



Christian
Dental
Fellowship

Three-in-One

Newsletter of the Christian Dental Fellowship

Organising a Charity Concert – for Dentaïd

IMPROVING THE WORLD'S ORAL HEALTH

Probably the hardest thing about organising the concert was plucking up the courage to get the idea kicked off. I had never organised anything of the sort before and could think of many convincing reasons for chickening out! However, I knew that if I did, I would forever have wondered how it might have worked out. Friends I bounced the idea off were enthusiastic and there were offers of help. So eventually, I picked up the phone one January evening and by the end of the evening, musicians, venue and date were booked.

Simon Mayor and Hilary James are internationally known and especially noted for their mandolin playing. I had enjoyed hearing them perform on a number of occasions. Their repertoire is wide and includes classical, folk and jazz music, both instrumental and vocal. As well as mandolins, the guitar and violin always make an appearance along with their humour. My dental practice was in Whitchurch, Hampshire and the Anglican church there was generously made available to us for a Friday evening in July last year when the musicians, based in Reading, were available.

I put the telephone down that January night, amazed at how easy it was to organise concerts. I was already relishing the idea of an enjoyable evening while supporting a very worthwhile cause. Little did I know that the hard part was yet to come in the form of trying to fill the venue. The musicians provided flyers which we had overprinted with concert details and distributed to pubs, churches,

village noticeboards, libraries, shops and even to some dental practices. Details were also placed on Whitchurch websites and we got a mention on nearby Andover's radio station as well as in local papers. Local coffee mornings, schools and lunch clubs failed to escape and our circle of friends and acquaintances were well aware of the upcoming event. At a local choir concert in Andover we were allowed to distribute flyers. Paynes Printers, in Whitchurch, overprinted the flyers for free and also printed the tickets at cost. Flower Power, our local florist, donated a much-appreciated display for the 'stage'. The stage sections were borrowed from the village church and a willing neighbour kindly transported them for us in their pick-up. Additional lighting was lent by Whitchurch Amateur Dramatic Society. Whitchurch Cricket Club allowed us to use their car park opposite the church. The Whitchurch branch of Newbury Building Society sold tickets for us. Local friends served drinks and light refreshments in the interval while others played the part of car park attendants. It was a real community effort!

I then had to wait and pray that the event would be well supported. Tickets went on sale about six weeks before the concert and initial sales were slow but, in the last few days, they accelerated. Come the big night, the church was packed – so good news for Dentaïd and of course a full house adds to the atmosphere. Curiously the audience, to my knowledge, included only four dentists.

As the church was filling, I was at the back wondering if I had forgotten anything vital. Kelvin Inglis, the vicar, came and had a word and it was agreed that he would welcome people to the church, give the health and safety piece and casually mention that any contributions towards the cost of interval drinks would be gratefully received. As he spoke, I was only half listening - as you do when you know what is going to be said – but I clearly heard him announce that Richard had very generously arranged a free bar for the interval. He was having one of his mischievous moments. "You liar!" I yelled down the now packed church. The whole gathering erupted in laughter and, even before the concert had begun, a relaxed, informal atmosphere was generated. Jacqueline James of Dentaïd said a few words about the work of the charity to remind everyone what they were supporting. I then introduced Simon Mayor and Hilary James and their performance was much appreciated and highly applauded.



continued over...



There was one unexpected sequel. Our local paper carried a photo and report of the occasion, however their headline was not, as expected, 'Concert for Dentaïd' but 'Concert in Memory of Dentist', followed by a brief piece about yours

truly. It was a novel experience reading what appeared to be my own obituary! A couple of days later, two strangers arrived at our door with flowers and a card. Answering the door, I wasn't sure how to play it but it turned out that the flowers

were from a grateful cyclist who we had helped following a road accident a few weeks earlier, prior to the air ambulance arriving. So the flowers were a 'thank you', not 'with sympathy' and, happily, the cyclist made a good recovery.

Returning to the concert, I thought the evening was a very enjoyable success – but I could be biased! What is beyond debate is that over £1300 was raised for Dentaïd. Was there anything I would have done differently? Another time I might arrange for Andy Murray not to play a Wimbledon semi-final on the same evening.

Richard South

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Message from the Editor

I starting editing Three-in-One at the end of last year when the nights were long and the days seemed dull. The days are now brighter and signs of Spring are everywhere and hopefully you think that I am now settling into my new role, but I would love your help. I hope that the articles that are printed are helpful and interesting, but I would love to hear if you have any ideas about what subjects and topics you would like to see included. I'd be even more delighted to hear from any budding authors out there who feel that they have an article just waiting to be written and published. If you have any thoughts or ideas, then please contact me and we can work together to get your name in print!

Tracey Dalby

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Ken Costa, Christy Wimber, Danielle Strickland, Mike Pilavachi, Celia Apeagyei-Collins, Pete Hughes, Reuben Morgan, Seth Pinnock, Miriam Swaffield, Martin Smith, plus many more!

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Language Learning is Ministry



Naomi and Andy write from S E Asia where they are serving with an international organisation and studying the local language.

We were recently chatting to our friend about house plants which are very popular in S E Asia.

“They’re really pretty but they take a lot of looking after,” we said.

“Yes,” our friend agreed, “they can be a lot of trouble. I know a bit about plants; I can give you some advice.”

“Yeah thanks, that would be good. For example, how often should we water them? At the moment we’re doing it every day, but the plants aren’t looking so good.”

“Once a day is way too much. You’re drowning them to death.” And so the conversation went on.

A rather mundane conversation about horticulture, yet it was the best conversation we’d had since being in S E Asia; not because there were any spiritual or metaphorical overtones to it, but for the simple reason that the entire conversation had been in the local language.

We arrived in S E Asia at the end of August last year, and are enrolled in an intensive language study programme with our organisation for the next two years. It has felt like a bit of a slog sometimes, but it’s been really good to have conversations like the one above, and to realise that the hours we are putting into language learning are paying off. There’s a really good quote about language learning from Daniel Sinclair’s book ‘A Vision of the Possible’ that we’d like to share; we feel it really sums up what these next two years are about:

“Language learning is ministry. Not only are you portraying the love of Christ for the people in your learning as they see your respect for them and their culture, but every day’s efforts are serving Christ and are a sacrifice pleasing in His sight. Your daily language learning activities are a real way to love Christ and love the people, even as you are investing in future fruitfulness for the gospel among them. Some will be so “itching to get going” in more direct ministry that they will be tempted to look for shortcuts in

learning the language. For them, these two years or so in full-time language learning will be a test of patience, of being stretched as they learn not to ‘despise the day of small things’ (Zechariah 4:10).”

I like this quote because sometimes it feels as if we are learning the local language so that we can do other stuff – so that Andy can do Bible teaching, or so that I can practise dentistry. Whilst this is true, the quote reminds us that the act of learning the local language in itself is glorifying to God. Andy identifies with the “itching to get going” feeling, while I identify with the “every day’s effort’s” part; I find practising the local language with local people an effort as I’m quite shy.

Could you please pray that God would continue to help us learn the language, and that we would keep disciplined and motivated? Also please pray that we could find creative, fun ways to immerse ourselves in the language and the culture. We would also really value prayers for our marriage. It’s tempting to think that just because we’ve moved to S E Asia, we’ve somehow become really super-spiritual, nice, kind people - unfortunately that’s just not the case. And nowhere is this more apparent than in our marriage! Living in S E Asia is very cool but it’s also stressful, annoying and even boring at times and it’s easy to take out our frustrations on each other. So please pray for us, as God teaches us what it means to be a married couple studying and learning together in S E Asia.

We are really grateful for the ways that CDF is supporting us, both financially and by people praying for us. Thank you! If you have any tips or advice to share with us, or if you’ve read any good books about S E Asia (or about anything else for that matter), or just stuff that you think would be helpful, please let us know.

We’ve had to be a bit scant on details for security reasons, but if you want to know more, you can email Naomi at cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com

Naomi and Andy

Go and Make Disciples of All Nations



In March 2014, I was involved in Bridge2Aid's new 'phase two' programme in Tanzania. This takes place in two stages and is essentially a 'train the trainers' programme. The established 'phase one' Dental Volunteer Programme (DVP) developed over the last ten years involves teams of UK dentists, nurses and other DCPs travelling to rural areas in East Africa to work alongside Tanzanian based Bridge2Aid staff and provide training for local health workers (clinical officers) in emergency dental care. It is estimated that over three million people now have access to safe emergency dental care made available through the clinical officers (COs) who have been trained through DVP. Tanzania has a population of over 47 million, so there is still some way to go to provide emergency pain relief for the majority of the population.

On this recent training programme, we worked on Ukerewe which is the largest island in Lake Victoria. Ukerewe district has a population of 262,000 served by one qualified dentist working in the Nasio District Hospital, Ukerewe Island. Primary health care is provided by the thirty government employed COs on the island. Five of these can now add emergency dental care to their services with the District Dental Officer (DDO) to refer to and provide supervision as required. What makes DVP a sensible and sustainable approach to providing dental pain relief, is that it is training rural local health workers to:

- diagnose dental conditions,
- administer local anaesthetic,
- extract teeth,
- refer complicated cases,
- manage cross infection control,
- deliver basic oral health

However the phase two programme takes sustainability to a new level. Rather than use UK dentists to provide the one to one clinical training, we worked alongside Tanzanian DDOs who had already participated in the first part of the phase two programme earlier in the year which

had included training in teaching methods. They were continually assessed by our UK leadership team and are now certified by Bridge2Aid and the Tanzanian government as Trainers with an expectation that they will each train six COs over the next two years. Hopefully as well as the 700 patients treated on this programme, we have left behind trained COs, and have also trained the DDOs to be trainers and continue the work. To be able to encourage the DDOs not only in their training but in their daily work was a real privilege. The training programme is widely respected amongst the dental profession and is a credit both to Ian Wilson who started Bridge2Aid and Paul Brind who together with Beth and the family have just returned after three years in Tanzania.

So how does all that fit in with our Lord's commission in Matthew 28 to '...go and make disciples of all nations...'? By passing on our skills and experience either in developing nations or with our own graduates through vocational training, foundation training or mentoring we are investing in others. Recently, I came across an interpretation of the above passage that stated making disciples involves 'enabling others to live lives worthy of God'. Over the years of being involved with Bridge2Aid, I have witnessed many fellow professionals develop to live lives more worthy of God than I think they would have done if they hadn't been part of the Bridge2Aid family and been given the volunteering, mentoring and leadership opportunities.

So does this make Bridge2Aid or similarly Dentaid a 'Christian' charity? Indeed, we are encouraged in this edition of Three-in-One to consider what makes a 'Christian' dentist. Having a faith in a personal Saviour affects who we are and how we interact with others but, by itself, it does not make our crown preps any better than those of our non-Christian colleagues. We are called to work as to the Lord ('*Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men,*' Ephesians 6:7) and be and

do the best we can in our given situations. With reference to Peter Waggs' article, I would hope my greengrocer used fair weights and measures (*'honest scales and balances are from the Lord...'* Proverbs 16:11) and my solicitor loved justice (*'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'* Micah 6:8) as well as being competent in their line of work, rather than incompetent but with a Bible in their pocket!

For those in general practice, private or NHS, further wisdom can be found in Proverbs 23:4 *'Do not wear yourselves out to get rich...'*

There are many examples that show faith is not necessary to be a good dentist or to run a charity. It is not so much what we do, but how we do it. Our personal faith affects all we are and how we relate to others as well as providing the spiritual strength to continue when our resources fail us. Our faith, like our triune, three in one God, is also relational. In sharing and helping each other to be the best we can, we bring about His Kingdom and help ourselves and those in whom we come in contact to become closer to God. This is a strength and purpose of CDF which has nurtured many relationships both professional and personal, enabling us all to live lives worthy of God. I pray we continue to do so.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15:13

If you would like to find out more about the opportunity to do some 'dental disciple making', by passing on your dental skills or taking part in a DVP, then feel free to contact me or the Bridge2Aid UK office through their website. (www.bridge2aid.org) You will not find a better way to invest in your own professional development whilst helping to empower others.

Victoria Rushton
CDF President



“I know I’m a Christian and I know I’m a dentist, but I don’t know if I’m a Christian dentist.”



Does this statement shock you, surprise you or not touch you at all? When it boils down to it, are there any specific ways in which being a Christian has any relevance to dentistry? Are they incommensurable terms? Does a Christian greengrocer sell different fruit from a non-Christian greengrocer? Would a Christian solicitor handle my house conveyance differently to a non-Christian solicitor?

Could we consider this question another way? Groceries, of whatever kind, are commodities to be bought and consumed. A solicitor provides an immensely important service but it’s still only a service or a transaction. Is that how we see dentistry? Of course, some items

could fit this category, but most of what we do is highly personal; so can we legitimately use the term ‘caring’ instead?

Over the past couple of decades there has been a massive shift away from small practices to multiple surgery practices and chains. Concurrently, there has been a huge drive to raise standards. Once, the profession was largely self-regulated; now half the GDC seats are occupied by lay-members. Once, an occasional Reference Dental Officer visit was the most you’d expect, now all manner of inspectors have right of access. If there ever was a time when Christian dentists had higher professional standards than their colleagues, that time has surely passed. This should please us, but are we

left wondering if we can still be distinctively different?

At the heart of Christianity is grace; an unmerited kindness beyond anything we deserve. Christianity is also about redemption; the power of love to reconcile or restore what has been alienated or broken. I fancy I meet people in need of grace and redemption most days. Besides restoring teeth and gums, we work to re-establish trust, confidence, dignity, comfort and self-esteem. In a small but powerful way, we’re helping to make the world a better place. It’s far too easy to become oppressed by the flip side: targets, penalties, complaints and inspections, but having a heavenward perspective rescues us, and perhaps others, from thralldom and the ‘powers and principalities of this world’.

If you read my article in the Spring 2014 edition of ‘Three-In-One’ you may recall me telling you about the dissertation I am writing on dentistry and spirituality for an MA in Pastoral Theology. If anything I have said resonates with you - whether you agree or disagree, please contact me and let me know what you think.

Whatever you tell me will be held in strict confidence, so please contact me!

Peter Wagg

Keep in touch with the Christian Dental Fellowship



Don’t forget that you can now follow CDF on Facebook. Keep up-to-date with our mission partners and connect with other CDF members. It would be great to have you join us. Like our page and have a chat with us!

The Christian Dental Fellowship

— Where do we go from here?



Change can be an unsettling thing, but not adapting is often not an option if we want to stay relevant and attractive to those outside the Fellowship. However, staying true to our core values and beliefs is essential in a world that is inconsistent and capricious.

“The Church is a body that exists for the benefit of those not yet in the church.”

This is the same for CDF. Yet we are also more than this. We are in a position to be able to offer one another support, fellowship and friendship to other members, as well as those outside the Fellowship.

We are in an age where social media is the main means of communication amongst younger dentists. How can we tap into this as a way of increasing the profile of CDF? Are we contemporary in our branding, profile and web design?

The Council are keen to know what the views are of members regarding CDF. This led to a questionnaire being given out at the conference and also a discussion taking place during the AGM at the conference. The results of the feedback from these are interesting but we are aware that only a small proportion of CDF members attend conference, so we would love to hear from everyone about what they feel CDF means to them.

First impressions

When asked what first attracted you to CDF the main reasons given were:

- Opportunities for elective placements or jobs
- The student groups
- Because they had been invited by other members who were already friends.

The follow-up question then focused on whether that had changed once they had become involved in CDF, and the majority view was that CDF offered friendship and support.

Students

We asked for feedback from our student members. What did they think about CDF? Their responses suggested that **costs** were barriers for students and also having to **travel** to conferences. A lot of people become members as students, so support and building up student work is important. We need to look to **link up** with UCCF and CMF to see what they are doing and how we can work with them. The council have already met up with representatives from both and are looking at ways of engaging with students through their contacts and experience.

The Dental Team

Some questions focused on engaging with the whole dental team rather than just dentists. How do we reach out to Dental Care Professionals and other members of the dental team and make CDF attractive for them to join? The main responses were:

- CDF is considered to be just for dentists.
- Potentially people may think that there is a “them and us” mentality within the Fellowship even though in reality that isn’t the case.
- Membership costs may be expensive for DCPs.
- In order to engage with DCPs we need to engage with them directly through their own publications.
- We should stress the pastoral support and fellowship which is available.

Annual Conference

The conference is a great time to meet together and offer face to face support as well as building relationships but not all the members come along. Some reasons given were:

- The cost
- Non-dental spouses or children not wanting to come along
- Commitments on Sundays at church

These were some of the specific areas the questionnaire asked about. It also asked about what the barriers could be for Christian dentists not joining up. The main reasons people gave were:

- People lead busy lives with church and family commitments, leaving little time for CDF as well
- People don’t know that we exist.

While the first response is understandable with the busy lives that we all lead, the fact that people don’t know that we are around is something that we must try to change. The big question is how do we tackle that?

So, **how** can we make our image more up-to-date and relevant? **How** can we publicise ourselves more effectively? What changes need to happen?

Suggestions and actions!

- We are trying to make ourselves relevant to all Dental Care Professionals so we need to think about how we become more visible to them. We need to stress our inclusivity and that we welcome all members of the dental team and also all denominations.
- We have made a tentative step into the world of social media by having a new Facebook page thanks to Caitlin and Coralie, two students who were at the conference, but do we need to do more?
- Do we need to have more of a presence on social media sites and add to our existing website?
- We need to be clear what we stand for as a Fellowship with the possibility that we need to re-examine our mission statement. The mission statement needs to underline what we stand for and that we are not only interdenominational but we are also there for the whole dental team.
- Should we change our mirror logo for something more hi-tech?
- There were suggestions that we should have more of a presence in the dental press as this would be a great way of reaching **all** the dental team. How do we get articles and adverts into the dental press to advertise CDF and our conferences?
- There was also the suggestion that having a presence via exhibition stands at BDTA exhibitions and the BDA conference was a good way of promoting our profile.
- How can we be sure we are presenting a Christian view point in the press on dental issues?
- We need to be relevant to the work place and underline the pastoral support, friendship and fellowship on offer.

- We need to seek to be a Christian voice speaking out into the dental world.

Over to you

This is only a brief summary of what we learnt through the questionnaire and we are very aware that just hearing from those members who were present at the conference gives us a rather skewed view of how all the membership feel, so we

would love to hear what **everyone** has to say. Please consider our suggestions for things we need to consider changing.

There is a link from the conference page (www.cdf-uk.org/conferences) to the questionnaire and it would be great if you could take a few minutes to fill it out and let us know what **you** think.

Tracey Dalby

International Christian Medical and Dental Association

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The poster features a collage of images including a city skyline, a bridge, and a group of people. The text is arranged in a dynamic, overlapping layout with various colors and fonts.

CDF Annual Family Conference

Hothorpe Hall on 14th-16th November 2014



Our Speaker this year is Ruth Rice.

Ruth has been a Christian for over 40 years, was christened as a Methodist, brought up as Brethren, appointed as a Baptist Minister

and is studying at an Anglican college. She is married to Mark and they have three children, Eliot (20) is studying engineering, Erin (18) works for a local church and Brads (15) the drummer, is still at home.

Ruth was a primary school teacher for many years before taking on the full time leadership of New Life Baptist Church in West Bridgford, Nottingham. This is a growing community of disciples experimenting with planting mission communities. She co-leads Fresh Streams network, a Baptist Word and Spirit network committed to missional change. She has an MA in missional leadership and is passionate about the church joining in with the God of mission.

She enjoys reading, eating and walking the dog. She has had a lot to do with dentists over the years (usually gazing up at them!) and has reason to be very grateful to the profession, but as a result she may have to talk to you with her mouth closed!

Simon Crewe is the clinical speaker at this year's conference:

I grew up in a dentally oriented family (and later married the daughter of a



dentist!). My father came to England from the Cook Islands for a couple of years to do the FDS, partly because he didn't get the job in Rarotonga that he was after. He stayed because he got involved in the rise



of Maxillofacial Surgery as a specialty. As one of the first MFS Consultants, he was frequently asked his opinion in forensic matters by the then Home Office Pathologist, Bill Hunt.

As a schoolboy, I had a 'Saturday job' of assisting in the mortuary during a few identifications and homicide investigations. This meant that my experience in Forensic dentistry began in the 1970s, with none of the credit for this due to me. I went to Sheffield Dental School in 1979. When academic qualifications for Forensic Odontology were invented in the 1980s, my father and I were both rather too opinionated to be taught. Probably the best training for the process of Forensic identification was the few months I spent in Thailand working for the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification teams, in 2005.

I only broke out from my father's shadow, when I beat him to volunteering with overseas dental projects, at first with Mercy Ships, but only because he died before he could go. He did bequeath me a forensic case, which may show up in the lecture, if there's time.

So, I spend my time, having given up private clinical practice in 2002, working with Mercy Ships, Operation Mobilisation, DentaId and a few independent projects, and fund this with forensic work, which is still identification of the un-presentable and increasingly dealing with bite-marks in assaults and homicides.

I have lived in Plymouth most of my life. Liza and I have been married since 1981. Our three kids have left home with our two sons selling wine in Reading, and cutting trees and studying Hebrew in

Falmouth, while our daughter produces grandchildren in Plymouth.

Hobbies? I run a French car which is the same age as my wife, and play a bit of music, 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 it's taken me rather a long time to appreciate it, and many people would say that the Courts are a source of Law, rather than Justice.

Our experience as a first time attender to the CDF family conference:

We are a family of four and have been living in the UK for eight years. My wife and I are dentists practising in Liverpool and were delighted to hear about the existence of a CDF in the UK, and thought it would be a good idea to attend the conference.

We hoped

- To meet like-minded professionals in a Christian setting.
- To hear spiritually inspiring messages.
- To be challenged and learn from fellow colleagues who were involved in Mission work related to dentistry.
- For our kids to be engaged in a meaningful way.

I can honestly say that all our expectations were met, thanks to the dedicated and prayerful organising team, who made us feel very welcomed. The conference centre and the food were fabulous, making it a very pleasant experience for our family as a whole.

The Prince Family

**Deadline for the next issue of Three-in-One is 20th June 2014.
Please send contributions to Tracey Dalby**

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