



Christian Medical and
Dental Fellowship
of Australia

November Board Meeting

Chair's report.

Despite the restrictions of Covid on our inter-personal gatherings and the particular concerns for our young people missing out on Impact and other fellowships, CMDFA has continued strongly in other areas and, in fact, new ground has been broken by media plowing, no more impressively than by James' exposition on Covid vaccination. This move into the 'airways' is proving successful if gauged by the unprecedented numbers of people who are actually becoming aware of what CMDFA is all about. Thanks to David for his work in getting ideas to the masses.

Sadly, some of our publication has not yet had positive effect: I refer to the case of Jereth Kok who remains suspended, now for over 2 years, with no real prospects of change. I don't suppose there are prospects for positive change in response to the submission we are struggling to finish and submit to the NSW parliament with regard to euthanasia. However, as with other issues, we are not called to win, merely to engage in battle whose outcome lies in another realm.

With regard to positive things...the Friday night prayer group organised by NSW Chair Ern Crocker and his wife continues to be a source of fellowship and strength, reaching out to our friends in other countries, not merely other unvisited suburbs. And, also in that light, our contacts with friends international branches of CMDFA continue to grow.

Given Covid appears to be coming under some kind of control and restrictions are being lifted, I feel we must try to get together at all levels as soon as possible in the new year. The need is particular (but not restricted) for our young people.

And, speaking of personnel, there are strong rumours that both David and Marilyn are considering retirement. I, for one, understand the foundational role these two play and one of life's latest blessings has been, at least for me, the deepening of friendship as we have shared CMDFA considerations. They will be missed and time is passing. We need to seek guidance for replacement, or pray for eternal employment.

And, regarding eternal employment, my life, as described by Job, is also going up in smoke. Continuation of the work of CMDFA would appear to be much more assured if the National Chair was replaced well before the retreat of the COO. In other words, the existing COO should be given time to break-in (if not entirely subdue) a new Chair.

The current Chair has already exceeded his 'use-by' date but faces a severe challenge of reduced staffing in his university in the new year (because of retirements of key personnel, and other issues). This will mean he will need to be at the forefront of curriculum development and delivery, organisa-



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tion of student rosters and examinations, development and supervision of research etc as will continuation in an increased clinical load.

So, at least change 'is in the air'. If we hearkened to that secular song we might proclaim its attestation that 'love is in the air' for fundamentally that is what we believe. We are here to proclaim His Love is in the air, and to evidence it through our work. He knows we are 'going up in Jobian smoke (if there is such a word) and we are thus enabled to look to the future with positive expectation of his providence. In the meantime, we will have to work on a few advertisements and pitch in for a box of chocolates and a few flowers for the office staff.

For many reasons, it has been a privilege to have been Chair of CMDFA.

In Him, John Whitehall