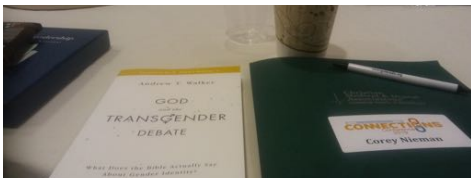




# Christian Medical & Dental Associations of WNY

*Changing Hearts in Healthcare*

*The Official Newsletter of...*



## CMDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Written by Corey Nieman

It was quite the experience attending this year's national conference and meeting all my counterparts throughout the country representing the CMDA. There were over 13 new staff hired within the past year, myself being one of them. I got to witness all the kingdom building things this ministry is doing, as well as plans for this upcoming year. One major transition was the stepping down of our CEO David Stevens to meeting his successor in Michael Chupp. We got to hear his mission and vision of integrating technology to better help reach today's students. Our main speaker was Andrew Walker on "God and the Transgender Debate." This subject matter was fairly foreign to me, but really educated and equipped me to having conversations with folks struggling with that issue. All in all the conference was great...except for my return home. I haven't flown in 10 years mostly due to taking road trips with the family. I feel like God made it so I would experience 10 years worth of flight delays in one trip. I arrived at the airport at 11:00am on Friday and did not get back to Buffalo until 1:30am Sat. morning. But at least I had plenty of time to reflect on the trip...and people watch!

### EXPLORE WHAT'S NEW:

- Meet our new director
- EMBRACE recovery coach academy
- Graduation Celebration
- Nepal Missions Update

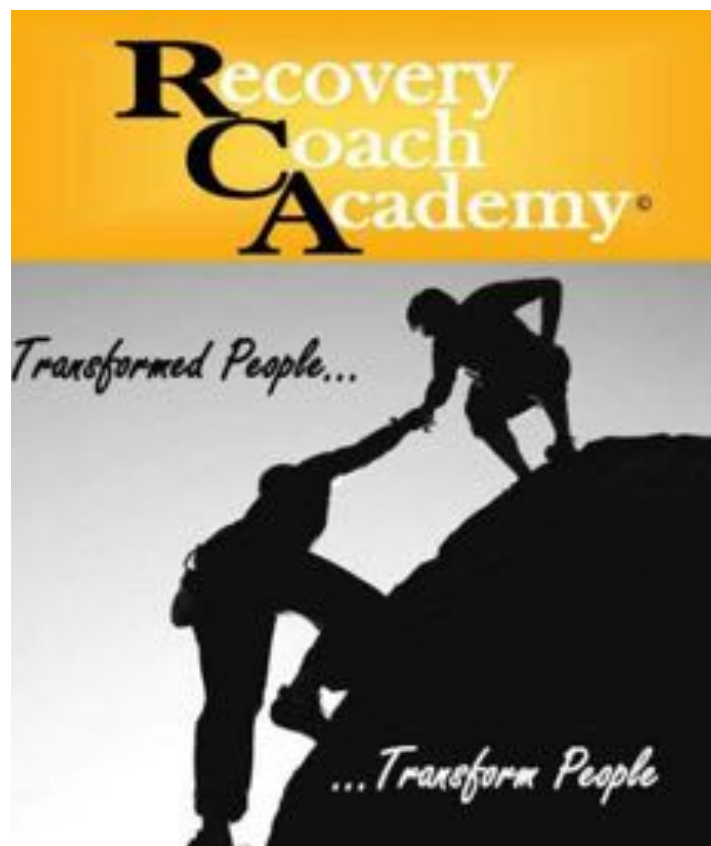


## FREE RECOVERY COACHING

Over the past 6 months Watermark Wesleyan and Eastern Hills Church have trained over 25 recovery coaches to build up a small army of folks trained to offer free one on one addiction/recovery to the community. Recovery coaches are one on one peer-peer support to help someone in their recovery from, substances, gambling, pornography, workaholism, whatever the affliction may be. We see all addiction level at the foot of the cross though the worldly consequences are different. Medicated assisted treatment, recovery coaching and faith based 12 step make for a strong chain of support for those in recovery. The beauty of recovery coaching is that it focuses on the here and now and helps people set goals for today and tomorrow which is a very practical and tactical form of help. Recovery coaching is also very flexible in that it can happen in a doctor's office, a coffee shop, church, community center, a park bench...anywhere the coach and recoveree can find a bit of quiet to talk things out. Much like how God ministers to us.

## God's Orchestration...

I first worked with Dr Holmes and the CMDA when Eastern Hills church planted Good Neighbors Healthcare about 10 years ago. Since that time God called me to be in ministry both as a biblical counselor and recovery coach. As of 2 years ago I came on staff at Eastern Hills Church in their Spiritual Formation Department as a ministry coordinator. However as of June 1st I have been given the appointment of Director of The Caring Network. What this means for the CMDA is greater church support, access to resources, and networking ability to help grow the CMDA, and for student faith development. Also, as a member of the Erie County Opioid Task Force the CMDA will take on a greater emphasis on addiction and recovery services through EMBRACE. We are seeing God's orchestration at work and anticipating great things for the CMDA and the WNY area over the next ministry year.



## **2019 Graduation Celebration**

by Chris Sullivan, MA, CMDA Campus Minister

As the Israelites are about to end of their journey in the wilderness and are preparing to enter into the Promised Land, Moses encourages them to “remember how the Lord your God led you” (Deut. 8:2). While med school is not entirely equivalent to Israel’s 40 years of wandering in the wilderness (again, not entirely), “remembering” was the theme of this year’s annual CMDA celebration for med school graduates. There were two things that struck me as students remembered their wilderness moments and how God provided the manna they needed. First, I was amazed at the deep and profound love that each student had for God. Story after story led us into deeper adoration to God. It was awe-inspiring just to be in this sacred space of student stories. Second, I was struck by how evident it was that these men and women are, and will continue to become, faithful leaders. The stories they shared not only told of how God provided for them in their wilderness moments, but their stories also cast a vision for following Jesus as whole life, whole world disciples. Even in looking back, these graduates were looking forward and were calling one another to continue seeking first the kingdom of God wherever it is absent. I am looking forward to seeing how the rest of their stories unfold and how God will use them to advance his kingdom. The evening concluded with the commissioning of the students as they recited and signed the Christian Physicians Oath. To end on this note seemed only fitting as was Moses’ final exhortation to Israel before they journeyed into the Promised Land.

“I command you today  
to love the Lord your God,  
to walk in obedience to him, and  
to keep his commands, decrees and laws;  
then you will live and increase,  
and the Lord your God will bless you  
in the land you are entering to possess.”

–Deuteronomy 30:16





### मेडिकल मिशन नवलपरासीको भ्रमण (Medical Mission Trip to Nepal)

Jericho Road Community Health Center and University at Buffalo (UB) teamed up to provide medical and spiritual care to those living in remote villages that were badly damaged by a big earthquake in 2015. These communities (elevation: ~7000 feet) were in the Himalayan Mountains and were only a few miles from the China/Tibet border. Mt. Everest wasn't too far away, but the team wasn't quite up for climbing it on this trip, maybe next time ;) Jericho Road is a Christian-based community health center in Buffalo that serves many refugees from all over the world. They also do global outreach and are working in Nepal to develop a sustainable way to help meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of this community.

This past April, six UB medical students and seven health professionals from UB and Jericho Road worked together to provide basic healthcare to this region of Nepal. The team was co-lead by Dr. Paul Violanti, Director of Global Health at Jericho Road and Dr. David Holmes, Director of the UB Global Medicine Program and President of CMDA of WNY. It took about 31 hours of travel time to get to northern Nepal, but it was well worth it. The team appreciated getting to know and learn from the beautiful people and culture of rural Nepal. Most were farmers who worked on terraced farms built on the slopes of mountains. The team also loved being surrounded by the incredible scenery. They spent the week living in and conducting a temporary clinic out of a local school.

Hinduism and Buddhism are the prominent religions in Nepal. Many people have never even heard the name of Jesus. The team worked with pastor Ashish who started the only church in the region about three years ago. There are currently 3-4 families that attend. The newest Constitution of Nepal (2015) provides for freedom to practice one's religion. However, the Constitution also specifically declares that it is illegal to evangelize or proselytize. This law is not strictly enforced in rural communities, but caution is still advised.



Sunday is a regular working day and school day in Nepal. Saturday is the only day off, so churches meet on Saturdays. After breakfast, we literally hiked up the side of one of the mountains to get to the church. "It was pure joy to witness songs of praise and worship. The prayers of both the Nepali and English worshipers felt so authentic. I could not help but think how amazing God is who hears the prayers of those back in Buffalo and the prayers of the Nepali mountain dwellers," said Arjun, one of the team members who was originally from Nepal and knows Nepali as well as English.

After the 2015 earthquake, most homes were damaged or destroyed in this region. The home of Ahmber, a farmer and Christian, was also destroyed. The government built him a one-room hut to live in, but he donated it to the community to be the local church, so this is where we met. Ahmber built a smaller home for himself and his family to live in. Barnabus works part-time for Jericho Road as a Health Assistant in this region. As an adolescent, he converted from Hinduism to Christianity and as a result his family literally kicked him out of his home and he became homeless. The sacrifices people make when they turn to Christ, are incredible. Thank you, Lord, for faithful people, like Ahmber, Barnabus, and Pastor Ashish who persevere through many challenges to bring Your love to those in need. - by Dr. David Homes

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Your partnership will make a difference in encouraging, and equipping healthcare professionals and students. It will help accomplish the mission of CMDA of WNY.

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