The EUS Family - Read more on page 16

Graduates News, Praise and Prayer
Juniors Graduates News, Praise and Prayer
Students News, Praise and Prayer
Conferences Calendar

ISSUE 1
February to May 2008
As we all launch out in faith into 2008, it is our joy to bring you the news of ICMDA activities and aspirations. For us we are excited about our new format. We trust this makes for easier reading and access from the internet. Combining the three sections – graduate, junior graduate and student – gives substance to the sense of family of the ICMDA. We belong together and we seek to share together life in our national associations. For some the road is smooth as well as encouraging with much to look forward to, whilst for others the journey is rough with many challenges, these experiences bringing frustration and discouragement.

Minnie Louise Haskins wrote these words some 100 years ago – “I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied: ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’”

“I am the Lord your God who holds your right hand.” Isaiah 41:13. What a promise for each one of us.

We encourage you to share with us your organisations’ experiences of walking ‘hand in hand’ with God in Christ. The NPP will be highlighting in each issue the story of “Health and Hope” from two organisations – Egypt and Armenia this time. We will be looking to you to provide history, describe life, health and growth, share Hope for the future. We will be knocking at your door for input. But please, don’t wait to hear from us. We wish to hear from you.

Remember NPP is readily accessible from the internet. Just visit our website (www.icmda.net). Look under NEWS!!!

We are greatly encouraged by Ralph Zarazar’s recent appointment to the position of ICMDA Student Junior Graduate General Secretary (SJGGS). We are thrilled too of the announcement of the news of ICMDA Student Junior Graduate General Secretary (SJGGS). We are thrilled too of the announcement of the news of ICMDA Student Junior Graduate General Secretary (SJGGS). We are thrilled too of the announcement.

THE MOBILE CLINIC

The health outreach programme of the CMF began 13 years ago with the aim to deliver medical and spiritual care to needy people in rural areas. The mobile clinic does two trips every month. The mobile medical team is composed of 4 – 5 doctors, one pharmacist and nurses. They examine a large number of patients, distribute free medicines, refer patients needing surgery to nearby hospitals and after delivering medical care, they witness to our Saviour’s love at the evening service of the rural church.

Please Pray:
- That two mobile medical teams may be formed to increase the outreach trips.
- That the mobile clinic be equipped with medical instruments and up-to-date apparatus.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN GERIATRIC HOME

We give thanks and praise to our Lord who supported us over 6 years since we began geriatric care at the Good Samaritan Home. Our aim is to serve the elderly and provide a shelter for those in need. We have now a fairly well equipped facility of 24 beds fully occupied.

THE HOME HEALTH CARE

Our aim is to provide physical and spiritual home care to non-hospitalized old or sick persons. We have a team of 14 trained care providers. We appreciate more and more the value of this service to both the patients and their families.

THE SPIRITUAL MEETINGS

1 - On the last Friday of every month Doctors, Pharmacists, Staff Nurses, Physiotherapists and Paramedical university graduates continue to meet at Ezbekia Evangelical church. The focus is on the spiritual aspect of the profession, followed by a medical presentation and then fellowship.

2 - Every Tuesday we continue to meet for prayer and planning at the Evangelical Fellowship’s home, at Faggala, Cairo.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Usually we celebrate Christmas in a great festival to attract the far away Doctors, Pharmacists and Paramedics to expose them to the living message of Christ. This approach proved to be very effective by the testimony of many Doctors who accepted Christ as their personal Saviour at such festivals. We celebrated Christmas 2006, in a Nile cruise, at “Aquarius”. A choir team animated the Christmas carols. Professor Dr. Mufeed Said delivered the main speech. Our next celebration will also be at “Aquarius” on Dec. 28, 2007.

THE EVANGELISTIC PRAISE FESTIVALS

Aimed mainly at the medical, pharmacists and paramedical university students to expose them to the living message of Christ and transmit the CMF vision to them. The program is generally similar to the Christmas celebration. The last Praise Festival was at Dales’ hall on October 24, 2007, in the presence of our brethren from HOME, with an attendance of 700. The “Better Life Junior” choir team and brother Nasser Sobhy presented the Christian songs and Dr. Essam Raad, the president of HOME, was the main speaker.

THE CONFERENCES

1 – The Summer medical families’ spiritual Conference: Took place at the “Fair Haven” Conference Centre, Alexandria, on July 5 - 10, 2007. A large attendance of 137 Doctors and their families enjoyed the evangelistic and edifying spiritual program, besides some recreation and relaxation on the beach.

The next summer families’ conference is scheduled for next July 7 - 15, also at the “Fair Haven” Conference Center, Alexandria.

2 - The HOME Conference: We praise God for the HOME summit which was organized in Egypt this year. It took place at Beit-El-Salam, Agamy, Alexandria last October 26 - 29. Delegates from the different HOME chapters and from the neighbouring Arab countries attended. The main speakers were Drs. Essam Raad, Nabil Gabour, Mufeed Said, Maher Samuel and Magdy Samuel. The whole conference was anointed by the Holy-Spirit and the members were blessed.

CMF -EGYPT MEDICO- SPIRITUAL MAGAZINE “THE GOOD SAMARITAN”

The last issue was the 24th, published in December 2006. This issue contains many spiritual and professional articles. The magazine is widely distributed to the medical profession in Egypt. Some even reach the Arabic reading Doctors in USA, Canada and Australia. The latest issue appeared in December 2007.
ACMA INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY
Armenian Christian Medical Association (ACMA)

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Report on the ACMA 2nd Doctors' Congress, Sept 2007
By Dr Alex Bunn, Assistant Head CMF Student Ministry

HISTORY
There are strong links already between Newcastle doctors and Georgia students, Armenian students and Doctors. Greater Armenia was probably the location of Eden, Noah, and Cilicia where St Paul grew up, and became the world's first Christian country in 301AD. It has been wedged between superpowers of communism and Islam. It really is a miracle that any Christian witness has survived, but the price has been high. The genocide of 1908-15 took more than one and half million lives, and lead to mass emigration.

MOUNT ARARAT
Viewed from Yerevan

LET'S PRAY WITH PAUL FOR OUR FAMILY IN CHRIST

“My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door to him. I ask him to equip you with all God's richness so that you may have enough of everything in all situations, as is the case with those who belong to Christ Jesus. For I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I have learned the secret of being content, for whatever I have, this I know. I know how to live in the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God” (Phil 3:14-19)

We networked with former IFES workers who were instrumental in getting student ministry off the ground and are in contact with Armenian medical students. IFES have been active in medical student ministry, and the medics constitute one of their largest groups.

FURTHER INFORMATION, NEWS, OR TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ARMENIA:
Please feel free to email Dr. Kristina Ashrafayan achrinstina2003@yahoo.com or ichtus@freenet.am and/or Dr. Jany Haddad jhaddad@scs-net.org. They would be encouraged to hear from you.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SERVE (IHS) TRAINS PHYSICIANS IN S.AFRICA

In June 2006 the Christian Medical Fellowship South Africa invited IHS to hold an International Saline Solution training conference for 20 Christian medical professionals from the South African region. The participants ranged from medical students to an 87yr old medical professional, all of whom want to integrate their faith into their medical practices. Two trainers and our ministry partner from Christian Medical Fellowship UK, jointly conducted the training seminar.

‘Beta’ Testing of a New Training Tool

For over a year, IHS and our five global Trainers have been developing a new training tool designed for greater simplicity and cultural adaptability. The new training materials was presented as a ‘beta’ test at the recent conference in South Africa. Feedback from the training seminar participants was unanimously positive. Many testified to the way the course radically changed their views regarding meeting the spiritual needs of patients.

Beta Test Participant Feedback

- One medical professional exclaimed that she had been searching for a means to share her faith in her practice. Because of the IHS training, she felt personally encouraged and equipped to become a workplace witness for Christ on a regular basis.

- Another participant mentioned, “I now know it is more than OK to speak to patients about spirituality. And I now know I am not alone in meeting this important patient need.”

- Another doctor, having previously taken the original version of the training course, expressed that the new course is “Simple, practical and more realistic.”

By the power of God, this ‘beta’ test training seminar encouraged and moved the South Africa conference participants to a stronger personal commitment to live daily for Christ.

The patient – Our primary concern

What might a patient under the care of an IHS trained physician experience? Participating physicians look for opportunities to:

- Identify themselves as followers of Jesus to their patients.
- Plant “faith flags” – initiating conversations about the Lord.
- Tell “faith stories” of their own experiences with Jesus.
- Give “faith prescriptions” – scripture to read and consider.
- Take patients “Spiritual Histories.”
- Pray for and with patients, as appropriate.

Spiritual encounters with patients are based on the physician’s desire to provide compassionate care, opportunities for prayer and non-confrontational moments to consider the claims of Christ.

SOLIDIFYING AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

While in South Africa, Bob Snyder also had the opportunity to present a ministry partnership vision and model to the Board of Directors of International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA). ICMDA leadership shares a common vision and passion for ministering the Gospel around the world through properly trained and equipped medical professionals. The scriptural theme used by Bob Snyder in his presentation was, “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12

ICMDA, having links to over 90 countries, will with IHS look to efficiently train and mobilize trainers. We praise God for ministry partners, such as ICMDA and Christian Medical Fellowship UK and South Africa, who are committed to share capabilities and resources aimed at more effectively furthering the Kingdom of God.

SOUTH AFRICA

CMF (SA) partnered with the Healthcare Christian Fellowship in promoting the celebration of Healthcare Sunday 2007 (21 October). Both organisations have witnessed for and served Christ for more than 50 years. They seek to encourage healthcare workers to glorify and honour Christ in daily practice, linking faith and service. Dr Rudzani Muloika, Deputy President, CMF (SA) wrote as follows on the theme “Called to Hope” citing passages of Scripture from Jeremiah 14:1-10, Revelations 5:8-14.

“Faith and Hope have this in common. Both are based on divine promise and both are unseen in the present. But whereas faith finds its strength in God’s fulfilled promises, hope finds its courage in God’s as-yet-unfulfilled promises. As faith-full followers of the Risen Christ, we are all called to hope, not just for a future fulfillment of promises, but to a present, daily fulfillment of them. Hope is certainly not one-sided optimism. In a world that often promotes despair as ‘realism’, we need to grapple with what answer we have to give to all the brokenness and hurt around us. The world of healthcare professionals is just one sphere where Christians can live out the reality that there is always Hope and that our present brokenness is not divorced from its future resolution, but intrinsically intertwined with it. The calling to ‘Health-Care’ is not for certain professionals only, but to all who believe that health and wholeness are found in no-one else but Jesus, the Lamb who was slain.

Unpacking this truth to a dying and hurting world is part of the calling of everyone who confesses Jesus. This hope does not discourage us from acting in this world. Indeed, it is despair that paralyses us. By contrast, hope is a collective calling to the entire Body of believers, each of whom has a specific and important caring promise to fulfill. Indeed, Love is Faith and Hope in action and made visible in the present. Having hope ourselves means giving hope to others.”

Why don’t you celebrate Healthcare Sunday in your country in 2008? The Christian Medical Fellowship of South Africa, has been in existence for more than 50 years. Our focus is on the mission and vision of Christ and His Church. Our desire is to share our resources with Christian Trainers. We praise God for our Christian colleagues who are committed to be part of the ICMDA family.

To find out more about us, and about Healthcare Sunday, please visit our website at: www.cmf.org.za

ABORTION - A CHRISTIAN DOCTOR’S RESPONSE

Continuing stand against the Abortion Act passed 40 years ago - 29 October 1967

1. We affirm that man and woman are created in the image of God, that all life originates with our creator, and that all life, from conception to death, is of inestimable value to our creator.

2. We recognize that God has given us the choice between life and death.

3. We recognize that we live in a culture of death and have become part of that culture, where we have chosen death over life and have not fought harder against the evil of abortion.

4. We affirm that for several thousand years since the Hippocratic Oath, we as the medical profession have historically been opposed to abortion.

5. We confess that before 1967 most of us were firmly against abortion but, as soon as the law was changed, abandoned our principles and forsook our Hippocratic tradition.

6. We confess that we have failed millions of mothers, fathers, and their unborn babies, by being silent when we should have spoken out, and passive when we should have been active.

7. We confess that there has been a slippery slope and we now effectively have abortion on demand.

8. We confess that consequently life has been devalued, the disabled, the vulnerable and the elderly have suffered; and there are more pressures to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide.

9. We ask God Almighty to have mercy on all of us in the medical profession who have been involved in abortion in any way, active or passive, and we pray that God may restore our profession to the highest moral standards.

10. We ask God Almighty to have mercy on all of us, on our families, and on our society.

11. We pledge to work and to pray to preserve life from conception to natural death.

12. We pledge to work and to pray for a culture of life, so that abortion will become very rare and that life once again will become precious.
WORKING WITH REFUGEES IN A CONFLICT ZONE  
(Excerpt from CMF UK Triple Helix Autumn 2007)

Neil Fletcher is someone who has stepped out of his comfort zone into a dangerous and difficult situation. He has sent his first impressions:  
Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranked as 167th out of 176 countries in the UN Human Development Report. My mission here, working with MDF, is to bring primary medical care to the inhabitants of a refugee camp in Goz Beida, Eastern Chad. Armed conflict and insecurity in the area have hampered relief efforts. The camp contains thousands of internally displaced Chadians and refugees from Darfur who have fled the murderous Janjaweed of Western Sudan.

DEVELOPING HEALTH COURSE SURPASSES EXPECTATIONS  
(Excerpt from CMF News Autumn 2007 by Peter Armon)

These patients are amongst the most poverty stricken and disease ridden people on earth. A hundred years ago they were inaccessible as our neighbors but now, in this global village of cyberspace, satellites and jumbo jets, they are our neighbors. And as such we must love them as we do ourselves. That doesn’t just mean feeling some sentimental emotion towards them, it means helping them out of disease, poverty and suffering in whatever way we can. Mean life expectancy here is 44yrs and childhood mortality is close to 25%. Most of these deaths are from diseases that are simply, easily and cheaply preventable and treatable – malaria, diarrhoea, measles, malnutrition and pneumonia. The global scale of such problems equates to a death toll the size of September 11th every two hours of every day of every year, year in, year out. And that is just the kids! Bin Laden may be guilty of causing death by commission. If I ignore these people then I am guilty of allowing death by omission. My role as a doctor here will have several different components. The focus of my work will be primary care and nutrition. A lot of my work will involve teaching and training the Chadian national staff. I’ll spend a lot of time seeing and treating patients – generally those clinical cases that are too sick or too complicated for the national staff to manage safely.

CHRISTIAN DENTAL FELLOWSHIP UK  
(From www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/dentistry/research - CDF Prayer Calendar Sept / Oct 2007)

Over the past decade, dental decay has reached unacceptable proportions across many parts of the world. This is due to rising sugar consumption and inadequate exposure to fluorides. For example, in the Philippines it is estimated that one in four children has toothache every day.  
Every child in the world deserves good oral health. Yet dental decay remains the most common childhood disease with every other child across the world suffering a cavity. Child oral health is often treated as low priority or even overlooked within healthcare planning. The irony is that effective preventative measures are well proven and we believe that via a collaborative international approach we can considerably reduce and even eliminate dental cavities in children.

GIVE THANKS:  
- That Bridge2Aids Hope Dental Centre is now three years old!  
- For thousands of people treated and the tens of thousands of pounds generated for the work.

SOUTH ASIA  
(Nepal Tsansen Hospital From UK Triple Helix Autumn 2007)

Please Pray:  
- For Roshan Kharel running the dentistry department. He is from a Hindu family who converted to Christianity ten years ago at a Ukranian Dental School.  
- For Emma Tyrell, a UK student representative who is finding the work too extensive for one.

Please Pray:  
- For the Wilsons and the Topley families working with Bridge2Aid in Tanzania and for the trained dental officers who are working in rural areas. There is one dentist to every 300,000 people.

When praying through these points, make an effort to pray specifically for those individuals in your Christian community who are involved in healthcare.

Thank God for:  
- His merciful forgiveness of our sin  
- His faithful involvement with all of our lives  
- His abundant grace that weaves all the threads of our lives into a magnificent tapestry to His glory.

Healthcare Staff  
Pray for all those involved in caring for the ill and the broken. Intercede for all those involved in the public, private and academic health sectors, whether in a clinical, administrative or support capacity. Bring to God also those who are studying the health sciences and for those doing medical research. Pray for hope and joy, for wisdom and gentle-ness, that the light and life of Christ might shine through them.

Healthcare Regulation  
Pray for those in authority, who take decisions affecting the health of our nations. Pray for your President, Prime Minister, National Minister of Health and National Directors. Pray for equity, justice and righteousness to triumph in healthcare as elsewhere in society and for more Christian leaders to take up the challenges of health regulation.

Healthcare Issues  
Remember in prayer those who are affected by the terrible plagues sweeping our countries - AIDS, TB, violence, alcoholism and drug abuse. Plead for those suffering because of these scourges, as well as for those indirectly affected by them, especially children. Cry out for the children of our nations, who are so often the victims of others’ sins and are helpless to defend themselves against exploitation. Pray for all those involved in attempts to alleviate the impact of these plagues - physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Healthcare Support  
In gratitude and with earnest petitioning, pray for all those in organisations that assist and support healthcare workers - professional bodies, trade unions and NGO’s. Remember the work of like-minded Christian organizations to your own and with which you can network.

Caregivers  
Thank God for all those in your own life who brought help and comfort in your times of need and suffering. Ask for those blessings on those who volunteer their time and resources to selflessly and compassionately address the ills of others. Examine your own heart to see how the things that you have suffered in the past are God’s voice, calling you to care for others. Dedicate yourself to continue praying for those who minister care to others, through Christ’s love.

~ ~ ~ GENERAL PRAYER POINTS ~ ~ ~
Welcome Ralph!
ICMDA’s new Student Junior Graduate General Secretary

Following a fairly lengthy but most thorough selection process, the ICMDA is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Ralph Zarazir to this post. It is also thrilling that the ICMDA has now in its team a person ready and able to forge ahead with the plans to grow, strengthen and develop this special work among students and junior graduates. Congratulations, Ralph!
Ralph is an Odontologist in Lebanon, qualifying in 2003. Apart from his professional work as Principal of a Private clinic, Ralph has extensive experience of Christian student ministry and a vision for medical mission and outreach. He comes with a love for teaching and mentoring, this giving expression to his special talent to be there for people. He speaks several languages, this opening up so many opportunities for meaningful dialogue in the sharing of the Gospel of Christ – the Good News.

Ralph is raring to go. Please uphold Ralph in prayer, giving thanks to God for Him. We welcome him enthusiastically!! May his ministry be blessed.

EURASIA - EGYPT

The CMF organizes a Winter Conference, this year it was held in February at the Brethren Conference Centre of Suez, 75% of the group were junior Doctors. A good number of members present in the Gulf area and other remote countries could follow the programme of PAL talk. The next conference is scheduled for February 21-23 2008 at the same venue. A Junior Doctors and Student Conference took place at Beit-El-Salam Agamy, Alexandria, in September 2007. Praise God for the large attendance – 180 in all – many of whom accepted Christ as their personal Saviour.

SAMARA CONFERENCE
By Dr James T - ICMDA Eurasia Associate Regional Secretary

This summer medic leaders from nine former Soviet Union countries gathered for five days’ training and encouragement. The Russian Christian Medical Association hosted, with an international speaking team including CMF’s Peter Saunders, Kevin Vaughan and Alex Bunn.

In addition to daily Bible readings participants followed one of four tracks: medicine as mission; sharing faith as a healthcare profession; Christian medical leadership and integrity in healthcare. Seminars, discussion groups, fun and plenary sessions gave opportunity for in-depth teaching and application.

Throughout we experienced unity in fellowship. As the conference concluded, with tears in their eyes, Armenians told of their joy in meeting and praying with believing medics from neighboring Azerbaijan, two nations with a long history of conflict.

The conference was the culmination of months of preparation, with many answered prayers. Days before, one team member faced the announcement that DHL had officially lost her passport. Hours after alerting others to pray, DHL arrived having found the passport wedged deep inside a van which had already been searched! God was in control. Likewise we are thankful for the bursaries.

The last nine years have seen extraordinary growth with new believers and Christian medical groups begun across the region. The test of this conference will be seen as this generation works out together how to put faith into practice in medicine. Let’s pray they ‘shine like stars in the universe as they hold out the word of life.’ (Phil 2:15-16)

THE CALL TO MISSION - CMF UK

In August, John Thiessen formally left CMF and ICMDA to take up, with Fiona his wife, their new call.

He describes his call to mission:
“Siberia?! Are you crazy?! Well maybe, but… As a ‘platdeutch’ - speaking Mennonite growing up in the prairies of Canada, my world was speckled with combine harvesters, sunflower fields and rowdy village ice rinks. At the same time, dark tales of the not-so-distant past, when my great-grandfather fled the Russian Steppe with many others, were etched in my memory. The questions grew the more I read… what legacy had we left? What of those left behind, swallowed by the red tide?

God’s call to me was nothing flashy. No mysteriously shaped clouds or wall-writing but instead a palpable awareness that God was stirring by heart to ‘return’ to Russia. Joining OM and bidding farewell to quiet village life, I arrived just before my 20th birthday, and dug in for what would turn out to be a life-changing two years study there.

Going to All Nations Christian College for further training was supposed to be a pit-stop. God however had additional plans that included meeting a beautiful lass and a wedding! The past two years with CMF and ICMDA have been anything but dull, having been exposed to more stomach-turning stories than I cared to hear. The world continues to grow as I am daily in contact with new and exciting people passionate about sharing the Kingdom message. These are thrilling ‘kairos’ times as we now have unprecedented opportunities to impact every corner of the globe!

It was a difficult decision for Fiona and me to move on. But we have clearly sensed that God is guiding us, once again, back to Russia. We plan to be based in Novosibirsk, Siberia, serving in a centre that trains young Russians as missionaries to their people. For the farmer still in me, I treasure Paul’s words: ‘This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you.’ 'He gives you something you can give away.” (2 Cor 9:10 The Message)

What we have is ours to share with this generation of souls on earth – Let’s be extravagant, as God has been with us!

Please Pray:
- For the people of Russia, that they will grow up a strong believing, serving nation.
- For Jonny and Fiona

Give Thanks for the:
- Ongoing work amongst Junior Doctors.
- Beginnings of shared fellowship between graduates of all ages.
- Dedication of medical and dental careers to God.
- Willingness of ASR’s to give humbly and sacrificially this service to one another.
- Growth and development of the Junior Graduate groups around the world.
- Blessings of conferences held over 2007.

Please Pray for:
- Future plans
- Upcoming Conferences, especially ICMDA Regional conferences for 2008 in Eurasia, West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa.
- Brothers and sisters in Christ in countries where pressures are great on those witnessing and working for the kingdom, including persecution.

~ ~ ~ GENERAL PRAISE AND PRAYER POINTS ~ ~ ~
TRUE PARTNERSHIP - with permission
(Extract from IFES Praise and Prayer July-October 2007)

True partnership – that we should celebrate and that brings hope for the Church - is centered on God Himself. It is the universality of His kingdom that should inspire us to enter into a dynamic shared relationship.

Partnership is integral to the very nature of God himself (Genesis 1:26; Genesis 2:18), which is why it is an act of obedience, an act of worship on our part. As we commit to partnerships with our brothers and sisters, we affirm that we belong to the Trinitarian God. In John 17:20-23, Jesus prayed that believers might be one, both to affirm their identity and to be a witness to the watching world. Jesus’ powerful words continue to spur us to practice and celebrate partnerships.

We encourage students to put partnership into practice. We encourage them to do it in different ways in their diverse contexts, through their God-given creativity. May God help his people to be more open to partnership, as they fix their eyes on Jesus and the commission He entrusted to them of making disciples of all nations!

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

SOUTH EAST ASIA - ASR JEAN-LI LIM REPORTS

Thanks is given for the blessing of the PoTs (Professionals of To-morrow) camp held 12-16th October 2007, when a total of 196 students and 40 helpers in all shapes and sizes trooped up to Peace Haven for 5 days of exploring the word of God, responding to God’s call in their life and also to fellowship with fellow students.

Organised by The Fellowship of evangelical Students, this camp saw students from the three professional groups – Teaching, Law and Healthcare coming together for the very first time. Prior to this, each group had their camps separately.

The first day started off with the opening challenge where students were called to walk the land of Malaysia. From the second to fourth day, all 3 groups got together for the Bible Exposition on Nehemiah by the Bishop Rev. Dr. Hwa Yung. Following the Bible Exposition, we were then divided into our respective tracts for workshops.

The healthcare workshops covered topics such as:-

- Preparing for graduation
- Communicating with people in the workplace
- Alternative careers (Academia and Government service)
- Coping as a student
- Mobile clinic.

A forum was held on the fourth day to allow students to interact with the panel and also question topics that were not covered in the sessions. Questions were mainly on ethics, finding the balance and how to serve Him in our area of specialty.

We found the “Missing in Action” (MIA) sessions thought provoking. The first session, Missing Grace involved every student being stimulated to think about the role they can play in a united Malaysia. They were then encouraged to pen their thoughts on a “graffiti wall”. The second MIA was on Missing Voices, thrown when a total of 196 students and 40 helpers in all shapes and sizes trooped up to Peace Haven for 5 days of exploring the word of God, responding to God’s call in their life and also to fellowship with fellow students.

The last MiA was about missing presence, especially in the family and community. Basically, these sessions did not provide answers for any of the above questions but instead encouraged students to think about these issues on their own and come up with their solutions or best course of action.

Mission Trip to Kampung Chang

God also provided Dr Peter and a colleague an opportunity to do some mission work among the Orang Asli. We were invited by the Mission Team from Holy Light Lutheran Church, Kuala Lumpur to help them run a medical screening program and mobile clinic.

The Orang Asli are simple folk with many communities still living in the jungle or jungle fringes in their wood and bamboo houses. They rely on jungle produce such as bamboo, hard wood, fruits and wild animals for their livelihood. The Orang Asli in Kampung Chang have been blessed by the work of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia. They now have a brick church where they hold regular services.

However, there are still many more Orang Asli communities which have not heard about the Gospel at all, please pray with us that God opens doors for Christians and tentmakers to reach out to them.

INDONESIA

CMDF Indonesia will be holding their national meeting from 5th – 10th August 2008 in Bandung. This two yearly meeting will see Christian medical students from all over Indonesia gather in one place together for a few days to learn from the speakers and from one another.

Please Pray:

- For Shelly Franciska as she sits on the organizing committee and plans the details of this big conference.
- That God will provide enough funds so that it may be possible for underprivileged students to make it to Bandung for the conference.
- That God will raise up more junior doctors who are willing to make a difference and be actively involved in their local CMDF.

SINGAPORE

The CMDF Annual Dinner was held on 3rd Nov 2007. Dr Tan Lai Yong was the speaker on “Our Heritage from the Lord”.

Praise and Prayer Points:

- We give thanks for the work among doctors and students no matter how small the group might be!
- Some groups are still in their infancy.
- We pray that God will raise more juniors and senior doctors who will be able to commit time and effort to establish the work and to mentor young medical students.

This year CMDF Singapore is taking the opportunity to launch the first Medical Missions Foundation’s book, CARRY THE SPICES, a collection of moving articles written by some 23 of our own home-grown Missionary Doctors and Dentists, reflecting the challenges, joys and tears in the mission field.

We encourage you to get an inspirational copy. For more information visit the CMDF website: www.cmdf.org.sg or email us: admin@cmdf.org.sg

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZIMBABWE - TINASHE MADUKE REPORTS

There’s no greater feeling than that of knowing you have someone backing you up and standing by you. And so it is with ICMDA family, you really showed a lot of faith in us in spite of our challenges and showed the love and support like that exhibited in the early church in Acts where it is said…” they shared all they had and no-one was in...
need... Thank you so much. May God continue to expand the ICMDA and may His will be fully established in all its endeavours.

The Christian Medical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (CMFZ) is embarking on a medical-evangelical outreach to Mtoko, a district about 110km away north of the capital Harare. The programme will involve offering free medical and surgical services to the community, career guidance for high school scholars and evangelical crusades in the district. We endeavor to take dominion for the Kingdom through this programme. True love should not be expressed verbally but through action. This will be the 2nd outreach of this nature after a successful one we did in Chivhu in June 2007.

ZAMBIA - NAOMI SHAMAMBO REPORTS

Some exciting things have been happening in Zambia! We had a welcome party for the new students who were joining the med school - that was fun and God just gave each of us a sense of belonging and good friendships were formed which are still active. We also had inter-fellowship sports competition, which was a great success and the guys loved it better than the girls. We had our first ever CMF concert right here at the school hall where over 200 people attended - that was awesome and the worship and praise was heavenly. It was also such a unifying factor for us as you know CMF in Zambia is made up of several fellowships.

We are also hosting the Graduating students’ dinner which is quite a big highlight for us as we send out new doctors into the field. Pray that this will be a time of re-commissioning for our members as they also go out into the world.

On outreach, we have always wanted to travel to Mozambique and bless the people there. We had an opportunity to go there in March but things did not work out. God gave us another opportunity this past September. Four of us went to Mozambique to preach the gospel as well as attend to people’s medical needs. We went to a place called Marromeu. The getting to the place was not fun but once there we were humbled at what God had in store for us there. All I can say is that the trip in its entirety was a miracle and it was also a time of reflection and letting go of some weights that weigh us down.

EAST AFRICA - ASR MESFIN BEYERO

Please Pray:
- For Enterea and the church, the brothers and sisters there. The church in Enterea is under persecution by the government, and all of the evangelical and most of the traditional Orthodox churches are closed. Many Christians are in prison because of their faith, and a number of Christian medical doctors whom we know are also among those who are imprisoned, for more than three years now. Communication is difficult with brothers and sisters as e-mails are being monitored by the government.

- That God will help them and stay close to them in this difficult time. Let them not lose their courage, but put their hope even more than before in God.

- We do not have CMF contacts in some countries in the Eastern Africa region which are predominantly Muslim, like Somalia and Djibouti. Please pray that the Lord gives us someone from there, with whom we can build a connection and a relationship in Him.

SCANDINAVIA AND THE BALTICS - ASR LAURA RÄISÄNEN

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour! I’ve learned this technique from Mesfin. I’ve been thinking lately that how powerful the name of Jesus really is. It strikes straight to the heart and it is the name that really connects us with one another. It is not the work that we do, it is not even ICMDA. It is His name, His powerful and Holy name.

Lord, thank you that You’ve made it possible for the Scandinavian CMF leaders to meet together. Please give them wisdom to build cooperation between the countries. Please bless all the new students who are looking for their own place in Your Body and in the student groups.

CENTRAL EUROPE - ASR CHRISTOPHER GERKEN

Praise be to God that the Gerken’s Baby, Hannah, is doing well, growing in size and beauty (and in faith)!

It is indeed a reason to give praise for His greatness!

Thanks be to God:
- That the Central European Leadership Training Weekend went well.
- For all the students and young graduates from seven different countries and thanks for being with them, so that all of them reached home encouraged and blessed.
- Especially for the time of fellowship on the free afternoon in the beautiful Austrian mountains, the night of News, Praise and Prayer where everyone could share about their national situation and the seminars on how to lead a small group, how to organize a conference, how to reach out to others and how to be better in publications.

Let us see more of that happening this year in September at the Eurasia conference.

Lord, we also give thanks for the weekend conference in Prague held in October. Please bless the Prague group, who are very active but needs some new student leaders to continue the work effectively.

SOUTH ASIA - ASR VIKRAM TIRKEY REPORTS

INDIA

I have been traveling to various hospitals and medical colleges. We praise God for His continuing work!

I was privileged to speak in two of the units of Emmanuel hospital Association at their hospital retreats. One is "Nav Jeevan Hospital," Satbarwa (Jharkhand) and another in "Duncan Hospital," Raxaul (Bihar).

People were blessed. I took a number of devotions, Bible studies, and sessions on:-
- Christian values in Health care,
- Purpose of life,
- Whole person care,
- Over-coming temptations,
- Faith and medicine,
- Fullness of life, and Self (personality) development.

It was a good learning time for me too.

We give thanks for the open house ministry, which we keep open for all at any time. There are over 15 interns joining us for fun, food, and fellowship. Some were non-Christian medicos and we had an opportunity to help them.

I was in Bangladesh for the annual conference in LAMB hospital for the medical students and doctors. Thereafter I was involved in preparation for The Institute of Medical Missions (IMM), from 4th to 11th November. This is a mobile institute where we have the best faculty members from both within and outside the country to train medicos (students as well as graduates) for medical missions. There are four levels of training - foundational course, directional course, advanced course, and distant learning. At present we are conducting it only twice a year and, at a time, we are taking only 12 trainees / Disciples.

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I hope some of you remember I shared this in Sydney last year. Laura and her husband are looking forward to take up the foundational course next September. I invite you all to speak about this to all your members in your fellowship groups. And if some of you are interested then please do let me know. You can also join the short training.

Please Pray:
- For the ongoing work in Bangladesh and for all those affected by the devastating storms and floods.
- For all those who work to bring the Gospel in South Asia. I believe there is much potential in this region and we would see that many would come as medical missionaries from this region.
STUDENTS CONT.

WESTERN EUROPE - ASR EUAN DODDS
Thank You, Lord, for the camp in France which was an encouragement for those attending and for the many opportunities to share Your message of love and mercy through Jesus Christ with others on the campsite.

Please bless the contacts in the other Western European countries, please raise up workers to develop the work there.

EURASIA CZECH REPUBLIC - PRIME UK NEWS
Praise also that the weekend course for medical students on mental health was well attended and well received. Plans continue for such weekend courses twice yearly – the next being around April this year focusing on working in developing countries.

SOUTH AMERICA - HANIEL ELLER
In South America we had a Regional Congress in Punta del Este. God really blessed us and we are having students from countries that never participated before such as Brazil and Bolivia. Thank God for that. Our prayer request, since we are beginning the work in Brazil, and South America, is that God may bless the moments we will have in the World Congress, and help us to plan what we will do next.

CONFERENCES CALENDAR

2008 National Conferences
15 - 18 May CMDS Canada, Canmore, AB
22 - 24 May CMF Poland
18 - 22 June CMDA USA, Indian Lakes Resort, IL
7 - 15 July CMF Egypt, Fair Haven
5 - 10 Aug CMDF Indonesia, Bandung

2008 Regional Conferences
12 - 15 June CMDF Ghana, Shai Hills, Accra
9 - 12 July CMF SA, Hebronbridge, Gauteng
7 - 14 Sept ICMDA Eurasia, Schladming, Austria

2010 World Congress
July 2010 Punta del Este, Uruguay

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

SERBIA
Stop - Think - Go
EUS conference 2007 - Samuil Petrovski (See Coverpage Pic)

Every fall we have our national student conference, and the purpose is to encourage, inspire and challenge our young generation. Through biblical teaching, small group discussions and worship, we are preparing the students for a life in the world. Many of our students are courageous in witnessing and sharing their faith, and the fall conference is an excellent chance for them to invite their non-believing friends. At the conference, they share their faith with other Christians and non-believers. In autumn 2006, we had a very good quality conference with over 150 students attending it. Last year the conference was held in November. Our motto was Stop - Think - Go, and the students were encouraged to stop for a moment and to think about their life, calling and mission, and not only about themselves, but also about the people surrounding them. Thus, they are able to take the necessary action in their lives. Our main speaker was Mike Gaffney, the former director of the student ministry at the University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Washington close to the Canadian border. Mike is currently the regional coordinator for young life.

Prayer Topics:
- For our conference– that many will be living transformed lives
- For the students to get encouraged, inspired and motivated
- For the students who are non-believers to start their life as Christians

Give Thanks:
- For God’s attention to every detail of our needs in His service.