

I will surely be with you (Ex 3:11)



When we walk in fellowship with God, you don't have to ask Him to bless you. He *wants* to bless you! As we allow ourselves to be effective instruments to share His love with people around, God delights in giving us His gifts in times and ways that we might never expect.

The Christian Dental Fellowship family were reminded of this reality recently when Simon Stretton-Downes (our member and dental mission partner in Liberia) and Rev. Andrew Fordyce (a friend of CDF and husband of Catherine Fordyce a CDF Council member) were honoured with an OBE and MBE respectively in this year's Queens birthday honours list.

Although it's good to receive recognition for one's services, it usually demands its

recipient to step out of their comfort zone and blessed are those who do so with confidence and hope.

Scripture is full of examples where God calls out individuals during challenging times and gives them the greatest form of assurance; His presence. This pandemic serves an ideal backdrop to reflect on our calling, cling on to the personal assurances available in the Scriptures and move forward with confident hope to make the difference wherever we can.

I am prompted to take a glimpse into the life of Moses. He was probably in the most challenging phase of life when God grabbed his attention through a burning bush (Ex 3),

and gave him what seemed an insurmountable task of asking the most powerful ruler of that region to release his workforce while cautioning him about the obstacles. God's promised presence: "I will surely be with you" (Ex 3:12) was his only guarantee. Slowly but surely, Moses was about to find out the power behind that assurance.

It is a welcome relief to know that a unique characteristic of the God whom we worship is that He covers us with His personal reassurance.

At the beginning of Moses' walk with God he had no idea of all that he would need God to do for him.

When he was afraid, God's presence gave him strength.

When faced with Pharaoh's stubbornness, God's presence interrupted nature.

When faced with a closed road ahead, God's presence parted the Red Sea.

When faced with a hungry multitude in the desert, God's presence provided food and water.

Each time Moses faced a need he learned something new about God. He surely came to realise that there's much more to God than a burning bush.

In his book *Paths in Spirituality*, John Macquarrie writes:

'We can never know God by seeking to grasp and manipulate Him, but only by letting Him grasp us. We know Him not by taking Him into our possession (which is absurd) but by letting ourselves be possessed by Him, by becoming open to His infinite being which is within us and above us and around us.'

As we journey through our individual circumstances with God in the coming weeks and years let us allow our experiences to expand our knowledge of Him who always delights in reassuring His children in surprising ways.

'Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?" He replied, "I will surely be with you. Your sign that I have sent you will be that when you have led the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.'" Ex 3:11-12(CJB)

Prince Thomas
CDF President

Mission Partner Updates

Simon & Grace Stretton-Downes Liberia



Daniel, Charles, Wannie, Simon, Musa, Grace & Winifred

In their March report, Simon and Grace outlined plans for a four-day Dental and Gospel outreach to the Mandingo people, a Muslim community close to the border of Guinea, where missionary John Mark is effectively translating the Bible into their language. The following is a summary of their June report.

The trip took place between Tuesday 8th and Friday 11th June. It involved a one-hour flight in an MAF plane 165 miles, saving a ten-hour, 250-mile road trip. Landing at Voinjama they travelled a further 45 mins in John Mark's Landcruiser to Barkedu the tribal centre of the Mandingo people.



Instruments were sterilised in a pressure cooker on a charcoal burner.

Accommodation and amenities were basic; there was electricity from 7pm until midnight, water from the pump and little in the way of furnishings.

The portable dental clinic was set up in the Government Health Clinic. For the price of £300 of materials over the following days, 151 patients attended,

434 teeth were extracted and more patients had to be turned away at the end of clinic on Friday morning.

At the same time with permission, the Liberian team prayed with the Imams, discussed Scripture and shared the good news with patients.

Grace carried out diabetic screening and gave dietary advice to 85 people over 40 years of age. Despite no medicines being available at the clinic, she was able to make referrals to a hospital doctor.

All treatment was provided free of charge. John Mark provided food and accommodation, the cost to Trinity Dental project was approximately £1200 in total.



Every patient, with their permission was prayed for.

In other news, the whole team at Trinity Dental Clinic are honoured and delighted that Simon received an OBE in this June's Birthday honours. The citation reads:

“Dr Simon Stretton-Downes, Lead Dental Surgeon, Trinity Dental Clinic, Eternal Love Winning Africa (ELWA) Hospital, Liberia: For services to Dentistry in Africa, particularly Liberia.”

Finally, sadly Covid is making a come back with ten deaths on just one Sunday at ELWA, which only has oxygen as there is no intensive care. Simon and Grace have both had Covid vaccinations, pray for safety for them and the team.

Financial support for the Trinity Dental

project can be sent to Simon via CDF or directly through SIM (www.sim.co.uk/givedonationLR095210-TrinityDentalClinicProject/outreach) and also please email Simon directly to track the donation. (simonstrettd@gmail.com)



The Landcruiser packed with dental kit

Simon offers this Scripture in closing from Isaiah 55:11:

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. so is my WORD that goes out from my mouth: IT WILL NOT RETURN to me empty, but WILL accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it”.

May this be so in Barkedu and beyond, Amen.

Lynne & Keith Smith West Africa

When I was asked to write an update on the work in West Africa it was going to be an article full of good news. The government had entered into dialogue with the Islamist groups that have been terrorising local communities. There were fewer killings. Refugees were returning to their villages. There was a new sense of optimism. After a year of restricted travel, our dental teams had tentatively re-started visiting nearby villages to offer dental treatment and the good news of Jesus.

Then, just 4 days ago, insurgents opened fire on a village killing around 160



civilians, destroying homes and burning the local market to the ground. It was the worst attack in years and a reminder to us all that the security of the region hangs by a thread. Our friends live and work in the valley of the shadow of death.

One Pastor had to relocate because he had received death threats. He was offered a safe, comfortable parish, but chose to go where there is no church (and



no financial support) to reach the unreached. He recently invited one of our dental teams for two days of clinics. A lady came for treatment who had been suffering from dental pain for several months. She was terrified, but they prayed and gently convinced her to have an extraction. She praised God when the tooth was removed and listened as they shared the good news of salvation. Later

that evening, she returned and gave her life to Christ.

One of the teams was recently invited to treat the sick and preach the good news in the main prison for that region. In that dark place of despair, a discipleship group has started and prisoners now meet regularly to find hope in the word of God.

Keith travelled to West Africa in February for the first time in over a year. His best friend's wife died suddenly a few days after his arrival. At the funeral many people testified to how this grandmother had impacted their lives. Young people wept at her graveside, grieving the loss of their "mama" who had shaped their lives for the Kingdom of God. Others told of how she had chosen to live in the heat, poverty and insecurity of the north, in order to bring the love of God to local people. Many Muslims attended, and Keith shared the gospel. Her life epitomised the lives of so many of our friends, who despite suffering and threat are still reaching out with the love of Christ. Ordinary people for whom "to live is Christ and to die is gain".

Please pray for our friends in West Africa to know the peace and presence of God in difficult times. Pray for us as we hope to visit them in the coming months.

Tony & Ann Giles

We thought we would quickly update you about what we have been up to in the last

fourteen months since we arrived back in the UK to a national lockdown due to COVID-19.

A return to Africa was, and is, not feasible for us, so we trained as vaccinators at the latter end of 2020 and rejoined the NHS as volunteers. It is very rewarding to be a part of this life-saving programme which has already saved so many lives here.

Africa continues to have great needs. We have been involved with Hope Medical Centre in rural Guinea for more than a decade and their workload is increasing. So, we are using a week's holiday this year to try to fundraise for a much-needed expansion to their clinical buildings. We thought we would let you know about this project which we have set up on JustGiving. We're raising £6,500 to fund new Consulting Rooms and Pharmacy at Hope Medical Centre, Guinea by completing the Hadrian's Wall Walk in six days.

(www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/anntony-giles)



Tony and Ann

Vision and Development



CHRISTIAN DENTAL FELLOWSHIP

According to our website, part of what CDF seeks to provide is an active Christian influence in the dental profession by uniting and equipping Christian dentists to live out their Christian faith in life and work (as well as supporting students, those recently qualified and supporting our Mission Partners).

Communication to the Fellowship has always been provided by the 3-in-1 publication (previously Newsround). However, as life becomes more digital and especially with this digital movement being driven by the pandemic, CDF has been looking at how we communicate with dental professionals – both members and non-members.

Over the last six months we have realised (with the wisdom of our very capable administrator Karen Silcox) that the problem isn't actually the communication - this is relatively straight forward - but actually knowing what it is we want to communicate.

With this in mind, a Vision and Development team has been set up. We have now had two meetings over Zoom (who knew these things existed 18 months ago?!), looking at what our vision for CDF is and how we want to achieve this.

Our initial thoughts were that we wanted:

1. People to know about CDF. Any Christian dental professional should know we exist.
2. To give a Christian opinion on dental ethics, much like CMF (Christian Medical Fellowship) do.

Our weekly and, more recently, monthly Zoom prayer meetings have been a wonderful way to connect to our brothers and sisters all over the world. It allows us time to reflect and pray for each other, while also giving us time to chat. We have had many non-members joining us and I do encourage you to come along if you haven't already had a chance to.

Meeting people face to face is difficult at the moment with the Covid restrictions, but hopefully there will be more opportunity for this as limitations ease. In the meantime, we have written letters to the editors of the main dental magazines, sharing information about our Pastoral Care Team and what we can offer dental professionals. We have already been published in Dental Update and have had contact with a Christian dentist in India!

Our President, Prince Thomas has been having conversations with CMF about how we can link with them and make ourselves known, especially in the dental schools. Arrangements are ongoing on how we can do more.

Social media presence is being ramped up. We now have scheduled posts every day on Facebook, and Twitter (@DentalChristian) and we have been given the go-ahead from Council to open an Instagram account (@christiandental fellowship). As my 13-year-old says – no one uses Facebook or Twitter unless you're old - so hopefully Instagram will open up a new demographic! The handles for the different sites are above – if you have these accounts, please do follow us and

help us to increase our outreach.

The website is in the process of being migrated and updated. This will allow us easier use and allows us to show videos on the website. The eventual plan is to make a short promotional video for CDF that can be used on the website and also disseminated as conferences open up.

As life hopefully gets back to normal (or at least a “new normal”), we have been pondering whether we should have a UK ministry worker. They would work on a part time basis; possibly one for the north and one for the south. They would be able to travel around, speaking, encouraging, providing events and reaching dentists across the UK. We are in the very early stages of investigating the viability and the logistics, but if any of you have any thoughts, please contact us via our administrator, Karen, at christiandental fellowship@gmail.com.

Sadly, we can't meet face to face at conference this year, but we will meet again from the comfort of our sofas via the Online Conference on Saturday 6th November 2021 (see page 7 for more information). Please put this date in your diary, let your Christian dental friends know and join us!

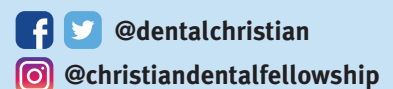
Cathy Fordyce

Vision and Development Co-ordinator

CDF on Social Media

Did you know that you can follow CDF on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram?

Keep up to date on all our news and spread the word about us with your friends and colleagues.



New Things

Andy Patching, Zambia

It had been a growing feeling on Council for some time now that Andy Patching had moved on to new things and not being involved in registered dental activity, no longer met the aims of being a CDF mission partner. So, from the last Council meeting in May it was decided to end our official financial support for him as a mission partner to CDF.



Andy & Eira

In true missionary style Andy and Eira have always lived by faith so Council does encourage interested individuals to continue their financial support albeit independently through Andy's Stewardship account or personal bank account – details can be obtained through the CDF administrator (christiandentalpartnership@gmail.com). Please also continue to pray.

I first met Andy in May 1999 at a CDF day conference at St John's College in Nottingham. I was responding to his request for a dentist to replace him in the mobile dental ministry he had been involved in for many years. He invited me out to his house in Ndola, Zambia that summer.

Along with his wife Eira, a white Zambian, daughter of British missionaries, Andy was in the process of setting up the Isubilo project for Aids victims in Ndola – and at the time of my visit that July they were looking for a site for the project.

Isubilo took up most of Andy's time although he and Elastus Chonde, a trained Dental Therapist supported by the



Inside the dental unit

Patching, still made use of the mobile unit, it was kept mainly static in Andy's back yard except for a visit by Pete Chilvers who took it out on a trip during his elective visit.

Neither Pete nor myself, for differing reasons felt called to take on the ministry: I returned to Zambia in the summer of 2007 at the invitation of Dr David McAdam and the head of CHAZ (Churches Health Association in Zambia) Gordon Hanna, and spent the following seven summers in the NW province servicing Chitokoloki, Chavuma and Loloma hospitals. I was joined by Chonde on the last three occasions for three weeks at a time, but didn't get down to the Copperbelt to meet Andy or my cousin Phil Cole who with his wife Deb had set up an orphanage called Ipusukilo at Musenga for a dozen or so disadvantaged children.



Jonathan & Chonde

Zambia now has a dental school in the Copperbelt and the capital Lusaka and the missionary schools and hospitals which relied so much on Andy's visits in

the 80s and 90s are able to source a dentist in the major towns, made easier by a much-improved road infrastructure.

With the move to Sachabondu, Eira's home territory, seven years ago, building a hospital and community centre and doing much preaching and teaching, Andy's involvement in dentistry grew even less. A medical dresser has been trained to cope safely with most urgent dental needs such as extractions.



Zambian Sunset

Andy is currently supporting his wife's move into the political field. Eira is standing this summer as MP for Sachabondu supporting Mrs Chishala Kateka who resurrected a Christian party renamed the New Heritage Party.

Zambia has a wonderful Christian heritage, which was being undermined by corruption at a political level. At the time of writing we pray that this Christian heritage will be revived by the success of Mrs Kateka in her run for Presidential office at the forthcoming elections

Meanwhile as Eira returns to Sachabondu canvassing for the elections, Andy is somewhere in the Copperbelt writing his memoirs; the book when it comes out should be a jolly good read and I hope to obtain a signed first edition.

Jonathan Longhurst
Mission Partner Secretary

Professor Harold Jones



Professor John Harold Jones

Harold Jones who sadly passed away recently, was a CDF member. He retired from his position as Clinical Professor in the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Surgery at Manchester University in 1993. Following his retirement, he built up strong links with the Christian Medical College in Ludhiana, India. Dr Abi M Thomas, the Principal of the Christian Dental College, Ludhiana, has shared some memories of his time and involvement there.

Dr. Harold Jones was associated with Christian Dental College (CDC) part of Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab, India from 1996 onwards, after his formal retirement. Dr Harold personally visited CDC in Feb 1997, Oct 1997, Jan 1999, March 2000 and in 2002 for two to three weeks each time. During these times, he revised most of the topics on the subject of Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine with daily classes for the third and final year BDS students. Each time during his visit, Dr Harold brought teaching aides including histopathology

slides and left them behind for future use. Also, since 1997 he brought his used British Dental Journals and donated them to the college and after his last visit continued to send them by post till 2017.

Some of the excerpts from his correspondence reflects his experience at CDC:

“Once again very many thanks for all your kind arrangements during my recent visit to Ludhiana. As before, it was a real pleasure meeting your staff and teaching your students. The high spot was the Bible study and the enthusiasm of the student group for the Gospel. I felt humbled in their presence.”

“The Christian Dental College is an integral part of the larger and older (more than one hundred-years old) Christian Medical College. By contrast, the first dental students completed their four-year training within the past year. The college accepted twenty students per year at first, but this has increased to forty. In about two weeks I give 16, or so, lectures and some Bible studies, finding the students bright, intelligent, and receptive. About one half are Christian and there are many non-Christian staff. Nevertheless, the college has an overtly Christian ethos while avoiding any tension or division between Christians and non-Christians, a tribute to all staff and students. I warmed to, and made many friends among the Sikhs who form a large proportion of the local population in this part of India, particularly further northwest around Amritsar.

A high spot of my visit was to be guest of honour at the distribution of certificates to twelve young women and one man on successful completion of two years dental auxiliary training which gives competence as expanded-duty chairside assistants including the taking of radiographs, functioning as hygienists, and placing temporary restorations. As a Gideon, I was delighted that local Gideons provided each new auxiliary with a Bible.

So, I left Ludhiana, privileged to have been there and challenged the work of Indian Christians and others contributing to very good dental education in the Punjab. I have no doubt that the College would appreciate and benefit from long- or short-term help from experienced British dental academics. Best wishes.”

On a personal note, I had rich fellowship with Dr Harold during his last three visits and we continued to be in touch till 2017. I was personally challenged by his commitment to the Lord. During his Bible study with students, many times he quoted from his own walk with Lord Jesus. I still remember him telling the group how he was challenged by his Sunday school classmate (who later became his life partner) to be a follower of Lord Jesus and his visit to his son-in-law's rural parsonage which had minimum amenities. He lived an exemplary life reflecting Christ in his life.

At Christian Dental College, we are blessed by his association and as Dr Pratibha Singh of the 1995 batch puts it, “The subjects were hard and we used to struggle, his gentle soft approach full of experience brought the subjects to life for us with slides and photos and personal experiences, his lectures we looked forward to and would not want to miss. He also taught us clinical skills as we entered clinics in third year. We want to remember him with gratitude and love for teaching us.”



CHRISTIAN DENTAL FELLOWSHIP ONLINE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER

10am-1pm

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

*Celebrating an Unchangeable
God in a Changing World*

All Christians involved in dentistry are invited to join CDF members as we meet for our second online conference.

Bible talks; Worship; Seminars; Mission Partner Updates; Regional Groups - all from the comfort of your own home!



Registration before 5th November 2021 essential for your FREE place
www.cdf-uk.org/events/online-conference-2021

CDF
CHRISTIAN DENTAL FELLOWSHIP



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www.cdf-uk.org

or scan this QR code



GRACE FAITH TRUTH PEACE



Small print: Tea and coffee **not** provided but you may want something to hand for our agape meal

He Showed Them His Hands

The disciples couldn't believe it was really their Lord when He appeared to them, risen from the dead (Luke 24:29). The mark of identity was to show them His hands with the terrible scars of the crucifixion, the cruel Roman torture and death inflicted on the worst of criminals. Jesus endured the physical pain and the unimaginable burden of bearing the sins of the world. His hands were a sign of sacrificial service. Those hands had been the means of loving service; touching the leper and the blind man and many others, reaching out in compassion and healing power.

In the dental profession, we are involved in our daily work with our hands. Have we thanked the Lord for our hands and the intricate movement of our fingers that

enable us to operate delicate procedures for our patients? As with our Lord, they should be hands of sacrificial service to bring healing to those with many disorders of the mouth.

John Stott, in his book "The Cross of Christ", writes "The suffering servant may involve death to popularity (by faithfully preaching the unpopular biblical gospel) or to pride (by the use of modest methods in reliance on the Holy Spirit) or racial and national prejudice (by identification with another culture) or to material comfort (adopting a simple lifestyle)."

We see this in a very practical way with some CDF members willing to give up attractive income to bring dental treatment to those in need all over the

world. With all of us, our work should be carried out in the name of the Lord, as a spiritual ministry.

I once talked to a colleague in our church about CDF and she admitted "I know I am a dentist and I know I am a Christian but I'm not sure I'm a Christian dentist." There is a need to demonstrate our faith in the way we work, as Jesus did as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 42. He was gentle in His dealings: "A bruised reed He did not break", but He was also resolute, setting His face like a flint to go to Jerusalem, knowing what He would have to face there. The servant must suffer if He was to bring light to the nations. The seed must die if it is to multiply.

Alan Vogt

CDF Safeguarding Policy

At the heart of safeguarding is a principle that everyone has a role in looking after others.

People at all stages of life can be vulnerable. Vulnerability can be caused by something that lasts, for example ongoing medical conditions or it can be caused by something temporary for example the loss of a job.

CDF recognises it has particular responsibility towards these groups of people:

- Children & Youth who attend our residential conferences

- People who access our pastoral care scheme

In order to help CDF look after people as best it can, the Council has revised its Safeguarding Policy which can be found on our website <https://cdf-uk.org/about/policies>.

The Council also appointed Karen Silcox as our CDF Safeguarding Officer (christiandental fellowship@gmail.com). If you ever have any concerns or worries about a CDF activity or member then we urge you to pass on your concerns to our Safeguarding Officer.

Save the Date!

The next CDF Annual Conference is 4-6th November 2022 at HIGH LEIGH in Hertfordshire.

Our speaker will be Ruth Perrin.





Associate wanted / Practice for sale

Family run, two surgery, busy (and getting busier!) private practice looking for an associate, preferably with a view to buy. Alternatively, can go straight to sale. Situated in a lovely village in north Bradford, 30 minutes' drive to the Yorkshire Dales. Loyal and very friendly team; a wonderful opportunity for the right person.

Please contact Frances via cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org

Deadline for the next issue of Three-in-One is 1st October 2021. Please send contributions to Tracey Dalby: editor@cdf-uk.org

Email: christiandental fellowship@gmail.com Website: www.cdf-uk.org

  @DentalChristian  @christiandental fellowship

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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