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patient comes home with a treatment for a sexually transmitted disease. It is also important for team members to abide by local customs regarding dress, interactions between men and women, language, food, and hygiene.

Lastly, but most importantly, dig into Scripture as you prepare. Christ has told us to “*go and make disciples of all nations.*” (Matthew 28:19, NIV) We are to have compassion on people. The Apostle Peter writes, “*be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*” (1 Peter 3:8, NIV) Not only will the people you serve be changed by interactions with the team, but you will be changed as you see God work. It is vital for all team members to connect at the end of each day in prayer, devotions, and sharing of experiences. These times allowed me to see that God was working, even if I did not experience much of this in my role dispensing medications. It is also important to take opportunities in patient interactions to pray, encourage, and ask patients about their relationships with Christ.

In “Radical”, Platt also says, “It’s a foundational truth: God creates, blesses, and saves each of us for a radically global purpose.”¹ “In what radically global purpose can God use you this year?”

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Educating the Next Generation of Christian Pharmacists

by Jeffrey Copeland, PharmD, ThM



The Olympics are fascinating to watch. I am captivated by the athletes’ dedication, determination, and precision. Although the individual events are interesting, I find the team events more enjoyable. Each member must work together as one unit to earn the gold medal. One example of a critical teamwork moment is the baton pass in track and field relays. If the baton is dropped during the pass, the team is disqualified. Even if individual team members are the fastest runners, a dropped baton eliminates the team.

Similarly, we are engaged in the “baton pass” of developing the next generation of Christian pharmacists. This critical moment occurs when we participate in the great opportunity of equipping current pharmacy students for decades of professional service and practice as Christian pharmacists.

The primary components of the pharmacy curriculum for students are didactic and experiential. Didactic education involves learning in the classroom and laboratory, while experiential education focuses on knowledge, skills, and attitudes gained in pharmacy practice. Precepting pharmacy students during introductory pharmacy practice experiences (IPPE) and advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE) offers an excellent opportunity to enable students in observing how a Christian pharmacist practices and engages in the profession. According to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), pharmacy practice experiences should “require active participation and patient care responsibilities, in a progressive fashion, designed to develop the practice skills, judgment, professional behavior, attitudes and values, confidence, and personal responsibility needed for each student to embark on an independent and collaborative practice.”¹ Additionally, one of the desired characteristics of preceptors identified by ACPE is to “practice ethically and with compassion for patients.”¹ Christian pharmacists can uniquely address and demonstrate these objectives to pharmacy students.

The Example of Moses

Prior to Israel entering the Promised Land, Moses passed leadership to Joshua. Numbers 27:12-23 describes the moment of the baton hand-off. “*Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go up this mountain of the Abarim range, and see the land I have given to the Israelites. When you have seen it, you will be gathered to your ancestors, as Aaron your brother was gathered to his ancestors. For in the wilderness of Zin when the community rebelled against me, you rebelled against my command to show me as holy before their eyes over the water – the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.” Then Moses spoke to the LORD: “Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all humankind, appoint a man over the community, who will go out before them, and who will come in before them, and who will lead them out, and who will bring them in, so that the community*

of the LORD may not be like sheep that have no shepherd.” The LORD replied to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is such a spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community, and commission him publicly. Then you must delegate some of your authority to him, so that the whole community of the Israelites will be obedient. And he will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will seek counsel for him before the LORD by the decision of the Urim. At his command they will go out, and at his command they will come in, he and all the Israelites with him, the whole community.” So Moses did as the LORD commanded him; he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community. He laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the LORD commanded, by the authority of Moses.” (New English Translation. 1st ed. Dallas, TX: Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C.; 2007)

Moses, in his customary fashion, sought the Lord’s direction through prayer to remedy a looming problem. Moses asked God for someone to lead Israel, out of his concern that the nation be established in the land God promised. Like Moses are we concerned there may not be a Christian pharmacist to care for our patients, to lead our organizations, to teach others as academicians, to lead as administrators, to direct our hospital pharmacies, our chain pharmacies, or our independent pharmacies, to lead our military and other government pharmacies, to lead the pharmaceutical industry, and to lead research? Are we asking God to provide opportunities to mentor pharmacy students?

The Lord answered Moses by appointing Joshua. Joshua was formally commissioned and publically acknowledged as the new leader of Israel. Prior to leading the people, Joshua studying under Moses as his assistant (Exodus 24:13; Joshua 1:1).

Some of Moses’ authority was gradually transferred to Joshua as he was still learning from Moses. When the Lord provides a student, are you willing to be a tutor as the Lord desires?

The Example of Paul

God gave Paul an enormous ministry. Paul was a gifted teacher and theologian as he explained complicated doctrines, a dedicated missionary as he led at least 3 missionary trips that resulted in the planting of numerous churches, a caring pastor as he personally mentored Timothy, Titus, and several other pastors, a bold evangelist as he proclaimed the Gospel wherever he went, and a prolific author in writing nearly half of the books in the New Testament. He was compelled to impact others for the glory of God. Do you have a similar desire to impact future pharmacists’ lives and our profession for the glory of God?

Scripture makes it clear that Paul was a mentor for Timothy, Titus, and others. Paul referred to Timothy as “my fellow worker” (Romans 16:21), “my genuine child in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2), and “my dear child” (2 Timothy 1:2). Titus is described by Paul as “my genuine son in the faith” (Titus 1:4). Paul willingly gave of himself to Timothy, Titus, and many others as they ministered together. Are you willing to invest in the lives of students like Paul did?

The Example of Christ

Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of a teacher. He prepared His disciples by loving (John 3:16, 15:13; 1 John 3:16), praying (John 17), and teaching (Luke 4:14-21). Prior ascending into heaven, Christ transferred the baton to His disciples and his future followers. Matthew 28:18-20 is one description of this transfer:

“Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on

earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

As you go where the Spirit leads you, who will you disciple?

Teachers are highly influential individuals and, by definition, a preceptor is a teacher. This makes a Christian pharmacist preceptor an individual who impacts the lives of students and in so doing, the profession. Jesus recognized this principle when He said, “A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when fully trained, will be like his teacher.” (Luke 6:40) Because a Christian preceptor has the goals of glorifying God, presenting the Gospel, training in Christ-like character, equipping and training believers for service, and demonstrating a biblical worldview, students developed under the guidance of a Christian pharmacist preceptor will be different. Are you willing to accept the role and the responsibility of a Christian pharmacy preceptor?

Conclusion

The Christian pharmacy preceptor is involved in an living out and demonstrating to others all aspects of being a Christian pharmacist. He or she represents Christ at all times in all ways to all people (2 Corinthians 5:20). Because students imitate mentors, it is essential for the Christian preceptor to properly and faithfully represent Christ to his or her interns. A preceptor should teach for the glory of God rather than for personal gain (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Application Opportunity

CPFI is starting a new opportunity to facilitate Christian pharmacists in becoming preceptors for pharmacy

students. CPFI pharmacists willing to accept students and CPFI student members desiring an work or experiential training with a CPFI pharmacist may contact Dr. Jeffrey Copeland (jtcopela@uiwtx.edu). Pharmacists should give their name, facility name and location, contact information, type of experiential opportunity, and availability dates. Likewise, students should give their name, institution name and location, and contact information. When information is submitted, it is consider that permission is granted to disseminate information to individuals registered in the system. This service is designed to facilitate connections and identification of potential opportunities, rather than circumvent existing guidelines or procedures at schools and colleges of pharmacy. All laws, regulations, poli-

cies, and guidelines established by the individual schools or colleges of pharmacy and state boards of pharmacy apply to this service.

References

1. Accreditation Standards and Guidelines for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. Effective July 1, 2007. Chicago, IL: Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education; 2006: Appendix C. ☞

Dr. Copeland holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree from Berry College, a Master of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Mercer University in addition to his military education. He is a former

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While a Captain in the Army, Dr. Copeland married Julie, his beloved wife. They have two sons, Nathan and Matthew. Throughout his pharmacy career, Dr. Copeland has served as a staff, relief, and clinical pharmacist, directed pharmacy education, and served as an Administrator for ACPE. He is a member of Christian Pharmacist Fellowship International, Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society, and Kappa Psi Pharmacy Fraternity.

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Student News

God Cares About the Big and Little Stuff

by Kristen Fitzter, Nathaniel Harscher, Kyle Mains, Kimberly TenHoeve, Kylie Webb

Palm Beach Atlantic University Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy (GSOP) is committed to conducting short-term medical mission trips each year. The international trips for 2011 were Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Guatemala. This piece is a reflection on the trip to the Orosi and Cartago areas of Costa Rica.

Life is complicated, and being a missionary does not imply that it will be any easier. Complications for missionaries, especially in the medical field, come in many forms. A core component of medical missions trip is the medications. Not having them takes away the draw we have to bring people to us to explain the love of Jesus Christ. Therefore, a potential complication for medical missionaries is a delayed arrival of medications. There is only one thing to do when you are preparing for a short-term medical mission trip and something like this happens: you pray. In our case, we prayed that God would watch over and bless each person involved in getting the medications to us in West Palm Beach, Florida via a delivery truck from Bristol, Tennessee in just a few short

days. God's hand was evident in the entirety of our mission trip, especially with the delivery of medications. Not only did the medications arrive during our lunch break when we were finalizing the packing, they also arrived while two of the students were on their way back to the packing room. It was an impressive thing to see, as the elevator doors opened, and two huge carts of boxes for the Costa Rica team came through the hall. The boxes were received with great jubilation, and even more so when we heard further details about the story. When the coordinator of the missions program at GSOP received a phone call that a freight delivery was here, she instantly knew it was our Costa Rica mission order. She obtained two carts and another staff member to bring the boxes