

## CDF Conference October 2016 Christian Leadership



**Our family always gets excited leading up to the conference weekend. The children look forward to seeing their CDF friends and generally getting to roam about a big hall that even has lifts! We look forward to renewing friendships, making new ones and having some good quality teaching from God's Word.**

We were fortunate to arrive just before the first session on Friday night. Having dropped the children off in the Terrace room to be looked after by the youth leaders David and Tash, we heard the first talk from our speaker. We were privileged to have Justin Thacker, originally a paediatrician before becoming a lecturer of theology at Cliff College. He was speaking on the theme of Christian Leadership. I have to admit I thought I would enjoy his talks but had wondered whether it might only be

relevant to those who have a leadership role within their church. Fortunately this was not the case and his talks were relevant to all of us at some level.

Justin spoke in general terms on leadership, touching on a quote from John Maxwell: "The true meaning of leadership is influence; nothing more, nothing less." He taught us that if we exert influence on someone else, then we are a leader. When looking in the Bible interestingly there is little use of the word "leader". However there is much more use of the word disciple/discipleship. Again he used a quote to illustrate how leaders lead by example; "Great leaders don't tell you what to do....they show you how it's done." Justin gave some good examples of influential people in his church who exerted their influence through their obedient lives; one man who had a devoted prayer life praying

faithfully for other people, another a lady who persevered in following Jesus day by day, even though her husband was a long-term alcoholic and she herself had depression. Leadership is not about a position or title but about being a follower of Jesus Christ.

We looked at the comparison and contrasts between secular and Christian leadership and how they might relate. They both have their own priorities: in the secular world it is to build "my empire", in the Christian world it is to build the Kingdom of God. In the secular world you are judged on your success by your numbers, in the Christian world it is your faithfulness that makes you successful. The secular leader may have no sense of limits and leads out of strength, whereas the Christian leader leads within their limits and out of vulnerability. Jesus wants us to be weak and to rely on him (see 2 Corinthians 12:8-10).

On Saturday morning we had the first mission partner input in person from our good CDF friends Tony and Ann Giles. They have historically been working on the Mercy Ships but in the last year they visited Madagascar, Kenya and The Gambia working mostly on land with various charities including IcFEM and Friends of Mercy Ships Team. Tony has mostly been doing cleft lip and palate surgery and training up others to carry on this valuable and life-changing work. Tony also treated his oldest cleft patient yet while at Dreamland Hospital in Kenya. While he was treating this elderly lady Miss World even made an appearance to say hello! Tony and Ann have had a few months off since their trip but plan to

*continued over...*



In April they went to Liberia with the charity ELWA with SIM where Simon spent a week in Trinity Dental Clinic. There is a good dental team there but no dentist so they were very keen to have him! They feel this is the right place for them to go back to so are going through the application process with SIM. Watch this space!

Finally before dinner we heard from Justin as he spoke on “How did Jesus lead?” We thought about the different styles of leadership Jesus showed and from this it became clear you could find an example of any style you wish to advocate! However, the main leadership styles of Jesus can be summarised as follows:

1. Authoritarian: e.g. Luke 10:13 casting out demons
2. Social/thought leader: influencing our behaviour and thinking e.g. Jesus' attitude towards tax collectors in Matthew Ch. 9, touching people with leprosy e.g. in Luke Ch. 5, and his attitude towards women e.g. John Ch4
3. Visionary: where you paint a picture with words which inspires and compels others e.g. the Beatitudes. We also watched Martin Luther King's “I have a dream” speech as an example of this.
4. Coach: Working with others in small groups, e.g. when Jesus was with James, John and Peter, and Mary and Martha.

return to the same countries again over the next year.

After a morning break we heard Justin speaking on the subject of “The question of priorities.” Who do we answer to and what are our limits? We looked in detail at how Jesus prioritised in Luke 4:38-44. We looked at the difference between being a fan of Jesus or a follower. Jesus was always more concerned about the crowd and their commitment, not the number of people. We thought about whether we are fans or followers in different areas of our lives. Just as we do now, Jesus continuously faced a conflict with his time. The people in front of him demanding his time didn't always come first. He doesn't always say yes to the person in front asking for his time. He knew if someone else needed him more. So how do we know what God wants us to do when we have competing demands? We can help our chances of knowing God's will by following Jesus' example who spent time with His heavenly Father.

Justin spoke on a book called “The Emotionally Healthy Leader” by Peter Scazzero. In his book he identifies different limits we have. Once we understand our own limitations in these areas we will understand better what we can do and how to prioritise.

After the session we had lunch and then some free time. My husband had a game of football with our youngest son while I

enjoyed a delightful walk with my eldest son around the beautiful gardens of Hothorpe. It is such a lovely setting with the rolling hills on all sides and lots of hideaway spots to sit.

Later on we had the CDF AGM, where we said goodbye to Vicky Rushton as President and welcomed Susie Matthew in her place. It was good to hear from various members of the committee about progress during the last year, and also to gain new members on the AGM including a new student co-ordinator.

We had the second missionary input following this, hearing from Simon Stretton-Downes. Having had all three children fly the nest, he and his wife Grace felt a calling to do overseas work (they worked in Ethiopia many years ago).



Following this we enjoyed a nice meal together before the evening entertainment arrived. For the first time ever (in my memory anyway!) we had a Barber Shop Quartet who were fantastic. It looked hard work singing without any accompaniment. They did get us to join in at various points with sea shanties to give themselves a rest though!

On Sunday morning we had our last missionary update with a couple of videos to watch. We heard from Aiden and Nina who continue to work in SE Asia. Both of them are developing friendships with Muslims and Aiden even does a regular Bible study with one group of them. They are looking at a model of church planting through healthcare whereby they go in to a poor rural Muslim village and carry out dental pain relief while also having the opportunity to share the gospel.

We heard from Jane and Neil who have the unusual opportunity of working in a sensitive area in the Far East. They are now in their fourth term at an English-speaking university. They do dental clinics every day, electricity permitting and Neil is teaching the Masters students. They were even able to take these students to a dental exhibition in Beijing. They described their work as like the parable of the mustard tree and sewing small seeds which will hopefully grow in to something bigger.

Finally we heard from Dermot O'Brien, speaking on behalf of Dentaaid. Following the talk last year Dermot felt a calling to go to Moldova in Eastern Europe. It is the poorest country in Europe and Dentaaid only arrived there in 2016. Dentaaid are supporting the Chief Dental Officer to treat those with special needs and low incomes. Dentaaid are hoping to send out more equipment and launch a tooth brushing programme. Karen Patterson also spoke briefly about going to refugee camps in northern Greece with Dentaaid and is going herself in November. They are asking for volunteers for just a long weekend.

After another break, Justin gave his last talk on "The price of leadership." He started by looking at the account of Jesus' crucifixion from Mark's gospel before contrasting the world's definition of success with that of the Bible. To the outside world Jesus' death may appear defeat, but for us as Christians, His crucifixion is the victory. He sent us off with the challenge to look at the theology of the cross and to:

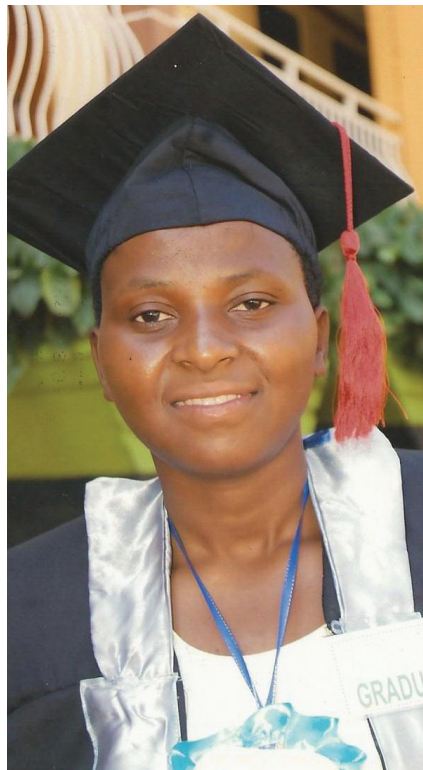
- Invest in obscurity
- Take the form of a servant
- Obey God no matter what the consequences

Following Sunday lunch we departed home, enriched and spiritually equipped to face another week in the surgery!

**Kirsty Gayton**  
*GDP Lincoln*

Recordings of the talks are available. Please contact Sarah Felton (cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com) for details.

## Glory's Graduation



### Greetings from Kabale!

We are happy to inform you that Glory's graduation ceremony was colourful. We enjoyed a good time with family and friends.

Ambrose has resigned his job in Kampala and has joined us to work at Kabale Hospital as senior Public Health Dental Officer (PHDO).

We received your kind contribution for the graduation with gratitude. Please convey our sincere thanks to the CDF family for the kind support that has made us who we are.

Glory is busy doing clinical work like extractions, fillings, dentures, RCTs etc. Work is running smoothly with two full time PHDOs, two nurses and one part time PHDO.

Kind regards to all the CDF members.

**Glory & Ambrose**

## Dates for the Diary

**Saturday 4th March 2017** - CDF Scottish Conference

**Saturday 11th March 2017** - East Midland and East Pennines Regional Groups' Meetings

**Saturday 18th March 2017** - East Anglia and Thames Valley Regional Groups' Meetings

**May 2017** - North London Regional Group Meeting  
(Date to be confirmed)

**20th May 2017** - South West Regional Group Meeting

**October 13th – 15th October 2017** - CDF Annual Family Conference, Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

# Becoming a Listening Person



**This year's annual CDF conference included a clinic lecture entitled "Listening to Others, God and Ourselves," delivered by Jennie Fytche from the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation. The Acorn Christian Healing Foundation was established in 1983 by Bishop Morris Maddocks. The charity's main aim is to facilitate healing and reconcile wholeness of the individual through listening to them. The charity offers programmes within a Christian context to provide training and resources facilitating effective listening. Through the listening process, people are able to be walked through their difficulties into healing peace and wholeness. The Christian message is the core to the heart of Acorn; however they welcome everyone regardless of faith or circumstance to experience their programmes.**

The Oxford English Dictionary defines listening as taking notice of and acting on what someone says; respond to advice or a request. Jennie explained that the act of

listening was much more than this. Effective listening is not merely taking away information but truly seeking to understand the person and the speaker's mutual feeling of being understood. We discussed in small groups how our feelings differ when we are not listened to and when we are. We concluded that through being listened to, we feel more valued and appreciated and our confidence in expressing ourselves grows.

Feeling listened to is healing in itself and its importance is often underestimated when working with and speaking to patients. Jennie made it clear that we should not just listen with our own agenda when diagnosing a patient, but rather provide more holistic care by actively listening to the person in front of us. Our profession provides us with an amazing opportunity to reach multitudes of people who might see being listened to as a luxury in a busy, self-focused society.

Listening is creating a hospitable place where healing can happen. Active

reflective listening allows people to hear themselves in a way which enables them to untangle their own thoughts and problems. You are merely accompanying them on this journey of healing. Acorn takes inspiration from the Bible to help others become better listeners. Jennie specifically referred to Jesus who repeatedly made time to listen to those around Him. Jesus was self-aware and self-conscious without being self-centred. When listening to people in the gospels He looked at the big picture as well as the individual. For example in John 11 it seems that Jesus didn't listen to the news that Lazarus was dying, however He knew that He could use this as a spectacular opportunity to raise Lazarus from the dead – showing He was more powerful than the miracles He had previously performed. He also frequently made time to be alone too, spending time with God. In the garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26) and in Matthew 14 Jesus took time alone to pray to His Father. This shows that Jesus had a balance in His life of receiving from the Father and giving through

listening to others. While Jesus is God, His need to communicate spiritually with His Father to ask advice and seek support and guidance shows that indeed He is also fully human. In the same way we must spend time with God and receive wisdom from him so that we don't go into a conversation aiming to always gain.

Jennie went on to mention the differences between Hebraic and western philosophies. In Hebraic culture there's no division between the spiritual and secular areas of life. The spiritual aspect is kept at the centre of all they do. Western culture tends to separate the two. In a Christian lifestyle all of your life should be an act of worship to God. On earth Jesus was the same everywhere; fully integrated. Every part of his reality was connected. He was the same in front of different people and in different circumstances. He was always full of God's Spirit. He was authentic and the same right through to his death. To follow in Jesus' authenticity, although it may not always be easy, we need to keep Jesus in our workplace too.

Jennie stated the key elements of healing. These elements showed what is made possible to the speaker when they are listened to and what we are able to provide because of what we receive from God. As relational beings, the capacity for relationships enables the following elements to be achieved:

- 1) The capacity for order and meaning. This assists the speaker in reordering and clarifying their thoughts and helps them feel empowered to consider the need to take an action.
- 2) The capacity for creativity. The speaker gains the ability see things in a new perspective and recognise potential opportunities.
- 3) A capacity for grace and generosity. Although we are undeserving, God has shown us generosity and grace and as His children, we should live in Jesus' image and reciprocate this to others abundantly.
- 4) A capacity for mercy, forgiveness and justice. As an active and effective

listener, we should demonstrate love by listening to those, who are in conflict with our opinions.

- 5) A capacity for humility. Reflecting upon how Jesus was the embodiment of humility from His birth in a stable to His death on the cross to being buried in a borrowed tomb, we as listeners should also make ourselves vulnerable. By demonstrating vulnerability and weakness in ourselves and our strength in God alone we can help the speaker feel at ease and comfortable to open up.
- 6) A capacity for sacrifice. Jesus sacrificed His time to comfort the lonely and broken and also His life in the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. As His followers, God has asked that we would do unto others as you would want done to you. Often at home and in the workplace the easiest and most helpful way to do this is to sacrifice time to listen.
- 7) Lastly, there is a capacity for hope and joy. By listening, you encourage and help the other person to find a renewed energy within them and to look with a new understanding at the options available to them. Joy is rekindled within the person as this new hope arises and the listener also experiences joy in knowing that God has used them to bring this person out of the darkness they were in.

Considering these elements when listening we help the person to experience Shalom; "...the fulfilment of... a perfection in life and spirit which transcends any success which man alone is able to attain" (J I Durham).

Overall we learnt so much can be gained from the simple act of actively listening. By sacrificing our own attitudes, motivations and time we can help release people into the shalom which God had first intended: all in a relationship with one another, keeping Him at the centre of all we do, in order to give peace and in return receive it.

**Naomi Magowan & Becca Armstrong**  
2nd year Students, Sheffield

## Happy Birthday!



Our Prayer Calendar Co-ordinator, Alan Vogt, is a founder member of CDF. He recently celebrated his goth birthday!

Many happy returns Alan!

## Overseas Volunteering Opportunity The Peace & Hope Trust, Nicaragua

**Dentist wanted to join an enthusiastic dental team as they expand their work amongst poor and marginalised communities in Nicaragua.**

The Peace & Hope Trust is a UK based charity with a Christian ethos and has been working in Nicaragua since 1996.

The dental programme started about 12 years ago with the aim of providing basic dental care, relief of pain and dental health education. The next trip is scheduled for the last two weeks of January 2017. Please contact Team leader, Tim Smith or Will Hanks (lead Clinician) via Sarah Felton.

# From the President's Kitchen Table



## **Connected to God, connected to each other and connected to CDF- We have a God who is faithful.**

Everything happens on Tuesdays! I have spent time during my year as President Elect discovering as much as I can about our Christian Dental Fellowship and what it means to be a member. The aims, as set out in the Constitution, broadly define our purpose as uniting Christian dental personnel, increasing our faith, encouraging undergraduates, strengthening the work in university Christian Unions and supporting mission. During my time as President I hope to explore what this means for individual members and for the Fellowship as a whole.

What does it mean to be part of CDF, a fellowship of over 300 members spread throughout the UK and abroad? For me it meant coming to Conference for the first time three years ago seeking

support in a crisis with work and staff worries. I found a group of people who were prepared to listen to me, offer prayer, support and remind me that God gives me hope for a future. They understood what it is like to be a dentist AND a Christian. I was inspired by meeting Mission Partners and their families who have chosen to live, work and serve overseas with their families bringing dental care to the most needy and vulnerable, often in dangerous or politically volatile situations.

For many working in the UK it can feel as if we are also bringing dental care to the most needy and vulnerable, often in dangerous and politically volatile situations. Thankfully, God can and does take responsibility for our challenges and dilemmas when we are open to Him, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, (Psalm 86:15). God never promised an easy life free of trials and testing, instead an exciting

journey in his service, never dull or boring, but surprising, exciting and fulfilling. Life is still not easy for any of us but we have a God who is faithful and breathes life into all He does.

Themes during our 2016 CDF Conference at Hothorpe Hall in October were Christian leadership and listening. Justin Thacker led us through a series of events from the life of Jesus to show what it means to base our understanding of leadership on the example of Christ. Anyone who influences another person can be described as a leader. Jennie Fytche, from the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, with her background in nursing and theology, led us through some foundational teaching on the value of listening to others, to God and to ourselves. When we listen well it can be a life-changing experience.

Talking to a friend recently on the subject of issues and ideas that God

puts on our hearts, we agreed that unless we really listen to God's voice it is all too easy to develop the wrong ideas. God may want us to challenge an attitude, agree with a view or bring something forward and unless we are open and listening to Him we may move in completely the opposite direction. My personal challenge is to listen actively to others while listening actively to God and thus avoid becoming carried away.

My experience and knowledge of world geography has improved greatly during the last year thanks to family members. One son and his wife moved to Malaysia for a year and another son to Canada for two. Fortunately for me, the youngest son remained in Chester and that's just around the corner really. The internet allows us to keep in touch with one another as a family. I set a clock on my phone to their different time zones and was able to "Facetime", "WhatsApp", "Snapchat", "Instagram" and "Message" whenever I wished knowing that the boys would receive my messages wherever they were in the world. We were able to stay connected to each other.

The on-line Oxford English Dictionary definitions of the word, connected include "bringing together or into contact so that a real (or notional) link is established, join together so as to provide access and communication, link to a power or water supply, provide or have a link or relationship with, form a relationship or feel an affinity".

As Victoria's time as President closes and I step up into her shoes I am aware of what feels like a lack of qualification for the job. However, God does not always need earthly qualifications and I have been, and continue to be reassured by Paul in Colossians where he writes that "the Father has qualified you." Surely no more qualifications are needed? Most encouraging! So, how do

I seek God's guidance as I lead the Fellowship forward? How do I remain connected to God and to members?

In the Autumn issue of Three-in-One Victoria encouraged us to stay on the right track (1 Corinthians 10:12). By acknowledging that we do fall and by accepting God's grace we are able to admit our errors and start again in the right direction. As individuals and as a Fellowship we should be continually checking and rechecking that we are going in the right direction under the leading and guidance of the Lord. We could think of this as linking to our Holy power supply through prayer. Together we can help each other to remain connected to God. The Bible encourages us to be self-controlled and alert (1 Peter 5:8), led by the Spirit, (Galatians 5:16), to keep God's word in your hearts (Psalm 119:11). When we form a relationship with God we discover that as we listen to Him we hear his voice guiding us in paths of quietness and trust.

During the last couple of years Council have been developing and upgrading the CDF website ([www.cdf-uk.org](http://www.cdf-uk.org)). The original website has served us well. The new one has a contemporary feel with similar headings for navigation and added space for content and scope for updating. I also understand it is very easy to edit but I'll be leaving that to the professionals. Alan Vogt's Prayer Calendar, which many of us use regularly, is available as a daily prayer email. Do sign up for this direct to your inbox every morning. Council members have been testing the site to discover any "teething problems." Apologies for that, I could not resist! The website is fully up with content being added regularly. Council hope that members will contribute actively, assisting with copy and feedback. Stay connected to God, connected to each other and connected to CDF.

The website is a significant piece of work, and I would like to say a special thank you to Cathy Fordyce, from Council and Sarah Felton, our Administrator, who have moved the whole project forward to near completion. I would encourage you to go to the new website, use it regularly and stay connected to each other, to CDF and to find out more of what God is doing in the dental world.

We have a God who is faithful. The Bible tells us many times that God wants the best for us:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give a hope and a future.....call upon me, come and pray to me and I will listen to you.... you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Everything happens on Tuesdays. Tuesday is my admin day with no patient appointments scheduled, so if you need to ask me anything, ask any time but do expect the answer on a Tuesday!

**Susie Matthew**  
CDF President

## New CDF Website

The new CDF website is now up and running and looking great! Why not have a look today at [www.cdf-uk.org](http://www.cdf-uk.org)?

You can find out about what is going on in your area as well as any overseas volunteering opportunities.

We especially encourage you to sign up for the daily prayer email. Every morning you will receive an email straight to your inbox with the prayer for the day from the CDF prayer calendar. Here is the link to sign up: <http://cdf-uk.org/about/daily-prayer>

# Christopher Smith



**We were sad to hear that Chris, a long-standing member of CDF passed away in August.**

As a relatively newly qualified dentist Chris worked in Kenya for six months whilst the English dentist returned on home leave.

After returning to the UK he was invited back to Kenya for a two year contract. He married Beverley in 1968 and they spent two years in Kisumu on Lake Victoria. In the early 1970s he bought into a dental partnership in Cheam where he practised until his partner wished to retire in 2003. An opportunity arose for a short mission trip to Mwanza in Tanzania which he did gladly. Back in England he became bored and looked for locum work. This took them initially to the Isle of Wight for four years, then into Milford on Sea and Lymington in Hampshire where he soon settled into two practices and virtually had a second

career and where he was working until the day before he was admitted to hospital.

Retirement didn't seem to be on the menu and even when he was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in April this year, he continued to practice whilst coping with the chemotherapy treatment.

Initially all seemed to be going well but after three months, his body was not responding to the treatment and after admission to Southampton Hospital in July, he lost his battle with the cancer and died on 15th August. He was aged 73. Chris's death has left a huge hole for his family but everyone tried to give him a good "send off" at his Thanksgiving Service held on 7th September when a packed church paid tribute to his life.

## Calling Christian dentists!



**Are you passionate about alleviating pain and making a long term difference in the lives of the poor?**

Are you looking for a way to express your faith in Christ in a very practical way?

Passing on your skills to others, thus building a sustainable dental service for generations to come? This is a life changing opportunity to join us in Burkina Faso, West Africa for two weeks in January 2017. You'll be part of

an intensive training event, teaching the basics of emergency dental care to our six trainees, building on the training they have already received, using a tried and tested training program. In the afternoons we'll be holding free clinics, treating people who otherwise would have no access to dental care. We'll also be travelling out to remote villages and schools, extracting teeth and giving oral health education. You'll also be challenged by the faith, courage and resilience of the Burkinabe people, and will be encouraged to share your faith, pray for and encourage others.

Interested? Contact Lynne Smith at [lynnesmith@gmail.com](mailto:lynnesmith@gmail.com)

See [www.aptburkina.org.uk](http://www.aptburkina.org.uk) for more information about our work.

**Deadline for the next issue of Three-in-One is 1st January 2017. Please send contributions to Tracey Dalby: [editor@cdf-uk.org](mailto:editor@cdf-uk.org)**

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The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily express those of the Christian Dental Fellowship council or their members

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