

Assistant Professor Giles Cattermole (89) **Accident and Emergency Medicine and Teaching in Asia**

Assistant Professor Giles Cattermole (89) recounts his experience of practising and teaching resuscitation medicine in Hong Kong. He also explains his new role in the UK as Head of Student Ministries with Christian Medical Fellowship.

For the last two years I have been Assistant Professor in the A&E Medicine Academic Unit at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, one of two medical schools in Hong Kong. I worked one clinical day per week, as a specialist in the Emergency Department. The department is busy – about 150,000 patients a year. With no publicly funded GPs (as we know them) in Hong Kong, A&E workload includes a lot of “primary care”, although my own main clinical role was to cover the resuscitation rooms. To the extent that resuscitation patients are critically ill and often unconscious, the language problem was minimised: 95% of the patients do not speak English, staff or medical students provide translation otherwise. The rest of the week is academic: research and teaching. Our main postgraduate programme is an MSc in Pre-hospital and Emergency Care, and we also teach local final year medical students, and overseas elective students. There are several research projects ongoing; my own work was in resuscitation medicine.

Before Hong Kong, I'd had little research experience. After qualifying from Oxford in 1995, I did basic surgical training in England before a brief period of voluntary work in Zimbabwe, and then a year of anaesthetics. My higher specialist training in Emergency Medicine was based in Cardiff, and completed in 2007. During this time I developed interests in resuscitation, pre-hospital and disaster medicine, teaching, and medical ethics. I was also in the Territorial Army for 10 years.

For the last 4 years or so of my registrar training, I worked part-time so I could also work for my church, looking after the ministry to university students. The university post in Hong Kong came as a great opportunity, not just to develop a research interest, but to continue Christian ministry in a university environment, with our local church, and especially overseas. In the last year I've been on several short-term medical missions in local developing nations, teaching trauma resuscitation, or providing basic primary care clinics.

Last year I was offered the post as Head of Student Ministries with Christian Medical Fellowship in London, and in mid January my family and I moved back to the UK. CMF supports student groups in medical schools throughout the British Isles, providing a network and resources for them to integrate their faith and work, and encouraging them in overseas medical mission work.