

# **MOVING FORWARD ON MISSION**



## The Garden Jesus has Called Us To Tend

Dear Friends and Partners of CMDA,

CMDA of WNY's Core Leadership Team has spent the last few months in prayer and conversation about our next steps in moving mission forward amidst the changing landscape of medicine and dentistry in WNY. During this time, Jesus has granted us a larger vision for the "garden" to which he has called us.

Currently, there are 17 major hospitals and healthcare centers in Buffalo, thousands of students, residents, and faculty who are studying and teaching in the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing, and tens of thousands of medical professionals who are pioneering their fields by caring for the over 1.1 million men, women, and children in WNY, the second-largest metropolitan area in the state. Additionally, UB has opened their new state of the art medical campus and is looking to increase student enrollment in the years to come.

This is the garden Jesus has called us to tend. Your prayers, support and financial generosity is what sustains the ministry of CMDA of WNY,

Thank you for making this ministry possible! Your prayers and sacrificial generosity sustains and equips our witness to men, women and children across WNY and abroad. which Jesus has mercifully positioned to be a renewing influence among the people, ideas and structures of this pivotal time and place.

One way we long to be a renewing influence is by equipping and resourcing students who sense a call from God to embark on medical missions (both short and long-term). Beccah is one of those students.

## **Beccah's Story**

In the fall of 2017, I went to Cameroon for a month for a medical rotation at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. The call to missions seems to be present under the surface of much of what I do, and fourth year seemed the perfect time to take a month to get another glimpse into what God is doing on the earth through his people. While there, I spent one week doing pediatric care, two weeks on surgery, and one week on Ob/Gyn. What I found at this particular hospital touched me and grew me in many ways.



Beccah (4th from the left) and the surgical team

#### While I was in

of the Lord saying, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

- ISAIAH 6:8

And I heard the voice Cameroon, I witnessed heartbreak and tragedy that is unparalleled in the United States. The need truly is great for healthcare. Children in "Whom shall I send, the US almost never acquire HIV. But in Mbingo, many of the children in the pediatrics ward were dying from AIDS related illnesses.

> Additionally, much of what I learned during my time there was not just about the need itself, but also about those who were stepping up to meet the needs. I learned much from the sacrifice and love that the missionaries and the native African resident doctors had for their patients.

God oriented my heart towards the workers at the hospital in a way I hadn't experienced on prior trips abroad. I am so thankful for those who say yes when they feel His call. He expanded my desire to commit to praying for those who work in these environments, as well as to ever incline my ear to hear His call myself.

Beccah has recently graduate with her MD and married her now husband, Johnny. Congratulations!!

## What We've Been Doing

Here are some of the ways we've been moving mission forward in CMDA of WNY this academic year:

- We kicked the year off with an all-day Fall Retreat around the broad theme of "Journeying Together"
- We held 9 Fusion Dinners on various topics, such as, Addiction & Medicine, Refugees in the Middle East— Crisis or Opportunity?, The Nazareth Manifesto: A Bible Study on Luke 4:16-30, the 20 Year Evolution of Medical Missions in Honduras, Suicide vs Physician Assisted Dying, to name just a few.



- We are sustaining ministry to student in the medical, dental and pharmacy schools at UB.
- 5 students attended CMDA's Northeast Regional Conference
- We launched a new <u>CMDA of WNY Website</u> and have developed our social media presence on <u>Facebook</u>.
- We hired a Sarah Sullivan as our new Ministry Assistant to help care for the growing needs of the ministry.
- We thank God for John Crane who serves on CMDA's Core Leadership Team and who has been given the Physician of the Year award at ECMC, and has recently returned from Kenya with MEI, CMDA's Medical Education International, where he brought advanced medical training to places in need.
- CMDA blessed and said farewell to Jefferey Thompson, MD while he spends all of 2018 as a medical missionary in Ethiopia.
- Leeland Jones, MD spent a month in Malaysia ministering around the country on depression and suicide.
- CMDA continues to provide volunteers and ministry at the Cornerstone Manor (a free Christian-based healthcare clinic).



## **Moving Forward**

As we continue to step forward with the gospel within the vocational context of healthcare - in Buffalo, on campus, and abroad - we invite you to pray specifically for the current needs below.



Dr. Thompson in Ethiopia

CMDA's own Jeff Thompson, MD (center in picture above) is spending 2018 serving as a medical missionary at the Myungsung Christian Medical Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Please pray that Jesus would provide and sustain Dr. Thompson with all that is needful. You can also follow his updates via his blog at: https://

## Thank you so much!

Your prayers and generosity are what sustains this ministry. To give a taxdeductible, one-time or reoccurring, gift, login to our giving portal <u>HERE</u> or mail checks made to "CMDA" with "CMDA of WNY" in the memo line to:

CMDA PO Box 7500 Bristol, TN 37621



CMDA of WNY Fusion Dinner on September 9, 2017

Please pray for our Fusion dinners where healthcare students, professionals and interested friends come together on the first Saturday of every month to explore how Jesus is advancing the gospel in and through various aspects of healthcare and learning.



UB's newly opened downtown medical campus

The transition of the med school from South Campus to the new Downtown Campus has been an exciting transition that has present both challenges as well as new opportunities for ministry. Please keep students (Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, and Nursing) in prayer as the semester comes to a close and new leaders are invited to serve.

> TO GOD BE THE GLORY! Your Partner in the Gospel, *Chris Sullivan*