



ICMDA CEO's E-newsletter
April 2023

Dear friend,

Thank you for keeping in touch with ICMDA, especially if you've joined us at one of our recent webinars. I hope you are keeping well and knowing the Lord's presence and blessing. Below are a few highlights from ICMDA's ministry over the last month.



World Congress Bursaries – the need is urgent!

Going to an ICMDA World Congress is usually a once in a lifetime experience, and over the 60 years of our existence thousands have been equipped, encouraged and had their eyes open to what God is doing amongst doctors worldwide. Many have gone on to establish new national fellowships in their own countries. This year we expect at least 16 new national associations of doctors and dentists to join ICMDA, taking our overall membership to 100. This includes several countries where persecution against Christians is significant and where, for many, the only Christian they may ever meet is a doctor or dentist.

800 people are now officially registered for the ICMDA World Congress on 20-25 June in Arusha, Tanzania (see below). Almost 200 of these (from over 60 resource-poor countries) have already received bursaries covering registration costs (but not travel or accommodation). Another 450, especially in Africa, have applied for bursaries but we have 'run out' of money and are just over halfway to our target of £200,000 which will enable us to sponsor 300 young leaders (along with travel expenses for those who need it). Thus far only four national movements and just over 60 individuals have contributed to the bursary fund.

When I ask God for more money, he tells me he has already given the doctors enough to meet the need many times over! Might you invest in helping a doctor or medical student from a resource poor country to join us? The need is now urgent. All bursaries granted will be carefully prioritised for those in resource-poor settings – especially speakers, national leaders, emerging leaders and students. You can give via the website [here](#) or by other routes [here](#) (please see video [here](#)).



ICMDA World Congress - 'early bird' rates extended to 30 April

The 17th ICMDA World Congress in Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa (20-25 June 2023) draws ever closer and 'early bird' rates (10% discount) have been **extended to 30 April**. Please come! 800 people have registered thus far with 450 others applying for bursaries (see above). The Congress theme is 'Serving with love in a hurting world' (see video and leaflet) and the main Bible speakers are Voddie Baucham and Mamusa Fenta with additional plenary speakers including John Wyatt, Vinod Shah, Florence Mundi and Mike Chupp. In addition, there are over 100 other speakers leading breakout sessions on subjects at the interface of Christianity and medicine.

We are expecting over 1,000 doctors, dentists and students from over 100 countries to attend. Ten Preconference streams including Family Medicine, Bioethics, Leadership, Saline Process, Advocacy and Strengthening your National Association will run on 20-22 June in parallel with the World Student Conference followed by the main event on 22-25 June. We encourage attendees to come for the whole six days.

There are also pre and post conference trips available to game parks, Mt Kilimanjaro and Christian mission and teaching hospitals. There is a wide variety of accommodation available in Arusha from budget (\$10-20 per night) up to five star (\$200 per night). If not travelling overland, you are best to fly to Kilimanjaro International Airport which is just 90 minutes from Arusha. Please keep praying for Augustin Lutakwa, the Congress Director, and the regional and national organising teams led by Alex Bolek and Kay Johnstone.



Ukraine – Major Breakthrough

Our Ukraine project has had a huge boost over the last few weeks through new corporate and charity donors and a major breakthrough in supply. We have received over £100,000 in gifts from leaders of international logistics companies to pay for lorries to Lublin, Poland (£2,000 each) from where Christian partners can ship supplies over the Ukrainian border. An additional grant of \$150,000 from Swedish partners Heart of Evangelism is enabling us to send 120 paramedic backpacks for those attending casualties on the front line. These are all being assembled by Christian doctors in Oxford, UK.

Last month we delivered 44 reconditioned anaesthetic machines (pic - we paid £40,000 for new hoses and vaporisers) to our national movement CMAU (under the inspirational leadership of Rudi Migovich) for distribution to destinations all over Ukraine along with 5,000 newly made blankets.

With the war continuing and much health infrastructure destroyed or obsolescent these supplies will make a tremendous difference. Please pray that the supply will continue, that we have funds to pay for more lorries and especially for our ICMDA logistics manager David Sawday who is master-minding the project.



Training, Training, Training

I'm just back from a wonderful ICMDA European national leaders' conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania on 24-26 March. The theme was 'Strengthening our national associations' and 30 people from eleven countries (see pic) attended including five ICMDA fieldworkers, amongst them, Timotei Medrea (Romanian), the latest to join the team, Mark Pickering of CMF UK (who is also our European chair) and I did most of the teaching but about half of the attendees gave talks and national reports. The weekend included a walking tour of the historic city centre and was ably hosted by MACAR Romania under the leadership of Adina and Paul Nandrea. Themes to emerge were the crucial importance of student ministry and ICMDA conferences in helping to equip and equip.

Last weekend a similar event took place in Bangkok, Thailand with participants from all over Indo-China and led by ICMDA fieldworkers Hedwin Kadrianto, Wei Leong Goh and Yasuko Arakawa. Meanwhile our online ten-week training packs, started during covid, continue to bear much fruit with over twenty running in this half-year semester.

March also saw the first cohort of 25 students graduate from our two-year international diploma in family medicine, including two ICMDA fieldworkers, Alex Bolek (South Sudan) and Hamado Sawadogo (Burkina Faso). Another 90 students from 35 countries are currently in cohorts two and three and registrations for the fourth cohort (starting in May this year) close on 15 April. See the ICMDA website for details.



Shane Memorial ICMDA Medical Missionary Award

Nominations are open for the Shane Memorial ICMDA Medical Missionary Award. Established in memory of Dr Shane Sam Mathew, a young and passionate missionary dentist who devoted his life to serving in the mission field. This award is given every two years to recognize and celebrate the exemplary work of a young medical missionary (35 years old or younger) who have served in a developing country for a minimum of two years. The recipient of the award will receive a cash prize of INR 40,000 Rupees/\$480 USD and will be recognized at an ICMDA Regional Conference or World Congress.

To apply, please submit the following documents: 1. A nomination letter detailing the nominee's achievements and contributions to medical missions in a developing country. 2. A CV or resume outlining the nominee's education, work experience, and volunteer activities. 3. Two reference letters from individuals familiar with the nominee's work.

All applications must be submitted by 30 May 2023 to be considered for the award. Please make your nomination [here](#) or email your application to [CMAU](#). Don't miss this opportunity to recognize a young doctor or dentist for hard work and dedication to medical missions.



ICMDA Prayer Diary

Upcoming Events

I'll be in the UK during April catching up with staff and fieldworkers, with a backlog of administrative tasks, hosting the weekly webinar, leading an online CC training track for Eurasian doctors and preparing for the ICMDA board and World Congress in Tanzania in June. In May I'll be travelling to Albania and Poland for the CMDA national conference and European Leadership Forum. My diary for July to December is yet to be set.

April is also a busy month for national conferences with seven ICMDA member organisations holding events – Burundi (8 April), Netherlands (15), Denmark (15), UK (21-23), US (27-30), France (20-20) and Malaysia (20-1). Please pray that those attending will be encouraged, strengthened and equipped. These and other upcoming national and regional events are listed on the ICMDA website.

The US and UK respectively are our first and third largest national movements respectively and their members together supply over half of ICMDA's subscription and donation income which funds our central office, staff and 65 fieldworkers.

Our February to April 2023 prayer diary is still available online or write to us to receive a hard copy. The May to July edition will be out soon. You can sign up for the daily Doctors' Life Support 4 email on the ICMDA website: [www.icmda.org](#) of starting the day. There is also information about how you can support ICMDA in praying and giving (Ukraine, World Congress, Projects).

Upcoming Webinars **Previous Webinars**

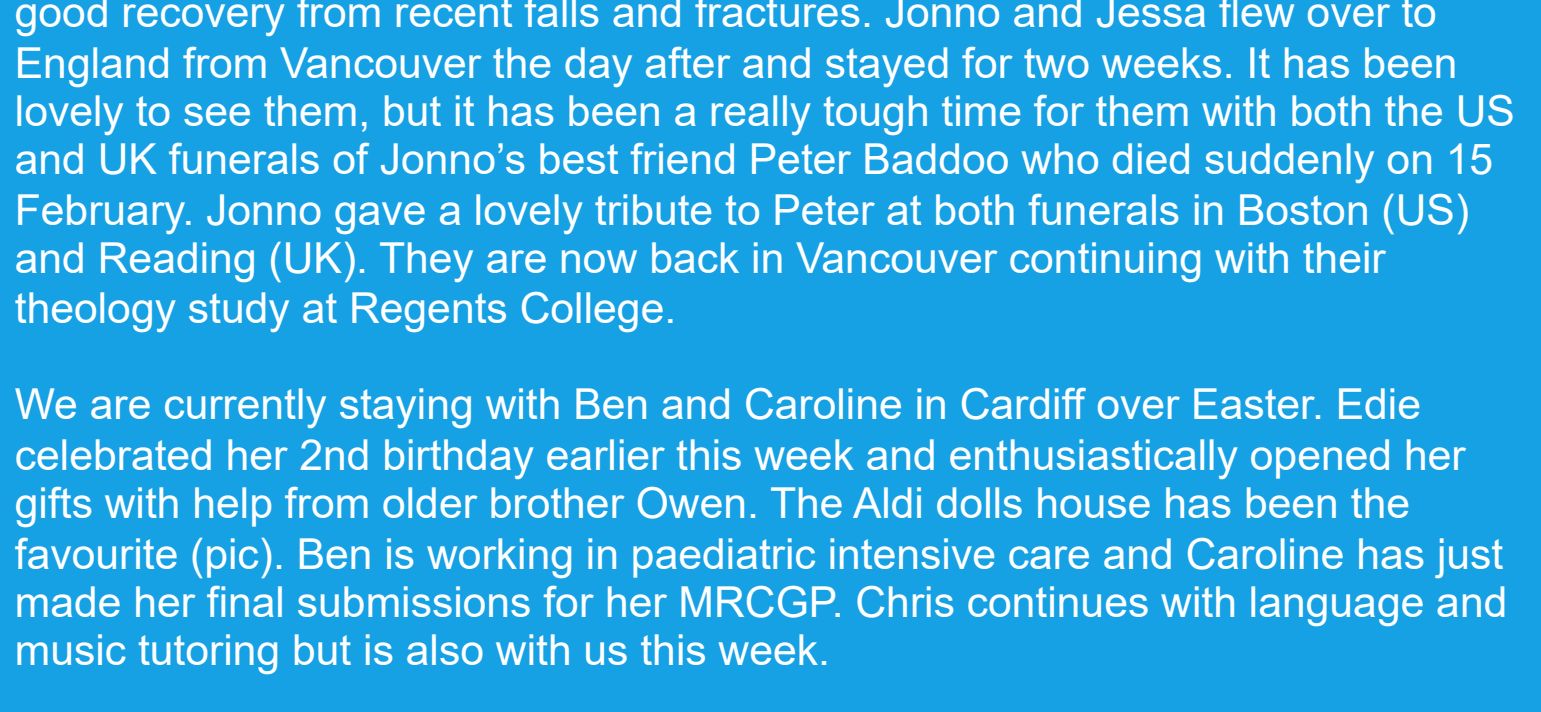
<p>Ethical management of torture & ill-treatment cases</p> <p>DR RACHAEL PICKERING</p> <p>16:00-17:00 UTC+1</p> <p>Thursday 6 April 2023</p> <p>REGISTER NOW</p>	<p>Training village healthcare workers</p> <p>DR TAN LAI YONG</p> <p>16:00-17:00 UTC+1</p> <p>Thursday 12 April 2023</p> <p>REGISTER NOW</p>	<p>Click here to search the webinar database</p> <p>Dr Chris Jenkins - Spiritual warfare and the mind</p> <p>Dr Shari Falkenheimer - Going on mission without leaving home</p>
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ICMDA Webinars

Our ICMDA webinar series continues to attract a wide following with five more presentations held in March including ICMDA World Congress 2023: (Augustin Lutakwa), 'The pursuit of excellence and the perils of perfectionism' (Rick Allen), 'Success: Secular versus Christian' (Pablo Martinez), 'Going on mission without leaving home' (Shari Falkenheimer) and 'Spiritual warfare and the mind' (Chris Jenkins).

Next up in April are 'Ethical management of torture & ill-treatment cases' (Rachael Pickering), 'Training village healthcare workers' (Tan Lai Yong), 'Ensuring medical missionary longevity' (Rick Allen) and 'Understanding Islam: The hermeneutical key' (Jay Smith). Usually, between 50 and 150 doctors, dentists and students from 40 to 60 countries watch each week live on Zoom or Facebook. The February webinar on 'Exclusion: a theory in crisis' (John Lennon) has just gone viral with over 45,000 views on YouTube.

Webinars are held at 14:00 BST (UTC+1) on a Thursday and you can access all past webinars on our searchable database (145 so far) and book free for future events on our website. Each webinar is published along with links to relevant resources so they can fill a helpful session for regional, national or local groups wanting to engage with the issues. Over 60 webinars are also available on Spotify Anchor as podcasts (or search for ICMDA in your podcast provider).



Family News

Kirsty and I got back from three weeks in New Zealand on 14 March. It was a rich time for catching up with friends and family and most especially for seeing my mother Jan (88) who is declining gradually with dementia but has made a good recovery from recent falls and fractures. Jenna and Jessa flew over to England from Vancouver the day after and stayed for two weeks. It has been lovely to see them, but it has been a really tough time for them with both the US and UK funerals of Jenna's best friend Peter Baddoo who died suddenly on 15 February. Jenna gave a lovely tribute to Peter at both funerals in Boston (US) and Reading (UK). They are now back in Vancouver continuing with their theology study at Regents College.

We are currently staying with Ben and Caroline in Cardiff over Easter. Edie celebrated her 2nd birthday earlier this week and enthusiastically opened her gifts with help from older brother Owen. The Aidi dolls house has been the favourite (pic). Ben is working in paediatric intensive care and Caroline has just made her final submissions for her MRCCP. Chris continues with language and music tutoring but is also with us this week.

I've managed to lose 8kg on the slimming world diet since last September with better health and faster running times as a result. It's amazing the difference eating better makes, but there is something far more important to strive for (Matthew 10:11, 1 Timothy 4:8).

Thank you for your prayers and support. It's always a joy to hear from you too, so get in touch. May you know God's grace and peace in full measure over this coming month.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Peter

Peter Saunders
ICMDA Chief Executive

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