malaria, intestinal parasites, diabetes, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia. Over the counter medications are also available and are usually acquired from donations by volunteers.

**Our experience**

Madoonou Kane: My experience was eye-opening. It was amazing to work with a diverse population and well qualified volunteers. One of the more fascinating things was how the clinic positively impacts the lives of the poor and those unable to afford health care on the island of Roatan. This reinforced the purpose of my trip in serving the people coming to the clinic. The people of Roatan were a great encouragement to me. It was a privilege to serve at Clinica Esperanza and have a small part in providing health care to the needy population of Roatan. The trip was a reminder of what it is to be a servant, humbly meeting the needs of others. Peter 4: 10 (NIV) says: "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms."

Annie Zakian: Volunteering at Clinica Esperanza was a humbling time for me. I observed a community of people who only have the bare necessities to live and rely on each other to survive. I was amazed at the number of volunteers who come to the clinic for long and short term mission trips. The biggest challenge for me was adjusting to differences in how the pharmacy operated in comparison to practice in the United States. Additionally, I gained an appreciation for Honduran culture and the challenges of working in this type of setting.

**Contact information/ volunteer opportunity**

Volunteer pharmacists or pharmacy students are greatly needed and welcomed by Clinic Esperanza. Visit the Clinica Esperanza online at www.clinicaesperanza.com to see how you might consider helping. For any further questions, please contact Peggy Stranges at: pstranges@clinicaesperanza.com or 011-504-9885-1044.

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**Personal Reflections**

**Mere Pharmacists (A prayer poem)**

by Jack Chen, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS, CGP

Associate Professor, School of Pharmacy
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A s a pharmacy school faculty member, one of my goals is to be a good example for pharmacy students. Within the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy, students have chosen pharmacy as their health-care ministry. On campus, students are busy shuttling between buildings, classes, meetings, study groups, and other activities. It’s fair to say that students are very busy. To help students and me settle in class, quiet our minds, and “shake the dust off our shoes,” I give a prayer at the start of each class.

These prayers are intentional opportunities for me to pray for the students, share a group moment, and enhance the learning climate. As part of the prayer, I make it real and relevant by praying for individual student needs, student academics, and current issues or events.

A Christian prayer in the classroom demonstrates a real connection with our University mission of furthering “the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ” and “to make man whole.” Many of my faculty colleagues also see the value of this activity and set aside time for prayer or devotions during classroom teaching. The following poem captures and expresses my prayers.

Dear Heavenly Father, our God,
Thank you for blessing us with your bountiful love and ever-present grace,
Thank you for your precious gifts of faith, hope, and love.

Father God,
We are in the ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences.
Although we are mere humans, we are your people;
we are your anointed ones and you are the anointed King.

Father God in Heaven,
You are not of this world;
You have witnessed in this world,
through your one and only Son,
you walked our world,
from Bethelhem to the hills and plains of Galilee, and then to Calvary.
You showed us true piety.

Father God,
Through your one and only Son,
you have witnessed our world of flesh, blood, and aching joints,
healing science and piety,
annointments and ointments,
kings, queens, and society,
anunnalments and appointments,
nature and morality,
ministries and ministries,
dilemmas and dilemmas.

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**At the time of authorship, Annie Zakian and Madoonou Kane were final-year students at the St. John Fisher College, Wegmans School of Pharmacy in Rochester, NY. Both students participated in this project as part of their APPE rotations and would like to acknowledge CPFI for the scholarships received from the organization for this mission project.**

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**Christianity & Pharmacy**

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Father God in Heaven,
We give thanks for all that we have,
and although we are witness, we are blessed and we are your people.
As we invite you into our hearts and minds,
we present this prayer to you.
Heavenly Father, our God,
I pray that as we receive you into our hearts and minds,
that our faith grows stronger, our hope remains constant,
and that we are able to love deeply.
Father God,
I pray that as we open our hearts and minds to receive you,
that we experience a vision of your faith, hope, and love.
Let our minds eye see the wonder and glory of creation.
Let us experience a peace and understanding that surpasses all things,
a peace which is like your peace;
a peace like no other.
Father God in Heaven,
I pray for this ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences.
If there is heaviness in our hearts and minds,
if there is anything that weighs us down in our hearts and minds,
if there are any deposits of lead in our hearts and minds,
I pray that we are able to take this heaviness, the deposits of lead,
and transform it into gold and silver.
Father God,
I pray that as we receive you into our hearts and minds,
that we are able to transform that lead into gold and silver.
And as we receive you, I pray for this glorious reality;
for we can do anything through You who gives us strength.
Father God in Heaven,
I pray that as we receive you into our hearts and minds,
that we are able to become more whole,
or at least 95% whole (after all we are not in Heaven yet).
And I pray that as we become more whole,
I pray that I know I pray for much,
I am but a mere person,
and as we become more generous,
we can share the richness in our hearts and minds,
so that others may become more whole.
Father God,
As the ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences,
let us help and do no harm,
As the ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences,
Father God,
Thank you for blessing us with the freedom to make choices.
I pray that each of us chooses to be excellent.
I pray that we choose transparency over opacity.
I pray that, rather than taking a pedestrian stroll towards mediocrity,
that we choose to be excellent.
I pray that we choose to "walk on water."
I pray that we choose to be excellent and to "walk on water,"
for we can do anything through You who gives us strength.
Father God in Heaven,
I pray that within this ministry of pharmacy
and of the healing sciences,
we are able to dispense with excellence,
the element which sets us
Let us be whole and administer comfort to aching joints.
Let us be excellent for those we love,
and for those that love us,
and for those that we serve.
Father God,
We are beautifully, distinctively, and wonderfully made.
I pray that we know this well and deeply
in our souls.
Father God in Heaven,
I know I pray for much,
I am but a mere person;
but I really do pray all of these things in your precious name,
the name of Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.
References

Dr. Chen received his PharmD from the University of Utah
and completed a specialized residency at Rush-St. Luke’s Prer-
tbyterian Medical Center, Chicago, IL. His academic and
clinical interests are in the fields of neurology and pharma-
coology. He is currently enrolled in a Master of Theology degree
program.

Father God,
I pray that you will be witness on that day
when we enter into your kingdom.
I pray that on that day, at that moment, and with beloved Chi-Rho,
you will be witness to us becoming 100% whole.
Father God in Heaven,
I pray that as we receive you into our mere hearts and minds,
let us savor the flavor of your alchemy, creativity and humility,
whether it be mere puppets and puppiness,
or the Behemoth and the Leviathan.
Father God,
Thank you for blessing us with the freedom to make choices.
I pray that each of us chooses to be excellent.
I pray that we choose transparency over opacity.
I pray that, rather than taking a pedestrian stroll towards mediocrity,
that we choose to be excellent.
I pray that we choose to “walk on water.”
I pray that we choose to be excellent and to “walk on water,”
for we can do anything through You who gives us strength.
Father God in Heaven,
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Let us be whole and administer comfort to aching joints.
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and for those that love us,
and for those that we serve.
Father God,
We are beautifully, distinctively, and wonderfully made.
I pray that we know this well and deeply
in our souls.
Father God in Heaven,
I know I pray for much,
I am but a more person;
but I really do pray all of these things in your precious name,
the name of Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Using letters, essays and diaries from Tami’s own hand, the au-
thors of Grasping Heaven have mar-
velously chronicled the life and min-
istry of a young physician possessing
a passion for the Yi people of Sich-
uan, China.

From early childhood, through medical school and beyond, it is clear
that Tami was anything but ordinary.
Her radar was always "on", sensing
needs when others were oblivious and evaluating the present in light of
the future – her future in God’s plan.
And, her future was determined to
involve serving the physical/medical
needs of others in China…a country
that she first visited while a medical
student at Emory University School of
Medicine.
The road to China was challeng-
ing, to say the least. Her family was
very supportive of her plans to serve
there, but the opportunities to prop-
erly train for the mission (medical
school, pediatric residency, and a fel-
lowship in infectious disease, among
others) never seemed to materialize
until she was nearly ready.
But Tami was never deterred…al-
ways believing that God wanted her
in China, and that He would make a
way for her to get there. And, get
there she did.

As a relatively tall fair-skinned
woman, Tami was quite different-
looking than the Yi people. They
were convinced that Tami was not only from another country…but, quite
possibly, from another planet.
She willingly assumed the role of
“martial”, and was quickly adopted
by Yi people who would engage her
in various kinds of struggles (medical
and otherwise). Working closely with
two nurses from Taiwan and Japan,
and with the support of Medical Ser-
dices International, Tami was finally
“home”.

Home was a brutal place at
times…harsh winters, dry hot sum-
ners, limited modern amenities (e.g.,
running water, heat, refrigeration),
but her love for the Chinese people
over-shadowed any of these. She
was in Asia during the SARS epidemic,
and served as a great resource for the
CDC. She even had a bacterium
named after her, Bartonella taimiae,
because of her instrumental role in
its discovery. She was in the place
that God had prepared for her, and
in the place that she had prepared for
many years to be. And, then…with
her lifetime ministry hardly begun…it started to end. Malignant mel-
oma ravaged this young physician’s
body…and, eventually, took her life.

She spent her life preparing to
meet the needs of a secluded pop-
luation of people in the Great Cold
Mountains of China – her heart
poured along by the hand of God.
She then spent what could be better
measured in months than years ac-
tually meeting those needs. Even
at the very end of her life, grace flowed
from her lips…disappointed that she
would no longer be able to serve the
people that she loved, yet grateful for
the brief opportunity that God af-
fected to her to serve at all.
This biography of Tami’s journey
is inspiring and deeply challenging.
It prompts much self-reflection of
motives, attitudes, purpose, and rel-
ationships. I would encourage you
to take a couple of hours to read it,
reflect…and reset your course.
Oh…I almost forgot…the poem
was found in Tami’s “last things”
folder on her computer: a gift to her
family.

Grasping Heaven
Authors: Annelise Wilder-Smith, Einar Wild-
er-Smith. Published by: Deep River Books,
Camp Sherman, OR, USA. ISBN 978-
1935265344. Paper-bound, 204 pp. $8.92.

Today I am healed
Perhaps not the way you had hoped for,
Prayed for, waited for.
But I’m in a glorious new body.
Free of pain, full of new strength.
Free to run and dance in a place
Where God himself wipes my tears away.

Immersed in love, joy and peace
That we have a mere taste of
During our time on earth.
In the presence of my God and
Savior, Jesus Christ,
Who loves me more than His own life.
Know that today I am healed.

-Tami Fisk, MD

Book Review • Grasping Heaven
by Jeffrey Lewis, MA, PharmD

To today I am healed.

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