

Summer 2006

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings in the name of our Lord! The President's column following the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting has always reviewed the activities of the section at the meeting and I will not veer from that tradition. This serves several purposes: communicating what went on to those who couldn't make it, encouraging other members and friends to join us next year and to trigger thoughts for next year's program.

Before I get too far along, I want to recognize the efforts of our first year administrative assistant, Sherri Williams, for all her good work in organizing and encouraging us at the meeting. Her attention to detail, warm spirit and infectious enthusiasm were a delight. Taking over for Virginia Muse, our assistant of 18 years was a large challenge and you met it Sherri! Thanks.

Our program began with an informal, drop in get together at the Executive Suite on Sunday afternoon. This served as welcoming time of good conversation at the beginning of the meeting – meeting new friends and renewing contact with old friends. Our time together moved back and forth from social interactions to stimulating discussion of the interface between faith and practice. A great start!

On Monday morning, Irv Wiesner, a longstanding member and former President of the Section, gave a wonderful talk about his faith journey. Irv related how his Jewish heritage prepared him to accept Christ and some of the key steps in his faith journey. Hearing of his involvement in the Section and in several APA presentations over the years was encouraging. Irv distributed a copy of a paper he wrote on "A Jewish Psychiatrist's Views on the Meaning of Life" which was published in "Issues: A Messianic Jewish Perspective." As a special "bonus" to his presentation, Irv invited Andrew Barron, a Canadian leader in the Jews for Jesus organization

who captivated us with his insights into evangelism in the Jewish community. Andrew's wit and humor were a great start to the morning!

On Monday evening in the Executive suite over a meal, a group got together for an informal academic discussion on themes of integration of faith and practice. Those present shared past and current projects in the area and thoughts on the needs for the future. In anticipation of the next day's workshop in the APA's scientific program, I presented some of my main points for the presentation on gay marriage. The conversation was stimulating in refining several key points and the time of prayer meaningful.

Tuesday morning's breakfast presentation featured Philip Ney, a Canadian psychiatrist and long time member, who effectively blended remarks on his multifaceted academic career, challenges he faced as a believer and some of his scientific work. Dr. Ney has worked in four academic departments throughout his career and challenged us to be bold in being Christian in a non-Christian world. Dr. Ney introduced us to his work in the area of the emotional sequelae of abortion. His observations on the subtle effects on family members, especially children who live in a post-abortion situation, were fascinating.

The annual banquet is a Section highlight and this year was no exception. Armand Nicholi, a long time section member and Harvard faculty member, presented "CS Lewis and his Transition to Faith: Keys to Being a Witness". Dr. Nicholi's work on comparing and contrasting the Christian worldview of Lewis with the secular, atheistic worldview of Sigmund Freud has received wide recognition. The popularity of his book on the topic and a subsequent PBS series speaks to his gifts and the importance of the topic for many in our culture, even beyond the discipline of psychiatry. During the banquet talk, Dr.

Nicholi made a compelling argument for the truth of the gospel and its life changing potential.

Our meeting activities closed on Wednesday morning with our Integration Seminar on “Clinical work with Homosexual Patients”. We reviewed Scriptural and theological principles defining a created order that is based on life continuing through the committed union of male and female. The seminar then reviewed various APA written policies related to homosexuality, including the recent, controversial endorsement of “gay marriage.” This was followed by a careful review of the clinical dilemmas presented by homosexual patients. John Peteet summarized the importance of adhering to boundaries in treatment, distinguishing between a boundary crossing and a boundary violation. The discussion concluded with the observation that homosexual individuals who desire change in their orientation may be better cared for in non-psychiatric settings. The group discussed several faith based programs which have been helpful to individuals not helped in psychiatric settings.

Now, on to next year in San Diego! As the summer winds down and you have the time, please communicate to us what serves you best at the annual meeting. We are already in discussion about next year. Some bullet observations:

- 28 members attended, 15 visitors to meetings, 54 new booth contacts

- We had increasing resident numbers and student interest as John Yarbrough, from West Virginia University, presented the Christian Initiative program.



sold at the APA.

- *The Handbook of Spirituality and World View* (edited by Josephson and Peteet) was in the top third of books

As I close, I want to thank John Peteet, our vice president, Steve Mory, past president, and Fiona McGregor, out going Secretary-Treasurer for their efforts this year. I am delighted that Nadine Nyhus of Ontario, Canada will be our new Secretary-Treasurer. John Yarbrough will serve on the executive committee as resident liaison.

We have a great profession and an even greater Lord! Blessings as the summer winds down and the fall begins.

In Him,

Allan Josephson, M.D.

PEOPLE in the NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

From the March-July Executive Board Meetings...

Dr. John Yarbrough, Morgantown, WV, resident, West Virginia Univ, Morgantown.

Dr. Charles D. Willis, Fresno, CA, retired after a long career with the military and the VA Hosp. As president of the Ancient World Foundation, he has led probes to Mt Ararat and Mt. Cudi.

Dr. Teodur J. Huzij, Yokota AB, Japan. Practicing at the 374th Medical Group Hospital.

Dr. Jennifer D. Purses, Hartford CT, Resident, Institute of Living/ Hartford Hosp.

IN APPRECIATION

Deepest appreciation goes out to those who helped

“man” the CMDA booth this year:

Dr. John Yarbrough, Morgantown, WV

Dr. Irving Wiesner, Swarthmore, PA

Dr. Clark Ballard, Steilacoom, WA

Mrs. Camas Lubberstedt and baby Calla, Omaha, NE

Dr. Rich Heckmann, Fayetteville, AR

Dr. Paul Cochran, Tulsa, OK

Help Wanted: No call. No weekends. 40 hours per week. Malpractice Indemnification by the Ohio Attorney General. Work with other Christian Psychiatrists on staff at this 100 bed state facility in an academic setting. Professorship available through Wright State University. Contact Dr. Victor Knapp at 258-0440x6230.

News from the Booth

Many thanks to those **members** who stopped by to see us at the CMDA Booth at the Toronto Convention Center or who attended functions at the Delta Chelsea Hotel:

Dr. Ronald Smith, Montreal, Canada
Dr. Allan Josephson, Louisville, KY
Dr. Robert Wilson, Erie, PA
Dr. Bala Rao and Ann Rao, Tampa, FL
Dr. Brian Lubberstedt, Omaha, NE
Dr. Pierre Unger and Sylvie Unger, Strasbourg, France
Dr. Edwin Kroon, Montrose, CO
Dr. Sherri Hansen, Madison, WI
Dr. Stephen Preas, Snellville, GA
Dr. John Balaicuis, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Christopher Perry, Rockville, MD
Dr. Terry M. Johnson, Bismarck ND
Dr. Olu Babatoula, Bonaire, GA
Dr. James Carter and Elsie Carter, Durham, NC
Dr. Philip Ney, Vancouver, BC
Dr. John Peteet, Boston, MA
Dr. Shibu Kuncheriah and Lincy Kuncheriah, Columbia SC
Dr. Armand Nicholi, Concord, MA
Dr. George Harding, Loma Linda, CA
Dr. Rick Scarnati, Columbus, OH
Dr. Margot Fass and Martin Fass, Rochester, NY
Dr. Nadine Nyhus, Puslinch, Ontario, Canada
Dr. Sam Thielman, Falls Church, VA
Dr. Mark Servis, Sacramento, CA

Welcome to **CMDA members and visitors** who joined us at Psych Section functions:

Dr. Craig Stuck, Columbia, SC
Dr. Doug Ghrist and Kathy Ghrist, Kenya, Africa
Dr. Jun Kawashima, Quincy, MA
Dr. Thomas Jacobs, Arlington, VA
Dr. Ronald Taddeo, Patchogue, NY
Ms. Amanda Wilson, med student,
Dr. Carole Kosmicke, Rochester, MN
Dr. Alphonso Nichols and Rachelle Nichols, Louisville, KY
Dr. Isaac Isaac and Diane Isaac, London, Ontario

Dr. Darinka Breugem, Vancouver, British Columbia
Dr. Gary Blount and Mrs. Blount, Woodbury, MN
Dr. John Blount
Dr. Dick Brouwer, Tilburg, Netherlands
Dr. Gabriel Durrand-Hollis and Margarita Durrand-Hollis, Big Spring, Texas
Dr. Milton Roxanas and Mrs. Roxanas, Wahroonga, Australia

Questions/Comments at the Booth:

1. Are you related to Jerry Falwell?
2. I've never seen your organization before. Have you been around long?
3. I am a Christian from (pick one: China, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Uganda). Can I be on your mailing list?
4. Does your group prescribe medications?
5. It is so refreshing to see that you can openly speak about your faith! I could never do that in my country/ university/ hospital.
6. May I pray for you and your work here at the booth? (*Thank you, Dr. Moore of the UK!*)
7. Could there possibly be other Christian psychiatrists in my country? (Finland)

WEBSITE UPDATE

Residency Programs---These Section Members are willing to be a point of contact for those seeking residencies at their schools. Currently **West Virginia University** students meet monthly for the "Christian Initiative", a group of mental health professionals, who wish to exhibit the love of Christ to their patients by inviting the Holy Spirit to move in their circumstances, and transform their lives. Dr. John Yarbrough is the point of contact at jyarbrough@hsc.wvu.edu.

We are adding contacts for schools around the country....would you like to be added to the list? (contact pscmda@bellsouth.net)

Mayo Clinic—Dr. Jarrett Richardson III

Dr. Terry Schneekloth

Univ. of Louisville—Dr. Allan Josephson

Harvard University—Dr. John Peteet

LSU—Dr. Anita Kablinger,

UC Davis---Dr. Mark Servis.

APA WORKSHOP UPDATE

By Dr. John Peteet

“Can We Talk? A Model for Constructive Conversation Between Advocates and Opponents of Same Sex Relationships”---. The APA has declared reparative therapy unethical, and taken a position in support of same sex civil marriage, but there has been little discussion of these controversial issues in the scientific program. On behalf of the APA Corresponding Committee on Religion, Spirituality and Psychiatry, John Peteet chaired this session in an effort to explore the possibility of discussion between opposing sides. After a description by two Toronto Anglicans of a 10 year dialogue within their diocese, the full audience heard comments from Jack Drescher, outgoing chair of the APA’s Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues, and Allan Josephson. An intense, but respectful discussion ensued focusing primarily on the definition of marriage and secondarily on whether good evidence exists for change in sexual orientation. Since the workshop, Allan and John have been in touch with Jack Drescher about the possibility of a symposium at next year’s annual meeting devoted to considering both sides of the question of change.

Symposium: “Model Curricula in Spirituality and Psychiatry”: This year’s Templeton award winners presented their courses, and John Peteet described the Harvard Longwood’s course, now 8 years old. Allan Josephson served as discussant, noting that some of the new programs were making use of the 2004 APPI book he and John co-edited, *Handbook of Spirituality and World View*.

Symposium: “A Research Agenda for a Revised DSM-V Considering Spiritual and Religious Issues in the Diagnostic Process”. John Peteet and Francis Lu co-chaired this session devoted to several outstanding and at times provocative papers on the place of religious and spiritual factors in the DSM. Despite its placement at the end of the program, the session drew an audience of 70 and encouragement from Bill Narrow of APIRE to try to publish the papers as a monograph. Allan Josephson is co-authoring the paper on Religious and Spiritual Issues in Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence.

TESTIMONY FROM THE BOOTH

By Dr. Rich Heckmann

Visiting with CMA colleagues and working at the booth are the main reasons for my attendance at the APA meetings these days. I can get CME more cheaply online any time I want. And there are less calories that way also. I see the booth as the most valuable exhibit in the whole Exhibit Hall. Being a part of it is an honor and an adventure.

The best comments I get at the booth have to do with the visitor's shock that there are "others like me out there" who have the same Christian faith as the visitor. This was my reaction when I first discovered that there were other Christian psychiatrists from all over the world, when I attended my first APA as a resident at Toronto in 1981.

A close runner-up for me is sharing with skeptics how a "thinking person" can have faith at the same time. Pointing out that we are bio-psycho-social-SPIRITUAL beings, and what this means for treatment, is "mind-expanding" for most of our

non-Christian colleagues. These latter visitors are less common than the first, but are just as gratifying to minister to. Perhaps they are less common because the skeptic is less likely to open up at the booth than a believer.

When spending time in the booth, you can experience the power of prayer when you ask God for wisdom just before answering the skeptic or seeker's questions. Truly He will "give you the words to say." And, don't forget to pray for curiosity in all those who glance and go on. They may return later to express interest.

I encourage all Section members to experience working at the booth for just 1 or 2 hours. Do it when another member is there, and you will learn from each other's approaches to outreach. See how God will set up divine appointments which He means for you to have with fellow psychiatrists who need to know about Him. It may be addictive!



Royal Canadian Mounted Police to the Rescue Of Sherri Williams and Irv Wiesner



L-R) Rich Heckmann, Craig Stuck, Paul Cochran, Phil Ney greet a visitor to the Booth



Craig Stuck speaks with James and Elsie Carter



Gary Blount, guest of George Harding at the Banquet



Brian and Camas Lubberstedt and baby Calla enjoyed the Banquet



Sherri gets some help loading the Booth from Paul Cochran and Clark Ballard.

If you have moved or changed addresses, e-mails, or phone numbers, *please let the administrative office know.*
And if you have not joined or sent in your 2006 dues, do so today!

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