold of me and shook my inner core as I took care of a terminally ill outpatient that I was trying to deal with too quickly so I could get on to the next one of the thirty patients waiting to be seen by me at 5pm that afternoon. God put on the brakes and sent a celestial broadcast directly to my inner being, “David, why did I bring you halfway around the world? Was it just to cure disease? No matter how good a doctor you are, don’t you realize, all these people are going to die sooner or later? The only way you can help them find eternal life is to introduce them to Me!”

I didn’t want to pull a Jonah and end up in the gastric pouch of a whale, so with the patient’s permission, I shared the story of Christ with that elderly man with the fungating retropharyngeal carcinoma ulcerating the side of his face, for which I had no treatment. I didn’t do it that well, but the Holy Spirit was more concerned about my willingness than with my ability. He did His work. Five minutes later, I found myself on my knees by the side of the examining table helping a patient pray the sinner’s prayer.

His heart was changed and so were my priorities.

Today’s Christian Doctor is focused on addressing patients’ spiritual needs, because God called you to be missionary long before He called you to be a doctor. He has put you in an office, a hospital, or emergency room – one of the best mission fields left in this country. You interact with patients every day who trust and admire you – people who are looking not only for answers to their physical needs, but for hope to hang on to and answers to the deepest questions of life.
AROUND THE GLOBE

As I processed my own day of reckoning with Christ, I boiled down my ministry responsibilities to three principles that you may find helpful:

- As a leader, I have the responsibility to ensure that spiritual ministry systems are in place and prioritised in my daily workplace. This is not going to happen unless I plan for it to happen.
- I need to better train others on my healthcare team, and become better trained myself to share the gospel.
- I need to lead by example – by routinely raising faith flags, telling faith stories, and testifying to what God has done in my life.

The real question comes down to this: Are you going to make addressing patients’ spiritual needs your most important priority?

David Stevens will be a speaker at the World Congress in Uruguay…

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Please pray for Christian Medical Dental fellowships and associations and other health services and workers who are serving and witnessing in very difficult circumstances.
  - Fear and oppression from other religious groups
  - Being in remote places where there are often staff shortages, lack of medicines, poor infrastructure and communication
  - Where disease is a huge burden on very poor populations
  - Countries and people racked by political and economic turmoil
  - Countries ravaged by natural disasters
  - Loneliness and feeling the need for support from Christian colleagues.
- Also remember before the Lord especially the work in Ethiopia, Pakistan, Greece, Thailand, Myanmar, China, Northern Africa, Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Iceland and Haiti.
  - Pray that these disciples will be encouraged by the Holy Spirit in their difficulties, that they will have courage to bring real hope and healing to their colleagues.
  - That they may be given the wisdom to minister Jesus’ peace into the lives and situations they are in.
- We give our Father God in Jesus the praise for His promise to us. “I will never leave you nor forsake you ..”
- Pray for the Area Student Representatives who have recently taken over leadership.
- Pray for young graduates to sense the call to serve as ASR’s in Western Europe, South East Asia, East Asia and Oceania.

STUDENT & JUNIOR GRADUATES NEWS

Dr. Ralph Zarazir – Student and Junior Graduates Secretary (SJGS) reports

The 2010 World Congress is upon us – so much energy, planning and work has focused on encouraging the students and juniors to get there. Much encouragement has been given to South American countries to see that many of their members attend.

In February 2009 we had the first gathering in South America with Ricardo Zandrino (South America Regional Secretary), Jorge Patpation (Congress Coordinator) and Haniel Eller (ASR South America). Most of the things were already on the move so we were there to give support on the needs and add some ideas.

During the South American trip my time was spent with Haniel getting the relationship closer and opening the doors wide for common work and support for the students and juniors in South America. We also met in Uruguay with the student committee.

Haniel and I travelled throughout Brazil and Argentina planning meetings and advertising the world congress. We met many students and student groups. Many raised similar issues – the need for encouragement and training.

While sharing news of the World Congress we realized that many were very interested but didn’t have much information about international meetings and movements.

In Blumenau, we had the chance to visit Guilherme Duwe, the former South American ASR, and spent time with his family. We feel it’s very important to keep in touch with the people who have served the association. It is good
to benefit from their experience and make them still feel part of the ICMDA family after leaving the position.

We had great opportunities to visit some students and one of the founders of MEDICOS DE CRISTO in Brazil – Gilberto, a psychologist and pastor. We had discussions on ICMDA, the movement in Brazil, the difficulties they are facing in involving doctors, and especially the relationship between Christian medical groups and the local church.

We travelled to Argentina to meet up with Dr Ricardo Zandrino (South American Regional Secretary) and some active members of the World Congress committees. There was time to address group meetings and bring support and encouragement.

We visited the region again in December 2009 to republishize and market the World Congress. On this occasion the first meeting in Brazil with Haniel Eller, was with Dr Wilson Bonfim, the former President of Medicos de Cristo in Brazil. It took place in a missionary institution, in the midst of a very needy area in downtown Rio de Janeiro. At the clinic there, school and church, we had a chance to see some of the work they are doing in this very difficult and dangerous area. It was also possible to meet with other members such as Dr Denoel (Cardiac Surgeon), the coordinator of the Connections Project of Medicos de Christo and involved with medical mission for the Portuguese speaking countries. Juliano Prado is a junior doctor from Rio and is a visionary young man who was eager to encourage the group in Rio to participate in the world congress and be part of the team preparing a draft paper for an ICMDA Juniors Mission Trip sometime early in 2011.

In Bolivia we met with student groups in the cities of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. Meetings were held in the different medical schools of the two cities as well as separately with the Christian student and junior groups in town. Bolivia is an amazing place regarding their response and commitment. They appreciated our visit and felt greatly encouraged.

Our third destination was the cities of Lima and Cusco in Peru, to stimulate more interest and response.

The last stop was Chile and as planned we had all the meetings scheduled. It was a good opportunity to link with the IFES group (Medical Section) in Santiago. We had the chance to spend time with the student and junior leaders who would pass on our invitation to a larger number of people.

A message from Haniel reads; “I am really happy for the way things have gone leading up to the Congress and the positive response we received after our trip.”

EGYPT MEETING

In January, I had a multipurpose visit to the CMF group in Egypt. Linking with them as a strategic member of ICMDA in the METNA area was positive. It was a good opportunity to give encouragement as Christians experience oppression in Egypt. There was time for discussion on some ongoing problems. We thank the Lord for the wisdom He is giving us all to bring our people together.

The time in Egypt was an opportunity for a gathering of Bursary applicants to Uruguay. It was good to meet with them, hear more about what they do and have an idea of who would have real potential in the work of ICMDA and the region in the future.

In conclusion, it has been a great year and we thank the Lord for all His blessings. We look forward to a fruitful world congress where His name will be glorified in South America and the entire planet!

ASRs/STUDENT & JUNIOR LEADERS TRAINING

The 2009 ASRs Training camp “Come as you are... and leave different” was held in Lebanon in August 2009 with 16 participants from 12 different countries. The Eurasia Regional Secretary Dr James Tomlinson was a great support to the planning and in leading the camp.

The main themes discussed during training included:–
1) Student and Junior Leaders: One Team, One Family.
2) Cultural orientation and Interdenominational understanding.
3) Clarifying the responsibilities of an ASR/Student and Junior Leader.
4) Building an Internet Communication Network

The outcome was excellent and some of the people who attended are applying for ASR positions in their countries.
NEWS AND PRAYER POINTS

EURASIA – JAMES TOMLINSON

A few stories of what God is doing through and among Christian Medics and dentists across the Eurasia region.

We give thanks and pray for the Christian Medical group in Reykjavik, Iceland. Pray also for those desiring to start similar groups across the Eurasia Region. This summer sees a strategic sub-regional conference for Christians in healthcare to the East of the Soviet Union.

The Area Student Representatives in Eurasia continue to play a key role in visiting groups and conferences and in supporting student leadership training in the region. We continue to seek candidates for the role of ASR for Western Europe. Contact James Tomlinson if this is something you may be interested in. For more on ICMDA in Eurasia email me Eurasia@icmda-online.org

We give thanks for the recent Central Europe Training in Austria. Following the Austrian Student and Juniors Conference around 20 students from Central Europe stayed on for further leadership training – looking at running small groups, mentoring, conferences and publications. Praise God for the first time a student from Slovenia was present. The same conference marked the hand over from Chris Gerken (ASR since 2003/2004) to Matthaus Fellinger, medical student in Vienna. We give thanks for Chris Gerken who gave faithful service and pray for him as he continues as a paediatrician and father of two. Pray also for Matthaus as he starts as ASR in Central Europe.

At the National CMDA of Greece it was made known that a few medical students want to find ways of including and reaching the next generation of Christians in healthcare. Pray for their new president, Anthony and their Secretary, John, as they seek to move the work in Greece forward.

SOUTH ASIA – VIKRAM TIRKEY

Praise God that a prayer conference (EMFI) was organised at Ranchi (Jharkhand) India. It was four days of worship, meditation and the medicos fasted for over 24 hours and prayed continuously for over ten hours – it was amazing!

Thank God for the Assembly of Healthcare providers organised by Healthcare Christian Fellowship at Tansen (Nepal) – attended by 200 delegates from all over South Asia and Egypt for five days. It was yet another blessed time for all there.

A number of retreats and conferences were held at various places in India for medical and dental students and doctors, especially focusing on evangelism, discipleship, leadership and mission.

Please pray:
- For our Biennial National Conference. It is turning out to be a regional conference (South Asia) for ICMDA as well. We are inviting delegates from all over the globe but primarily from South Asia. Please pray and if God willing participate!
- For God’s hands and wisdom as we plan, prepare and arrange and organise many things related to the conference.

WEST AFRICA – COURAGE UMHUMWHANGO

We have a number of brethren who are very keen to be at the world congress and ICMDA has been magnificent in giving us bursaries.

We pray for Courage, that he will have success in his post-graduate exams and that the family will be comforted by the grief and loss of his father.

Please pray that the congress will make life time impressions on His people even more than IMPACT did in Australia, which remains incredible! We also pray for the host brethren, that they will receive grace of the Lord to pull off in an exciting and glorious manner, and also for the ICMDA global family, to be truly touched by this congress.
AROUND THE GLOBE

ARTICLE FROM JUNIORS FORUM CMF UK
Excerpts from Triple Helix Easter 2010

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?
By Katy Barker (FY2 in Leeds and Series Editor of Juniors’ Forum) and
Genie Lee (Eugenia Lee is a GP with special interest in public health in SE London)

Should I stay or should I go? A question that may sound familiar to many junior doctors, and one that may be lurking at the back of your mind. No, I’m not referring to the song The Clash; I mean that big question you ask yourself about practising medicine overseas… I know I’ve asked it. I know I still do.

Many different reasons stop us from going, but rather than addressing these individually, I’m going to look at the reasons to go.

Why go? The short answer is simple: God loves the poor and the oppressed. His concern for them is evident throughout the Bible. There are many references regarding the poor, both to people crying out to God to defend their cause, and what our actions should be in response to the need. The Bible is clear there are blessings and treasures in heaven for those who respond for ‘he who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done’ (Ezekiel 16:49-51), but there will be consequences for those who do not. God’s heart is for the poor, for the orphans, for the widows – ours should be too.

But with respect to the question ‘why go?’ take a fresh look at our world and visit worldnapper. The maps change the dimensions of the continents to represent the global distribution of a topic. Although Africa and India swell to immense proportions with regard to the burden of disease, Africa becomes threadlike with the distribution of doctors while the UK enlarges to obese proportions. The poorest in the world have the greatest health needs, but the fewest doctors. So instead of ‘why go?’ ask yourself ‘why stay?’ And Remember ‘…whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:40)

Be Inspired! Medical mission comes in all different shapes and sizes, for varying time periods. We can take ideas from what others have done. Genie Lee shares her experiences:-

Since I’ve graduated I have been hugely blessed being able to go on short-term medical mission trips. This is despite many trainers, mostly from secular organizations, expressing their disbelief at the possibility of such trips, and questioning how useful a junior can be in the mission field. The trips have ranged from three days to two weeks, mostly as study leave, occasionally as annual leave, but more often as ‘professional leave.’ My consultants were so proud of what their juniors were doing they contributed ‘for humanity’ by facilitating me going. So far the Lord has led me to Nepal and Sri Lanka on my elective with Leprosy, Tibet and Uganda with Care and Share Foundation, India with SIM, and to the Czech Republic and Armenia with PRIME. There have been many memorable experiences for me both as a Christian and as a medic. These are often times when I draw closer to God, away from my iPod, emails and various commitments back home. I have witnessed how you can sing, ‘Blessed be your name’ in the midst of an African famine when many of the congregation do not know where their next meal will come from, yet are still able to glorify His name; and clutched a child with polio in Tibet. These are experiences I will always cherish.

I would highly recommend all juniors to undertake some form of short-term trip. Not only do you witness what God is doing in His kingdom but also allowing you to keep a perspective on medicine in the world, outside our local hospitals and clinics. You gain valuable clinical and teaching experience. It also facilitates leadership training and healthcare management as I experienced alternative healthcare management in other countries first hand. The UK training programme actively encourages such experiences and, overall, my supervisors have been wholeheartedly supportive. So, what are you waiting for?!

At end of Foundation Training marks what I am waiting for. At the end of FY2 I’m taking a year out to practice medicine in the developing world. What are you waiting for?

Get reading, get praying, get talking:
Be Inspired!
BOOK REVIEWS

I COULD DO THAT!
Andrew Fergusson and Steve Fouch
Review by Liz Capper www.cmfuk.org

These compelling stories or accounts of working overseas, modestly written, demonstrate how Christian doctors, nurses and midwives have followed God’s prompting and made important contributions to the health of the communities they have gone to serve. Probably none of them had any idea where their obedience would lead, but the stories describe their progress and achievements step by step. They are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The role of mentors in offering support and encouragement was central in many cases.

For those with a vision for mission, this is a heart-warming read. Anyone testing whether he or she should go into a mission setting, whether overseas or in their own country, will find this book challenging and encouraging. It could be the confirmation they need.

This book is not only for healthcare professionals. It would help those in a church setting to consider whether a candidate wanting to do this work will be able to cope with it. Friends and family of someone going out to the mission field would gain an insight into the opportunities and experiences of those who have already trodden this path and proved God’s faithfulness. Books may be obtained by contacting CMF U.K. website as below.

CHALLENGING MEDICAL ETHICS FOR BEGINNERS
by Giles Cattermole – Head of Student Ministries CMF UK

To encourage you to read more! For the complete article go to the website www.cmf.org.uk or email us students@cmf.org.uk

Ethics is far more than the life and death issues currently popular in the media. It’s about every decision we make, ‘I should do this’ or ‘I shouldn’t do that’. This article introduces the sorts of questions that ethics is concerned with, the answers that humanist frameworks offer, and a critique of these from a Christian perspective.

Ethics is about deciding what is morally right and wrong, about what we should of shouldn’t do. Medical ethics therefore is concerned with the obvious issues like abortion, cloning, and euthanasia. But also with what life is and what a person is. What disease and health are. Our attitudes to disability and mental illness. Justice and rationing. Confidentiality, dignity, consent, truth-telling, paternalism, professionalism, research and more!

Our starting point in Christian ethics must be God, and what he has told us is good. But we also need to recognise that human nature is sinful, in rebellion against God. We’ll get nowhere without repenting of our sin, trusting only in God.

Christian ethics are therefore revealed in Gods word, the Bible. They are not discovered or chosen by us. God defines what is good. So let’s listen to him. Christian ethics re concerned with all aspects of our behaviour: our character, our deeds, the outcomes. We have ‘relational responsibilities’, our responsibilities to each other and God, revealed to us in His Word, are lived out in personal, loving relationships. We seek to live like Christ, we seek to glorify His name. So lets pray that we do this, because without him, we can’t.
**MORE NEWS**
From Giles Cattermole - CMF UK Student Ministries

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PRECONFERENCE**
8-12 February saw 13 students from eight countries in the former Soviet Union and the Middle East, come to London for a week of superb teaching, a tour of the ‘Bible in the British Museum’ and a chance to experience real English fish and chips! Our links with sister organisations in these countries continue to develop, and we hope and pray these students will be able to help build this work back home, often in a very isolated or difficult circumstances. The support we can offer these countries and summer camps is immensely valuable: long may it continue.

**NATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE**
Our biggest annual event took place at Swanwick, 12-14 February with well over 300 students. Terry Virgo spoke eloquently from Hebrews and Exodus about Moses’ encounters with God, and students were encouraged and excited by the passion and enthusiasm of the seminars and talks. Please pray that what they learned, and the motivation that inspired them, will continue as they live and speak for Jesus in their medical schools. The feedback has been extremely positive, but it’s probably best to let one of the students speak for themselves:-

*I came to the CMF weekend last year. At that time I hadn’t yet committed my life to Christ, although I was desperately seeking him. I spent the whole weekend absolutely terrified, and spent the whole time trying to avoid talking to anyone for any length of time. I came away from the weekend with the lasting impression of 400 intelligent medical students all believing the same thing. Returning this year, having committed my life to Jesus and been baptised in December, has been amazing. To be able to celebrate the way my life has changed over the last year and to spend the weekend praising God has been one of the best experiences of my life.*

*Thank you for helping me on my way to finding Jesus, and being able to celebrate that this year, it has been awesome!*  

Our evangelism and apologetics courses continue to equip students to work for growth in God’s kingdom throughout the UK. The most recent were Answering other Faiths and Confident Christianity. In June, we plan to run our first Summer School since 2003. It’s a week of Bible teaching, talks and seminars, and we hope this will be a regular part of our training of CMF students. Please pray for the preparation, the speakers, and the students who attend.

**TESTIMONY**
By Tafadzwa Shuro Zimbabwe, Southern Africa

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I write to you from Harare Zimbabwe to tell you about my time in the province of Asia. Though the apostle Paul testifies of the challenges that Christians face in this part of the world, I would like to let you know that Christians are there in Asia and the Lord is moving mightily there.

I arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 27th of February en-route to Singapore for my second elective. This dental elective attachment at the National University of Singapore was in addition to my first elective at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, during the month of February. From the moment I arrived in Asia I have seen the Lord’s hand at work in my life as never before. What was intended to be an educational trip ended up being a missionary trip of some sorts.
I say so because of numerous times when total strangers (Doctors, staff and students alike) would approach me during a clinic session and I would end up sharing the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, for hours at a time. On top of this, nearly every evening in Singapore was taken up by a speaking engagement at which I would share some of my experiences and in this way we would encourage each other in the Lord. I attended various Churches and interacted with so many young people from various denominations it left my head spinning when I actually took time to think about what had happened. This place truly is the Antioch of Asia.

The Lord that we serve is a faithful God. He shows Himself faithful in our lives by making provision for His vision. Funds raised through our efforts as students under Celebration Health were inadequate to enable me to travel and live in Singapore. As a result I had to ask my family for assistance but they too could not afford it. It was during this time of deep anguish as to how things would work out that three days before I was scheduled to leave, I got an email out of the blue from a friend in the United States who was praying and the Lord impressed upon their heart to contact me. I notified them of my situation and they agreed to loan me the money. I spoke to my parents and they agreed to take on the debt. In this way I managed to travel to Asia, or so I thought...

Well...Friday the 13th was definitely a day I will remember forever for all the right reasons. One Lecturer at the University asked me to come to his clinic to see his practice and in this way see a typical Dental Practice in Singapore. When I got there he was busy unfortunately, so he could only see me briefly. He did not say much except that the Lord had asked him to support me. He promptly handed me an envelope with what he believed was enough money to cover any expenses I had incurred in coming to Singapore and if by any chance there was change I should give it to my church.

All I could do was cry and immediately call my parents to let them know of this great miracle. I also called my friend in America and let them know I was ready to pay back their money! What more did I need, the Lord had done the unthinkable, or so I thought...The Lord blew my mind and thoughts of self sustenance straight out of the water when later on that day I went for a prayer meeting. In attendance was a Professor who had just flown in from Taiwan and he told me that God had prompted him to share a gift with me.

He was very specific in his allocation of the funds; one third to my church as a testament that the Lord is with us, another third to my family as a sign that the Lord will always provide for us, and one third to me as a seed for my postgraduate training that the Lord will provide for my education.

God has been good in the most humbling ways and I am so thankful that He has provided in such abundance to my needs. I also give God the glory for those who have supported and mentored me in the Lord, for my dental elective in Singapore and for lessons learnt in God’s love.

CONFERENCES CALENDAR

2010
Regional Conferences
23 - 26 Sept  CMF SA, Bloemfontein
14 – 17 Oct  India – Biennial, Ranchi

2010
World Congress
1-8 July 2010  Punte del Este, Uruguay

More information can be obtained on the ICMDA website under conferences (www.icmda.net)