



Coalition of Christian Nurse Practitioners Winter 2018 Newsletter

You've persevered through some very difficult times in nursing school—not only academically but personally—having sacrificed comfort and perhaps easier living for the dream of becoming an advanced practice nurse. And now you are one! So what's next?

Well, we've been exactly where you are. And as fellow believers, we want to encourage you during your training programs and early days in practice, as well as inform you that we're here for you in the months and years to come.

That's what CMDA's Coalition of Christian Nurse Practitioners (CCNP) is all about. As a ministry of CMDA, CCNP is a peer-driven ministry designed to connect, mentor and empower Christian graduate-prepared nurses and students just like you to:

- Live out their faith authentically
- Influence the culture of healthcare
- Unite with other Christian healthcare professionals for enduring fellowship
- Shape the future of CMDA

All MSN, DNP, PhD, DNSc and students in any of these disciplines are invited to join us, so visit www.cmda.org/ccnp for more information.

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Sunday, Apr 8, 2018 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EDT

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/861213637>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (408) 650-3113

Access Code: 861-213-637

First GoToMeeting? Let's do a quick system check: <https://link.gotomeeting.com/system-check>

Welcome from CMDA CEO David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics)

It has been my dream for a number of years to have an Advanced Practice Nursing section as part of Christian Medical & Dental Associations. Although APRNs have been members of CMDA for many years, this new section will specifically focus its efforts on meeting their unique needs. At the same time, CMDA's broad range of services, resources, meetings and service opportunities address the needs and issues APRNs face, and they come to you from a distinctive Christian worldview that is increasingly under attack in healthcare and in our country. As Christian healthcare professionals come together, we are able to expand the support, network and influence in healthcare. I'm thrilled this dream has become a reality with great leadership at your section's helm. As CMDA's newest section, let me be the first to welcome you to the family!

Devotional



*by Ryan Mallo, PhD(c), DNP, FNP-C
CCNP Vice Chair*

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV 1984).

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV).

Welcome! We are so glad you are here with us as members of CCNP or are considering membership. One of the real questions you may be asking yourself right now is, “Why would I join CCNP?” or “What will I get benefit wise as a member of CCNP?” I think those are valid questions and something any member of any group wants to know. I think there is tremendous value in joining a faith-based nurse practitioner organization, but I’m going to share with you why I decided to join and why recently I have found it a tremendous benefit to belong to such an organization.

Over a year ago I was asked by some of the leadership of CMDA if I would consider helping found a NP specialty subsection. I’ll be honest that I reluctantly agreed, given many of the responsibilities and obligations I already had under my purview. However, I do firmly believe God has called me to family practice and there is truly a sparsity of resources and organizations for like-minded Christian nurse practitioners to draw from. Throughout the last year I have been in several meetings with business administrators, organizational leaders and colleagues to help make CCNP a reality. However, the true benefit of membership has come alive to me within the last week. Yes, this devotional was supposed to be turned in a week ago, but was tabled because of a life changing event that caused me to ask, “What does it mean to be a Christian NP? What makes me different when caring for others, and how does my faith collide with my actions? Father God, there is more than simply moving through routine actions, but why do I not feel at peace?”

One week ago, almost to the hour of my writing this devotional, I received a phone call from my dear friend’s wife. She told me I needed to come to the hospital immediately because my friend Neil would be passing into eternity within a few hours. I could hardly make sense of what she was saying because Neil, although diagnosed with multiple myeloma, had been doing remarkably well. In fact, there was not even a hint that he would be going into the hospital, much less on a ventilator or being taken off life support.

Like any good friend, I quickly rushed around to change my obligations for work that afternoon to go and be with Neil and his family to say goodbye—a task I thought I would be able to handle with some finesse given my past history as an ICU nurse for many years.

Arriving at the hospital and entering the room proved anything but familiar or second nature, despite the number of patients' hands I have held as they took their last breath or families I have walked through their loved ones' final moments. This time, the process of saying goodbye felt uncomfortably new, raw and heartbreaking. I experienced the sudden loss and cycle of grief in a new way that, despite being able to understand the pathophysiology of what was happening before my eyes, my head could not fully comprehend. This was just a bad dream right? I just needed to wake up...

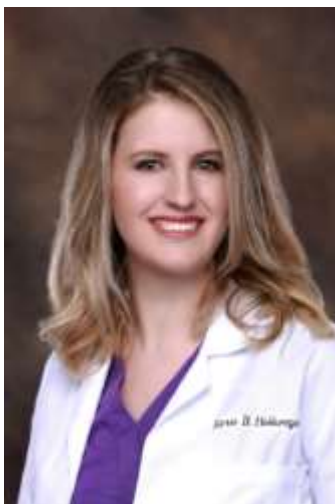
See, as nurses we're really quite good at caring for others and helping them process their own grief, sorrow and maybe even anger at a diagnosis. We have, however, become the masters of separating our own feelings from situations. We laugh behind closed doors after caring for a GSW patient in the ER or a patient dying of septic shock in the ER from something completely preventable like pneumonia (what my friend ended up actually passing from).

Colleagues from CMDA have written, texted and even called to help me process through this situation and let me know they're praying for me. There is hope in Jesus, and I know my friend is in the arms of Jesus and not in pain. The truth, though, in the middle of my grief is that knowing those things and accepting them are really two different things. And no, my faith is not wavering.

I want you to join a group of colleagues that want to lift you up in prayer, that want to support you through your journey as a student in NP school or after a tough day clinically! I want to dialogue with each of you and tackle questions like, "What does it mean to be a Christian NP?" and "How do I best incorporate my faith into my practice?" and "How do I broach this ethical quandary I'm facing in light of my Christianity?"

I'm grateful for my friend Neil, who was a nurse by the way, and I'm grateful for my CCNP friends and colleagues who have helped me process this grief in a healthy way. Fellowship among believers is biblical and one of the many rich blessings CCNP has to offer Christian nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students. Be encouraged no matter what you're facing today, God is still in control. Drop us a line and let us know how we can be in prayer for you and what obstacles you're facing!

Meet Our Board Members



President/Chairman
Sara Hellwege, MSN, CNM
Anniston, Alabama



Vice Chair
Ryan Mallo, PhD(c), DNP,
FNP-C
Mount Pleasant, Michigan



Student Liaison
Carol McFarland, MN, RN,
CNE
Bellevue, Washington



Secretary
Natalie Ali, FNP-BC
Cartersville, Georgia



Treasurer
Alyssa Bantz, MSN, CNM
Roswell, Georgia

Funding Our Future and Becoming a Member

As a specialty section within CMDA, we rely on voluntary donations to fund any of our projects and ideas that we want to implement. Your annual CMDA dues help fund the day-to-day administrative support that CMDA provides to us as a specialty section. However, in order for us to plan or fund any projects, we are dependent on the generosity of our membership.

Our largest expenses to date are related to missions, conferences, and student outreach. This year we had the opportunity to represent CCNP at the [Global Missions Health Missions Conference](#) in Louisville, Kentucky. The GMHC is the largest healthcare missions conference every year, and we have been blessed to have representation. In addition to the above, we also desire to advocate on behalf of Christian nursing professionals when legislative efforts are put forth that could directly impact our practice.

Obviously, these endeavors have a cost associated with them. In order for us to continue these opportunities (along with other ideas the board has discussed), we will need contributions to our general and missions funds.

You can donate to CCNP in two ways:

1. When renewing your [CMDA membership](#), consider donating an additional amount above and beyond the yearly dues. Make sure to designate CCNP as the recipient of those funds.
2. At any time God provides you with the desire and means to donate, you can donate [online](#) directly to CCNP.

To become a member of CCNP, visit www.cmda.org/members. Student membership is graciously underwritten by practicing professionals and donors. We do ask that in order to keep our subsection running, practicing professionals initially donate \$50 with a renewal donation of the same amount. We trust God for His provision, and we thank you in advance for investing in the future of this ministry.

Upcoming Mission Trips

As an organization, CMDA is dedicated to both domestic and international missions. Through our various missions, we provide opportunities for healthcare professionals to use their God-given skills to meet the needs of others around the world and share the gospel with them.



Check out the following trips with CMDA's Global Health Outreach that currently have urgent needs for trip participants:

- [El Salvador March 10-18, 2018](#)

- [Nicaragua April 14-22, 2018](#)
- [Eastern Europe May 3-14, 2018](#)

Visit the [GHO Trip Calendar](#) and the [MEI Trip Calendar](#) for a full listing of upcoming trips. You can also apply for trip scholarships to help with the costs of a trip. For more information, [click here](#).

'I have had the privilege of going on multiple short term missions trips with GHO, initially as a nurse and subsequently as a nurse practitioner. I'm impressed by how each trip is consistently so well-organized and careful measures are always taken to provide for the team's safety. Practically speaking, these trips are very well run. The objective of these missions is to minister to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the local people, who often live in poverty and are so grateful for even the smallest interventions. However, no matter how much you try to focus on others, it's impossible to avoid receiving a blessing yourself. The patients and your teammates sow into you, touch your heart, encourage you and teach you spiritual truths that leave an indelible mark on who you are as a Christian.' – Natalie Ali, FNP-BC

Upcoming Events



[Remedy Medical Missions Conference](#)

March 23-24, 2018

First Baptist Orlando • Orlando, Florida

Join us at Remedy, a new conference focused on bringing God's remedy to the world through missions. Free housing is being offered for both students and missionaries.



[TRANSFORM: CMDA's National Convention](#)

April 26-29, 2018

Ridgecrest Conference Center • Ridgecrest, North Carolina

This is the premier convention for Christian healthcare professionals, and it is a wonderful opportunity for you to get involved in CMDA's wide variety of ministries.

Campus & Community Ministries | Coalition of Christian Nurse Practitioners

A Ministry of Christian Medical & Dental Associations
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