

## A Living Sacrifice; Purposed and Re-Purposed by God in His Service



**After over 45 years since I became a Christian and felt the call of God on my life to become a dentist, and after 33 years post-qualification living the dream of serving Christ wherever He led, I retired in December 2021 at the age of 58. Dentistry had taken its toll on my body and I made a definite choice and felt a call to retire.**

Mike my husband also retired for health reasons as we wanted to be well enough to do all the active things we had dreamed of in retirement; climbing mountains and travelling as well as getting more involved in areas that were close to our heart such as charities, our local community and church and our growing and elderly extended family. However, in my family, the women live long. My mother is 88 and going strong and my grandmother died at 93. So if I follow in my grandmother's footsteps, potentially I have 35 years of life beyond retirement. That's longer than the 33

years post-qualification that I worked! So I had plans in retirement from dentistry, but what were God's plans? Were God's plans different to mine? What about the transition from working to retirement - how easy would that be?

Many of us look forward to our retirement, however the transition may not be as easy as we think. We may have plans and dreams, but what of God's calling beyond dentistry? Retirement may not play out as we dreamt or imagined. Although I had planned my retirement and gradually reduced my hours over the months and even years of Covid to one day a week, the cessation of my clinical career was a bereavement to me and I experienced a sense of loss that was unexpected and at times overwhelming. What was I to do now? I had not only just given up my dental career of 33 years and my dream and calling of 45 years, but I had also given up my identity, status, sense of fulfilment, my Christian frontline

and long-term friendships, as well as a job that I was good at, respected for and enjoyed. I had given up in essence my perceived purpose - to be a dentist.

We may have plans of holidays, days out or volunteering in our retirement, however for some of us perhaps we feel a sense of loss without routine, busyness and significance. God showed me that I had to redefine myself by a different benchmark, something other than dentistry. I needed to see myself as God saw me (and indeed had always seen me); a child of His with a purpose and meaning that is not limited to dentistry and does not end with my last extraction or my GDC resignation.

In many cultures, maturity and older age are revered and indeed many of the Bible characters such as Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Simeon, Anna and Elizabeth fulfilled God's purposes later in life and often beyond what they often thought of as their useful fruitfulness. Some had second careers and fruitfulness, even children, later in life. Their former years might even be considered a training ground for what was yet to come in their later years. I know many of you have continued in non-clinical roles and roles outside of dentistry since retiring from clinical dentistry, perhaps in your church or communities. Perhaps, like me, you also have the pleasure and delight of being a grandparent (which we are loving by the way!). And so I came to see that retirement from dentistry is not retirement from our usefulness or our purpose.

So what is my purpose or calling now? This is relevant to all of us whether working or retired. It's knowing that we are where God has called us to be. This can really encourage us through the



My last day of clinical dentistry

tough times when we think “What I am doing and why?”. Queen Esther was able to face the difficult times she faced because God showed her that “for such a time as this” she was in the right place at the right time for God’s purposes.

We are trained to be dentists or hygienists, therapists or practice managers, but if we are called out of that, how can we be re-purposed? Do not fear; after all, God is nothing if not a transforming and creative God who can make all things new. He can renew and transform our minds through His Holy Spirit in our lives.

I’ve heard it said that our calling is where our passion and God’s need or purposes meet. So how do we know what God is calling? Whether inside or outside of the field of dentistry, what are you passionate about? Where is there a need or godly purpose? Or put another way, where is God already stirring or working, where the

labourers are few, that matches your passion? Is God calling you to partner and join with Him in the places where you now spend your time or in pastures new, in a new season of life? These are some of the questions I have been grappling with as I considered the CDF president position. This verse came to mind as I asked the question, “How can one best serve as living sacrifices?”:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rom 12:1-2)

We are best to do this from a good place or position, a place where:

1. We know our identity, not as a dentist or DCP, but as a child of God
2. We know and walk in the will of God
3. We are in relationship with one another, for we are all made in the image of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is a good starting point on a personal level but also on a corporate level too. Just as a church with limited capacity - but with a heart for people and to bless others - can have a greater impact than those with a full capacity but no heart for people, so as CDF we may be relatively small in

number, with a heart for people, patients and colleagues and a heart to bless others, yet we too can have a greater impact. For as Paul writes: “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Eph 3:22)



We are not under any illusion about the mountain to climb in order to continue the legacy of the past 70 years of CDF and to further build on the foundations

laid by our founder members, past presidents and councils, but with Christ as the cornerstone, “and his power that is at work in us”, we will be able to do “immeasurably more than we ask or imagine” for Christ’s glory and for many more generations of dentists to come.

I have continued to outline my thoughts, and those of the Vision and Development Group as we walk the CDF journey in God’s purposes, in a further article in this edition of Three-in-One, so read on to find out more.

Your servant in Christ,

**Karen Paterson**  
CDF President

## Journey to Dolpa, Nepal



*15th May - 2nd June 2022 and Beyond!*

**Dear prayer warriors, I want to thank you for your partnership in the trip that I had to the northwest remote destination of Dolpa. It was physically challenging travelling from the western part of Nepal and exiting from the midwest part, covering 248 kilometres. However, it was spiritually refreshing to experience God’s love and grace.**

During the expedition to Dolpa I was reminded of God’s love and forgiveness in my life. I had an opportunity to witness God’s majestic creation and

thanked Him for choosing me as His child. I also had an opportunity to reflect on our twenty-two years of service in Tansen. I was reminded of the verse, “For apart from me you can do nothing” (1n 15:5). Thank you all for your prayer for my journey to Dolpa and our work in Tansen, and thanks also to Dentaid for significantly contributing towards the Dolpa trip. Many in Dolpa live in darkness. Please pray for breakthrough in Dolpa and for the like-minded brothers and sisters living there. There are very few of them.



UMN Okhaldhunga Community Hospital from a distance



250 toothbrushes and fluoride toothpastes were distributed

Please also pray as we leave Tansen at the beginning of July to go to a like-minded hospital in Okhaldhunga which is in the east of Nepal. I was there for a few months in 2018 to start a dental department and also to support the administration division. Now I am going with my family for the long term. I will be working in a dental department and will be taking a role of hospital director. Esther will take a few months break and



69 patients' teeth were extracted

will plan to study in the future. Rachana will join grade seven in a local school in Okhaldhunga. Please pray for our future ministry in Okhaldhunga. For more information please go [umnsupporttrust.org/projects/okhaldhunga-hospital](http://umnsupporttrust.org/projects/okhaldhunga-hospital) or scan the QR code.

Thank you!

Love in Christ,  
**Roshan**



## Snapshots

**A new feature looking at the difference Jesus makes to our work in dentistry. Sarah Peterson the CDF student representative kindly agreed to be interviewed for this edition.**

**What stage are you at in your studies?** I'm a fourth-year dental student at the University of Glasgow.

**What does your desk window look out on?** My window next to my desk looks out onto the communal garden next to my flat with a huge birch tree and a car park.

**What are some of the things you enjoy about being a dental student and what are some of the challenges?** I love the variety of the dental course; no day is ever the same. This year we generally have different clinics throughout the week in the morning and tutorials or lectures in the afternoons. My friends and staff at the school are also very supportive which makes a big difference when everything is so new. It's challenging adjusting from having a theoretical knowledge of how to best treat someone from lectures and pictures to knowing what to do in practice when they are sitting in front of you - and especially when it is your first time doing something. I'm also still very slow at

almost everything; I've been reassured this is normal although it's hard to imagine right now how I could possibly manage to complete a simple restoration in under one and a half hours...

**How does your Christian faith impact your studies?** Knowing Jesus transforms every element of life, including studies. He gives you an eternal perspective when it is otherwise hard to see beyond the next day and He provides comfort when nothing else can. Also, I know He has purposefully placed me in this city and on this degree and I aim to use these gifts He has graciously provided me with to glorify Him in serving those around me. When I am anxious, overwhelmed or exhausted I know I have a loving Saviour who I can turn to who will give me rest and peace that only He can give; I find it's in these moments especially that I know my dependence on Him most of all and am most receptive to His words. As a student, it can be easy to feel inadequate when things don't go the way you meant them to or you're (often) unable to do something without someone's help, but knowing Jesus is in control of my learning, and deciding to trust Him one circumstance at a time, brings great comfort.

**Do you have a particular Bible verse or song that God is using to speak to you at the moment?** "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Phil 4:4-8)

**How can we pray for you and others in your particular area of dentistry?** That I (and other Christian dental students) would be a positive witness for Christ to those around us who do not know Him. That we would continue to point each other towards Him and grow in Christ-likeness in all we do.

# CDF: Our Calling and Purpose

**Following on from my President's Address, featured earlier in this edition of Three-in-One, I would like to ask, "What is the calling and purpose of CDF? What is our own calling?" I've heard it said that our calling is where our passion and God's need or purposes meet. So whether inside or outside of the field of dentistry, what are you passionate about? Where is there a need or godly purpose, or put another way, where is God already stirring or working, where the labourers are few, that matches your passion? Is God calling you to partner and join with Him in the places where you spend your time now or in pastures new, in a new season of life?**

What is the purpose or calling of CDF?

The Christian Dental Fellowship is an interdenominational association of Christians working in dentistry. We seek to provide an active Christian influence in the dental profession by:

- Uniting and equipping Christian dentists to live out their Christian faith in life and work
- Encouraging and supporting dental students and dental care professionals in their training and those who have recently qualified
- Offering practical and spiritual support to our Mission Partners throughout the world, helping to meet specific needs

So with this purpose in mind, how can we the CDF membership support and encourage one another, whether retired, semi-retired, working or a student? This applies whether you are a DCP or dentist. How can we help you to continue to:

- Grow personally in your faith in life and work
- Help others in and outside of the fellowship to do the same
- Pass on your experience and faithfulness to others
- Give back, and continue, the legacy of 70 years of CDF

Whatever your own circumstances, whether at the start, in the middle, end or beyond your career, as CDF we want to continue to support and encourage you. So how can we, the current members, be good stewards of the CDF legacy, sow seeds for the future, encourage the younger generations of DCPs and dentists, and continue the legacy of CDF for another 70 years and beyond? As dentists and DCPs we are a multi-talented bunch, and the many skills honed in our years in dentistry are transferable in new and different settings. So is now a time to use those soft skills, IT, speaking or listening skills, as an opportunity to give back to dentistry and CDF? CDF would love to hear from you, and in particular your thoughts on three questions. However, let me first give you some background. Here you will see a graph showing the demographic of CDF by age, and below that the distribution of the membership by category.

At the moment 21% of the membership are retired, numbering 61 members. In another five years time we suspect that the 58.8-68 year-old cohort will have retired too, and in ten years or more the majority of the 49.6-58.8 year-old cohort will have also retired. The most common

age of our membership is 67 and the average age is 57 years. Student and graduate membership numbers are 17 (6%) and DCPs 7 (2%). Average life expectancy in the UK is approximately 79 years for men and 83 years for women. So perhaps we might expect another 20+ years of retirement. So the questions we would like your feedback on are:

1. Where do you see CDF now?
2. Where would you like to see CDF in five or ten years time?
3. And how do we get there?

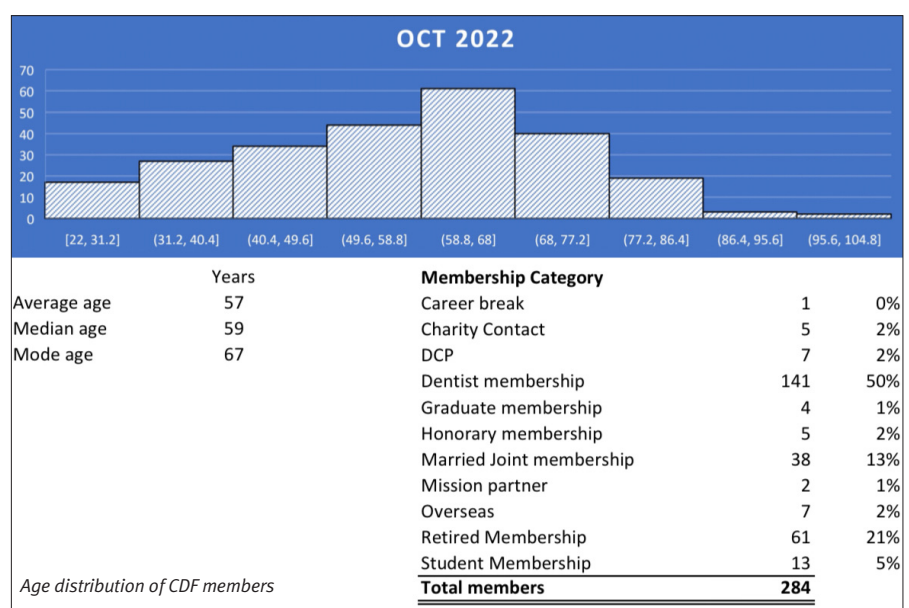
Answers on a postcard, or preferably in an email!

CDF Council needs and wants to hear from

- you the fellowship
- from those Christian colleagues that are not part of our membership
- students and DCPs

as to how CDF can help and support you, and if you feel you can contribute to the work of CDF.

Therefore going forward we will be holding Zoom meetings for DCPs and newcomers to CDF. We have recently held a student Zoom meeting. For those in practice, dental hospitals, community and





overseas and any other field, we see the stresses and challenges of dentistry today and so we will continue our support and will strive to help equip you in this vital work. Let us know how best we can do this. Many in the profession don't know of or about us and so we see the need to have a voice, or at least an expression, as CDF within the field of dentistry; not necessarily for political comment but still to speak up for injustices, to lead with and show an example of mercy, and to do all of this as we walk humbly with our God. We will also be further fostering closer relationships with other Christian organisations as part of our outreach and home mission.

There are opportunities for everyone to:

1. Be a mentor and or speaker, talking of our faith and work to younger Christian

colleagues and students via the regional groups and other settings

2. Help set and mark exams for the Liberian Dental Therapist School
3. Be a Zoom panel member for one of our student, newcomer or DCP meetings
4. Be part of our pastoral or prayer team
5. Be a CDF regional representative in your area
6. Help the CDF Vision and Development group with publicity and articles

Please get in touch if you would like to know more - [president@cdf-uk.org](mailto:president@cdf-uk.org)

Your servant in Christ,

**Karen Paterson**  
CDF President

## Introducing Our New Council Member: Margaret Reynolds, CDF Pastoral Care Coordinator



**I was born to Christian parents and became a Christian at a very early age, even before I went to school in Worsley, a**

**suburb of Manchester, where I was brought up along with my younger sister. We used to enjoy beach missions in Llandudno where we went for family holidays.**

I initially wanted to do medicine as a career but ended up studying dentistry at the London Hospital. It was a big step to go to London, but I was conscious that the Lord was in it all and He guarded me and kept me all the time I was a student. One of the texts in the Bible which meant a lot to me at that time was Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths..."

God did direct my paths and after I qualified in 1975 I got a job with a

Christian dentist in North East London. It was through living in a flat which he managed to find for me that I met the sister of my future husband (Trevor), who was a friend of my flatmate. At that time Trevor was considering God's call to leave his job as a lawyer to train for Christian ministry. When this was confirmed by our local church, Trevor went to Trinity College Bristol to train for the ministry and we got married one year later.

We can really testify to the Lord's goodness and guidance all through our marriage and ministry. My dental jobs have worked in well with Trevor's pastoral work; firstly in Bristol, where I worked in the Community Dental Services, and later, when Trevor became Assistant Minister at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Swansea, where I answered an advert for a job in general dental practice only to find it was with a Christian dentist. We next moved to Hereford for Trevor to minister at Putson Baptist Church, and my work in the Community Dental Service gave us a lot of local contacts.

During our 17 years in Hereford we had the opportunity to visit South Africa and Mozambique a few times where I was

able to teach Dental Health Education whilst Trevor taught some theological students. In 2002 we moved back to Swansea for Trevor to study for a PhD and to be near my elderly parents (who had moved to Swansea, along with my sister). The Lord graciously gave me a local job in general dental practice in Llanelli which I had seen advertised in a dental journal.

In 2007 I retired from dentistry, Trevor completed his PhD and became Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Swansea and also did some theological teaching. We then continued to look after my parents until their homecall. Trevor retired from the Pastorate in 2015 and we joined Bethany Baptist Church near Mumbles, however we also enjoy taking services in various churches. I also like to cycle, swim in our local pool and attend Italian classes, as I have always been interested in languages.

Since the CDF prayer meetings started on Zoom I have enjoyed feeling more involved with CDF. I felt very diffident when asked to take on the Pastoral Care Coordinator role, but I am trusting the Lord to equip me for this new task.

# Update from Dentaid

**As the cost of living crisis takes its toll, dental charity Dentaid is seeing more demand for its UK clinics than ever before. The charity has grown rapidly in the last year and by the end of 2022 will have six mobile dental units working across the UK from Exeter to Norwich and the Isle of Wight to the Isle of Skye.**



Dentaid's volunteer dental professionals provide a wide range of dental treatments, screening and oral health advice. Some patients require emergency pain-relieving dental care while for others it's a long-awaited chance to see the dentist, talk about their oral health and hopefully build up confidence both in their appearance and the dental profession.

In recent months Dentaid has started new projects for families living in poverty and children in areas of social deprivation. Every fortnight the charity's mobile dental unit visits Hastings to help struggling families to access emergency dental treatments and oral health programmes. This includes Ukrainian refugee families who fled the war. The charity also ran clinics at Trinity Academy Grammar in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, where many children were missing classes due to dental pain. Dentaid volunteers screened every child in the school and provided treatment for those who were suffering toothache but could not access dental care.

Other groups Dentaid supports face different practical or emotional barriers to accessing dental care. People experiencing homelessness without an NHS number, fixed address or phone number can find it difficult to make appointments, while others face challenges in keeping appointment times,

sitting in waiting rooms or engaging with traditional healthcare services. By taking mobile dental units to locations where our patients feel safe and comfortable, we are helping to break down these barriers. Nervous patients can have their support workers onboard with them and Dentaid volunteers focus on asking patients what they want rather than telling them what they need. Dentaid returns to each location on a regular basis and works to build up patients' trust and confidence. The results can be life-changing.

"I came here with a broken front tooth that made me feel really bad about myself. It had been damaged for eight months and was affecting my mental health and my self-confidence," said Sophie, a Dentaid patient from Broadstairs in Kent. "It made me feel really ugly and that people think I'm not taking care of myself. My self-confidence had gone and I couldn't smile at people without putting my hand over my mouth. It just looked like my front tooth was a broken peg. Today the dentist has built up my tooth at the front and now it looks like a proper tooth. It looks so nice. He needs a medal. It's not just my smile, it's that he took the time and the care. Before, I couldn't open my mouth and now I can smile. I'm so happy. I feel bubbly and smiley. I was homeless for a long time and staying in a hostel. Next week I've got an



interview at a restaurant and I'll feel confident that I can talk to the customers and smile at them. Dentaid has changed my life, it's brilliant!" Sophie was successful in her job interview.

Although clinics for people experiencing homelessness account for about three quarters of Dentaid's UK work, the charity is reaching a growing number of other hard-to-reach communities. They include refugees and asylum seekers, victims of domestic abuse, survivors of modern slavery and trafficking, fishing communities and military veterans. In September the charity visited new locations for asylum seekers being given safe haven near Gatwick Airport and people rescued from modern slavery in Bristol.

But the requests for new clinics keep coming in. Every month Dentaid is contacted by new organisations seeking help for their clients. Two new mobile dental units will help the charity to grow but Dentaid also needs more volunteer dental professionals. Some sign up for regular clinics while others donate their time when they can.



Despite the challenges of recent years, Dentaid's overseas work is going from strength to strength. Overseas trips to Uganda, Morocco, Cambodia and Malawi are back up and running and the charity has sent portable equipment and surgeries to Bosnia, Jamaica, Ghana, Uganda and Malawi. This work is also gathering pace as Dentaid rebuilds relationships with its overseas partners and expands its oral health programmes in poor and remote communities.

To find out more about Dentaid's work in the UK and overseas visit [www.dentaid.org](http://www.dentaid.org) or scan the QR code. For UK volunteering opportunities contact [ukclinics@dentaid.org](mailto:ukclinics@dentaid.org) or call 01794 324249.



# Liberia Dental Therapy School: Introducing Dr. Renju and Dr. Serin



**The Liberia Dental Therapy School, a project led by Simon and Grace Stretton-Downes and supported by CDF, opened in September this year. Hoping to join the teaching staff are Dr. Renju and Dr. Serin who have been accepted by SIM but need to raise funds before they can move to Liberia.**

Liberia has no dental training facilities, and the acute shortage of dental workforce poses a serious public health problem. Trinity Dental Clinic in the capital Monrovia is establishing a formal two-year dental therapist training course with the aim of graduating eight dental therapy practitioners by July 2024.

Renju M. Kunjumon and his wife Serin Sarah John are missionaries from India and have two children; Nathaniel (2.5 yrs) and Mathew (7 months). They will be moving to Liberia and will be working voluntarily to pursue this project which they are passionate about. Dr. Renju has completed his BDS from Christian Dental College, Ludhiana, India and went to



pursue an MDS in Oral Medicine and Radiology. He has worked in various mission hospitals in north India and also as a Faculty of Methodist University in Liberia. Currently he is working as an Oral Medicine Consultant for the Early Cancer Detection Centre and as an Assistant Professor in Oral Medicine and Radiology at Annoor Dental College, Kerala, India. Dr. Serin has completed an MDS in Orthodontics and Dento-Facial Orthopaedics and is working as a Consultant and Assistant Professor at Annoor Dental College, Kerala, India.

If you would like to give a one-off or regular donation to support Dr. Renju and his family, please go to [www.gcdfund.org/donate](http://www.gcdfund.org/donate) or scan the QR code.



*This article was reprinted from the Global Child Dental Fund website with their kind permission.*

## Introducing Our New Council Member: Simon Crewe, CDF Mission Partner Secretary



**I have lived in Plymouth most of my life. Liza and I have been married since 1981 and our three kids have left home; our two sons are selling wine in Reading, building websites and studying Hebrew in Falmouth, while our daughter is a church children's worker in Plymouth. The seventh grandchild should be here before Christmas.**

Having volunteered for several special projects and a few short-term dental team visits with Mercy Ships, I was at a community meeting when the CEO, Su-Jin Lee, suggested that the old *Anastasis* might be deployed as *Asia Mercy* when the *Africa Mercy* came on stream. "Ah," I pompously spouted, "God has definitely called me to West Africa, so I shall reluctantly transfer to the new ship, with carpets and air-con and no rust or cockroaches." I almost immediately fell out with the administration as I was leaving the ship and arrived home thinking, "Did I give up regular employment for nothing?". God grabbed me by the lapels and hurled me into Southeast Asia to do my day job in Thailand for quite a bit of 2005, and I found myself advertising Mercy Ships to my colleagues. My aim has been to persuade the agents of short-term

volunteering to support existing continuous projects and to embrace prevention and dental (and general) health education, rather than the much-loved "two week trip in isolation" model.

I spend my time, having given up clinical practice in 2002, working with Mercy Ships (until fairly recently), Operation Mobilisation, Dentaid and a few independent projects, funding this with forensic work, which is still identification of the un-presentable, but is increasingly dealing with bite-marks in assaults and homicides. Hobbies? I run a French car which is the same age as my wife, play a bit of music and do a bit of cooking.

It would have been clever to sum this up in Micah 6:8, "Seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God", but I never thought of it.

# Notes From The Editor



**My name is Naomi and I'm taking over from Tracey as the editor of the Three-in-One. For those of you who might not know me, I'll share something briefly about myself.**

I joined CDF as a first-year dental student at Sheffield back in 2002. A small group of students and staff met weekly to eat our packed lunches together, share a brief thought from the Bible and to pray with each other. It really helped to meet with others who could give me perspective and godly wisdom on stressful things like clinics and exams. During my time at university I also joined a few societies such as the Star Trek society, which was fun although slightly pointless and the Christian Union's International Cafe, which was probably a bit more worthwhile. I met lots of international students from many backgrounds and religions there, as well my future husband who hailed from exotic (to me, anyway) Yorkshire. It was the International Cafe that was instrumental in inspiring me to go overseas to be involved in church planting, and it was CDF and its Mission Partners that showed me that this was possible.

After a few years of clinical preparation in general dental practice, community dentistry and maxfac, my husband and I

moved to Asia in 2013 with a mission organisation focused on sharing the gospel with unreached people groups. We spent the next five years learning the local language and also exploring how dentistry and church planting could go together in this particular part of Asia where evangelism is illegal according to government laws. During this time we were also CDF Mission Partners and we will always be hugely grateful for the support that CDF and its members gave us during this time, both financially and also in praying and supporting us pastorally.

Our move to Asia also coincided with finding out we couldn't have children. Having previously had no experience of mental health issues (and perhaps feeling superior because of it), I started experiencing infertility-related depression and anxiety attacks. Happily, most of our teammates were American and had no cultural inhibitions in sharing freely about their own experiences with mental health. I respected my teammates a lot and it really helped to be able to talk about these things openly. There was also provision and encouragement to see a Christian counsellor, which I did, and that helped a lot too.

Whilst in Asia we started the in-country adoption process which was fraught with difficulties due to the government's increasing restrictions on foreigners. We had no choice but to rely on God's faithfulness even though at times it seemed impossible. By God's grace our 22-month-old son joined our family just days before we were forced to leave the country suddenly due to a wave of government arrests on foreigners.

Returning to England so abruptly, with the loss of our friends, a way of life and the future we had planned for, was quite hard, but God continued to be faithful and gave us everything we needed, including new plans and a hope for the future. Our son thrived and continues to thrive. We

stayed with our mission organisation and are now part of a team involved in outreach to unreached people groups in our city and also central Asia.

Recently I felt that the time was right to return to clinical dentistry. I was quite scared and underconfident initially, having not picked up a handpiece in nearly nine years, but I got in touch with the CDF pastoral support scheme and the then-Pastoral Care Coordinator Karen Paterson was really helpful in chatting through things with me and also praying with me. I'm now working one day a week in an urgent dental care clinic. Around the same time I also saw Tracey's advert in the Three-in-One about handing over the role of editor. I've always loved words and creative writing, and after praying about it I decided to get in touch.

Tracey has faithfully and enthusiastically edited the Three-in-One for many years, and personally the magazine really helped me to feel part of CDF when we were far away in Asia. We are all hugely thankful for the time and effort Tracey has given in serving CDF in this way. I'm excited (and a little bit daunted) to be taking over from her, and I welcome any suggestions or ideas you might have for the future of the magazine. I would love the Three-in-One to continue to be a resource where people feel encouraged, inspired and challenged as Christians in the field of dentistry, so if you would like to write an article, or if you come across an article that you feel might be relevant, please get in touch: [editor@cdf-uk.org](mailto:editor@cdf-uk.org)

## CDF Treasurer Vacancy

Is this something you could do? Maureen Richards ([treasurer@cdf-uk.org](mailto:treasurer@cdf-uk.org)) and Karen Silcox ([cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org](mailto:cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org)) are happy to chat and answer questions about the role.

**Deadline for the next issue of Three-in-One is 1st January 2023. Please send contributions to Naomi Wilson: [editor@cdf-uk.org](mailto:editor@cdf-uk.org)**

**Email: [cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org](mailto:cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org) Website: [www.cdf-uk.org](http://www.cdf-uk.org)**

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