

New Year – New Look



I like to imagine the “Ohhs” and “Ahhs” let out as you opened the CDF envelope this quarter and found our new look newsletter.

Over the past year or so, our ‘corporate image’ has been evolving, with our new logo and website, along with our stationery. It’s now the turn of Newsround and with the new look has come a new name. Have you worked out the relevance yet?*

While I was thinking about how Three-in-One appeared, I was pondering how God sees us and was reminded of 1 Sam 16:7b: “The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” After chatting to colleagues last week over lunch at work, I realised that we do presume a lot about people when they walk through the door. Maybe we see a big file of medical notes and our hearts sink, or we look at their scruffy or ‘interesting’ hairstyle or piercings and wonder how we’re going to communicate with them. Do we then have a different way of speaking to them or consider a different treatment plan than we would if they looked ‘normal’? Although I always offer local anaesthetic extraction as a first choice for patients having teeth out (rather

than a general anaesthetic), and encourage them to have it done that way, I do sometimes think that certain patients won’t go for it. I prepare myself for using my most persuasive arguments, when actually a GA is the last thing they want, and they’re more than happy for an LA.

In this age of celebrity, where we no longer need to have a worthy profession or even a reason for being famous, we know that Jesus “had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.” (Is 52:2) This isn’t just that maybe he wasn’t a contender for winning Mr Jerusalem, but also that he had none of the bearings and trappings of royalty. How would we treat him if he walked into our surgery tomorrow? Would we think he needed to be made more attractive and consider offering him orthodontic or cosmetic treatment, or would we assume that he wouldn’t be able to afford it, little knowing that he was a King?

It is a challenge for all of us to put aside the prejudices of this world and

look beyond the outward appearance at the inner self and treat each person equally. Possibly easier said than done, but something we need to strive for today.

Thanks to all the people who have contributed to this edition. I cannot continue to produce Three-in-One without you, the readers, input, so please let me know your ideas and articles. My email is cathy.fordyce@hotmail.com or alternatively, for hard copies, 348 Mersea Road, Colchester, CO2 8RA.

Good luck to all those organising a Regional Day – please support your local rep and enjoy fellowship with each other at these occasions.

Cathy Fordyce • Editor

**For those of you who are still wondering about the relevance of Three-in-One, it’s a water/air handpiece and the Trinity.*

Date For Your Diary



Family Conference 2010

Friday to Sunday

1 - 3 October

High Leigh, Hoddesdon,
Hertfordshire

David and Goliath



At our annual conference, Hugh Palmer encouraged us to “Speak Christ to the Modern World.”

He took us on a tour with Saint Paul and showed us that Paul’s world was not so different from our own. In Athens, Paul faced a town that had many parallels to our own towns. Religious cultures prevailed where other gods were worshipped, with idols that grip lives, shape emotions and demand time and money.

At the conference we heard about the daunting situations that face our mission partners. Those who work overseas know that sometimes the level of need and the paucity of resources can almost lead Christians to despair.

As a Fellowship and in the CDF council we have been re-assessing our situation. We are a fairly small organization. There have been cultural changes around us, and as Tim Rudge’s article in this edition describes, speaking the Gospel in settings such as Universities is difficult; the environment can be quite hostile. There are many pulls on our time – members are often committed at church and busy with their professional lives. Other worthy organizations compete with our time and we have to ask ourselves if there is still a place for the Christian Dental Fellowship?

I have been reading Andrew Watson’s new book, *“Confidence in the Living God. David and Goliath revisited.”*ⁱ I would highly recommend his book, if like me, you sometimes feel a bit like David facing Goliath. He describes the story of Admiral Jim Stockdale, an American prisoner of war held and tortured in Vietnam for many years. When asked how he survived, Stockdale replied, “I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life.” Jim Collins, who interviewed Stockdale and describes his story in his book *Good to Great*, then asked him about those who didn’t make it out. ‘Oh, that’s easy’, replied Stockdale. ‘The optimists. They were the ones who said, “We’re going to be out by Christmas. And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they’d say, “We’re going to be out by Easter.” And Easter would come, and Easter would go, ... and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart.’

My wife often berates me for my pessimism, and I admit that the “Northern Outlook” familiar to fans of Morrissey and “The Smiths” afflicts me. However, I agree with Stockdale: “You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end - which you cannot afford to lose – with the discipline to face the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.” I think there are some ‘brutal facts’ that we need to confront as Christian Dentists. The numbers in our Fellowship are reducing; we have lost some Stalwarts of the Faith, attendance levels at conference have gone down. Mission societies are short of money and dentistry is not seen as a priority. But I believe that the Christian Dental Fellowship does have a very important role. Our mission statement says, “CDF is a UK

based, inter-denominational organization of people who are joined together by a common desire to serve Christ in their own lives, in their profession, and (through their profession) in the world.” As dentists, we are privileged to build long-term relationships with thousands of people. We get to know the joys and sorrows of our patients and we are known in our local communities. People come to see what, or who, drives us. By meeting together occasionally with Christian Dentists, we can learn from each other and take the responsibility of our “Profession”, in all senses of that word, seriously. We also know the misery that dental disease can cause. We have a duty to support our mission partners and to fight for dental provision worldwide. Most of all, we know the Living God. The things we face can seem enormous and overwhelming but we can have the confidence, to say with David, “You come against me with sword and spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel.”

I would like to challenge you, this year, to support the work of the CDF and to meet some of your responsibility as a Christian Dentist. I am fully aware of the giants that face modern dentists, but I would encourage you to put aside a few hours to join forces. This may be through attending a local CDF meeting on May 8th, or attending the annual conference. Like David, we could find out that the power of the Gospel has the ability to get under the Enemy’s defences. God has put us where we are and made us who we are, for a purpose.

Peter Thornley • President

ⁱ Confidence in the Living God. David and Goliath revisited. Andrew Watson. Published by The Bible Reading Fellowship. 2009.

Thank God it's Monday!!

I see no conflict between my role as a Specialist Dental Practitioner and a Christian. It's easy to think of 'full time Christian work' as being a church pastor or a mission partner to some unpronounce-able corner of the African continent. My practice and the people who pass through it are the mission field that God has given me.

Who has He given me then? The patients, obviously. I once worked as a locum where the boss admitted he now saw them as 'just mouths'. Someone today will need just a few minutes to be listened to, be shown that you care or just have some company. If your spiritual antennae are switched on you might just spot them. Those domiciliary visits; you may be the only person they see all week. You know you are when they've made you lunch....

Then there's the staff. As a Christian employer I have a duty to look out for their needs as well. Being aware of who is suffering and helping, for example by restructuring debts, coping with the loss of a baby or close relative, sorting interpersonal issues; it's just like having an extra family to be head of.

Of course, they won't all love you back. Some will sue, slander or even attempt

to blackmail you. Staff will attempt to take you to the Employment Tribunal or steal from the till. What you do next will mark you out as different. Love your enemies is easy to say but what happens when the rubber hits the road? "Expect less from those who don't look at the world through God's eyes" is a useful way of handling it.

The third part of my 'congregation' is my colleagues. God gave me particular skills and I can either keep them to myself or share them and hopefully help my peers. Over the last ten years lecturing, I may have influenced the periodontal treatment plans of six million patients. I can't treat them all, but I can help my colleagues to. So I teach. Sure, it isn't really cost effective but that's not the point.

Years ago God taught me a lot about tithing. We give away 10% of the practice profits to help local and international charities. It's all God's anyway, why should I grudge any of it?

Monday

The reason we talk about this on the website is that it challenges others; colleagues and patients. When a Muslim colleague asks me why I do it, I have the opportunity to explain that it's part of my faith; and there is also something quite strange about not living to the limit of your income. I don't see that a specialist who knows a lot about a tiny part of dentistry would be much use in a foreign country for a couple of weeks. But I can pay some of the bills to help these charities function effectively. I have 26 little girls in a home in India. One of my staff is a dentist in Brazil. Try getting out of bed in the morning and not smiling.

So: dare to be different. Use the talents God gave you. You are the only bible some people will ever read. Challenge them. Let God do the rest. Oh yes; and Thank God it's Monday!!

Further reading: *Work; Prison or Destiny?* David Oliver Word Publishing ISBN 1860243401. Matthew 5-7 Luke 6; 27-42

Neil Paterson • Specialist in Periodontics

Urgently Seeking a Dentist and Ceramist in Malawi

Shalom Dental Services is a dynamic visionary Christian organisation established in 2000 and based in Blantyre, Malawi. Shalom seeks to serve the dental needs of the people regardless of their wealth, their faith and their origins.

There are less than 20 dentists in Malawi and only one ceramist serving a national population of just over 13 million people. Blantyre and Limbe have over 650,000 people with approximately eight dentists.

We are seeking a dentist and a ceramist who:

- Are committed Christians with a heart for the people of Malawi
- Are willing to work in Blantyre or Limbe for a minimum of three months and for as long as they feel called to serve.

You can be of any age and at any stage in your career, including retired. Working hours can be very flexible. Remuneration is sufficient to cover your living costs and to enjoy all that Malawi has to offer.

We are also interested to hear from Dental Schools that would like to send students on attachment.

For more information, contact: shalomds@yahoo.com, or more information is available from contacts in the UK:

Dr Karen Paterson karen.paterson@ntlworld.com or

Dr Frances Vose on agarvose@gmail.com

or see the CDF website: www.cdf-uk.org/news.php for the full advert.

Regional Group Meeting 2010



The Regional Day is on Saturday 8th May this year and marks the second organised event of this kind for CDF. Members live in various parts of the

country and often lead busy lives both in their businesses, families and churches. Invariably in these circumstances their contact is with friends at church or at work. Relating their faith to their work in many cases is something they have to work out for themselves as meeting up with Christian colleagues can be difficult.

Meeting with likeminded colleagues in an informal setting can help to bring their faith and their vocation into a tangible and living reality. Why not make a note of this date in your diary and then find out where the nearest group to where you live will meet on that day? Below are the details of events being held by the various groups.

Avon and Gloucestershire

Saturday 8th May

Contact: Angeline Nga

Email: suiyintan@yahoo.co.uk

East Anglia (North)

Saturday 24th April @ 10:30 am

A warm welcome awaits you at Clive Sprawson's home in Huntingdon for a day of good food and fellowship.

We will meet at 10.30 am and find out about taking part in Bridge2Aid's Dental Volunteer Programme, followed by a shared lunch, a short local walk and finishing with tea and cake.

Contact: Vicky Rushton

Email: victoriarushton@btinternet.com

East Anglia (South)

Saturday 8th May

You are invited to a bring and share lunch at Green Tye, 20 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Colchester. It will be a relaxed time to socialise and share, all the family welcome.

Contact: Kate Nightingale

Email: kate91080@hotmail.co.uk

East Midlands

Saturday 8th May @ 12 pm

Our regional day will be held at 15A Burleigh Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6FP. Please bring a plate of savoury or dessert to share for lunch. Families and partners all welcome.

We will show a video and chat about the work of Bridge2Aid in Tanzania and then relax and chat and get acquainted.

Contact: Karen Patterson

Email: karen.paterson@ntlworld.com

London

Saturday 8th May

You are invited to join us for a country walk followed by a pub lunch.

Contact: John Evans

Email: jskevans@msn.com

London South East

Members in this region are welcome to attend the London or South regional meetings.

Contact: Mary Burke

Email: maryandrew@aol.com

Northern Ireland

Saturday 8th May @ 10:30 am

You are invited to join us from 10.30 am for a light breakfast and chat over coffee in Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church Halls, 602 Shore Road, Newtownabbey BT37 0AT. We will think about the work of CDF, watch a short DVD on Dentaid and hear about some local dentists' work overseas. Please feel free to invite others who may be interested.

Contact: Helen Douglas

Email: hcdouglas@hotmail.com

North East

Saturday 24th April @ 12.30 - 3.30 pm

You are invited our next get together beginning with a buffet lunch. Food will be provided but please let me know if you are a vegetarian to assist with catering. Neil Paterson, one of our members, together with his wife, Sue, are very kindly hosting our meeting at 7 Milburn Close, Beaumont Park, Hexham NE46 2NY.

Kerina Lynch and her husband, Craig, will share their thoughts on their recent Church plant on Teeside.

RSVP 16 April 2010. Husbands/wives/partners are most welcome.

Contact: Simon Stretton-Downes

Email: simonstret-d@tesco.net

North West

For more information please contact Susie Matthews (Ulverston) or Daniella Lucas (Blackpool) susiebarstow@btinternet.com / Daniella.lucas@blackpool.nhs.uk

Pennines East

Saturday 8th May

We are planning to do a 'Stroll in the Peaks' followed by a pub lunch. Further details will be mailed to CDF members in the area nearer to the time.

Contact: Sarah Robertson

Email: robertson@kirkstoneroad.freeserve.co.uk

South**Saturday 27th March @ 10.30 am – 4.00 pm**

Cranleigh Baptist Church with guest speaker Nigel Paget.

Contact: Alan Vogt

Email: almavogt@talk21.com**South Wales**

For information please contact Ann Ritter:

Email: bgritter@lsvane44.freemove.co.uk**South West****Saturday 1 May, Millendreath, Cornwall**

Enjoy a few hours unwinding and socialising at our beach house. Lunchtime barbecue followed by opportunities to walk, fish, go on a boat trip around Looe island, visit the woolly monkey sanctuary etc.

Contact: Malcolm Prideaux

Email: toothdoc@blueyonder.co.uk**Thames Valley****Saturday 8th May**

You are warmly invited to a bring and share lunch at 123 Cumnor Hill, Oxford OX2 9JA followed by a short walk. Come and meet old and new friends and enjoy spending time together.

Contact: Chris Evans

Email: drchris.evans@ntlworld.com**Wessex**

For information please contact Jennifer Collins

Email: dentistjen@hotmail.com**West Midlands****Saturday 8th May**

Speaker: James Tomlinson from ICMDA

Contact Peter Thornley or Ian Knowles

Email: p Thornley@btconnect.com orianknowles@tiscali.co.uk

Honorary Treasurer Needed



Clive Sprawson will cease to be CDF's treasurer at the AGM in October 2010, having completed over seven years.

The role is not onerous as it requires only about one to two hours each month. The main tasks are listed below, but there is a more detailed job description available for anyone who is interested.

1. Attend three council meetings a year and give the treasurer's report.
2. Keep records of payments using double entry book keeping.
3. Pay invoices and subscriptions.
4. Send copies of monthly bank statements to the Administrator.
5. Calculate and send the biannual mission partner gifts.
6. Supervise the conference collection and send to various beneficiaries.
7. Have accounts examined each year.
8. Give the treasurer's report of annual finances at the AGM
9. Send examined accounts and report to HMR&C.

If anyone feels that they would like to take on the role as treasurer, then please get in touch with Clive by email or telephone.

Email: cjsprawson@tiscali.co.ukPhone: **01480 831148**

Conference Secretary Needed

Simon and Grace Stretton-Downes will be stepping down as conference secretaries after this year's Annual Conference.

The role involves planning and organising the annual conference: helping produce the conference programme and flier; liaising with the participants and making sure things run smoothly on the conference weekend. The job is supported by the Council and the Administrator.

If anyone is interested in the role and would like more information, please contact Simon at simonstret-d@tesco.net or telephone **01677 423260**

Associates Needed, Bedford

Associate dentists needed to join a practice of CDF members.

Mainly private work. Lovely staff, spacious surgeries, Exact software, DPT, Orthodontist.

Bedford is 35 minutes to St Pancras International Station, has good independent schools and has strong rugby, rowing, athletics and cycling clubs. Youth music is supported by the council and the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama is well respected nationally.

Contact Steven Murphy on telephone: **07703 527084** or email: steve@sadsteve.co.uk

Are you on a Career Break?

If you are on maternity leave or another break from dentistry, you may qualify for a reduced CDF subscription rate.



Please contact the Administrator Anne Hallows for more information:

cdfadmin@btinternet.com

Universities: Still the Engine of Change?

Recently a Newsweek edition devoted to trends in Higher Education concluded that “[throughout the world the university] will continue to be the engine of change for every nation; all citizens, from the richest to the poorest, will look within its walls for the keys to their future.” If this conclusion is correct then the illiberal attitude to orthodox Christianity exhibited by some in British Universities should be of great concern.

Birmingham and Exeter University Christian Unions have been expelled from the Students Union for not changing their constitution to allow non-Christians to lead the CU and speak in the CU. Their financial assets have been frozen and the CUs are no longer able to use university buildings free of charge. A number of other student unions are taking similar action. At Edinburgh University the CU has been banned from holding the PURE course, which teaches mainstream orthodox Christian views about sex – that it should be celebrated in the context of marriage.

In attempting to apply an equal opportunities policy to Student Union clubs and societies, these actions deny Christians the basic rights of freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of speech. Such rights are protected in law according to the Education Acts of 1986 (section 43) and 1994 (section 22) as well as European Human Rights legislation. By appealing to law, Christian students are following the apostle Paul who exercised his legal rights as a Roman citizen in order to remain free to preach the Gospel.

What the Christian Unions are arguing for is a more sensible ‘open pluralism’. Students Unions fulfil a valuable social and educational function in regulating and supporting a wide range of student societies. These opportunities should be available to all, regardless of age, sex, race, religion, political views, sexual orientation or any other distinguishing personal characteristic.

However many student societies have aims and purposes which require differentiation. Leaders of Labour

students associations are required to be supporters of the Labour Party. Likewise those who lead Christian Unions, whose identity and aims are determined by its doctrinal stance, are required to be in agreement with this doctrinal stance. Christian Unions are ‘open to the public’ in that their meetings can be attended by anyone. Christian Unions often hold open discussions where the audience questions the speaker. But in order to preserve its particular religious viewpoint it is essential that the CU has leaders in agreement with the CU’s doctrinal stance.

It follows that the aim of any equal opportunities policy must not simply be to require all societies to make no distinction at all. Rather, it must ensure that clubs and societies do not draw distinctions that are irrelevant to their object and purpose.

This approach is entirely lawful and also desirable. The general good of the student body is served by exposure to a diversity of views and opinions. Freedom of speech is served by the existence of a market place of ideas in which each person or group is free to make the best case for their own commitments.

What is concerning about the current situation is the growing contemporary irrationalism towards any viewpoint that contradicts the secular agenda. Social critic Wendy Kramer bemoans how students are no longer the most progressive and open-minded members of society. Rather they are increasingly ‘ban happy’ responding to controversy not by having the argument but by demanding censorship and silence. She complains, “Self righteous intolerance of dissent remains distressingly common among supposedly progressive students on liberal campuses.” Kramer concludes that the university is no longer a site for free thinking and the free exchange of ideas. It is becoming a laboratory for new forms of censorship and conformism.

By adopting such an approach, secularists stifle the free speech and open debate they claim to promote. Tolerance has been traditionally defined as ‘the policy of patient forbearance towards that which is

not approved.’ By seeking to ban the orthodox Christian voice on campus (whether on sexuality or any other issue) secularism displays its intolerance. When the shibboleths of the day are called in to question, censorship is the response. This is a far cry from one of the pioneers of tolerance, Voltaire, who famously said, “I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

In the current conflict, Christian students have been stigmatised as intolerant and vilified as homophobic. Both accusations are false and dangerous. They are dangerous because they stifle free debate and in determining which ideas are acceptable and unacceptable Student Unions are repeating exactly the tyrannies of the last century. Philosopher John Gray (not a believer) points out, “The role of humanist thought in shaping the past century’s worst regimes is easily demonstrable, but passed over, or denied, by those who harp on about the crimes of religion. Yet the mass murders of the 20th century...were done by atheist regimes in the service of enlightenment ideas of progress.”

Historian John Coffey concludes, “If secular intolerance is relatively mild at present, it should not be underestimated.” If the university is ‘the engine of change for every nation’, how these conflicts are resolved matters. Christians must be concerned at the erosion of their freedom to proclaim their beliefs in the public square free from discrimination and censorship.

They also undermine human dignity. As Rowan Williams wrote recently, “If I challenge what you do, I take you seriously as a moral agent, a free person whose choices matter”. As well as promoting tyranny, Student Unions are advancing indifference and apathy.

Do write to the universities concerned objecting to their behaviour. Contact your MP.

Tim Rudge • Field Director

ucf:thechristianunions

Why are Patients Afraid of the Dentist?

I don't think we should be surprised that patients are, to a greater or lesser extent, apprehensive as they come into our surgery. Firstly there is the fear of the unknown, "What's this man in a white coat going to do to me?" Even the position we put patients in, lying prone with the dentist's head peering down within a few inches of the face, makes them feel vulnerable! The mouth is a very sensitive area, with the digging of scalers under the gum and vibrating drills on the teeth.

Fear of dentists is very common in the public domain. I was once introduced at a church meeting as a "Christian dentist-if that's not a contradiction of terms!". Having an appointment with the dentist is considered one of the worst kinds of experiences. It is often the topic of jokes, like a sketch I saw many years ago in a variety show. It showed a nervous patient in a waiting room. The dentist came out of the surgery to talk to him, "What do you require?" he asked, "Dentures?" A shake of the head from the patient. "Extractions?". Further shakes. "A stopping?" "No, going!" and rushes out.

A traumatic experience in the past which happened to the patient or one of his family is often the cause for fear of the dentist. I remember seeing a slide when I was a student. It was taken of a patient's mouth with one beautiful gold crown in a lower molar and all the other teeth badly decayed. The story behind it was that the patient suffered so much having the crown made that he vowed never to go near a dentist again!

So, we have to put our patients at their ease, but how? First, let us remember the



words of Ezekiel comforting the Jewish exiles in Babylon, "I sat where they sat". Think of the times when you were nervous, in the dental chair perhaps or before an exam at dental school! We need to find out what their fears are and seek to reassure them that they are unfounded. Sympathetic, warm friendliness helps, "I'll treat you gently" said with a smile. My dentist is extremely solicitous with "Sorry" and "Are you all right?" continually throughout the treatment, even when a reply is rather difficult with a gagged open mouth full of instruments!

The dental profession is seeking to live down this frightening image. Local anaesthetics deaden the pain during the operation but when they wear off, the after effects can be traumatic! We try to make the treatment as painless as possible but what patients may call pain, the dentist may call "A little discomfort!" Another way of lessening the painful aspects of dentistry is by encouraging good oral hygiene and regular check ups,

so with fissure sealants and small cavities, the treatment will be minimal and less frightening.

As Christian dentists, let our attitude in the surgery be bathed in prayer for our patients and ourselves. "Put on then as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience." (Col.3.12)

A case study - David said he'd not been to a dentist from the age of eight until 20 years old. He was always worried that he would have to have teeth out as they were overcrowded and would have to have dentures like his father. He thought dentures would alter his appearance and he'd never get married! Sweet eating in his early years resulted in tooth decay and an abscess caused much pain. He remembers passing out in the toilet! He was so terrified of going to a dentist that when his mother made him a dental appointment, he'd feign illness two days before and so the appointment had to be cancelled.

In his first year at university, he confided in a Christian friend about his phobia. His friend knew a CDF member, Bob. The friend took him to Bob's home on a Sunday afternoon. When David heard he was a dentist, he refused to go in, but Bob came out and chatted about common interests. Then Bob said, "Simon tells me you're having trouble with your teeth, why not come along to my surgery now? I've met people with your problem before; it's not as bad as you think." David was petrified but was moved by his gentle friendly manner and consented.

In the dental chair, with soothing background music and Bob's calm, confident approach, David's irrational fear evaporated and he had a painless extraction under local anaesthetic. After that, he went regularly and his fears were overcome—a dental success story!

Alan Vogt

Practice for Sale

Haywards Heath, Mid Sussex

Long established (50 years) small private practice and splendid detached family Edwardian freehold for sale. Envidable location, plenty of scope for increasing patient numbers.

For more information see www.mustergreendental.com or email: mustergreendental@btinternet.com

CROSSbiTe - Students and Young Dentists



Since we last wrote to you we have passed into another new year, which always provides an opportunity for reflection. When it comes to the past year, we have much to be thankful for.

When Tim, Melissa and I stepped forward to oversee the student work of CDF, we did so with a certain amount of trepidation over the task ahead. As with so many things our need was to trust God and not fear and, indeed, God has done more than we have asked for or could have imagined. As Tim and Melissa have shared with you previously, we have been encouraged by the increase in student memberships and are excited to now have contacts at all the Universities. For me, the highlight last year was chatting to some of our student members at the Family Conference: I was encouraged by the numbers who had travelled to be there and inspired by their passion for being part of CDF and reaching their fellow students.

I have just received my copy of the UCCF annual review. The 2009 campaign, entitled 'FREE', brought the Gospel into our universities through

talks, social events and giving students copies of Mark's Gospel. The focus was Jesus' promise of 'freedom' to all who believe in Him: freedom from self, from religion and from fear. It was a message that people were keen to hear and they saw many people coming to faith. However, the review writers are quick to point out that while there were many encouragements, their work had also been a 'hard slog' in places. While our universities sometimes offer an openness to explore ideas, they can also be places hostile to the Gospel, places of apathy, peer pressure and distraction.

It is not just non-Christians who are subject to these things either. It reminded me of our need to continue pressing forward, to 'fight the fight, run the race, keep the faith'. If we have become apathetic or distracted then we must ask God to remind us again of His glorious gospel and out of that knowledge will flow streams of living water into all areas of our lives. As Paul prayed for the Ephesians, my prayer this year is "that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ep 3:16-19.

As Melissa mentioned last issue, we look forward this year to having a student and young dentist day conference in Birmingham. We hope this will be an opportunity to rekindle friendships formed at the Family Conference, but also to encourage others to come along and make new friendships. To all our student and young dentist readers, you will receive full details in due course but I encourage you to keep the 20th March free for fun, fellowship and food!

Becky Perrin

CROSSbiTe - Student and Young Dentist Day Conference

Saturday 20th March 2010

Carrs Lane Church,
Birmingham city centre

From 10 am - 3.30 pm

Conference 10 am - 12.45 pm,
followed by lunch and activity
afternoon.

Cost: £8 each inclusive!

Contact: students@cdf-uk.org

URGENT SOS

Trinity Dental Clinic in Liberia, run by Keith Chapman and Frieda Schmidt, seek volunteers, preferably with experience of working overseas, between April and September 2010.

For information, please contact Tim Bates, tim82bates@gmail.com

Christian Dental Fellowship is a registered charity.
Charity No. 261350

CDF, 44 Pool Road, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8RD

Tel: 01252 845991 Fax: 01252 607800

Email: cdfadmin@btinternet.com

Website: www.cdf-uk.org

Deadline

for the next issue
of Three-in-One is

5th April 2010