



TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST
TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

CMDFA Student Worker Report November 2018

Introduction

It has been a privilege to serve in CMDFA as the student worker since 2015.

During the course of this role, I have had two children, lived in three different states, and served under two different CMDFA chairs.

I first encountered CMDFA in my third year as a medical student, when I was sponsored by the Victorian CMDFA committee to attend Impact in Queensland. It was a life-changing conference for me, to find out that there was a support network of doctors and dentists across Australia who were inspired to live for Jesus in the work lives, not just once a week on a Sunday.

As student worker, I have tried to provide as many students as possible with this same gift – the chance to attend a conference and join an organization which will pray for them, provide resources for them, mentor them and help them to live out TRANSFORMED lives, with the vision of TRANSFORMING healthcare for Christ.

Vision 2018

We commenced the year, as always, with the Vision Leadership Conference held at Burleigh Heads. Though we were smaller in number with fewer students and mentors, we were privileged to have attendees again from Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. We learnt about leadership by studying from the book of James, and had time together to plan and strategize for the year ahead.

It was great to have a student from Adelaide attend, after struggling to get students from the University of Adelaide for a number of years. Next year, they are asking to



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send more than their quota – a great problem to have. God raises up His people and preserves His remnant.

I am convinced Vision remains a key strategic event as it specifically selects the future leaders of CMDFA and provides them with intense training and mentoring – it is vital for the next generation. It would be great to expand Vision and also have key recent graduates attending, to be trained and equipped.

I am thankful in particular for the support of key mentors over the past few years in Dr Andrew and Mrs Marilyn Cole, and Dr Maria and Mr David Haase, as well as Dr Ross Dunn and Dr Natasha Yates.

Impact 2018

The annual Impact conference, which focuses particularly on reaching out to students and recent graduates, to inspire them to be SOLID in their faith and RADICAL in their obedience to Christ, was held in Sydney. Our theme was “Brace For Impact” which encouraged students to think about how they would hit the ground running as Christian healthcare professionals in the real world. We were privileged to hear from our speaker Dr Sam Chan, who drew from his medical and pastoral background in his talks. Nothing takes God by surprise, and when Sam had to make an unexpected departure due to illness, we were privileged to have mentors step up and finish the rest of the talks; our particular thanks to Prof. John Whitehall, Dr Nadia Low and Dr Catherine Hollier for delivering talks at short notice.

Next year will be the 20th Impact. We are thankful to God for twenty years of ministry through this conference, and many of the younger generation of CMDFA hold Impact as one of the defining ministries in their Christian medical work. I am grateful for the mentors that return year after year, and the sponsors that subsidize the conference to allow needy students to attend. Our theme for next year will be *Gratitude* and our speaker will be Dr Jeremy Beckett.

Date: April 25 – 28, 2019

Venue: Elanora Uniting Venues, Elanora Heights, Sydney NSW



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National Student Committee

The National Student Committee, which comprises representatives from each state who serves as a point of contact between CMDFA and the university groups at each campus, was ably led by Andrew Wilson from Victoria. We congratulate him on recently getting married.

We thank the student representatives for their service, which in many cases also includes being a voice for students on the state committee, as well as running student events in their state and running "state and campus time" at Impact.

Transition Packs

Transition packs were sent out via email to all graduating students of 2018, to allow them to link into CMDFA as a full paying member when they become doctors and dentists. We offer a special two years for the price of one deal for students, and the transition pack also includes links to resources on the CMDFA website that are specific for the challenges of graduation and videos of CMDFA members talking about their experience of internship.

We still have difficulty in converting students to graduate members and lose many due to the life altering event that is internship or first year working as a dentist. Many students have to move and lose their support networks. We need prayer and strategy in this space.

Graduation Pledge

This graduation pledge is being taken up by final year students attending events around the country, and was in use this year at the NSW (Sydney and Newcastle) and Victorian Annual Dinners.

I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord.

I confess my lifelong need of His unmerited grace, and His guidance for every



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part of my life and service, for His glory.

I will seek to honour Christ in all my endeavours for each patient's needs.

I will value and respect all human life.

I will strive to be salt and light in the communities and contexts in which God calls me to serve.

I will stand for professional integrity and social justice.

I will strive to transform my practice of healthcare by following Christ and seeking to integrate my faith into my practice.

I now call on those here present to witness the humble dedication of my life and career ahead to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We do pray that the graduating students of 2018 will be given the strength to live up this prayer and commitment.

Social Media Policy and Website

CMDFA has been blessed by the opportunities to expand its reach through Facebook and its website. This is a key space to have a presence in, particularly among the "digital generation". However, this has also led to drawback in that the website, if not kept constantly updated and full of content, can be damaging to the reputation of CMDFA, as can the many unregulated and unofficial CMDFA groups on Facebook that bear our name and image.

As a response to this, the Social Media Policy was created which gave guidelines for how CMDFA's name and image can be used in social media domains. Enacting this policy has proved difficult and I personally have not had the time to conduct a thorough audit of the 30+ groups on Facebook that use CMDFA in their title, and to contact the administrators of these groups.

This is the next challenge for CMDFA and we need godly warriors in the tech domain who are able to help reclaim our brand and identity in this sphere, and help build our website so it becomes a flawless, functional tool that assists our quest to gain members, rather than frustrate or dissuade them.



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Passing on the Baton

As I face the daunting prospect of studying for my Paediatric specialty examinations next year, after much prayer and thought I have realized that the time for this season of ministry with CMDFA has, for me, come to an end. I am still passionate about students and student ministry, and hope that I can attend CMDFA conferences as a mentor.

I thank Dr Ross Dunn for his support as CMDFA chair, and Dr Judy Fitzmaurice as the chair prior to him. Similarly, I thank Marilyn Byrne and David Brown in the office for their support, particularly with conference organizing. I also pay tribute to my loving husband Joseph who has been a spiritual and accounting sounding block for many matters.

I am looking for the next person to take on this busy role and I know that God will provide a great candidate with new and fresh ideas, and a passion to see a generation of doctors and dentists who love Jesus and want to use their profession to live for Him.

Sincerely,

Dr Jacki Dunning

6 November 2018



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