

From the President's Kitchen Table



Connected to God, connected to each other and connected to CDF. We have a God who is faithful.

2017. Another year begins. We have attended our last Christmas service and sung our last carol, decorations are down, now what? A New Year resolution perhaps? The Trail-Running magazine that arrives at our house brings the challenge to “*Change your life in 2017 with our challenge to run 1000 miles*”, and optimistically assures me that this is “*the New Year’s resolution you can stick to.*” Many of us make hopeful New Year’s resolutions, perhaps to be tidier, keep fitter, lose weight or get out of debt, only to run out of enthusiasm.

The good news is that each year, each week, each day, is an opportunity for a

fresh start; the prospect of a new beginning. As Christians, we *can* keep our resolutions because we have a God who is faithful and just. When we spend time with Him we can find, in a fresh new way, the depth and the length and the breadth and the height of His love. He comes to us day by day, week by week, year by year, through our everyday life and work.

God is love, “the heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands ... they have no speech, they use no words ... yet their voice goes out into all of the earth ...” (Psalm 19:1-6). The Bible shows us how we may see God on earth and how we may learn to pray continually. Walk around with your eyes open and take in nature and see God in the things He has created. Gaze around

you and see God’s glory. I am privileged to live on the edge of the Lake District in the North of England and am fortunate that I can gaze on His glorious countryside day by day. Thank you, God, for your magnificent mountains and lakes. My son and his wife moved from Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to a second floor flat in Gateshead, a large town in Tyne and Wear south of the River Tyne. Recently I was asked to help with some gardening. Intriguing! It transpired the flat had a patio and advice was needed. I drove over and we spent a delightful day choosing plants and transforming the space. We removed dead unhealthy plants, kept healthy ivy and geraniums, added more evergreens and foliage, planted colourful pansies and created a space that inspired.

2017 and another year in dentistry, soft Brexit, hard Brexit, will there be enough dental professionals to meet the growing needs of our population, UOA targets, procurement and re-procurement, boundary changes and new clinical guidelines are just a few of my unknowns. Where is the joy in that? As Christians, we can find real joy in everyday life. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus and God take up residence in us, (John 14:23). Paul says to us in Colossians and Thessalonians, “whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” and to “pray continually.” God is love and He gives us guidelines for right living, (Psalm 19:7-14). A framework for behaviour and insight for living, revelations, signposts, life-maps, directions and decisions all come from the Lord. Start each day waiting for directions, (Psalm 5:2-3).

continued over...

But I'm so busy God! God comes to us in life's pauses, no matter how full our days we all pause from time to time. I pause in the traffic as I travel. I pause while my next patient walks from the waiting area with my nurse, I pause while they rinse out at the end of a procedure. I pause while waiting for the phone to connect a call. I pause at the end of the day as I lock the surgery. We can train ourselves to use these pauses to acknowledge that Jesus is with us and shoot up "arrow" prayers to God. There are many examples in the Bible when Jesus kept in close touch with his Father. When faced with a choice in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus cried out, "Your will not mine be done."

God comes to us in the ordinary things of life. Jesus taught through ordinary everyday things, showing us how they point to God at work in our world; lamps, yeast and coins for example. God comes to us through the love and fellowship of friends. We can look around our home and see cards and gifts we have received. We can look at photos and be thankful for memories. We can read and re-read the prayer letters from our Mission Partners and know we are close to them through our prayers. We can arrange to meet with friends and stay connected to each other.

I keep in mind Micah 6:8. It gives me a framework for living. The message of the prophet requires us "to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." As I see it, acting justly is a way of applying God's standards for right and wrong to all my choices and actions and allowing God's definition of right and wrong to be my choice. Loving mercy is my inward response to God's love for me that I can express outwardly in the way I show love for others. Loving mercy means loving the opportunity to extend that same mercy to others. By walking humbly with my God I am depending entirely on Him who extended mercy to me.

So, what of the challenge in my running magazine to sign up and train to run 1000 miles? If I stick to it and follow the plan I will become fitter and stronger, be inspired, and run further than ever.

Sounds good to me. Should I dismiss it or is there something in there for me? Questions are posed to help me decide if I will accept the challenge.

First, why get involved? I'll burn calories, explore new trails, get stronger and leaner and receive freebies if I sign up quickly. Second, who will be doing it too? And how to find local trails? The magazine team along with other well-known athletes will be taking part. Maps and apps will be my guides. Finally, what kit do I need? And what food do I eat? I'll need clothing and footwear that can support me all the way and keep me warm and safe. Fuel for my 1000 miles will come in the form of food that will deliver energy for my working muscles and ensure sufficient recovery to maintain my performance. Eat real food and cut out junk- I can't resist crisps!

This all sounds very much to me like the race of life as described in Hebrews 12. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." So, am I signing up to run 1000 miles? Probably not, but I am already signed up to run the race of life, running towards the goal which is eternal life.

And finally, everything still happens on Tuesdays! This is my admin day with no patient appointments scheduled, so if you need to ask me anything, ask any time but do expect the answer on a Tuesday! Please continue to pray for CDF and Council. Sign up for Alan Vogt's Prayer Calendar by email if you are not already subscribed. It is available as a daily prayer email via the website at www.cdf-uk.org. If you would like to contact me direct, do email me at president@cdf-uk.org.

Susie Matthew CDF President

New Year, New Challenge?

For many years Janet Liao has diligently served CDF as Treasurer. She is looking to step down from this role now. So council is looking for someone to fill her position.

We have had an offer from Maureen, our Secretary to move into this position if a new Secretary can be found..

Would you consider serving the wider CDF membership by either joining Council as Treasurer or Secretary?

In brief the roles are:

Secretary

- Circulate papers for and arrange CDF council meetings twice a year.
- Take minutes at CDF council meetings and the AGM.
- Be a trustee of CDF and as such input into the annual trustees' report.

Treasurer

- Make all payments, keeping accurate records of expenditure.
- Attend council and provide treasurer reports
- Make payments to Mission Partners as agreed at council meetings
- Be the main contact with the bank
- Oversight of annual accounts (currently done by administrator) and be responsible for annual trustees' report.
- Be the main point of contact with the Charity Commission and submit returns and accounts to them as required.
- Oversight of the income received by CDF and Gift Aid claims (both are currently done by administrator).

Please contact Sarah Felton (cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com) if you are interested in either role.

Liberia Calls



I qualified as a dentist in 1983 and have been a member of CDF since 1981 (having come to faith during my 2nd year at Newcastle Dental School). Thus began the two main drivers in my life – teeth and Jesus! In 2002 I became a Reader in the Church of England.

Long standing CDF members may recall that earlier in our lives (1987 – 1996) Grace & I had the privilege of working as missionaries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with SIM (Serving in Mission). I ran the SIM Dental Clinic there and was also involved in training expatriate mission nurses and local Health Assistants in the noble art of tooth extraction.

After returning from Ethiopia in 1996 I was involved on CDF Council as Mission Partner Co-ordinator and more recently Grace & I were Conference Organisers. It was during the 2014 conference that I came to the realisation that we were reaching a point in our lives – now that our ‘young people’ were in their twenties – where we could consider going overseas again. We needed to start freeing ourselves up and so began relinquishing some of our church commitments and in November 2015, my two partners and I sold our family dental practice. I remained as an Associate at the Practice until November 2016. But freeing ourselves to go where? There was no obvious door back to Ethiopia.

In September 2015 we visited old SIM friends now working in Nepal. Our two week trip was fascinating and we came away with a sense that we both felt we could live in Nepal, however, after discussions with different missions we were not convinced that a long term dental opportunity was presenting itself to us.

Over Easter 2016 we visited ELWA hospital in Liberia. When we said we had come to see if there was a need for a dentist the response was an enthusiastic, *‘YES, we’ve been praying for one for the last three years!’* We came away from that week realising that we would need to find reasons NOT to go back. Needless to say, we couldn’t find any. So the rest of 2016 was spent in the process of re-joining SIM with a view to moving to Liberia in West Africa in 2017. This has involved interviews, full medicals and psychological profiling, a lengthy doctrinal questionnaire and a week’s orientation course. We are proposing a four to five year commitment to working in Liberia and are now aiming to go in late May 2017.

I plan to head up the team at Trinity Dental Clinic at ELWA hospital in Monrovia. There has been no dentist at the clinic for the last few years. It is currently run by Eddie & Matilda, two very able local Dental Nurse Practitioners (they have had six months training in India and further teaching from the previous American dentist) and a Marilyn, a Dental Hygienist plus supporting staff. Apparently, there are only six dentists in the whole of Liberia (with a population of over four million people) so I suspect there will be plenty to keep me busy!

In addition to working in the clinic, I hope to provide leadership and further teaching for the Trinity Dental team; there are also dreams to go further afield and run dental outreach clinics using an MAF plane to reach more remote areas.

Grace is a registered nurse with experience mainly in Nursing Home care. Her role will be developed once we arrive in Liberia. In addition to the dental work I hope there will be opportunities to be involved in Christian discipleship.

In the meantime, we are in the process of packing up our home, with a view to letting it out while we are away. Our son, Jonathan, is awaiting another open-heart operation and we need to support him through that. He has plans to create a film documentary and write a book about his experiences. Together with his twin brother David, they have launched an exciting campaign to raise awareness and £100,000 for the British Heart Foundation. See www.sixtimesopen.com for more information.



So, challenges lie ahead. We are seeking, ***“to run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.”*** (Heb 12:1-2)

If you are interested in receiving our News & Prayer letters do email us at simonstret-d@tesco.net.

For those interested in specifically praying for us regularly please sign up at www.sim.co.uk/prayerpartners.

We are also seeking to raise financial support. If you would like to help us in this way you can register to do so at www.sim.co.uk/give.

Simon Stretton-Downes

Sarah Taylor - Elective Report

Amazon Hope Boat, Peru



Dundee is one of the few dental schools in the country who still have an overseas elective as part of the degree and so I was really grateful for this opportunity to spend the summer between my 4th and 5th year experiencing international health care for the first time and trying to work out if this was an area that God was calling me to be a part of in the future. I chose to spend two weeks in Peru with the Vine Trust.

The Vine Trust is a British Charity which runs the Amazon Hope 2 boat in the Loreto region of Peru. Loreto is in the North East of Peru in the rainforest and is 28% of Peruvian territory at 368,850 km². As the communities along the rivers are very rural the area is a poor one, with five districts classified as Poor, thirteen districts Very Poor and 38 districts Extremely Poor. Access to clean water in the villages is less than 10% and there are 4.1 doctors and 0.86 dentists per 10,000 people.

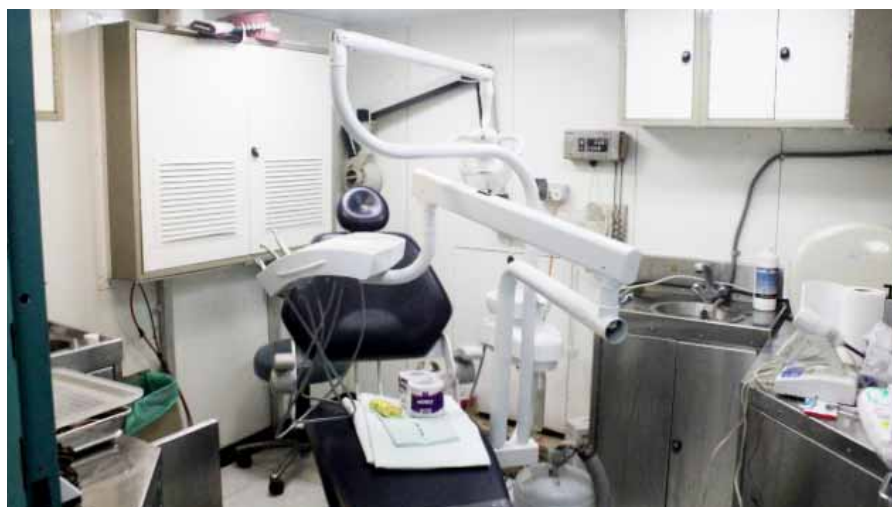
I had only been out of Britain on one occasion before so was excited but also very nervous about this trip. One of my tutors at university, Dr Shona Mason, is heavily involved with the Vine Trust and had flown out for the previous trips two

weeks before and agreed to stay on the boat for my trip. I was very grateful to have her there as a familiar face and also really enjoyed seeing the work her own charity, Esperanza, does in Iquitos. Also on the trip was a girl from my year at university.

Once we arrived in Peru we had two days travelling, including a five hour speedboat ride in order to reach the Amazon Hope 2 boat. We were sailing on the Marañon river and the boat also covers two other tributaries of the Amazon on a month by month rotation, meaning that the patients we were seeing had last had access to

basic medical and dental care three months ago. We were on the boat for ten days and the days generally followed the same routine, with us spending the morning in one village seeing as many patients as possible before sailing over lunch time to the next village for the afternoon and sailing in the evening before dinner to the village for the next morning's work. The villages varied in wealth as some had petrol companies in them searching for oil and providing jobs but generally the diet is high in sugar, especially in the form of fizzy drinks due to the lack of clean drinking water, meaning that levels of decay were high. Dental health in children is slowly improving due to the government team who are permanently on the boat running prevention programs including fluoride rinses and dental education in schools. However there were still a large number of children having deciduous and first permanent molar extractions, with a lot of them being very badly broken down.

On the boat there is a dental surgery with one chair and equipment. There are materials to do anterior composites, posterior amalgams and GI to do ART in children who were too young to cope with extractions or permanent restorations. We carried out roughly equal numbers of





projects that Esperanza support is a children's lunch club in Iquitos. This is run by Pastor Prospero in an especially deprived area and provides lunch three times a week to the twenty most deprived children in the area, for some of whom this will be their only meal that day. We got to visit the lunch club and were invited back the next day to the women's group in the church also. Pastor Prospero was gifted the warehouse; the front part is the church sanctuary, the middle the Sunday school rooms and the back is where Prospero and his family live. The table that the children sit around is in the back and Prospero and his wife really treat them as family. The church is always open, with children running around playing and I really loved seeing a church that was genuinely at the heart of its community, that is a safe place for kids to come in an unsafe area and is a big family that all support each other with the little that they have. I was made to feel very welcome and was very encouraged by God's presence after really struggling with my time on the boat.

Another of its works is to provide pastors of the villages along the river with Biblical training as many of them only have primary school level education. Esperanza pays for them to travel to Nauta for several weeks at a time to attend the theological school, which is also supported by BMS (Baptist Missionary Society). When the boat arrived back in Nauta, Laura the BMS link missionary came and met us and caught us up on what was going on with current struggles and prayer requests. Their current need is for local pastors who do have sound biblical knowledge to come and teach at the school and for guidance as to which parts of the Bible to focus on as they have such a short amount of time.

Overall I am glad that I got to experience a totally different culture and would like to thank CDF for their support. I learned a lot about dentistry, my spiritual giftings and the direction in which God seems to be taking my life.

Sarah Taylor

Dental Student, Dundee Dental School

restorations and extractions with lower 6s being the highest proportion of both. Even though there was both a high speed and slow speed handpiece, there were no burs for the slow speed meaning that all caries removal was done with the high speed. This was a little daunting at first but by the end I felt as if I had learnt better how to recognise caries as I was having to be careful with where I was deliberately putting the drill, instead of just running a rosehead bur on a slow speed around the cavity.

I also learned a lot about treatment planning as many patients had numerous teeth needing to be extracted or filled but were only allowed one treated due to the number of patients. It forced me to think about which tooth was likely to cause the most pain between that visit and the next time the boat was back in three months time, and to treat that tooth.

The Peruvian government dentist worked up on deck doing extractions, and initially we tried to be supervised by him so that more patients could be seen, but the language barrier and difference in technique (he was a lot more brutal than we would ever be in the UK) meant that this wasn't possible. We ended up putting a plastic chair in the corner of the already cramped surgery so that one person could be doing a filling in the dental chair and another extractions in the plastic chair and Dr Mason could supervise us both. This was challenging but gave me really good experience in how to take out teeth.

On my trip there were also two medical students on their elective and a GP from the UK. The space outside the dental practice was set up as three consulting areas with curtains drawn between and plastic chairs for the patients. A lot of the presenting complaints were similar to the UK, but the resources or secondary care facilities were not there. There were a couple of occasions that this reality became apparent in shocking ways, one of which being a woman with appendicitis whose family couldn't afford to take her to the next town along the river for more medical help and so the boat had to leave that village knowing that that woman might at some point die of the sepsis caused by the appendicitis.

I struggled a lot on the boat with feeling homesick and also being physically unwell. I am grateful for this though as I think that God showed me that international healthcare is not necessarily His calling for my life. I had been praying for guidance in this area with graduation and the real world approaching and I think that this trip was a clear answer, that answer being no!

After being on the boat, Shona and I stayed in Iquitos for a few days after the rest of the group had left in order to visit some of the work that her charity, Esperanza Hope, is involved in. Shona and her husband Andrew set up the charity after the first few trips that Shona had made with the Vine Trust and it supports local Peruvian charities. One of the main

Hilary Rogers: In Her Own Words

Hilary trained as a dentist at University College Hospital London, qualifying in 1950. When CDF was started in 1952, she was present at the first committee meeting in Wimbledon. On 20 October 1955 she joined the work and the family of the Dohnavur Fellowship in rural South India, becoming one of CDF's first missionaries in a term of faithful service that went on to last 36 years.

She retired and returned to the UK in January 1992. In retirement Hilary was a regular at CDF annual conferences until well into her 80s. She was always keen to encourage and hear news from her former students and others who had visited Dohnavur. The Dohnavur Fellowship's quarterly private letter to its supporters, *Dust of Gold*, records those family members now *With Christ*: Hilary went to be with the Lord on 20 July 2016, aged 89.

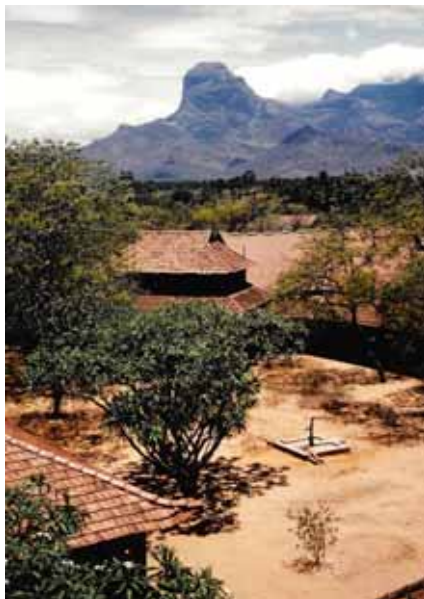
Jenny Harris (née Harrison) was an elective student at Dohnavur in South India in the summer of 1987. Three-In-One asked her to look back on Hilary Rogers' working life at Dohnavur as the Fellowship's dentist.

As 2016 draws to a close, my smartphone newsfeed offers a list of those who died in the past year. At a touch I can follow links to the cultural and political backdrop of the last 50 years in words, music and film. Yet an internet search draws a blank when looking for traces of longstanding CDF member Hilary Rogers. There are no reports of awards or honours, no lengthy tributes from friends and colleagues. But if you turn instead to the pages of CDF's archive of past newsletters you will find Hilary's own voice ringing out from her regular letters to CDF. Her own words reveal much of her Christ-like attitude and her relationship with her Saviour.

Hilary always started her letters by sending thanks to CDF for financial and, especially, for prayer support.

*"Thank you all very much for your continuous generosity, loving interest and especially for your prayers"*¹

*"I am glad that the opportunity has come to write to you soon after returning from the International Conference of Christian Physicians held at Bangalore as I can thank you all for the generous gift you gave me which not only covered my expenses but also that of my Indian colleague."*²



A view over the Dohnavur Fellowship main compound

The hospital and dental surgery at Dohnavur were always busy. Under these pressures Hilary frequently voiced her commitment to care for each patient as an individual.

*"I would value prayer that I might live according to that verse in Isaiah: 'He that believeth in Me shall not make haste.' How easy it is to want to get on with the patients instead of just caring for each one so that they know that they matter – as a patient and as a person!"*³

*"Sometimes I have 30 on an outpatients' day in the morning and so you'll know how much prayer is needed for that because one wants to show the love of the Lord. ... So my first request for prayer will be – may Jesus be revealed through us."*⁴

Daily life was tough as she lived and worked in searing South Indian heat, where even the basics of water and electricity could not be taken for granted.



Hilary Rogers (back row, 2nd from right) outside the dental surgery with dental nurses, elective student Amanda Owen and children from the Santhosha Vidhyalaya

*"We have had many answers to prayer. We had a good monsoon in October to December and now that the automatic pump has been overhauled there has been sufficient water from the well for our needs."*⁵

*"We do value your prayers here and ask you to pray on. It is hot and dry here, temperatures ranging from 70-105 degrees F. There are sporadic electricity cuts in the hospital, but we are now thankful for having running water."*⁶

*"Because of the shortage of rain the hydroelectric system has been affected and we either have electricity in the mornings or in the afternoons. Also because of the fall of the level of underground water I have not been able to have running water for several years."*²



A housemother with her cottage family

Long hours at work in the dental surgery was not Hilary's only responsibility as she turned her hand to serving the Dohnavur family in other clinical, organisational and leadership roles.

"We work between 7 and 12 noon and 2:30 until we finish in the evening. I am

also doing a small amount of refraction (optical work).”⁶

“One of my other responsibilities, with a dear Indian sister, is to help in the arrangement of their marriages for some of the girls. ... Sometimes this involves journeys to go and see the prospective bridegrooms and sometimes we have to go and see families of our old girls where perhaps things are not going too well. Just yesterday I came back from a difficult journey, but we know the Lord was with us and we praised because we could see in many little details that he led.”⁴

“There are many opportunities of witnessing in the wards, through selling books and the ‘Meetings of Vision’ held each year after Christmas. Often about 500 come and stay in the hospital for all or part of the 3 days meetings. It is my responsibility to co-ordinate the meetings, inviting the speaker, see that the invitations are sent out; fitting the 500 or so guests into the 30 bed hospital. These are some of the things which cannot be forgotten.”⁷

The pressures were strikingly similar to those that hospitals face today: mounting outpatient attendances and short staffing. In the latter years, as her overseas colleagues retired, Hilary appreciated help from visiting dentists and students and looked towards the need for Indian leadership of the work at Dohnavur.

“We are short-staffed. There are two doctors to see 300 patients in one day! Praise the Lord, two of our old girls have heard the call to come back and join us as nurses.”³

“A final year dental student, Jenny Silvester, was with me for five weeks last year. It was a very happy time and Jenny was a great help. ... Last year I had far more patients than ever before – 2274 individuals and 3417 attendances, not including the patients from our own Family.”⁸

“James Gray was also at the conference and it was encouraging to have him here with us for five days afterwards.”²

“...we had to say goodbye to one of our colleagues who has had to return to UK to be with her aged parents. When I first came there were 40 of us from overseas, now there are only five. We praise for all the responsibility our Indian colleagues now take. But there is pressure on all sides, so please join us in prayer for recruits and for more in our Family to grow in the Lord to be able to share the burdens.”⁹

“Although I hope to be in Dohnavur for a few more years, it seems that it is not too early to be praying for the one of the Lord’s choice to come and work with me...”¹⁰

“We are looking forward to a visit from James Wallace ... which will be an encouragement to my young Indian colleague Jairesh Kingsley who is doing most of the dental work to free me for other ministry ...”¹¹



Children play in the safety of the Dohnavur family

It was always evident that an understanding of people’s deepest need was at the heart of everything Hilary did.

“What an opportunity it is to bring these children up to love, know and serve the Lord Jesus! When they are older they will go out all over India. Think what this would mean if they are all on fire for the Lord Jesus!”³

“The name of the Dohnavur Hospital is ‘Parama Suha Salai’, which means the place of heavenly healing. Please pray that ... the patients – Hindus, Muslims

and Christians – may find this heavenly healing in body, mind and spirit.”¹²



An evening walk in the shadow of the Western Ghats

Hilary’s prayers were answered for a dental team to take over on her retirement as Drs Abraham and Mary Abraham joined the hospital. Ten years after retiring, she returned to Dohnavur for the Fellowship’s centenary celebrations.

“Now ... there are extended buildings, up to date equipment and, most important of all, there are three dental surgeons.”¹²

I am jolted back to the present as my phone buzzes with another news notification. With a swipe I can listen again to Prince or David Bowie, I can watch Carrie Fisher as Leia or Alan Rickman as Professor Snape, or I can laugh again with Victoria Wood. Or instead I can turn away to remember Hilary and her life lived in the red dust of a remote part of a distant land, far from celebrity, a life lived for others. Suddenly I notice where her legacy will be found as I recognise how much her quiet influence was woven into my fabric in the space of just a few weeks many years ago. I instantly realise that the same will be true for many others who saw her living out what she believed:

“He died that we might not live for ourselves but to Him.”³

References

All the quotes in this article are taken from Hilary’s letters to CDF, published in previous editions of *CDF Missionary Digest and Newsletter* or *CDF Newsround* dated as follows:

1. October-December 1977; 2. February 1983; 3. May-August 1978; 4. July-December 1979; 5. January-June 1979; 6. January-June 1980; 7. October 1979; 8. January-June 1981; 9. January-June 1982; 10. July-December 1981; 11. Spring 1991; 12. Autumn 2001.

Image credits: all images taken at Dohnavur by Jenny Harris in 1987

Helping Zambian Dental Therapists Treat Rural Schoolchildren



In Lusaka, Zambia, a determined team of dental therapists are working hard to fill the gaping holes in the country's dental workforce.

With a population of around 14 million, there are just 250 dental professionals in the country. This is worrying because tooth decay is on the rise with the growing availability of refined sugar. Of these 250 dental professionals, there are only 40 dentists, mostly found in urban areas. This leaves large swathes of the population unable to access dental care when they suffer from toothache.

Since 2014 the Global Child Dental Fund has been working with the Borrow

Foundation to improve the oral health capacity in Zambia, specifically so that children with toothache and special care needs have somewhere to go for dental care. We are collaborating with the local NGO Isubilo Community Resource, in conjunction with the Zambian Dental Training School and the Zambian Ministry of Health.

We are training final year dental therapy students at the Lusaka Dental Training School to carry out a wide range of treatments and prevention activities. As part of their education, dental therapy students are sent on an outreach project in the rural Ndola region of Zambia. The practical knowledge they gain on this outreach scheme has been incorporated into the students' final exam.

There is particular focus on special care dentistry, providing care to children with medical conditions. They provide pain relief, dietary advice, oral hygiene instruction, provision of toothpaste and toothbrush if needed, fissure sealants, simple restorative care and twice yearly application of fluoride varnish to pupils at twenty rural and semi urban schools. The

students are also educating children in local schools on the importance of tooth brushing and healthy lifestyles.

So far, nearly 12,000 pupils from 29 government and community run primary schools have been examined. A number of pupils had tooth decay and abscesses. Of these children, over 3,500 pupils from fourteen schools have already been successfully treated by 32 dental therapy students. Our project enables dental therapists to build up experience and confidence treating medically compromised children. This exposure means that once qualified they will not turn away disadvantaged children in urgent need of dental care.

Our project aims to be financially sustainable and in time, adopted by the national government. While we are working to achieve these aims, any online donations would be hugely appreciated.

Please visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gcdfund

Aneta Stanev

CDF Regional Days

East Midlands and Humberside/Yorkshire

11th March 2017 11am

Meeting at Clumber Park for a walk followed by lunch. Clumber Park is a country park in the Dukeries near Worksop in Nottinghamshire, England. Contact Karen Paterson via cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com

East Anglia

Saturday 8th April 11am

Meeting at the home of Barrie Lawrence. There will be a curry lunch around 12.30-1pm. We will have Nick Stolls speaking after lunch, on his recent time on the Mercy ships. Contact Barrie via cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com

London North

Saturday 13 May 2017 3.30-6.30

Talk by Tony Giles, mission update and prayer followed by a buffet tea. Venue is Barton le Clay near Bedford. RSVP Jonathan via cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com

South West

20th May 2017

Meeting at the home of Martyn and Sue Green in Tiverton. Contact Malcolm Prideaux via cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com

Wessex

Saturday 18th March

Meeting for a walk in a local country park, then chill and food. Contact Christian Gollings via cdf.sarahfelton@gmail.com

Deadline for the next issue of Three-in-One is 1st April 2017. Please send contributions to Tracey Dalby: editor@cdf-uk.org

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The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily express those of the Christian Dental Fellowship council or their members

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