

# CMDA St. Louis January Update



From Drs. Josephine Glaser & Peri Pepmueller, Co-Chairs CMDA STL & the Leadership Council:

## The Mission of CMDA:

- Motivate
- Educate
- Equip

Christian health care professionals to glorify God by:

- Serving with professional excellence as witnesses of Christ's love and compassion to all peoples,
- Advancing biblical principles of health care within the Church and to our culture.



**Willie & Rachel Johnson**

As it turns out, Medical Students are even more busy during the Christmas season. I suppose I should not have been surprised that our usual group of WashU Med bible study attendees were out studying. In their place sat a group of women quietly chatting.

Since our group was intimate, we scrapped our plans and began to share our prayer requests with one another. Each woman who shared was met with sincere empathy, encouragement, and truth. We took turns praying for each other, and when our eyes opened, the whole room felt lighter. The Lord was good to allow us to carry each others' burdens. One student in particular, Jessica, I spent most of my time getting to know. She loved sharing her Taiwanese culture with me, and we eventually shared stories of how the Lord intervened in our lives and brought us out of darkness into light. Jessica desperately hoped the Lord would move in the lives of her family in Taiwan, who she was flying to see

the next week. The biggest problem was a language barrier. I had the chance to share the 'God Tools' app with Jessica. This is a phone app which gives an easy way to share the Gospel in other languages. She downloaded this app before leaving! Please pray with me for Jessica's family to have openness to the Gospel and for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.

## Physician's Corner

"Cynthia" is a 62 year old married former smoker who came to my office just before Thanksgiving to establish primary care. The day before I saw her, she received a phone message from her specialist's nurse who told her she had lung cancer that had spread to her adrenal gland. Shocked and distraught, she called a good friend who arranged for her to be seen at my office the next day. "Cynthia" is a wife, mother, homemaker, and retired private care giver. In 2015, she helped take care of her son-in-law who died from prostate cancer. I obtained a detailed history, including a spiritual history; performed a focused physical exam; reviewed the tests her specialist performed. Then, I took time to explain the results of the tests and the necessary next steps to arrive at the appropriate cancer stage, treatment, and prognosis for her type of lung cancer. With permission, sensitivity, and respect, I inquired about her emotional & spiritual health. She suffers from major depression, anxiety disorder, and prior opioid pseudo addiction from orthopedic trauma. She stated that her Christian faith is important to her. In the context of her advanced care directives, we discussed her Christian beliefs and the value she places on her life, family, and relationships. We

discussed her medical care goals. Amidst tears, she articulated a focus on comfort care, symptom management, and natural end of life care. I referred her to the oncology team needed for her lung cancer staging and palliative care planning. Before ending the appointment, I asked if I may pray with her. She gave her permission. I prayed a simple prayer for her healing, peace, courage, and strength in Jesus' name. To date, she is tolerating palliative chemotherapy. Cancer pain management is a challenge for her. Would you join me in prayer for "Cynthia" and others like her that Jesus, the Great Physician, would extend His healing hand through the medical team in the form of natural and supernatural healing according to His will and His plans for their life.



**Dr. Josephine Glaser**

## Prayer & Praise:

1) Praise for the Lord's favor in Grace Rx being offered as a Sunday School study starting in 2/2017 at West County Assembly of God. All healthcare workers are welcome to attend. If interested, Contact Dr. Josephine Glaser at [Josephine.glaser@ssmhealth.com](mailto:Josephine.glaser@ssmhealth.com)

2) Prayer for the Lord's favor & opportunities for Christian healthcare workers at SSM Health--including SLU Care & Lord willing, SLU Medical School, to be trained to integrate faith & medicine in practice via Grace Rx studies starting in 2017.

3) Prayer for the Christian physicians, dentist, allied health care workers & pastor/priests whom the Lord is calling to serve as leaders & mentors in fulfilling the great commission in healthcare.