

## Wanting Guidance



*Arenal Volcano shrouded in clouds*

**Decisions are hard, even life-changing. We often find ourselves wanting guidance. Life can be a series of crossroads with different turnings, perhaps not even sure if we need to turn around and go in a different direction. Should you be stopping doing something, saying yes to persevering or doing something new? Or are you just plain confused?**

Fear not, you are in good company. We all need guidance, whether in our personal lives and choices, or in corporate decisions, for example in our family, career or CDF; for not everything is as simple as black and white. There is a lot of grey cloud or fogginess that often obscures our view, sometimes of the present but also of the things ahead and things unseen.

So what can help us navigate in the fog and cloud of uncertainty? Psalm 43:3-4 helps us: "Give me your lantern and compass, give me a map. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you live O God." (Msg). A lantern or lamp for my feet and a light for my path would be so beneficial and helpful as we each seek the right path ahead. What is the lantern, compass and map that the psalmist is talking about? Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path". And so indeed, we have these at our disposal in the word of God. Our compass is Jesus, the

cornerstone, the one who is our example and guide, the one we are to imitate: "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." (Acts 4:11). A map would be great too, and in this modern era a sat nav, telling us which turn to take, what roads to follow, and even when we have taken a wrong turn giving us an alternative route when there is a dead end.

We trust our sat navs (well, most of the time!) but how good are we at trusting and



*Arenal Volcano on a clear day*

following Proverbs 3:6: "In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight"? Perhaps then, God-willing, the cloud and fog will clear and reveal the path ahead; the destination, the place where we can stand in God's presence, his dwelling place. Here in his presence we see more clearly, for we see

with God's eyes and from God's perspective. But even with a sat nav we need to still set our destination. Where do I want to get to? "To your holy mountain, to the place where you live O God" (Ps 43:4).

Mike and I have just returned from Costa Rica and visited some amazing places. This was our view from one of our locations: Arenal Volcano.

I realised that it looked pretty much like how I imagine the garden of Eden would have looked like, and it reminded me of how before the Fall Adam and Eve walked around the garden chatting with their Heavenly Father. There was no shame or fear or pride, no barriers, nothing that separated them from their Father - in other words, no sin. This was a place where they could come and have a chat with their Abba Father and ask his opinion and seek his advice and guidance. For us to be in his presence then, surely we would know what road to

take or decisions to make. Whatever decisions there are to be made in my role as President of CDF, I hope to be making them from this location: the presence and dwelling place of God my Father.

**Karen Paterson**  
CDF President

# CDF Monthly Zoom Prayer Meeting

**At 10am on the first Saturday of every month, CDF meets for fellowship and prayer via Zoom. Near or far, members and friends join together, interceding for God's work around the globe, from Shetland to Somerset, Liberia to London, Nepal to Norwich; a worldwide web of fellowship.**

Usually the meeting begins with a call to prayer and short devotion followed by news from members; perhaps Simon and Grace sharing an update and prayer requests for Liberia Dental Therapy School, or Lynne and Keith Smith sharing the work God has called them to in West Africa, or, closer to home, UK members sharing experiences. Next, it has become our habit to divide into smaller groups via breakout rooms to continue sharing and praying together.

But how did all this come about? Back in March 2020, as a nation, we had been

told to stay indoors, national dental meetings had been cancelled, and then the temporary suspension of all routine dentistry was announced on 25th March. What should we do next? How should CDF respond? Quickly, after many emails and phone calls, Saturday 28th of March 2020 became the first online CDF prayer meeting as we responded, somewhat bewilderedly, to the rapid spread of a virus known as SARS-CoV-2. Little did those of us who met on the 28th realise what was coming in the shape of the Covid-19 pandemic and its long-term consequences.

In January 2020 CDF Council had been given the scripture, "May the favour of our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:17). Roll forward three years and God has established a new work for our hands. We are back to

our practices, our lives are relatively normal and God continues to work powerfully. And we are still praying together as a Fellowship. By drawing together month by month, seeking strength and fellowship, we ready ourselves to be sent out to "establish the work of our hands."

As the prayer meeting draws to a close, just before 11am, we rejoin the 'main room' with our microphones switched on ready to share the Lord's Prayer together in a glorious cacophony of voices. Blessings from lockdown...yes, blessings from lockdown.

To finish, I invite you to come along and join us by Zoom for our next prayer meeting on Saturday 3rd of June 2023 at 10am.

**Susie Matthew**  
Prayer diary coordinator

## Update from Glory Tumwebaze in Uganda



**Glory is no stranger to these pages. As a school leaver after O-levels in 2005, she applied and was accepted as a dental**

**nurse at Rugarama Hospital, Kabale, in the south west of Uganda. She quickly picked up the skills of dental assisting, taking on hygienist work and oral health education in schools, and became quite adept at doing simple ART.**

She asked about training as a dental therapist, but her O-level qualifications were not high enough. Not to be daunted, she returned to school in her own time while still working in the clinic, improving her O-level grades on retake. Still being refused entry to the dental training at Mulago, Kampala, she enrolled on a three year nurse training course at Mbarara, 100 kilometres from home. On successful

completion she immediately applied and was accepted on the Public Health Dental Officer (PHDO) three-year training programme, and CDF agreed to sponsor her training fees. Meanwhile, she married Ambrose, also a CDF-sponsored PHDO whom she has worked alongside at Rugarama during her time there. They now have two children. Glory has now been in charge of the dental work at Rugarama Dental Clinic since qualifying as a PHDO in 2016.



*Early days working as a dental nurse at Rugarama*

Glory is now at Makerere University Dental School in Kampala, 450 kilometres



*Studying Dental Laboratory Technology*

from Kabale, on a six semester BSc course studying Dental Laboratory Technology so that she can offer more diverse services at Rugarama Hospital and to the local community in Kabale. In between semesters, Glory returns home to her family and works in the dental clinic to pay for university fees. Rugarama are very supportive and pay her a retainer allowance. CDF has again agreed to a donation towards her fees for which Glory is most grateful. Please keep Glory and her family in your prayers.

**Chris Barton**

# Snapshots

**CDF member Bridget Ashton (aka Prideaux) kindly agreed to be interviewed for this edition.**

**What is your job?** I supervise first year BDS and DTH students in the Simulated Dental Learning Environment (SDLE) at Peninsula Dental School in Plymouth.

**What does your surgery window look out on?** SDLE looks out onto various university buildings and green areas in central Plymouth. Directly next to us is the nurse training building which was recently used as a setting for the TV drama Beyond Paradise, purporting to be the local hospital. We all feel we have been close to stardom!

**What are some of the things you enjoy about your work, and what are some of the challenges?** I enjoy being able to work within an area in which I'm very familiar, but also to have the opportunity to learn new techniques along with the students. Without a doubt I work with a group who are both expert in their work with students and fun and caring of one another. We are all 'part-timers', and when the inevitable illness strikes there is rarely a time when we don't manage to cover so that our students don't miss out on valuable teaching time. The challenge can be when a student seems to lack motivation or the physical ability to perform the necessary practical tasks. Try explaining to a student that holding their instruments using a 'modified pen grip' is possible when they rarely do any handwriting (it's all keyboard work!)....and it can be so hard to see a young person potentially entering a fairly stressful occupation when they don't appear to be truly suited to it, either emotionally or physically.

**How does your Christian faith impact your work day-to-day?** It can be really challenging to watch a student struggling to understand why they can't perform tasks as quickly as I can (until I point out that I have been doing the job since before their mother was born!). I often think "What would Jesus do or say?" (carpentry and dentistry do have many similarities after all!). So often a word of encouragement, no matter how frustrating

the session is, will make a difference that we can't measure, and I believe this is just what Jesus would do. The smiling student who bounds up and says "Bridget....thank you SO much for talking me through that technique last week....I finally got it after what you told me and I passed the assessment!!" makes it all so worthwhile - and so often I can't remember what was said at all (but of course I don't admit it!). Jesus would, of course, always have looked after those with troubles, and in today's pressurised profession this is ever more important.

**Do you have a particular Bible verse or song that God has been using to speak to you recently?** "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (1 Pet 5:7)

**How can we pray for you and others in your particular area of dentistry?** We need prayer to be resilient and wise and have energy to perform our work enthusiastically and be truly positive examples of our profession. We are nurturing the professionals of the future – we must never lose sight of that.

**DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE WORLD OF DENTISTRY TRANSFORMED FOR CHRIST?**

**CDF IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT SELF EMPLOYED HOME MISSION WORKER/S**

**Can you**

- Encourage CDF members to live for Christ in their context.
- Develop ideas to encourage member & student engagement and grow the membership.
- Communicate key messages in an engaging way across a variety of media types.
- Travel in the UK to encourage members particularly students.
- Organise meetings and events both in person and online.

**THE WORKER/S NEED TO HAVE DENTAL EXPERIENCE AND AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH**

**INTERESTED? THEN PLEASE EMAIL CDFADMIN@CDF-UK.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS**

CHRISTIAN DENTAL FELLOWSHIP  [WWW.CDF-UK.ORG](http://WWW.CDF-UK.ORG)

# CDF Conference 2023

## God's Kingdom: Living, Serving, Loving



The Hayes Conference Centre

**Our family conference this year is in Derbyshire at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, from the Friday 13th to Sunday 15th of October. We hope to see many of you there, especially if you are new to conference.**



Pete Saner

Our Bible speaker, Pete Saner, qualified from Newcastle Dental School in 1987 and manages to mix working as a dentist with being part of the leadership team at Redeemer Church in Worthing. Pete worked for almost 25 years in the NHS Salaried Services before buying a private dental practice in 2011. He now owns two dental practices operating seven surgeries with almost 40 staff. Throughout that time he has also served and worked as a leader in the local church teaching theology and currently leading the older youth work. He is married to Kath and they have four grown-up children and a growing number of grandchildren. He has a masters in Dental Public Health and a diploma in Biblical Studies. The topic he will be speaking on is very close to his heart: 'The Kingdom of

God in the business of dentistry'. I'll let Pete explain more in his own words:

"Sometimes as busy professionals we find ourselves torn between the demands of church life and the call we have to dental practice. If the church is the family, the kingdom of God is the family business. We are called to be involved in seeing the rule and reign of God infiltrate and permeate every aspect of society and culture throughout the world. Church should be the resource base for that work that we do with our patients, our nurses, practice managers, technicians, associates, hygienists and the guy that delivers the supplies. God is as much at work on a Monday morning as he was on Sunday."

Over the course of the conference Pete will be looking at the Biblical basis for the mission of God in everything we do. This, I'm sure, will be helpful for both those working in dentistry and those serving in other spheres such as the work place, the church, home; in fact, anywhere we can be salt and light to those around.

Our clinical speaker needs no introduction to many regular conference attendees, and has served on CDF council as Mission Secretary, President and now provides us with words of wisdom as our Vice President - none other than Martyn



Martyn Green

Green. What I didn't know is that he and Sue went to the same successful dating agency as Neil and Jane McDonald and also met in Kenya. Martyn's

career in general practice includes being a practice owner, trainer and associate postgraduate dental dean in the South West region. He currently has various prestigious roles including being on the Appointments Committee and the Fitness To Practice Chair at the General Dental Council. His talk 'Fit to Serve' will demystify the GDC hearing process from referral to sanction, and will hopefully help us keep on the straight and narrow and avoid being on the wrong side of the hearing process!

For those not, or no longer, concerned about the GDC, our non-clinical session will be led by Susie Matthew exploring being 'Repurposed for God's Kingdom' - suitable for those in retirement as well as other walks of life. This will be interactive with a chance to discuss and share ideas and encourage one another. Back by popular demand is the face-to-face AGM. The tech team are threatening to make this also available via Zoom so anything could happen for this CDF first hybrid event. Throughout the weekend we will also hear from our Mission Partners and linked charities and have time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. This promises to be a great weekend of fellowship and fun with Bible teaching and a bit of dentistry thrown in for good measure. There will also be a separate children's programme with our popular youth worker Emma so all the family can come. Booking now available online via the website (scan the adjacent QR code) - don't miss out - book early to secure your place.

**Victoria Graham**  
Conference Secretary  
confsec@cdf-uk.org



# Regional Meetings

## Northern Ireland Regional Group

As a member of the NI Christian Medical Fellowship Committee for over ten years, this last year has been a great encouragement, not only becoming a Catalyst Team (CMF vision for regional groups), but especially as our medical student representative is for the first time ever, a fourth-year dental student! Victoria Hunter joined last year through her role on the CMF Student Committee at Queen's University, Belfast, and Catalyst sub-team meetings have been a joy to discuss possibilities and opportunities, particularly starting up a fellowship group in the dental school.

Victoria writes,

*"At the School of Dentistry in Belfast, the students decided we would like an opportunity to get to know and have fellowship with other Christian dental students studying alongside us. We decided to begin meeting on Wednesday morning every week in the local library for a prayer meeting. We meet for about 30 minutes, discuss our past week and days ahead and then pray for each other. This has been a great time to encourage and understand how we are all finding the course and how we can each bring our faith into the workplace. We hope our group will continue and will start to grow, with the possibility of joining together with Christian teaching staff at the university."*

Throughout the year, our NI Catalyst team organises events open to all healthcare workers, including for the first time, a 'Carol Service for Healthcare Providers and Friends' which was held on 8th December at St Nicholas' Church in the university area of Belfast. Over 80 doctors, nurses, students and other allied professionals gathered, some of whom formed an orchestra and praise group, and Rev. Thomas Murray spoke on 'Easter follows Christmas.'

We were blessed by the visit of Mark Pickering (CMF CEO) on 24th October for the 'Serving not Sinking in Leadership' evening at Vic-Ryn Conference Centre in

Lisburn and we recently held a breakfast meeting in the same venue on 18th February when Dr. Alice Quinn shared about her time living and working in rural Zambia. Other meetings have taken place over Zoom, including 'Burnout and Dealing with Stress' when consultant psychiatrist and Biblical counselling course tutor Dr. Andrew Collins led us in a meditation on Psalm 131, followed by prayer breakout groups.

In September and October, three dentists responded to an NI CDF email and joined two teams of doctors and nurses from NI to travel to Lebanon where they worked with LSESD (Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development). They carried out hundreds of extractions and simple fillings and patients also received care packs of hygiene products and Bibles and keenly responded to offers for prayer.

**Helen Douglas**

## Thames Valley Regional Group Gathering

Three of us met in January 2023 at the Millets Farm cafe in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. We chatted about things happening in our life, dentistry, the next CDF conference and plans to meet up for a social at one of our homes for a BBQ when the weather gets favourable. It was a good catch-up time in a wonderful cafe-cum-farm shop. If you'd like to join us next time, please get in touch via [cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org](mailto:cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org)

**Elenza Jacobs**

## New Zoom Group for Mums

At CDF we are trying a new enterprise of linking members with others in the same stage of life through Zoom. We have already been having Zoom sessions with students and those newly qualified, and last month we met to discuss the trials and joys of being dental mums. It was lovely to see people I hadn't seen in a while and others who I've seen recently at conference. We had a range of children's ages, from preschool to teenagers, and

locations from Scotland to the South East. It allowed us to meet up without the long journeys and I hope that over time we are able to build up relationships and each other in our busy lives. You are very welcome whether you're in active dental work or not at the moment. The plan ideally would be to meet monthly, probably on rotating nights to allow as many people as possible to join when they can. There is no obligation to come every month or indeed to the whole session – that's the beauty of Zoom. If you'd like more information or to be included on the Zoom invite, please get in touch via our administrator Karen at [cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org](mailto:cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org).

**Cathy Fordyce**

## CDF Prayer Meetings

Here are some forthcoming dates for opportunities to join us for prayer for the profession and healthcare in general.

**(No meeting on Saturday 6th May)**

**Saturday 13th May 10am** Talk from Dr. Peter Saunders (ICMDA) on "How to grow national organisations and share Jesus" with time for discussion and prayer afterwards

**Friday 19th May 12-1pm** Prayer for Health and Social Care (part of Thy Kingdom Come 2023 eleven days of global prayer) led by Karen Paterson.

(Zoom meeting ID: 841 7480 8931 passcode 788920 or scan the QR code to access the meeting)



**Saturday 3rd June 10am**

**Saturday 1st July 10am**

Zoom details for the Saturday morning prayer will come out on email in the days before the meeting. If you need more information please contact Karen Silcox the CDF administrator at [cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org](mailto:cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org)

# Testimonies



Cobo Bay, Guernsey

**A new feature where CDF members share how they have witnessed God at work in their professional lives. In this edition, Henry Fardell talks about his sabbatical in Guernsey in 1978 (abridged due to space constraints).**

With a successful dental business, I had decided the pace of work was such that I needed to get away to think backwards and forwards and to present to God my future decisions; many people seem to become so involved in their business that they never take time to consider their progress especially from a spiritual viewpoint. Judith my gracious wife had agreed to my taking a few days to be apart, despite the burden of leaving her at home looking after our family of two young boys.

Having lived in Guernsey for a time as a child, I thought, prayed, and decided that I could spend the week before Easter 'incognito' in a hotel at Cobo Bay near where I had grown up. When I arrived at the airport the taxi driver told me that the very hotel I had booked into had been the victim of a severe oil spillage from a capsized oil tanker, the *Amoco Cadiz*, during a gale. Fire engines had been trying to clean up the building during the day. However, having prayed over the situation I believed that God would be in charge. Arriving at the hotel I found the oil spillage was not as bad as had been expressed, and that the hotel itself was empty apart from one other couple.

On the first morning I prayed and asked God to confirm my day and guide the pathway of my decisions during the day. I wandered across the nearby Cobo bay; the drizzle-rain and mist made it a desolate walk. The bay was empty but, in the distance, there were two other people who wandered in my direction. Even though the bay was wide this middle-aged couple made a distinct beeline for me and then, when near, they asked what I was doing there. I did not want to talk but I could hardly ignore their question. From previous experience I felt I should go along with the situation, for the sake of Christ in case He had another plan within the coincidence. I briefly said I was a dentist and wanted to give time out from my business for God to speak to me. I was short in my response. I did not want to talk!

"Funny you should mention about God," the lady said. "This is my husband who is a Professor in a Scottish University. He is losing his eyesight, and we are Roman Catholics. I have been saying that he should ask God for healing, and my husband disagrees. We have just had an argument about this in the car and needed to get out of the car and have a walk to cool off. What do you think?"

I suggested that it was clear from scripture that Jesus had a double 'prong' to his message; salvation and the associated evidence of his authenticity through healings.

The couple insisted on offering me a lift despite my protest that I was not going anywhere in particular. We had an open time of prayer together in their car committing their situation to God, then they drove me on to a different bay further down the coast. The couple said that they were thrilled to have met me and to have had the opportunity to pray together. I may never know what the result of that encounter was; it is all in God's capable hands.

I walked on, praying and talking to God as I walked. At one point I neared a chapel dedicated to St. Apolline, who according to legend is the patron saint of tooth sufferers (some say the patron saint of dentists). Even though the saints are not my 'scene', I wanted to see the chapel for myself. I detoured inland and viewed the chapel for a few minutes.

Back out to the coast, I continued on. I passed the last bus stop, somehow knowing there was 'more coming to the day than what had happened so far'. The sun was setting, and I was miles away from my hotel. I stood at the sea wall, looking towards the lighthouse and over into the sunset. I spoke out loud into the evening air and said "Lord, I really think there is someone you want me to talk to but there is no one out here." I had hardly seen a soul all day apart from the first couple. I knew that I was on my own and it was getting dark. Then, round a bend a man appeared from behind a large mound on the hill path. He was wearing hiking boots and carried a rucksack.

"Do you know where there is a bus?" he enquired. I said it was about a mile back down the coast path, and I asked if I could walk with him, as I felt that this was the person I was to speak to. I prayed for God to give me the right words. As I prayed and we walked in silence into the evening twilight together, I felt prompted that I should tell him, "I have just been to see Saint Apolline!" (I did not consider this to be my best opening gambit for evangelism or contact. Apart from which, I knew precious little about saints, and the conversation was destined, in my mind, for immediate and certain failure).

"Oh, I know Saint Apolline very well!" said the stranger. I thought, and took a shot in the conversation. "Are you a dentist?" I asked. "Yes!" he replied. "So am I!" I said.

He did not want to seem to want to talk further so we walked on in silence. We approached the bus stop, and remarkably, despite the time of night, there was a bus waiting to leave. Peter, as I now know him, paid his fare in silence; I followed and paid the same fare not knowing what next. The bus headed towards St. Peter Port, the other side of the island to my hotel.

We sat in adjacent seats. I was nearest to the window, and I prayed hard; "Please Lord, help me to get the next bit right." I then had the 'impulse' to ask something I have never asked before to any stranger; "Are you afraid of dying?" "No!" Peter said emphatically. I said, "Why not?" He related that he had fought in the war and seen death and could face it. I looked out of the window of the single decker bus and thought, "Oh dear, I got that wrong; what a shame!" Five quiet minutes went by. Suddenly Peter said, "How did you know I was afraid of dying?" He went on to explain that he was a dentist working in Humberside. He had three close friends; two were dentists and one was a technician. One of the dentists and the technician had recently died and he had attended their funerals in the last month. The other dentist was in hospital, having just had a heart attack. Peter knew that 'he, Peter, was next!' There was no one else left. He had had to get away to Guernsey to stay with his sister to have some time out.

The bus approached St. Peter Port, and Peter insisted despite my protests that his sister would take me to my hotel across the other side of the island. His sister willingly picked us up, and whilst in the car I asked her what she was doing on the island. She said that her husband was working with a bank. In the back of my mind, I remembered that a family, the Singletons\*, who had been my patients in Wimborne, had moved to Guernsey to the same bank. It turned out that the Singletons were her next-door neighbours and she urged me to meet them. She took us to her house and whilst Peter changed



St. Apolline's Chapel

his walking boots, I popped next door, and said "hello" to my ex-patients. Then we got back into his sister's car, and, accompanied now by Peter's wife Barbara, we drove to my hotel. As we chatted, I shared with them my earlier encounter with the Professor and his wife on the deserted bay.

When we arrived at my hotel, I went upstairs and changed my clothes and later went down into the restaurant bar where they were waiting for me. "What you have been telling us is incredible!" said Peter's wife, "but most remarkable is what you told us about the university professor from Scotland who was losing his sight". At this point my mind was beginning to twitch. What relevance had this story got with Peter and his wife? "What you do not know," said Barbara, "is that a second reason that Peter had to get away on this holiday was because he is losing his sight. As a dentist, this is obviously important." I was amazed at this further 'coincidence' and tried to encourage them in a belief in God, but this was not quite 'their scene'; they were not then Christian believers in an active sense. We continued to maintain our relationship for many years since, usually exchanging Christmas messages, and then ten years later I happened to meet them again in a chance meeting at my practice, where over lunch they confirmed this testimony by relating word for word our initial encounter on Guernsey. They are now involved in their local church fellowship.

One of the other coincidences of this sabbatical was that the only other guest in the hotel, a young man, Richard\*, and his partner, turned out to be a dentist too. We joined together for most meals, by their invitation; Richard felt that even though he was a strong disbeliever in God, the coincidence of this meeting at the Cobo Bay Hotel, for him, was too great to be 'dismissed'. He shared about his apparent material successes but also the disappointments in his failed marriages and the regrets of the children he had left behind in these relationships, and I was able to share something of my own life and faith with him.

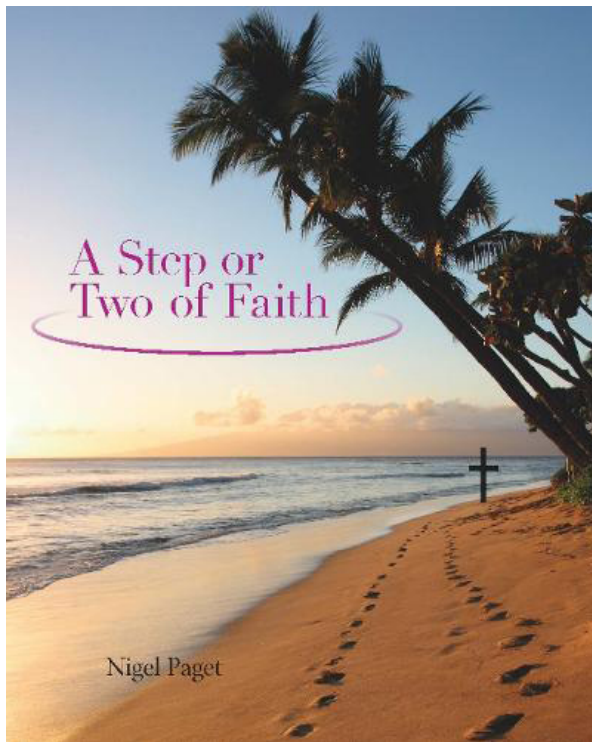
This story of my sabbatical is one of many which I wish to relate and share with people, to give glory to God and to Jesus. In my estimation this sabbatical experience indicates that there is a presence of God which can be almost tangible, and is related directly to spending heart-directed time in prayer and meditation and having faith in what God has then spoken to your spirit. Please judge and assess what has been said here in this story. I do believe that God's Spirit gives a special experience of His presence and a peace which He can introduce into our lives.

Please contact me via [cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org](mailto:cdfadmin@cdf-uk.org) if you'd like to chat more.

*\* names changed for confidentiality reasons*

# A Step Or Two Of Faith by Nigel Paget

## A Book Review



This autobiography is like an extended prayer letter giving the ups and downs of missionary life. Nigel and his wife Janet met when they were both enrolling as students at the Royal Dental Hospital in London. Nigel grew up in Wallington, South London, where his father ran a medical practice. He struggled at school but was in the school choir that sang at St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. He writes: "I did not hear the gospel or realise what all the singing was about!" In contrast to Nigel's non-Christian background, Janet was brought up in Brunei where her ancestors were fifth-generation Christians in China. She went to school in Brunei, learning to speak Malay English and Chinese. As a reluctant teenager her father took her to hear Dr. Joseph, a colleague of Billy Graham. When she heard the gospel challenge she was overwhelmed and described it as "a

watershed moment." She came to the UK to go to boarding school.

As dental students, their romance gradually grew over the next five years. They married in 1979, "entering into the next 40 year learning curve, adjusting to two cultures!" They set up a dental practice in Wallington. "I was happy for Jane to join a church but I couldn't understand what all the fuss was about," writes Nigel. This continued for ten years until a patient invited Nigel to go with him to hear Billy Graham at Crystal Palace. He went and was staggered to see 76,000 gathered there! The message was simple: "You

need Jesus; without Him you have nothing." Nigel went forward at the end to receive Christ. He joined a course for new Christians and was able to ask the 101 questions that had been troubling him for years.

Nigel and Jane have two children, James and Sophia. The couple were invited to lead a Pathfinders class in their church which rose from six to sixty! They moved to join a church in Banstead where the pastor was Paul Adams. In 2006, they heard about Mercy Ships and felt free to apply as volunteers, as the children had both left home to be medical students. They worked in Liberia and eventually sold their dental practice in Wallington. In Liberia there were big queues for dental treatment and work was continuous and tiring in the humidity. "The force of God was everywhere as we started and

finished each day with prayer and a Bible thought."

Further trips abroad were to Myanmar, Mongolia and the Philippines. The great feature was the caring dentistry and evangelism. "There was constant moment-by-moment looking to the Lord as the Holy Spirit guided us. Otherwise, we should have fallen into many pitfalls along the way."

The book ends with a challenge to volunteer for short or long-term service. "You may have many reservations like Moses at the burning bush but none are insurmountable."

**Alan Vogt**

## Save the Date!

This year's conference will be held at  
The Hayes Conference Centre,  
Swanwick, on 13th-15th October 2023

YES, MY SOUL, FIND REST IN GOD; MY HOPE COMES FROM HIM. TRULY HE IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION; HE IS MY FORTRESS, I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. MY SALVATION AND MY HONOUR DEPEND ON GOD; HE IS MY MIGHTY ROCK, MY REFUGE. TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES, YOU PEOPLE; POUR OUT YOUR HEARTS TO HIM, FOR GOD IS OUR REFUGE.  
PSALM 62:5-8

Deadline for the next issue of Three-in-One is 1st July 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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