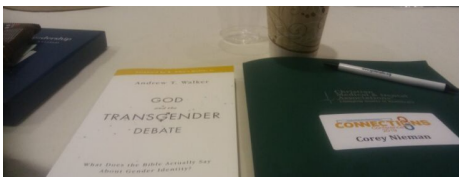


# Christian Medical & Dental Associations of WNY

*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 witnessed all the kingdom building work this ministry is doing, as well as plans for the upcoming year. I was privileged to witness the transition of CEO David Stevens to 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 over 10 years mostly due to taking road trips with the family. I feel like God orchestrated over 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 Saturday morning. But at least I had plenty of time to reflect on the trip...and to 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 building 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 support to help individuals in their recovery from, substances, gambling, pornography, workaholism, or whatever the affliction may be. We see all addiction level at the foot of the cross though the worldly consequences may vary. Medicated-assisted treatment, recovery coaching and faith-based 12 step programs make for a strong chain of support for those in recovery. The beauty of recovery coaching is that the focus is on the here and now. It helps people set goals for today and tomorrow which is a very practical and tactical form of support. 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 has called me to be in ministry both as a biblical counselor and recovery coach. As of two 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 of WNY is greater church support, access to resources, and networking ability to help grow our community, and for student faith development. Also, as a member of the Erie County Opioid Task Force the CMDA will take on a greater role in addiction and recovery services through EMBRACE Recovery Buffalo. We are seeing God's orchestration at work and anticipating great things for the CMDA of WNY over the next ministry year.

