

Personal Reflections

Mere Pharmacists (A prayer poem)

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As 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.

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."¹ 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,
but through your one and only Son,
you walked our world,
from Bethlehem,
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,
anointments and ointments,
kings, queens, and society,
annulments and appointments,
nature and morality,
ministries and trinities,
dilemmas and trilemmas.

Father God in Heaven,
You have tasted the sweetness of apples and honey
and the saltiness of the earth.
You have seen the living wonders,
from mere guppies and puppies,
to blessings of unicorns,
and the monstrosities:
Behemoth and Leviathan.

Through your one and only Son,
You have witnessed in this world,
agape amidst bigotry,
charity and apathy,
courage and adversity,
fairness despite cruelty,
faith amidst poverty,
hope despite uncertainty,
joy and sadness,
kindness and coldness,
peace and madness,
and strength amidst meekness,

Father God in Heaven,
You are not of this world,
But through your one and only Son,
a mere Christian and witness,
you have experienced it, tasted of it, and walked it.

So Father God,
We thank you for your sacrifice and humility.
You gave us your anointed Son, Chi-Rho,
a mere Christian.

Father God in Heaven,
We give thanks for all that we have,
and although we are mere, 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 mind's 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,
we are able 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 in 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,
we can be generous;
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,
Let us enrich the gold and silver rules.
This is the ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences.

Father God in Heaven,
You are Abba,
the Alpha-Omega and Chi-Rho.
You are witness to Creation and Genesis.
You are witness to our birth and passage.
You are witness to that which we cannot see;
You are all Revelation.

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 guppies and puppies,
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,
I pray that within this ministry of pharmacy
and of the healing sciences,
we are able to dispense with excellence,
the ointment which anoints.
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

1. Loma Linda University. Our mission. <http://www.llu.edu/central/mission/index.page>. Accessed June 13, 2011. ☞

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