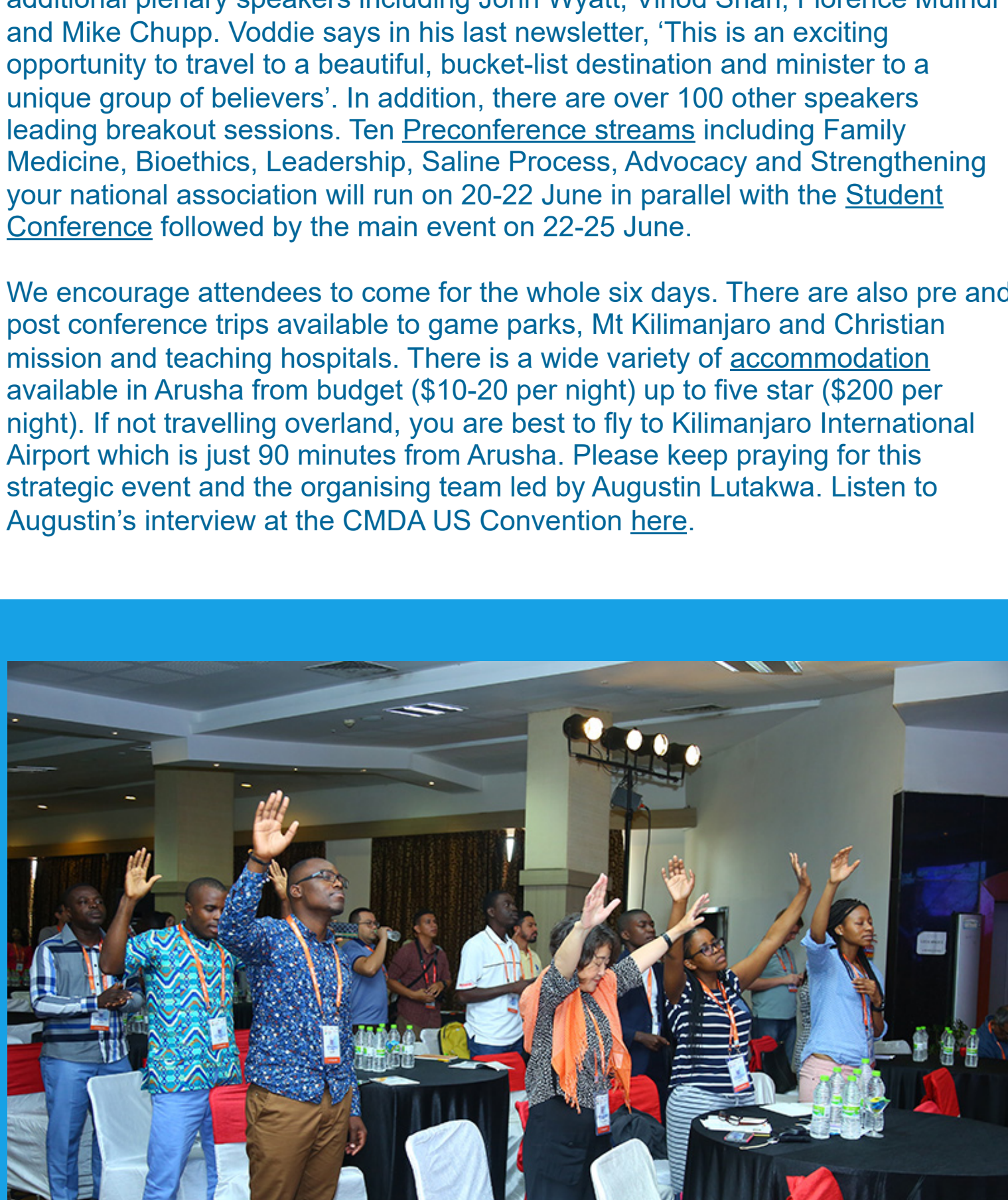




ICMDA CEO's E-newsletter
May 2023

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 updates and highlights from ICMDA's ministry over the last month.



ICMDA World Congress – it's not too late to come!

'Serving with love in a hurting world' is the theme of the **17th ICMDA World Congress** in Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa on 20-25 June 2023 (see [video](#) and [leaflet](#)). Please come! It is not too late. 450 people have registered thus far (including 200 on bursaries) and we are expecting over 1,000 doctors, dentists and students from over 100 countries to attend.

The main Bible speakers are **Voddie Baucham** and **Mamusha Fenta** with additional plenary speakers including John Wyatt, Vinod Shah, Florence Mundi and Mike Chupp. Voddie says in his last newsletter, 'This is an exciting opportunity to travel to a beautiful, bucket-list destination and minister to a unique group of believers'. In addition, there are over 100 other speakers leading breakout sessions. Ten **Pre-conference streams** including Family Medicine, Bioethics, Leadership, Saline Process, Advocacy and Strengthening your national association will run on 20-22 June in parallel with the **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 overnight, you are best to fly to Kilimanjaro International Airport which is just 90 minutes from Arusha. Please keep praying for this strategic event and the organising team led by Augustin Lutakwa. Listen to Augustin's interview at the CMDA US Convention [here](#).



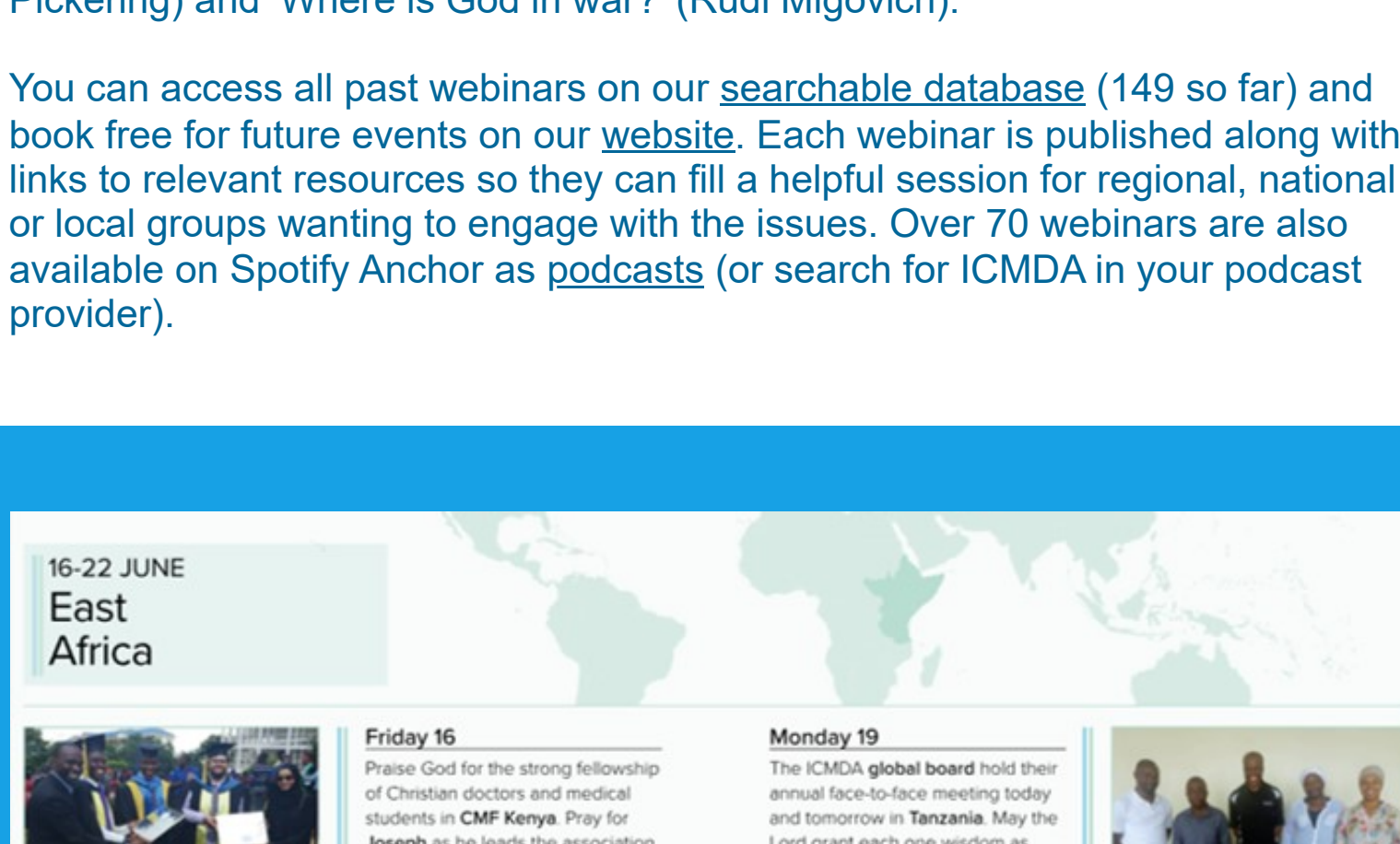
World Congress Bursaries – the need remains urgent!

Thank you so much to those who have given to the **bursary fund** to enable young leaders from resource-poor countries to attend the World Congress. Recent generous gifts from members of CMDA US (over \$50,000) and ARCHAE Austria (5,000 euros) have now boosted the fund total to over \$210,000 towards our target of \$250,000 (£200,000).

We have already awarded 200 bursaries covering registration costs (but not travel or accommodation) to leaders from over 60 countries and recent gifts will enable us to award 100 more to those 450 still on the waiting list. Our aim is to sponsor at least 300 young leaders (along with travel expenses for those who need it) but the final number will depend on how much we raise.

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 opened to what God is doing amongst doctors worldwide. Many have gone on to establish new national fellowships in their own countries. This year 21 new national associations of doctors and dentists have applied to join ICMDA, which could take our overall membership to over 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.

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](#)).



Fieldworkers' Summit

The ICMDA Fieldworkers' Summit was held on Saturday 15 April. This virtual event brought together 58 fieldworkers, staff and board members from over 50 countries for a wonderful day of worship, teaching, updates, testimonies and group work and was our first global meeting since the in-person summit in UAE last November and our last before the world congress in June.

The day started with a Bible address from Alex Bolek on 'Preparing a highway for the Lord to be glorified' based on Isaiah 40:3-5. Alex spoke of our life of corporate discipleship in terms of deserts to be crossed, valleys to be raised, mountains to be brought low, rough ground to be levelled and crooked ways to be made straight in order that God might be glorified in our lives and activities. He gave a call for persistence, discernment, generosity, teamwork and sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

After a Global Update from me on ICMDA's work we then heard testimonies from fieldworkers Rudi (Ukraine), Talitha (Latin America), David (DFM course) and Hedwin (Oceania) leading to a time of prayer and testimony in small groups. World Congress director Augustin Lutakwa then brought a Congress Update. The second half of the day was given to 'Reflections from the UAE Summit' led by Head of Training Santhosh and people broke into regional groups for further discussion and planning. Individual contributions are highlighted above or you can view the entire playlist on our [YouTube channel](#).



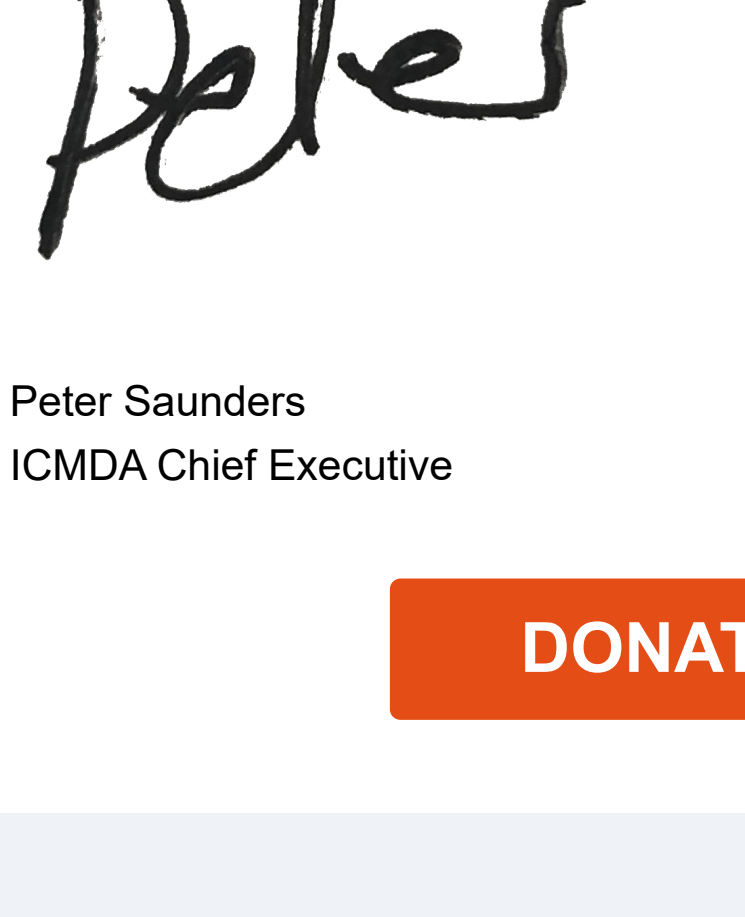
Ukraine – More blessings

Our Ukraine project continues to prosper under God's gracious hand. In the last six weeks we have shifted 31 further lorry loads of beds, mattresses, drip stands, trolleys and much more. Each lorry carried the equivalent of 48 hospital beds, enough to stock eight six bedded rooms. 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.

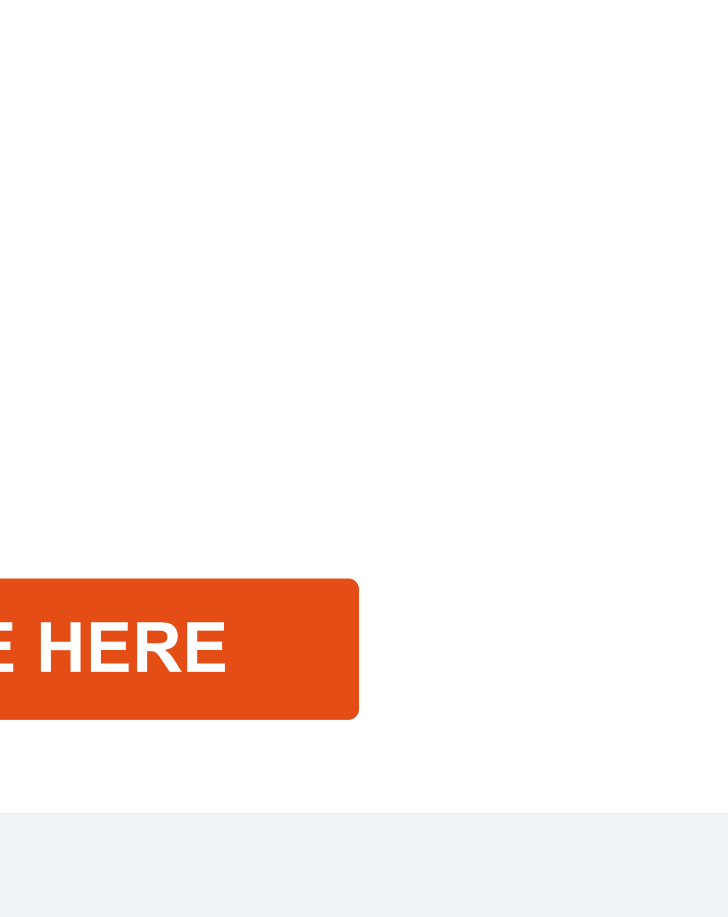
In early June CSMF UK members in Oxford will make up 120 paramedic backpacks for those under hospital casualties on the front line made possible by a grant of \$150,000 from Swedish partners **Heart of Evangelism**. All these supplies will go via our affiliated Ukrainian national movement (CMAU) under the inspirational leadership of Rudi Migovich) for distribution to destinations all over Ukraine.

ICMDA national movements in Norway, Sweden and Finland have given (via ICMDA) over 23,000 euros to fund CMAU's relief operation (costing \$20,000 per month). Other ICMDA member bodies are helping in different ways. Last month a team from Taiwan Christian Medical Association (TCMA) led by ICMDA board member Hang-der Oem made a two week visit to Ukraine to provide training and care (see pic).

Lessons from the birth of medical mission Where is God in war?



DR MARK PICKERING
14:00-15:00 UTC+1
Thursday 18 May 2023
[REGISTER NOW](#)



DR RUDI MYGOVICH
14:00-15:00 UTC+1
Thursday 25 May 2023
[REGISTER NOW](#)

ICMDA Webinars

Our ICMDA webinar series continues to attract a wide following with four more presentations held in April including 'Ethical management of torture & ill-treatment cases' (Rachael Pickering), 'Training village health-care workers' (Tan Lai Yong), 'Ensuring medical missionary longevity' (Rick Allen) and 'Understanding Islam: The hermeneutical key' (Jay Smith).

Next up in May are 'Community mental health in low resource settings' (Johann Ebenezzer and Praveen Alexander), 'Promoting family medicine worldwide' (Rebekah Zechariah), 'Lessons from the birth of medical mission' (Mark Pickering) and 'Where is God in war?' (Rudi Migovich).

You can access all past webinars on our [searchable database](#) (149 so far) and book free for future events on our [website](#). Each webinar is published along with links to relevant resources so you can fill a helpful session for regional, national or local groups wanting to engage with the issues. Over 70 webinars are also available on Spotify Anchor as [podcasts](#) (or search for ICMDA in your podcast provider).

Upcoming Events

This month for me is a busy time of travel and committees. On 5-7 May I'll be speaking at the Albania CMA Conference in Tirana, and on 20-25 May I'll be at the European Leadership Forum in Wisla, Poland where I have a mix of speaking, interviews, and mentoring. In between, is an unexpected return to New Zealand (10-18 May) for mum's funeral (see below).

The ICMDA governance, world congress, strategy and finance committees also meet this month. I'm hugely grateful to my amazing staff team who have stepped up to fill in for me at a dozen engagements I had planned in the middle of this month. We are also in the lead up to the World Congress in Tanzania on 20-25 June.

May is also a busy month for national conferences with at least eight ICMDA member organisations holding events – Albania (5-7), Switzerland (6-7), Romania (12-14), Germany (12-14), Serbia (12-14), New Zealand (20 & 27), Canada (25-28) and Thailand (27-28). Please pray that those attending will be encouraged, strengthened and equipped.

Our May to July 2023 prayer diary is now available on line (or write to us to receive a hard copy). You can also sign up for the daily Doctor's Life Support email on the [ICMDA website](#) – a great way of starting the day. There is also information about how you can support ICMDA in prayer and giving (Ukraine, World Congress, Projects).

New CEO for PRIME

We're excited to tell you that Dr Andy Charley has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer for ICMDA's close partner organisation PRIME (Partnerships in International Medical Education). Andy (on the left of the photo above) has been a PRIME tutor since 2005 and has experience in Albania, India and more recently in Pakistan. He is a member of the PRIME team who went to Pakistan recently and also has experience in the past in Sri Lanka, South Africa and Kenya.

Andy has recently retired as a General Practitioner (GP) Partner in Canterbury in South East England, was an Associate Dean for GP Training and is an Associate Lecturer with Kent and Medway Medical School. He will work for PRIME four days per week, usually Monday to Thursday, and will continue doing some clinical sessions. He writes, 'Thanks for your good wishes about my recent appointment as PRIME CEO. I officially start on 12 June but am slowly getting up to speed. I really appreciate your sentiments and support.' Andy will be attending the ICMDA World Congress in Tanzania in June where there will be an opportunity to meet him.

Family News

My mother, Janice Mary Saunders, was promoted to glory on 22 April after a short illness against a background of gradual dementia. She was 88. Kirsty and I are so thankful to have spent time with her on our visit to New Zealand in February/March this year. Kirsty is unable to fly currently, post lipothomy, so I will go back alone for the farewell and the rest of the family will join a family commitment virtually before a larger (in person but [streamed](#)) thanksgiving service in Auckland on 15 May.

I'm so thankful for both my parents, who not only led my brother Andrew and me to the Lord, but also set us a wonderful example of committed Christian marriage and ministry. My sister-in-law Helen described mum as 'joyful in living and unconditional in loving'. She was a wise counsellor, attentive listener, gracious host, selfless carer, full of absorbing anecdotes and a source of endless encouragement. She was also a formidable advocate for the marginalised and forgotten, working both as a nurse and psychogeriatric social worker and involved in a host of voluntary service activities for both young and old.

As Christians we know that death is a painful but temporary separation for those left behind but also a joyful and permanent reunion for those already with Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Above you can see mum dancing with my brother in January. Now she is dancing with Jesus, my dad Owen, her parents Vic and Margaret and her sister Betty. And soon, we will dance with her again, forever (Luke 24:5).

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

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Peter Saunders

Peter Saunders
ICMDA Chief Executive

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