EDITORIAL FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY – DR DARYL HACKLAND

A recent e-mail we received opened with the words “I was wondering if you remember our meeting at the ICMDA World Congress in Sydney a couple of years ago?” The e-mail’s subject urged us to “keep up the good work with ICMDA NPP.” Yes, keep it up, comments our encourager, because “its great to see all the work that Christian medics and dentists are doing around the world!”

It is an inspiration and encouragement always for us to read about and collate this fantastic thrilling news for each issue of the NPP. Do keep sending in news, praise and prayer items about your Association’s/Fellowship’s activities. Doing so always uplifts others. Reading and praying through this Issue will bring you face to face with the challenges faced by our ICMDA family to respond relevantly to the need to ‘reach out for the Kingdom’ with the Good News of Christ, to promote and facilitate services of excellence worthy of our witness as Christians, and to come alongside desperate communities in all parts of our world in answer to their cry for “better, more equitable available healthcare.” Read on and give praise to God for the evidences of where a difference is being made. Pray together for strength and courage in our Lord to “keep on” being there for one another.

So in the middle of May (12 – 16) the Regional Secretaries and Representatives from the 11 regions of the ICMDA will meet in the UK to share what’s happening in their regions, to express the needs and challenges being presented to them and to plan the way forward together for the work of the ICMDA. The Annual ICMDA Executive Meeting follows on immediately thereafter with the Regional Secretaries being part of these proceedings. Your chosen Executive will be looking to continue to facilitate and promote new directions and growth. The dynamic, difference-making work of Christian Health Professionals all over the World is ever before us, bringing the light of hope in Christ to far forgotten corners and distant shores. We urge you to pray for these meetings. Pray for each Regional Secretary, Area Student Representative and Executive member that personally and together, in seeking God’s face, they may continue to hear His call “to serve one another in love as He has loved us.” John 15:12. Hear Jesus saying to you “Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down His life for his friends. Henceforth you are my friends - if you do what I command you (John 15:14).” He needs you and me at the rock face of human need, suffering, despair and pain to bring His health (salvation), hope and life into to-days world.

“There’s a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring. When our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King.” Henry Burton

Daryl Hackland

PS: I did remember the writer of the e-mail! What an inspiration is his editorship of the CMF (UK) Nucleus magazine to so many far and wide. God bless you, Hugh, and your team.
1 | WEST AFRICA - NIGERIA
Dr Osemwen Asemota - From the Presidents Desk

“If Not God” - A Testimony

As I reflect on the sovereignty, supremacy, faithfulness and awesomeness of God I could not resist saying this loud “if not for God...” Whenever I think of the CMDA family and remember you, your love, your dedication, your enthusiasm and your sacrifices I found myself expressing the same words “if not for you...” It’s been indeed a great and rare privilege to serve God and lift up the banner of Jesus Christ through the unique ministries of CMDA. My life and that of my family have been tangibly impacted. I owe it all to God and His people who gave me this opportunity. The friendship, the vision and the fellowship we shared have left an indelible impact in my life. CMDA and what she stands for- her very relevance in the scheme of God’s programme to me, remains a cause with an over growing passion. I remain eternally grateful to God for this experience. CMDA is changing lives. Thank God you and I are part of this.

Beloved, God has fed us thus far partly because we were available and partly because of His faithfulness, His purpose and mercies. Please continue to give thanks to God for the ongoing ministry of CMDA.

Please Pray
- For the fruitful outcomes of the busy schedule.
- For Chapter inaugurations at Casau and Kebbi and Luthi.
- For contacts to be made in Benue, Taraba, Gombe and Bauchi so that more chapters will come into being.
- For the visit to Gambia that God’s work may become the vision in other regions.
- That the council meeting held in Kwali Abuja will encourage those who attended and that the new leadership will be prepared by God in the months to come.

Finally, the National Council Meeting took place on 29th February to 1st March at Ebenezer Resort Kwali-Abuja. Chapter chairpersons, their secretaries and regional council and national executives gathered together. This event witnessed, besides other deliberations, an election for new leadership.

2 | EAST AFRICA - SUDAN
Conference Report from Edward Luka

The Sudan Christian Medical Fellowship - SCMF is an ecumenical body of medical doctors, pharmacists, dentists and the paramedical staff as well as students in the health related fields who profess the Christian faith. SCMF aims at winning souls to Christ and deepening their spiritual life, having fellowship together and conducting health awareness campaigns and related activities such as monthly meetings, seminars or workshops. The conference was attended by 30 full time participants, with about 15 daily commuters to the venue including doctors, nurses, medical students and medical assistants.

The SCMF organized the 6th Annual Christian Medical Conference in December at the National Youth Camping Residence in Soba, Khartoum.

The theme of the conference was ‘Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins.” Isaiah 58:12. The conference was led by Ms. Nada Younis.

The objectives of the conference were as follows:-
- To create and deepen fellowship among members
- To train a new generation of members in spiritual service
- To train and equip members with medical skills for better service
The Bible exposition was led by Rev. Aymen Mahrous based on the book of Malachi.

The following topics were discussed at the conference:-

- Psychological Health by Rev. Issa Aziz
- The Believer and Politics by Mr. Adil Ibrahim
- Disciplineship by Rev. Naji Ko Naji
- Tent Makers by Rev. Chinidu
- Self Acceptance by Rev. Eli Mansgashi

The seminar had in depth discussions on the following:-

- Sex and sexuality by Dr. Ishag Kamil
- Family planning by Dr. Ayat Constantine Jervase
- Time management and Biblical perspective by Dr. Alex Borek.

We praise God for the Conference outcomes:-

- The conference was a successful three days of prayer and thanksgiving. Five participating students recommitted themselves to Christ and pledged to witness to Christ in their respective universities.
- Participants gave their thoughts about the future of SCMF through further discussions and by completing questionnaires.
- At the end of the conference, the participants went on an outing together to the scenic 6th Cataract in Northern Sudan called Sabatoka.

In closing, the 2007 Christian Medical Conference ended with a clear message to continue the ministry among medical personnel in Sudan. SCMF will endeavour to involve more medical doctors and work more closely with the students in the universities through their representatives.

Please Pray
- For the SCMF, as we progress further in 2008 – that we will be used to bring vision and hope of Jesus to those working, some under very difficult conditions.

3 | SOUTHERN AFRICA - ZIMBABWE

Did you know? Out of the World Conference, Sydney, has come to others the offering of Health and Hope

Read On - Mtoko Medical-Evangelical Outreach Report from Tinashe Maduke

In 2006 a team of doctors, medical professionals and students went to the World International Christian and Medical Association’s Conference. One of the key things they came back with from the conference was the need for more outreaches. In line with this revelation and citing a need for CMFZim to be more relevant, we launched out, starting last year in Murehwa. They have gone from strength to strength and glory to glory. The outreach to Mtoko was the 2nd one this year after the one in Chivhu in June. It took place from the 10-11 November 2007. Firstly the outreach was done in partnership with an organization called Rural Capacity Building (RCBF). The partnership was very fruitful and saw RCBF handling the food, transport and accommodation part of the outreach, while CMFZim provided all the medical support (through drugs and professionals), evangelism and career guidance teams. Though dogged by various challenges and trials we literally had to press through. The outreach turned out to be the best we’ve had thus far. As the way of doing outreaches is being developed, we have found that the three-pronged approach of medical treatment, career guidance and evangelism to be the most comprehensive and most effective way of meeting the needs of people - body, soul and spirit.

MEDICAL TREATMENTS

We had eight doctors, one physician, two surgeons, one dentist, two physiotherapists, one pharmacist, a health education promotion graduate plus an abundance of pharmacy, final year, 3rd and 4th year medical students to learn as well as to help. We managed to see over 400 patients in the clinics.
CAREER GUIDANCE
To make the outreach cover as many pupils as possible, the career guidance team was divided into four groups which went to four different rural schools namely Chindenga, Chiutsi, Nyamuzuwe and Makosa. The teams comprised students from the medical faculty and other faculties from the University of Zimbabwe whom we had invited to help. The objective of the career guidance was to give the students a clear explanation of how they can map their education paths to get to their desired dreams. Despite transport problems and logistical complications we had to push through we managed to get the teams out to the different schools. It was astonishing to see how much the young ones are so oblivious of how they could achieve their dreams and how some didn’t have much vision. Indeed as the Word of God says "...my people perish for lack of knowledge...” As such the outreach managed to educate the pupils and to encourage them that they can also reach their greatest potential, that the sky isn’t even the limit!!! The high school scholars deeply appreciated the advice and insight and their eyes were truly opened. As we are mandated to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, each team shared the gospel and over 200 students were ‘born again’!

In addition there was time for ministry where many of them would break down and cry as the Lord was delivering them. It was truly an awesome and humbling experience. We are currently working on starting a big bro / big sis mentorship program for some of pupils who gave their details.

ZAMBIA - Prayer Requests from Dr James Jewell
Please Pray
- For the work being done in the Teaching institutions.
- For the visiting Orthopedic Surgeon and Anesthetist.
- For the visiting nurses who will go out to Luampa Mission Hospital.

SOUTH AFRICA
From Frank Muller
Please reflect in prayer on the issues mentioned below. There is much food for thought indeed.

ABORTION AMENDMENT ACT
A special session of Parliament was convened early this year with the express purpose of voting the Abortion Amendment Act into law before the cut-off date of 1 February. The Act was bulldozed through in customary fashion. Some points are worth noting. Firstly, the liberal stance on abortion has been tempered by an understanding of new facts, this made a significant difference in the final vote. Secondly, the level of public awareness on the issues at stake was increased and many newspaper editors are now publishing stories showing the extent of abuse of the present legislation. Previously, only a few newspapers printed articles that were critical of ‘abortion on demand’. Thirdly, the level of the debate has been raised considerably. "Pro-lifers" that participated in the process are more able to defend their position rationally and eloquently.

Behind the scenes, CMF and JASA (the Justice Alliance of South Africa) have been at work in a number of instances where junior doctors were being coerced into participating in abortions against their will. We praise God that, in all instances so far, we have been able to reach amicable settlements with the hospital superiors.

These are all things for which we ought to be grateful to our Father.

One form of abuse of the present Abortion law is the so-called “two stage abortion”. Backstreet abortionists (often GP’s or pharmacists, but sometimes non-medical practitioners) initiate a miscarriage through the use of misoprostil (Cytotec), for which large amounts of money changed hands. In many cases, the women are beyond 12 weeks pregnant and need to go to a state facility for a manual evacuation. In many rural areas where I have gathered information, the state health system is being overburdened by the requests for evacuations after "miscarriages".

Please Pray
- For the desperate women who are being exploited and the healthcare staff who are stretched to their limits in an attempt to attend to them.

CRISIS PREGNANCY POSTER
Africa Christian Action has produced an A3 colour poster to be placed in schools, hospitals, waiting rooms, etc. It contains contact details of Africa Cares for Life, an umbrella body of crisis pregnancy centres. For more information, please contact Taryn Hodgson at info@christianaction.org.za.
**SOUTH AFRICA - CONT.**

### EVENTS CALENDER

CMF National and ICMDA Regional Conference - “Whom do we Serve?”

Get ready to join us from 9 to 12 July at Heronbridge in Gauteng. Inspiring speakers from Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa will be addressing the sub-themes of “Are we serving as employees for money? Or Jesus Christ?” Combined Networking Christian Healthcare Congress Healthcare Christian Fellowship (HCF) has approached CMF to join forces in a combined Christian healthcare conference. We are very happy to participate in this event and want to encourage as many of our members as possible to attend. The dates are 23 to 27 September 2008 and the venue is Drakensville in KwaZulu-Natal. Keep an eye on our website for more information. www.icmda.net

### SOUTH EAST ASIA - SINGAPORE

**NEWS FROM REAL**

REAL is a quarterly e-newsletter by the CMDF (Christian Medical Dental Fellowship in Singapore)

#### CMDF RE-DEDICATION SERVICE 2008
by Dr. Tan Siew Pin

On 25th January, 77 people gathered at St Andrew’s Cathedral for our annual Re-Dedication service for the Christian medical community to worship, encourage and exhort each other. In line with the theme of **HONOURING GOD THROUGH THE GENERATIONS**, we heard inspiring testimonies from Mr. Dennis Yee, a medical student, who shared about God’s work among the students. Dr. Michael Kim enlightened us with his journey, the various trials he encountered and God’s solution. Dr. Chung Kong Mun gave an account of his experience as a volunteer dentist in a mission field that reminds us of our Antioch calling as a nation.

#### CMDF MELBOURNE VISIT

Dr. Goh Wei Leong spoke at a CMDF Melbourne meeting at Swanston Street arranged by Dr. Elgene Lim in February. He shared lessons which the CMDF, Linking Hands and HealthServe learnt along the journey over the past few years. It was an engaging time with 20 doctors, dentists and students, a few of whom were Singaporeans. He was also treated to a special lunch up the Dandenong mountains with Dr. Suresh John, a former CMDF Singapore committee member!

#### WE GIVE PRAISE FOR TEA TIME GATHERING - MISSIONARIES & MISSION POTENTIALS (MPS)
by Dr. Shawn Vasoo

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

On a blessed 23rd February, we gathered at HealthServe Clinic in Geylang for the MPs gathering. Dr. C shared her experience in East Asia and how the Lord had prepared her 40 years for the mission field. She also recounted the time she ministered to a patient who had a femoral fracture, showed us some pictures including some good-old crutches (that had been salvaged and donated from Singapore) being put to good use.

Dr. Ng Liang Wei who was due to move to South East Asia with his family, also shared about the Lord's guidance in his life. The rest of us gave a glimpse of our current endeavours. A great takeaway from this session was that God’s timing may not fit ours but His is perfect and we just have to be receptive to His plans for us. Finally, we ended in prayer for all the missionaries regardless of past, present or future.
What does this mean in everyday practice? At its simplest level it is “being and staying connected.” Networking requires a “people focused” rather than “task orientated” mindset. It involves the maintenance of informal linkages and relies on “one on one” contact between individuals. In a sense intentional networking is an extension of what we already do in everyday life and practice.

Why should Christian doctors and dentists be interested in networking? ‘Our God is a God of relationships. God walked with Adam in the garden of Eden, took Enoch away such that he did not experience death, called David a man after His own heart and reconciled us to Himself through Christ (2 Cor 5:18)’

Within the church we have a multitude of people praising God. This provides great variety and diversity. However, there is also great unity as we worship God collectively as one body. It is helpful to cross-link the other members of the church and see how they are serving Christ in their daily medical or dental practice. This challenges our boundaries of God.

- Worship in our relationships
  For where two or three come together in my name, there am I (Jesus) with them. Matt 18:20

- Edification of the body
  Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Matt 25:40

- Bringing the Gospel to Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the Earth
  And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

The Cambridge seven is an example of how such a ‘network’ was able to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. They were seven students from Cambridge University, who in 1885, decided to become missionaries to China. Stanley P Smith seemed to be central in interaction within the group. The point of influence of leaders such as Hudson Taylor and C.T. Studd has been enormous.

A Social Network Analysis suggests that more ‘open’ networks, with many weak ties and social connections, are more likely to introduce new ideas and opportunities to their members than closed networks with many redundant ties. It is likely that any two Christian doctors and dentists who meet will have some friends or colleagues who are mutual.

Some tangible examples of networking amongst Christian health professionals:

- Linking Hands website links health professionals with medical needs around the globe. (www.linkinghands.org)

- The ICMDA HIV initiative which arose after the pre-conference seminar on HIV at the International Congress. (www.icmdahivinitiative.org)

- The response and interaction between doctors and dentists from around the globe at the ICMDA World Congress.

Adapted from a seminar presented by Dr Wei Goh and Dr ChungRong Lin (Singapore) at the ICMDA World Congress.

NORTH AMERICA
CMDS Canada – Linking Canada and Sudan with love and compassion in Health and Hope

News from Dr. Roger Gingerich (President)

Many of you have followed the progress of the Sudanese medical students through their complicated medical education process. These naturalized Canadians had a dream of returning to their birth country to practice medicine. Some of you were fortunate enough to have met these men and women at the CMDS Conference in Kelowna, two years ago.

CMDS has had the privilege of being involved in this project along with Samaritan’s Purse and the University of Calgary. This has been an amazing story. These colleagues embarked on this uncharted international journey, which began in Sudan. They were sent to Cuba for their High School and Medical Degree. Eventually, they emigrated to Canada where, through the efforts of several organizations, they were able to enrol in a medical refresher course to prepare them for Clinical Clerkship and residency in Kenya, before finally returning to Southern Sudan.
One of these Physicians, Dr. Daniel Madit Thon Duop, reported on his practice last month. He witnessed his mother die in childbirth on the trail as they fled to Ethiopia — this was partly his motivation to pursue medicine. His report follows:

“I thank and praise the Lord that my first C-Section in Southern Sudan was successful. My patient was a 13 year old girl with a term pregnancy, and more than 24 hours of unsuccessful labour due to CPD (cephalo-pelvic disproportion). She had a healthy baby girl. They are going home tomorrow. Today, I also successfully resuscitated an infant who was born through C-Section, with very minimum cardiac activity. I praise the Lord for these two blessings at the beginning of my medical career in my country. Amen.” Madit

This is one of those stories that inspires and then settles uncomfortably within one’s soul. What should be our response?

CMDS is exploring ways to continue to support these fellow Canadian Physicians as they continue their faith journey in their birth-land. There are few physicians in Southern Sudan. I believe we have an important window of opportunity to assist these physicians in their work and on their faith journey, within a troubled region of Africa.

**Please Pray**
- For CMDS as we consider how to stay involved
- For the contacts made in Kenya and the Sudan by the visit of Roger and his wife Eleanor, and that effective support may be given to this outreach

**BECOMING ONE – KINGDOM PEOPLE**

Mankind was created in the image of a relational God. Man was in relationship with: God, his own self-image, other people, and his environmental resources. Because of disobedience in the garden, Adam and Eve lost their holistic relationships on all four levels. However, through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the relationships were redeemed—the Christian now has fellowship with God, a new self-image as a member of God’s family, a love for one’s neighbour in the community, and has become a caring steward of one’s environment.

Indeed, Christians become “one kingdom people” who, as stewards of one’s environment in the redeemed kingdom of God, must re-discover what it means to “have dominion, rule over, and subdue” environmental resources with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we put aside building our own kingdoms and live and work in God’s kingdom (abandon two-kingdom paradigm). The old two-kingdom paradigm sees “giving of assets” for Christian charitable endeavours as “debiting one’s own kingdom in order to credit God’s kingdom.”

How the one-kingdom paradigm sees “giving of assets” for kingdom work is illustrated by a stewardship lesson in Luke 19:28-34. Jesus told the disciples, when asked why they were taking the young donkey, to tell the owner/steward of the young donkey, “the Lord has need of it.” One-kingdom people live life fully for Jesus Christ. All aspects of living involves spiritual/kingdom work. One-kingdom Christian donors “give an asset” because the “Master has need of it.” *

CMDS Canada is all about doing kingdom work in the midst of our membership constituency, their co-workers, and the patient services they provide. The CMDS leadership commits to regularly displaying a number of imminent projects (Click on “CMDS projects” on lower left-hand side of our website at www.cmdscanada.org.)

Reference: Rodin Scott, Stewards in the Kingdom: A Theology of Life in all its Fullness. IVCF Press

**NEWS OF OUTREACH - Malawi Initiative**

We give praise and thanks for the opportunity for outreach supporting the work of Dr Chris Brooks

Reference is made to the work of Dr. Chris Brooks in Malawi. CMDS has designed a project called the “Malawi Initiative”. This idea initially developed as a way to encourage our local chapters across Canada to work and pray together toward a common goal. We hoped to raise money for a maternity program in rural Malawi.

The idea has evolved, and more will be accomplished than what was initially envisioned. The program will be unveiled at the National Conference in May. After listening to Dr. Brooks speak to us at the Saturday evening banquet, CMDS is planning to invite chapters to commit to hosting a banquet in their community as a kick-off event in September. This event will be used as an opportunity to introduce business people, neighbours, and friends to the mission work of CMDS. Together we can change the lives of the Malawi nationals. We hope this will also strengthen the local chapters. Finally, we want to use this event to invite our colleagues...
DENTAL NEWS - A Biblical Approach to Oral Health Care
by Robert Yee BSc DDS MSc Dental Public Health, Director of Oral Health, Dentaid

A Biblical example of transformation, which involves a river, is found in the Old Testament Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 47. Ezekiel was led by a man to the temple to witness water flowing from the threshold of the temple.

“When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.” Ezekiel 47:8,9

The water that flowed from the temple was pure and holy and had the power to transform salt water into fresh water. The downstream and midstream impact was an abundance of trees for shelter, fruit and fish for food, and leaves for healing. When public and corporate policies and activities are just, righteous, pure and unpolluted they have the potential to sustain wholesome, healthy life in abundance and transform individuals and communities. Sharing the Good News of the Gospel with decision makers is essential so that streams of living water and holistic healthy policy will flow from their hearts.

In summary, poor oral health care is a global issue and has an impact on the physical, emotional, social and financial health of disadvantaged individuals and communities. The Curative Approach of individual care is inadequate in addressing oral health problems which are prevalent in low-income countries. Another system of oral care, one which is holistic, redemptive and transforming is proposed – A Biblical Approach.

The Biblical Approach to oral health for low-income countries combines the principles and strategies of the community/dental public health and health promotion approaches but has a spiritual component. It is through sin that oral diseases exist and persist in this world. Through Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Gospel there is the opportunity for Christian oral health workers and faith-based oral health organizations to offer holistic healing and transformation. The principles and practices are founded on Biblical teaching and offer the possibilities of personal and community transformation and improved oral health through development concepts. For the full version of the report, go to www.dentaid.org

CHRISTIAN DENTAL FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER PROFILE – Alan Vogt

Firstly, my name is pronounced ‘Vote’ and is from my Swiss grandfather. He was from the German speaking part of the country and emigrated to South Africa. My father went to Kimberley Boys High School. I don’t know if they discovered diamonds but they seemed able to afford to send him to Guys Hospital Dental School! He met my mother who was English and they settled in Bournemouth. My father was very anti-Christian but my mother was more sympathetic. My brother and I went to a boys’ house party where we heard the Gospel under the ministry of David Tyron. I committed my life to Christ at age 14. It was decided that I should follow in fathers’ footsteps professionally and I’ve never regretted it. We were living in Birmingham during the war so I went to Dental School there. I enjoyed the fellowship of the Christian Union very much.

I qualified in 1947 and was called up into the Royal Army Dental Corps. I was stationed in Portsmouth and then had a year in Austria, in the army of occupation, which I enjoyed, along with skiing in the winter and water sports and tennis in summer! I didn’t know where to work when I was demobbed but by ‘coincidence’ (no, God-incidence!) I met a Christian dentist who had a surgery available, only five minutes from the home we moved to in London! Working with a like-minded partner we could have Christian Literature in the waiting room. I’ve always been keen to use dentistry as a means of reaching people
with the Christian message. I was then invited to help at Bethnal Green Medical Mission once a week, which I continued for about 30 years!

I met my wife Mary in our Church, Trinity Road Chapel, Wandsworth Common. We were married in 1956 and our home was only five minutes from the practice so I had the big advantage of getting home at lunch times and seeing more of the family. We have three girls and one boy but none of them wanted to go into dentistry!

In 1952 Douglas Munns started the CDF, as there were 25 dental members in the Graduates Fellowship of the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF). The first committee met in Wimbledon, in the waiting room of Mary Scott, who was later our daughters’ orthodontist! Hilary Rogers, one of our early missionaries, who set up a dental department at Dohnavur Fellowship, South India was with us before she went to India. We started annual conferences and a newsletter which became a magazine and numbers gradually increased. We started regional meetings with the annual meeting in London. The growth in missionary work was encouraging with several members going overseas and Mercy Ships and DentaId starting.

I’ve always been very keen on the CDF and feel Christian dentists miss so much if they don’t join. There are at least three advantages:-

1) Fellowship – sharing the ups and downs of our work
2) Taking an interest in dental missionary work
3) A united Christian witness to the profession

I continued in the same NHS practice for 36 years. It is very satisfying to become a ‘friend of the family’ to your patients. Children were bought by their mothers whom I treated when they were that age! The need to make patients feel valued; getting to know them as a person, is so important. After retirement, Mary and I went to Zambia, to help in Andy Patching’s mobile unit and to Kwa-Zulu mission Hospitals in short visits. I can thoroughly recommend trips overseas to help those in desperate need.

Imagine you had severe toothache and there was no dentist for hundreds of miles! It widens your experience considerably! Last year we celebrated our golden wedding anniversary and my 80th birthday. We are so thankful for all God’s grace in our lives in spite of mistakes and inadequacies.

**EURASIA - PORTUGAL**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Summary of the Activities of ACEPS - Portugal

The “Associação Cristã Evangélica de Profissionais de Saúde” (ACEPS - Portugal) began officially in May 1997, by the grace of God.


The Association has good fellowship with other Christian organizations in Portugal (OM, GBU, YWAM, etc.) and in other countries, particularly with the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF-UK).

ACEPS has been a member of the International Christian Medical & Dental Association (ICMDA) since 2004.

Some leaders of ACEPS have been presenting lectures on Medical Ethics from a biblical perspective at both Christian evangelical and secular meetings. Several lectures on Bioethics were presented by speakers from CMF-UK and ACEPS at the Oporto Medical School and Lisbon Medical School.

Other Facts about ACEPS

- 20 issues of our Newsletter have been published so far.
- A library with over 60 books is available to our members.
- Five television programmes about ACEPS and its activities have been broadcasted since 1998.
- Since 2002 we have our own website at www.aceps.org

**DENTAL NEWS - CONT.**
PRAISE AND PRAYER POINTS

Joy and Sorrow - Peace and Pain - Tears and Laughter - Life and Death - God and Man

BOOK REVIEW
Dr. Tan Lai Yong has received numerous awards for training thousands of barefoot doctors in the remotest villages of China, as well as for his community development and leprosy work. Share his twelve-year journey among some of the most unique people in the world in this collection of personal stories and reflections. This book is available for sale at admin@healthserve.org.sg

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHT -
THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE ACCORDING TO YOUR CONSCIENCE
Excerpt from CMDS Newsletter, April 2008

If you are reading this article, the chances are good that you are already familiar with the story of a medical student whose ordeal, during the 2003-4 academic year, set in motion the events which led to the formation of the Freedom of Conscience Committee of CMDS - Canada. Picture yourself in the wards. You are a clinical clerk, within weeks of starting your last year of medical school, which so far has been a largely positive experience. Your accusers rate your performance highly. You are known for your conscientious approach to patient care, and as for the academic side of things - well, let’s just say you are unusually bright, even for a medical student. Working in the Gynae out-patient department one day, you see a patient who has come in requesting a script for oral contraceptive. Having learned that the patient is single, you find yourself unable, in good conscience, to write out the script personally, and so you...

See complete article written by Dr. Mark Kristjanson at www.cmdscanada.org/protectionofconscience

Please Pray
- For God’s work in the regions highlighted in the newsletter
- For Areas and regions which are beset by political unrest, corruption, poverty and homelessness
- For Those who find themselves called to face challenging ethical situations, who know what is being done and what is not Godly, and who find themselves in a lonely place when speaking out in the name of Jesus Christ
- For the exciting outreach taking place in so many regions, remembering regional and national conferences
- For the upcoming World Congress in Uruguay in 2010, and the committees as they continue to plan

Please Pray That
- The upcoming ICMDA executive meetings taking place in May
- That the deliberations are guided by God’s wisdom
- For the incoming and outgoing executive members
- For the regional secretaries, that the meetings have encouraged them and that they will feel equipped to accomplish great things for the Kingdom in their regions.

NEWS FROM PRIME - Michael Whitfield, PRIME Tutor and retired GP, reports

2008 will be a busy time for PRIME. Teams are going to Albania, Russia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Nepal, and that’s just the first three months of the year! The work is also growing in Africa, where we have started or are planning programmes in Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zambia, Nigeria and Kenya.

Please Pray
- That in working closely with CMF UK student groups, PRIME “road shows” on spiritual care in medical practice taking place at medical schools around the UK will provide both insight and encouragement to the students as they seek to serve with compassion and excellence.

~ ~ ~ GENERAL PRAISE AND PRAYER POINTS ~ ~ ~

As you read the NPP, Junior Doctors and Students news, please take time in Prayer and Praise to our Father.
Forgiveness is a journey towards restoration. It flows more freely from a grounded understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ, but may be freely offered or sought, given or refused by any person (regardless of religious orientation).

I am starting to see that forgiveness, amongst other things in life, is far easier when one keeps ones eyes upon Jesus. On doing this, the ‘being’ and ‘doing’ aspects of Christian life seem to fall into place. Focus on anything else … including focus on the perpetrator of a crime against one … or even focus on the crime (whilst causing us to lose our focus on the Lord) … is a non-beneficial distraction which potentially causes us to lose our way.

I think of the following verse from Hebrews 12:2-3 (Amplified):

“Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Consider Him and look away from all that distracts) Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds.”

Allow me to share a few quotes from an article that I read recently about forgiveness, entitled “No future without Forgiveness”. It hammered home a few points which some among us have forgotten. Please read it and be blessed as I was. Reference: The Common Good – Newsletter 43, Advent 2007, Christchurch

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa said

“… But practicing forgiveness is a foundation stone for healthy living. It is the step we need to take to be free of the ongoing negative effects of past injustice. It has transformative qualities not found elsewhere. To decide to forgive is to create a different future from one controlled by events from the past. It doesn’t mean forgetting the past. It means remembering the past in a different way, leaving one free to develop the future. One becomes re-empowered, not controlled by events from the past”.

“… But I have come to believe fervently that forgiveness is not just a spiritual and ethereal thing unrelated to the real world, the harsh world out there. I have come to believe very fervently that without forgiveness, there is no future”.

He points out that to forgive is not just to be altruistic. It is the best form of self-interest. It is also a process that does not exclude self-hatred and anger. These emotions are all part of being human. As he says, ‘When I talk of forgiveness, I mean the belief that you can come out the other side a better person – a better person than the one being consumed by anger and hatred. Remaining in that state locks you into a state of victimhood, making you almost dependent on the perpetrator. If you can find it within yourself to forgive, then you are no longer chained to the perpetrator. You can move on and even help the perpetrator become a better person too.

Tutu goes on to say that ‘forgiveness is the capacity to make a fresh start. That is the power, the rational of confession and forgiveness. And forgiveness is the grace by which you enable the other person to get up, to get up with dignity and begin again. Not to forgive leads to bitterness and hatred, which just like self-hatred and self-contempt gnaws away at the vitals of one’s being. Whether hatred is projected out or projected in, it is always corrosive of the human spirit’.

In relation to crime, restorative justice advocate Howard Zehr points out that the victim’s forgiveness is a letting go of the power that the offence and the offender have over him, while not condoning or excusing that person. It means no longer letting the offence and offender dominate. ‘Without the experience of forgiveness, without this closure, the wound festers and takes over our lives. It, and the offender, are in control. To forgive a person is to let go. It is to say that I will not define myself by your actions towards me. I will not allow you to have any power over me. Real forgiveness allows one to move from victim to survivor’.

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, a South African psychologist working with the longest serving prisoners...
sentenced for apartheid brutality, points out that someone who has lived with a gross violation of human rights for a lengthy period of time, will not move quickly to forgiveness. The sense of pain remains a symbol, often subconscious, of what has been taken away or what might have been. Often people are not ready to close this chapter of their lives. Their whole identity has been affected by the trauma and they are not ready to move on. That is partly why forgiveness is not always an attractive option for people.

... Forgiveness then is the process of the victim letting go of the rage and pain of the injustice so that he or she can resume living, freed from the power of the violation. Though the public perception is the exact opposite, the truth is that the primary beneficiary of forgiveness is the person who does the forgiving. The person forgiven may or may not appreciate what has happened, or may or may not benefit from the action, but the one who does the forgiving will always be rewarded with a greater degree of empowerment and personal growth in love and self-esteem. Forgiveness may take time, it may not come easily, it may involve a lengthy struggle. It is often not simply a one-off effort. Because it involves a change in relationships, it needs to be worked at in order to achieve its completeness. But it will come, provided the forgiver is open to its potential and genuinely seeks it with an open heart.

The alternative is often bleak – a vengeful poisoned nature, filled with anger and self-pity, stuck in a time warp of hurt and pain, unable or unwilling to move on. Forgiveness forms the soul of a healthy family and community life. As Desmond Tutu rightly says, ‘without forgiveness, there is no future.’

It is becoming clear to me through life that Christian acts like prayer and forgiveness are not only isolated acts ... but indeed lifestyles to be lived. Prayer is a lifestyle. Forgiveness is a lifestyle.

FROM THE EDITOR TO ALL ASR’S

So that we are able to network across the globe, sharing news, supporting each other in prayer and inspiring each other to greater service in the Kingdom, please send your news & prayer items for News, Praise and Prayer regularly and before the deadline to Ralph.

This will be useful for the ICMDA website and the newsletter.

Thank you so much and God bless. Daryl

ZIMBABWE NEWS – BY UFUOMA EJUGHEMERE

This good News comes through an open email from Dr Andrew Reid

' ... The Mutoko Medical outreach was great - about 60 med students and doctors were involved. Outreaches I think are some of the best tests and developers of leadership- more so than student camps. J ust thinking, now it has been done, perhaps the next one, Tinashe and team might consider inviting some RSA and Zam, Malawi and Moz students to join in!

At the outreach 15 schools had career guidance and at each school over 40 young people were born again. The students said, "We want what we see in you. " The school students saw the fire in the health science students and saw the flames of the Spirit of God, the awesome consuming flames of the Spirit upon the altar of their souls, and, like many young people, they said I want to sacrifice (Romans 12:1). Many rural poor received free medical treatment and healthcare workers were encouraged in the faith. Medical students will never be the same as they experienced what God is doing through them.

Give Praise to God

- That the medical students are standing in the outpatient waiting room at Pari Hospital proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ daily in the outpatients before classes- Acts 5:20,42 Psalm 96, Psalm 40 8-10, 2 Corinthians 4:13-15. They are then praying for patients in anointing Mark 16:15-18. God is raising up harvesters Matthew 9:35- Matthew 10:8.
INTERVIEW WITH JAMES - ICMDA EURASIA ASSOCIATE REGIONAL SECRETARY
Interview Conducted by Dr Elizabeth Croton

How did you become a Christian?
I grew up in an atheistic family and from an early age would have described myself in the same way. At the age of 15, through the witness of a Christian friend at school, I started to question my beliefs and accepted an invitation to go to church. Over the next few months, I thought that I had become a Christian until I read a leaflet that explained what a Christian was - namely someone who had put their trust in God and what He had done for them on the cross. This was the point where I made a personal decision to follow Christ and, as time went on, began to discover more and more the reality of a relationship with Jesus.

Why Medicine?
At the age of 14, I was asked by my peers what I wanted to do with my life. I answered that I never wanted to be a doctor, nurse or anything associated with the caring professions because the only person...
that I cared for was myself. My friend, who had led me to Christ, wanted to be a doctor himself and encouraged me to do some voluntary work at the local hospital. This was something I resisted repeatedly but later agreed to. During the experience, I was surprised how much my attitude to caring for other people had changed. I had been a Christian for less than a year and I felt that God was calling me into the medical profession. This was at odds with my wishes as I was still unsure as to whether medicine was the correct path for me. Now I recognise that God’s plans for me were best.

How did you become involved in ICMDA?

As a medical student, I became involved in a local Christian medical group. I made many friends there who encouraged me to think through what it meant to be a Christian. I spent my medical elective (an eight week sabbatical where students can experience medical practice overseas) in a country in Eurasia. Through my relationship with Christian medical students in that region, I became involved with ICMDA and attended my first regional ICMDA conference in 2000. Since that time I have continued working with and supporting junior graduates and students in Eurasia.

You became the Associate Secretary to the Eurasia region in January 2007. What area does this region cover?

ICMDA divides the world into 11 regions and Eurasia is the largest. It covers the area between Reykjavik, Vladivostok, St Petersburg and Egypt.

What is your current role?

As the Associate Secretary, I work alongside the regional secretary, Dr Peter Pattisson. I both support existing medical fellowships and encourage the establishment of new groups amongst medical and dental students and graduates. There have been two priorities this year. The first was a conference for Russian speaking students and juniors in August 2007 and the second, preparations for the Europe-Eurasia regional conference in Schladming, Austria - 7-14th September 2008.

How has ICMDA changed over the past 10 years?

Firstly, the organisation has become broader in the number of countries involved and also the increased number of students and junior graduates active within it. The first student secretary was appointed in 1998 at the World Congress in Durban. This led to the development of the Area Student Representatives (ASRs). These are mostly junior doctors who have committed to supporting the developing work amongst students, within one particular sub-region. In Eurasia there are 8 ASRs. The work amongst junior graduates has also grown, with increasing recognition of juniors’ needs by national movements and the establishment of juniors’ conferences. There are also more Open House juniors’ fellowship groups meeting in local homes.

Describe some highlights in your role so far

A personal highlight for me was getting engaged in February 2007. Within ICMDA, a notable event was the conference for Russian speakers in the summer, which equipped 110 students and graduates to better serve Jesus in their own countries. Another highlight was meeting a second year medical student from Vienna at a training conference for student leaders in Central Europe. He was aware of four other Christian students in a medical school of 4000. I was able to spend time with him and we discussed ways in which he could reach out to his medical school. There are now 11 people meeting together and they are starting to witness to their fellow students.

What things have been difficult?

The large geographical region that I serve generates a lot of travel and this can be exhausting. Keeping up to date with administration and paperwork is challenging but vital to my role. Having my office-base at home can also be isolating.

What are you looking forward to in 2008?

Obviously, I am looking forward to getting married! With ICMDA, our focus in 2008 is the pan Europe-Eurasia conference. The theme of the conference is Resources [Un] Limited. We are hoping that around 1000 people will attend. This should be a fantastic event for teaching and fellowship.

How would you advise people wishing to become involved in the work of ICMDA?

ICMDA is an international association of national Christian fellowships. It is important to be involved in your local fellowship. You could also consider attending a regional ICMDA conference, for fellowship with other believers from your locality and further afield. A great resource is the juniors and students email forum. Further details can be found on the website: ICMDA.net. You can pray for the work of ICMDA and the ICMDA News, Prayer and Praise can be downloaded from the website. There is also a web-link via “Givengain” for those wishing to give either to the conference bursaries or to the ongoing work of ICMDA.
**DENTAL NEWS - UK NEWSROUND**

Dentaid is celebrating another successful challenge trek. Twenty-five supporters climbed Mount Sinai in Egypt, one of the most beautiful and epic mountains in the world, and trekked through stunning scenery in the Sahara desert!

The first challenge of the week long trip was to climb Mount Sinai, where the group saw the awesome spectacle of the sun setting over the Sahara. This was followed with a desert by torchlight, watching the stars and moon rise as they went.

The next day they took an exhilarating jeep ride through the sand dunes and left the last traces of civilization behind on foot. Immediately they were immersed in the immense solitude and awe inspiring grandeur of the desert landscape, including sand dunes, winding dry riverbeds and craggy mountainous outcrops. The next two days were both challenging and amazing. The trekkers spent their nights by the campfire and slept in Bedouin tents underneath the huge desert sky.

On the last day of the trip the group experienced the colourful vibrancy of Cairo from its eccentric roads crowded with ancient and charismatic old cars, donkeys and horses, vivid shops selling Egyptian cotton and fragrant perfumes. There was also the chance to take in the only remaining wonder of the ancient world – the pyramids at Giza, quite simply awe inspiring.

One trekker said, ‘The experience has been so varied and taken in so much it feels as if we have been away a month – absolutely amazing. It has been a great experience for such a brilliant cause.’

With thousands already raised and more sponsorship money still to come in, this will significantly help to support initiatives that Dentaid is already undertaking.

It was exciting to hear the new members of our professions speak as leaders. They will be very capable as they continue their careers into the future and will have a great impact on the future face of CMDDS!

A challenge went out to the students to consider volunteering for the position of Student Representative. We are thankful that several have applied!

**CMDS STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - CANADA**

Roger Gingerich reports - Excerpt from the CMDS Newsletter, April 2008

Our Annual Student Leadership Conference took place in March 2008. Dan Reilly, Sheila Harding, Shermeen Chan, Jonathon Sherbino, Jyoti Katakkar and Mark Chandra facilitated the discussion while Marily Wieler and Roger Gingerich gave support. 28 students participated from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

The students had a fantastic time! It began with a ride in a Celebrity Limousine from the Toronto airport to the retreat complex in Guelph. It continued with great food, and concluded with the establishment of lifelong spiritual friendships.

It was interesting listening to the students discuss complex ethical dilemmas. What would you do if ..., how do you respond to ..., whom do you call if ..., what are my legal obligations when ... They tackled these scenarios with great interest and a flood of ideas.

They realized the importance of “balance” in their personal and professional lives and understood how difficult it would be to implement this concept. Their enthusiasm was contagious!

They listened to opportunities that would allow them to use and share their faith while following God in missions at home and abroad.

Lord Wordley, Dentaid’s Chief Executive said, ‘This group of supporters have made so much effort for Dentaid and we are so grateful to them. The trek is one of our main fundraisers for the year and its pivotal in supporting our projects for the following year.’

If you have been inspired to trek with Dentaid, then the latest expedition to be announced is to the highest peak in Northern Africa, Mount Toubkal from 17 to 23 September 2008. Reaching the summit of this beautiful mountain will give trekkers an unrivalled 360 degree view of Morocco, the Atlantic Ocean, the Sahara Desert and a feeling of immense achievement.

If you would like to find out more information on this trek, or on the Inca trail in South America in May 2008, please contact Felicity Patterson on +27 (0)1794 324249 or email info@dentaid.org for an information pack.
NEWS FROM EURASIA
Laura Raisanen Reports

It is amazing to see what happens when you are on God’s business! He is always on our side. Last December I mailed the head of the Tampere University’s neurological department. I told him in a straightforward manner that I want to go abroad to do missionary work. I also told him that I am specializing in paediatric surgery (not neurosurgery), but I would like to learn to put shunts into hydrocephalic children. I asked him if I could come and gain experience from the neurological departments to learn how to make shunts, even though I am intending to work abroad and am not specialising in this field. His response was that he respects my goals and said that I can start straight away! So! I have started working there and while I know it will be hard at times, I know your prayers and thoughts are with me. I feel that I am following God’s plan for me – something that feels good and right!

AMERICAS - CARIBBEAN
Cornelia Riley

We had our first official meeting with the Christian Doctor's Association, Saturday, March, 29th, 2008. It was a wonderful meeting! In the meeting we were introduced to all the members.

We discussed issues, concerning both the Doctors and the Student Association. One of the main issues was about the fact that there were medical students who were already members of Student Christian Fellowship and Scripture Union Jamaica, a member of IFES international. As such the Pre-Clinical Students will still be affiliated with SCFSU, however the students in the Clinical years will make up the core group for CMDA. The medical study programme here is five years; as such there are enough persons for both groups. Also SCFSU will still be one of our Secretariats, as the Christian Doctors Association is already affiliated with SCFSU. Please pray for us as we move forward.

THE BALKANS
From ASR Dana Galchis

Please Pray
- For the Albanians and the Moldavians as they are now looking into ways of travelling to the European conference. They need to cross a few countries for which they require visas and direct flights are pretty expensive.
- For the Romanian national conference which is going to take place in the beginning of May. We are excited to have some Croatians with us for the first time. We launched the invitation and they are happy to send some doctors and students. Now the details need to be all worked out.
- For those who are organizing the conference in Austria, that God would grant them the strength, the energy, the wisdom, and the resources they need.

WESTERN EUROPE
ASR Euan Dodds reports

Please Pray
- For more gospel-hearted, sacrificial, prayerful, bible-believing doctors to put their hand to the plough and seek to further the Kingdom through prayer and proclamation in Western Europe.

URGENT REQUEST FOR DENTISTS TO JOIN MERCY SHIPS MV AFRICAN MERCY

Extract from an e-mail received from Steve and Robbie Lerma by Neil Harris in February.

“Steve and I have arrived in Liberia. I just wanted to let you all know that we are in VERY short supply of dentists and was wondering if you or if you know of anyone that could come over during the next few months.”

If interested please contact Mercy Ships urgently hcs.volunteercoordinator@afm.mercyships.org
INTRODUCTION BY RALPH
Student Junior Graduate General Secretary

When I went with my backpack to Taiwan in 2002, to attend the ICMDA XII’s World Congress, an association that I had barely heard about in less than two minutes at a meeting that I was not supposed to attend, I never imagined that I would ever be writing to you. Also that I would be the person Mark was talking about, a few months ago, in the same publication of the NPP, as he wondered who could be the next student and junior graduates general secretary for ICMDA.

I can say that my life, as a medical student, was not the same ever after that conference in Taiwan. Actually, there is no big mystery about that, but meeting Christian medical students from around the world, who share the same feelings and face similar challenges, gave me a strong sense of belonging to a group that understands what we are going through and is ready to help without conditions or barriers.

On one hand, being part of the ICMDA team that cares for students and junior graduates and supports the national student groups, means keeping in close contact with the Area Student Representatives by encouraging them to share the needs of their specific areas with us. This is my plan of action and I look forward to future contact with you all.

On the other hand, in addition to the above mentioned role, I feel that my personal contribution to the work, will be to bring the large number of student and juniors in ICMDA into one family. Such an outcome will happen as the future unfolds.

It is amazing to experience the type of relationships that form when our young people meet and gather in a conference or around a certain subject. This type of relationship is an everlasting one, one that stays through the years and becomes stronger with time.

We hope and trust that ICMDA will be, in the future, a community of Drs who know each other and share friendship following the years of study, which brings our association into being an integral part of our people’s lives and having a special “big place” in our hearts.

I look forward to meeting all of you and to sharing, very soon, more of what is happening.

DENTAL NEWS
From the Christian Dental Fellowship (CDF UK) Report

In student news, Emma Tyrrell, Student Coordinator, has visited dental schools to establish links with Christian students. She is a valued point of contact with CDF and from her own overseas experience has been able to offer support in planning electives.

Emma reported that the autumn student weekend at Stourbridge had been very successful. She also represented the Fellowship at a Christian Careers Fair run by the Association of Christian Teachers.

Please Pray
- For the growth in Student numbers, particularly in the North of England.

WEST AFRICA - NIGERIA
From the Presidents Desk - Osemwen Asemota

STUDENTS CONFERENCES

A Northern zonal conference was held in Sokoto with an eastern zonal conference in Abakiliki. The theme was INVASION. The CMDA president was in attendance at these two conferences titled “What God is Doing Amongst the Youth”.

The youth are weapons in the hands of God. Currently we have a student fellowship of over 3000 members from all the campuses all over the country.

Please Pray
- For the youth and invest in them, they are our future. Their energies can either be harvested for Christ or the devil takes advantage.
NEWS FROM REAL - The e-newsletter from CMDF in Singapore

Witnessing about Christ, as a group of 20 students found out, is what Missions is all about.

And one does not need to “go overseas” to fulfill that role, because in today’s Singapore, the world literally has come to us!

Opportunities avail right at our doorstep. As Drs Chan Lai-Gwen, Tan Kheng Liang and Desmond Mao shared about their involvement in Karunya and Healthserve Clinics, stories about how God had moved them and opened their hearts emerged. And all of them had been introduced to the ministry while they were in stuporous during a post-call lunch!

A larger number of junior and senior doctors were in attendance, facilitating student-doctor interaction. And for the first time, we had a dental student, and an overseas elective medical student in our midst as well!

NORWEGIAN CMF IN ICELAND
From Espen Heen

Six Norwegian medical students recently traveled to Iceland to help Icelandic initiators arrange a weekend for Christian healthcare students. About 20 students attended this first weekend, which contained bibletalks, evening worship, group discussions, seminars and games.

Pray with us for the work in Iceland
- That the weekend may have lit a fire for a Christian health care student group on Iceland
- That they feel Gods support in their lives and studies!

ENCOMPASS REPORT
By Alice Chen (Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship - Australia)

I always feel that meeting up with fellow CMDFA folk is something rather special – not only are we meeting as people chosen by God to be His children, but people blessed to be in the position to help administer some healing in the world. The encompass weekend was a powerful case in point, where a bunch of medical, dental and nursing students and graduates from Victoria and Tasmania gathered in Marysville, Victoria, for a few fantastic days of worship, fellowship and practical growth in Christ. The music team was backed by an entire choir – daughters of the King – whose youth and enthusiasm in serving were truly encouraging.

Dr Alan Gaigsers’ introductory talk reminded us that Jesus is the truth that shines out in this world, he is the way out of hopelessness and condemnation. So it was also exciting to learn that there is growing interest (in patients and colleagues) about the spiritual healing and hope of eternal life. Alan emphasised the importance of taking a ‘spiritual history’ to find out where the patient is on his/her spiritual journey, and showed that it was a matter of four simple questions that, God-willing, could lead us to much deeper sharing.

Ask Yourself:
1) Do you have a faith?
2) How important is this faith to you?
3) Are you part of a spiritual community?
4) How would you like me to address this in your healthcare?

We have been called to be instruments of God’s healing, beyond the physical realm. Admittedly, as a dental student, I struggle to see how I may apply it to dentistry, but it was still very interesting to see how we should take a far more holistic approach to health.

The highlight of Saturday’s Missions Evening was the parable Bernie Power shared with his Muslim friends in defence of why he is adamantly Christian. It expressed the self-sacrificial, loving nature of our God, and the beauty of his grace. It also illustrated how we can be creative in our evangelism, taking an approach that speaks to the situation and experience of the other person.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the NPP newsletter, or have something you would like us to include in the next edition, please email us:- icmda@webstormsa.co.za
STUDENTSSCONT.

NATIONAL STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE (NSR)

Joel Wight, voted for in July 2007 by IMPACT, is the newly appointed NSR. He brings a mature understanding of the Scriptures as well as a heart to serve his fellow students. We look forward to working with him.

STUDENTS: THE FUTURE VOICE FOR CHRIST IN HEALTHCARE

Every year, CMDFA gathers students from around Australia for a Leaders Training Weekend. We have some exceptional upcoming leaders in the fellowship, and value your prayers as we help to nurture them. 12 mentors have also committed to attending, and their input is invaluable. They will be leading small groups, giving teaching sessions, and getting to know the students so that they can learn how to best support them. Mentors pay their own way to attend, while two students from every state are funded by CMDFA.

We are in the wonderful position of having more students wanting to attend than we have finances for! Thank God for the labourers being raised up!

For more information on the Leaders Training Weekend – contact Tash Yates on tashyates@mail.com

IMPACT 2008

At the time of going to print, this years IMPACT conference will take place over the ANZAC day long weekend at the Collaroy Centre, on the northern beaches of Sydney. It is set to be a fantastic event and we look forward to bring you news of its success in later issues.

CMDFS NEWS RECENT GRADUATE AND STUDENT WORK (REGS) - Tash Yates

2007 was an encouraging year for REGS work at a national level. After hosting ICMDA IMPACT they were anticipating a quiet recovery from all that entailed, but God has given then the strength to push forward with more vigour than ever before! To Him be the Glory!

STATE FELLOWSHIPS

A quick glance around the States reveals an outstanding group of leaders. At the Student Leader’s Training Weekend, the Student Leaders were encouraged to be creative and innovative when they looked at their local situation. We suggested they think about their needs and opportunities they saw, and work out ways of serving their fellow students, even if those ways had never been tried before.

CONFERENCES CALENDAR

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Conference</th>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>National Conferences</td>
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<td>18 - 22 June</td>
<td>CMDA USA, Indian Lakes Resort, IL</td>
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<td>7 - 15 July</td>
<td>CMF Egypt, Fair Haven</td>
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<td>31 July - 2 Aug</td>
<td>CMDA Nigeria, Ibadan</td>
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<td>5 - 10 Aug</td>
<td>CMDF Indonesia, Bandung</td>
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<td>26 - 28 Sept</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Regional Conferences</td>
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<td>10 - 13 July</td>
<td>CMDF Ghana, Shai Hills, Accra</td>
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<td>9 - 12 July</td>
<td>CMF SA, Hebronbridge, Gauteng</td>
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<td>7 - 14 Sept</td>
<td>ICMDA Eurasia, Schladming, Austria</td>
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<td>20 - 23 Nov</td>
<td>East Africa, Red Cross, Addis Ababa</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>World Congress</td>
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<td>July 2010</td>
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More information can be obtained on the ICMDA website under conferences (www.icmda.net)

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE - 6 AUGUST 2008

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of ICMDA.
Translations of NPP are encouraged and permissible
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