

lobby those standing for election where they stand on key ethical issues. If enough Christians did this we could have a major impact.

Ten Ways of Getting Involved.

1) *Stand for Office.* Have you thought of standing for election yourself? From local branch positions to national committees, regional boards or as National Council members, all these committees and roles shape our professions, and in engaging with these positions you also help your own professional development.

Most unions offer members standing for office training and support. This is certainly true of the RCN, but in my experience ultimately it is knowing the Lord's direction that enables us to bear real fruit in these roles.

Holding office or sitting on a committee does require regular time commitment, both to attend meetings and to do the necessary preparation. Some of these positions give voting rights at Congress, so carry a weight of responsibility in helping shape your union's policies.

2) *Supporting others to stand for office:* Could you help others to stand for office by voting for them at branch meetings, and giving moral support to those taking their first steps? I am thankful for a Christian nurse who helped me by attending a branch meeting and speaking up for me to be able to run a fringe event at the RCN Congress. She did not have the time for permanent involvement herself, but being an advocate and a support for me made it possible for me to make a difference!

3) *Attend your local branch meetings:* It is always worth turning up to branch meetings whenever you can. Even if you don't want an elected position yourself, meeting those elected members who are speaking on your behalf you can at least give them 'member feedback' so that they know your opinions on local and national issues. A peek at the RCN, Unison or Royal College of Midwives websites will give you an idea of current hot topics and issues.

4) *AGMs:* As a member you can attend and ask questions at your union's Annual General Meeting, which helps you to know what is going on and pray knowledgeably for those in authority.

5) *Respond to union surveys, member consultations and opinion polls:* Write in or e-mail responses to questionnaires put out

by your union, so that they know the opinions, concerns and needs of ordinary members in key areas. Union websites and the midwifery or nursing press will be good barometers of current issues to which unions will be looking for member input. While the RCN regularly asks for member feedback, surprisingly few actually bother to respond. The Government will generally be interested in what unions have to say, regardless of whether they actually do follow union advice.

6) *Become an Accredited Activist:* For those in employment a certain amount of time can be provided as part of your employment conditions to serve as a Steward, Health and Safety Representative or Learning Representative. UK law gives legal protection to engage with these roles.

If you are passionate about fairness in the workplace you could find being a Steward second nature.

Learning Representatives don't need to be teachers, they can organise inspiring speakers at branch meetings, fringe meetings or in the workplace. They can enrich their own professional development and that of colleagues and have a liberating creative freedom which is amazing if they are prepared to use it wisely and put in some additional voluntary work.

Health and Safety Reps provide a vital service to all.

All of these positions require time effort and persistence, but the unions supply plenty of support and free training.

Healthcare assistants as well as registered Nursing and Midwifery staff can stand in these positions. Healthcare assistants and other non registered staff are likely to play a bigger role in the future. Encourage those who would be suitable to join and become active.

7) *Retired but still in Union membership?* Do you have the time to support or help run your local branch? Encouraging others may be your gift.

If you are well qualified and a gifted speaker offering your services for free occasionally to the Learning Representatives could be inspirational.

8) *Join one of the many specialist forums within the RCN* and contribute to improved patient care learning, or learn from what other experts are doing, you can join three for free in the RCN. There are various committee opportunities.

9) *Attend your union's National Congress:* if you are an RCN member, why not consider attending some or all of the RCN annual Congress next year in Harrogate? This is where the 'voting members' make decisions that shape the College's policies and priorities in the coming year. See this year's debates on the RCN website to get an understanding – and you will also see how much attention the government and media are paying to the voice of nurses.

Admission to RCN Congress is free to members, and it is an amazing resource to help keep you updated professionally, as well as an excellent chance to find out what is happening at all levels within the profession and the NHS. All members are able to speak at Congress, so read up in advance on the debates and topics for discussion – you never know, you may get a chance to have your say in public! Above all else, being at Congress could be just the inspiration you need to get active.

Congress starts with a broadly Christian Act of Worship. It is for members of all faiths, or none, however I still find it inspiring. It would speak volumes if more Christians turned up for the Act of Worship on Sunday's start of Congress. We are also considering holding a fringe meeting for Christian nurses next year, so it would be great to see a significant turnout of Christian nurses there.

10) *Nominate people of excellence for awards or to become RCN fellows.* There are some worthy brilliant Christians already holding Fellowships but not nearly enough of them. It takes effort and a few people to make nominations but the results could be far reaching.

I have given examples based on the Royal College of Nursing as a trade union and a professional organisation, based largely on my own experience. The Royal College of Midwives or Unison members will have their own possibilities – all unions need willing Christians to take the opportunities to be a positive influence.

Is God calling you to do something at this time however big or small?

The author has asked to remain anonymous ■

Midwifery in Madagascar

Peter & Claire-Lise Judkins (with Keziah & Naomi), sent by Christ Church Balbam to work at the Good News Hospital in Madagascar, in partnership with SIM.

One year ago, I landed in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, with my family- Peter, my husband, Keziah (3) and Naomi (1). We did not know what was in store for us, but knew one hundred percent that we were following God's will.

As we look back, we see how quickly the last few months have gone and we are thankful to the Lord for his provision and guidance. We live in Mandritsara, a busy market town in northern Madagascar. It is the capital of the Mandritsara district. Around 90% of the population (over 200,000 people) live in surrounding villages, the vast majority earning a living by growing rice and rearing cattle. There are very few roads suitable for vehicles, and even these are impassable during part or most of the year.

After 6 months full-time language learning, we now work at the Good News Hospital (Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly). I work part-time mainly doing antenatal clinics (and on calls for emergencies) and Peter is a nurse in charge of the inpatient ward. The Good News Hospital is the only hospital with surgical facilities for an area the size of Kent, East and West Sussex, Surrey and Greater London combined. Without roads and cars, it can take a long time to get here. Some people are carried or driven by ox-carts for days, often reaching us in desperate situations. It is called the Good News Hospital, because its main aim is to bring the Good News about Jesus whilst caring for people's needs.

Every day, in both the outpatient and inpatient units, there is a short service for the staff and patients with a couple of songs and a Gospel talk. All the staff are Christians and provide spiritual care alongside



at home (alone, with a traditional birth attendant, or a private midwife), or delivering at the local hospital. However, they only do 40 deliveries a month so the vast majority of women deliver at home. If there are any complications, women are referred here as we are the only hospital with surgical facilities.

We are aiming to open a maternity unit to be able to follow up these referrals and have our own caseload. Of the referred women, some of them could end up having normal deliveries, while others at high risk could come straight to us and be closely monitored: an earlier intervention could save the life of the baby and the mother. To give you an idea, four weeks ago, a lady expecting her first baby, seven months pregnant came with various vague symptoms: generalised abdominal pain, feeling unwell, etc. We admitted her and later on that evening she fitted. After being stabilised, she underwent a caesarean section, knowing full well that the baby would probably not survive. However, God has been very merciful and protected both the life of the mother (she returned back to normal very quickly!) and the baby. He weighed 1Kg at birth, and now, four weeks later, he weighs 1.240 kg! It's amazing to see the little chap grow in a healthy way. All praise goes to God for this miracle!

We are currently hoping and praying to be able to open the maternity unit in September. At the time of writing this, we are only two midwives: Laure-Anne from France who arrived in February, and myself. We have just recruited five health care assistants to work with us in maternity. We will be starting their 3 months training on the 1st

June, so we are busy planning lessons at the moment! We are obviously desperate for more midwives, as with only two midwives here, it will mean being on call every other night and weekend. There is a huge need here for a place for safe delivery, where the women can feel at ease, know they are in safe hands, and hear about their Creator and Rescuer. If you know of any Christian midwife, with a good knowledge of French, and interested in serving for a few months to a few years, then please get them to contact: hvmmmandritsara@gmail.com. We would be delighted to hear from them!

What is the best thing about being here? Being able to share, in everything we do, our most fundamental belief that God has rescued us from death! We also enjoy living in such a beautiful country and being away from all the consumerism! It's been wonderful to see how quickly our girls have adapted (Keziah is three and Naomi is one.). No doubt they will be fluent in Malagasy before us and translating for us in a few years time!

And the hardest bit? Being away from family, friends and church family. It's hard starting from scratch and it takes time to form deep relationships. Mandritsara also has a water problem for half of the year, when the rainy season has stopped and the rivers have dried up. We are fortunate to live on the hospital grounds, so we benefit from water from a borehole, but it's hard on the local population who don't have that advantage and whose crops are affected.



What can you do?

1. Pray! For the work of the hospital, especially for the work of the maternity and for more midwives.
2. Consider prayerfully whether you or others could contribute time and skills to the work here. There are all kinds of needs (building/accountancy/admin. etc.) - not only medical!

If you wish to receive our prayer letters or have any enquiries about our work, please email us: pmjudkins@yahoo.fr.

SIM (Serving In Mission): www.sim.co.uk ■

healthy heart at work' and it will be held at Beeston Free Church, near Nottingham. Further details (including programme, speakers and booking information) in the next edition of CNM News (due out this autumn),

This autumn is the nurses retreat in Bristol, for nurses, midwives and health visitors who feel over stretched, over worked, under appreciated and wonder where and how they can find space and time for God. If that sounds even remotely like you, then do come and join us for three days of prayer, reflection, rest and fun – there is a brochure with this edition, details on the back cover, and an online booking service. But book soon – spaces are limited.

Finally, Annie, our intrepid student staff worker has been busy beetling around London and other parts of the country seeking and supporting student nurses. If you are a student or know students who might value making contact, do ring or email annie@cmf.org.uk or 07941 800637. We will have a report from Annie on her first year's work in the next edition of CNM News. ■

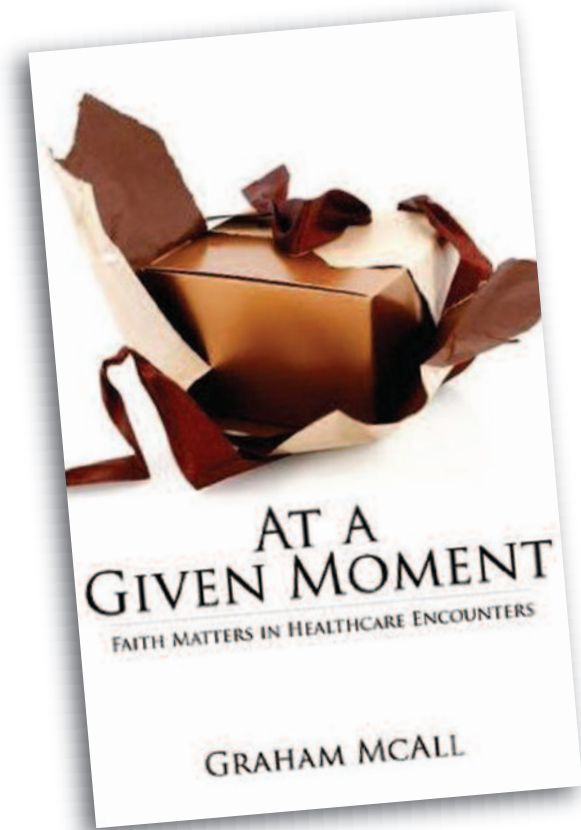
Editorial

Steve Fouch

Welcome to the latest edition of CNM News. By now you will have received (or are just about to receive) your first mailing of CMF's journal Triple Helix - if you haven't let us know). All of CNM's back office (membership administration, printing, publicity, website, etc) are now administered by CMF, and we are working (as we always have) in very close partnership, but remain separate organisations.

Times remain challenging. We had hoped to bring you details of next spring's conference in this edition – but various details have had to change so it will be the autumn edition which carries full details. Suffice to say, keep Saturday 10 March 2012 free in your diary. The conference title will be 'Heart of the matter': having a

Reviews



“At A Given Moment: faith matters in Healthcare Encounters”

by *Graham McAll*

CMF (2011), ISBN: 9780906747-41-4

McAll, a Sheffield GP and committed Christian, writes simply but powerfully from his own experiences about how we bring God into our encounters with our patients, gently, graciously and sensitively.

This is, of course a very contentious issue at the moment, with cases like Caroline Petrie (the bank nurse suspended for asking a patient if she could pray with her) and Margate GP Dr Richard Scott (censured by the GMC for talking about faith with a patient) still very fresh in people's minds.

The approach McAll takes is to look head on at the controversies, and at the evidence that spiritual and religious matters do have a relevance to our care of patients, and balance these in a practical manner. He draws on not only his own experiences, but interweaves short vignettes and case studies that illustrate his points beautifully.

Although written by a GP, this book is relevant to all Christians looking after patients in the health service, giving simple encouragement, inspiration and wisdom about ‘seizing the moment’ for God in each patient encounter with which we are involved.

“Resistance Fighter: God’s Heart for the Broken”

by *Susie Howe*

IVP (2011), ISBN 9781844745173

I hold my hands up and admit, from the start, that I know Susie well, have worked with her on several occasions and have nothing but the greatest admiration for her, so expect this review to be far from unbiased!

This is part autobiography and testimony, and part an exploration of one of the great global issues of our time and a call to arms for Christians everywhere.

The story outlines how Susie came to faith, and a consequence gave up the promise of a career in dancing to become a nurse. That opened the doorway for her to become involved in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS, first in London in the NHS, then alter through an international NGO she became aware of the global impact of HIV, and the need for Christians to engage practically and show God's love in the midst of the direst of circumstances.

When she and her husband went to work for a couple of years at a small Zimbabwean hospital, she came up against one of the most dreadful consequences of HIV – the children forced to live on their own or with elderly grandparents because they have lost their parents to AIDS related illnesses. There are millions of vulnerable and orphaned children like this, living in rural and urban areas, many with no home, no education, no care and no hope or future. And not just because of AIDS war, poverty, and many other factors play a part.

Since then, Susie set up an NGO that has gone round the world equipping, training, supporting and learning from local communities and churches seeking to help the vulnerable children in their communities.

Susie is a bit of a one-off – dynamic, energetic, full of God's love and as a result, a burning drive for compassion and justice. But when you read the stories of tragic young lives turned round by the care and compassion of God's people around the globe, you cannot but be inspired, and encouraged. To know that we serve a God and a gospel with the power to really transform lives is truly empowering – we may be limited but God is not!

This is a book to challenge complacency and give hope and inspiration.



NoticeBoard

Upcoming Events

Nurses Needed!

Soul Survivor is a national event for Christian youth attended by over 28,000 young people last year. To make our events happen, we need volunteers who are committed to serving young people and want to help teenagers and 20-30 year olds to meet Jesus and come together to worship.

We're searching for new volunteers for our First Aid team who are willing to use their skills and experience to help us to provide medical cover for one of our 5 day events in Shepton Mallet or Stafford.

Applicants would have the chance to pray with delegates as you treat them, worship with them, and experience the event for free. It includes all your meals and a camping space with there free place.

The dates for our four events are:

29th July – 2nd Aug 2011 Week A in Stafford
9th Aug – 13th 2011 Week B in Somerset
14th – 18th Aug 2011 Week C in Somerset
19th – 23rd Aug 2011 Momentum in Somerset

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Soul Survivor on 0303 333 1333, email teams@soulsurvivor.com or visit the website www.soulsurvivor.com/uk.

Dying Well: Faith and Compassion in Dialogue

A conference hosted by The Simeon Centre for Prayer and the Spiritual Life, Ridley Hall, Cambridge

Thursday September 15th 11.30am
 to Saturday September 17th 1pm

The aim of the Conference is to enable thoughtful and prayerful exploration of end of life issues from a range of perspectives: legal, medical, theological and spiritual. The panel of invited speakers represents the breadth of position and opinion in the current debate, and there will be much opportunity for participant engagement. In particular, we will focus attention on

- appropriate care and support, including pain management;
- the autonomy of the individual in the context of community and faith;
- assisted dying.

For more information or to book a place visit www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/scprogramme.html#DW

Nurses & Midwives Retreat

Rediscovering your calling - a residential spiritual retreat for Christian nurses, midwives and health visitors

21-23 September 2011
 Emmaus House, Bristol
 (<http://www.emmaushouse.org.uk/>)

Amidst the hubbub and stress of our working, church and family lives it can be hard to remember why we do what we do, and to be able to focus on the calling to our profession. This three day midweek retreat is a chance to focus on what it means to have a calling from God, to explore our own calling and sense of direction, and to take time out to listen to God. At the same time you will have the chance to share fellowship with Christian

nurses, midwives and health visitors from across the UK in the beautiful setting of the Emmaus retreat house in Clifton, Bristol.

The programme will include biblical reflections and meditations on calling, a workshop on self-care (spiritual, physical, social and emotional), an optional social outing, optional 'pampering' and beauty treatments (both at a small extra charge – details available on request) and plenty of time for prayer and reflection and to enjoy the extensive gardens at Emmaus.

For more information, to book online or to download a printable booking form, please visit www.cnm.org.uk - and remember, there is a £15 discount for all bookings received before 1 August.

Please note, this event is organised jointly by CNM, Christian Medical Fellowship and Parish Nursing Ministries UK

(<http://parishnursing.org.uk/>)

Nurses Christian Fellowship International European Students Spirituality & Nursing Conference Spiritual Care in a Secular Context

3-4 November 2011, Moses & Aaron Church, Amsterdam, Netherlands

A unique opportunity to meet international colleagues and friends and learn and discuss about your professional role regarding spirituality and spiritual care.

The conference is hosted by the Departments of Health Care of Reformed University of Applied Sciences, Zwolle (www.gh.nl/). The Christian University of Applied Sciences, Ede (www.che.nl/) and InHolland University, Amsterdam (www.inholland.nl/inhollandcom/).

For more information and a booking form, please email studconf2011@gh.nl or visit www.ncfieuropa.org

Parish Nursing Ministries UK Symposium

20-21 November 2011, Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

Parish Nursing uses professional nursing skills in a Christian context and works across the UK with and through the church and its local community promoting whole-person health.

Rooted in a church community, a Parish Nurse combines the benefits of health with spiritual care and community resources. Parish Nursing has a strong foundation in Christian faith but is offered unconditionally to people of any faith.

This symposium will help you to: ~ engage with God's intentions for the church, your work and for fullness of life ~ be refreshed and invigorated ~ meet other Parish Nurses ~ learn how Parish Nursing projects are developing and how you can enhance them

For more information and to book a place please visit <http://is.gd/hgaj8O>

Advanced Notices

CNM and AHPCN Joint Nurses and Allied Professions Conference

'Heart of the matter':
 having a healthy heart at work

10 March 2012, Beeston Free Church, Nottingham. Further details and booking information in the autumn 2011 edition of CNM News.

CNM Website - www.cnm.org.uk

Nurses Christian Fellowship International World Congress

5-10 November 2012, Santiago, Chile.
 More details available spring 2012.

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CNM News

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CNM News is published three times a year in spring, summer and autumn. Please send any articles, letter or news items to CNM at the address below. We reserve the right to edit any items we receive.

Feedback

If you want to contact us about anything in this newsletter or with feedback, enquiries or ideas for CNM in general, please contact us:

Tel: 07941 800637
 Email: info@cnm.org.uk
 Write: CNM, c/o CMF,

6 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL

cnm news

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Ministry, in Trade Union membership?

Anonymous

Many CNM members will also be members of a trade union. Pragmatically this is usually for the indemnity insurance which covers potential 'mistakes' at work, should the unthinkable happen. Given that most Christian nurses or midwives will be paying for the services provided by trade unions, why are so many Christians disappointed or disinterested with how Unions serve our profession?

As Christians should we be part of the solution?

I have now been nursing for over thirty years. As a committed Christian I dedicated my career to God's service at

unattainable for such an ordinary clinical staff nurse. It has been a mission by the grace of God. Jesus is gracious and he teaches and helps me each step of the way. The Lord has over the years given me different opportunities each fitting in with my capabilities and family commitments at the time to serve as a trade union activist within the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

I never had a very positive view of trade unions during the seventies, thinking that they represented greedy, striking, argumentative people. This is a far from accurate assumption about all professional unions. However I do understand why many Christians have never really wished to associate themselves with union activities.

I would like to challenge readers at this point. Have you ever bothered to read and vote on the ballot papers sent to you from your union? There are enough of us out there to be salt and light in our unions in a very practical way. Electing people who would vote the right way on ethical issues has never been more important. Statistically few members ever bother to vote. Even fewer ask or