

Personal Reflection Student Saints

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A Prayer of Consecration delivered during the White Coat Ceremony, Class of 2015, School of Pharmacy, Loma Linda University on November 3, 2011. During the White Coat Ceremony, students receive a personalized gift Bible (NIV 2011).

Students, in your gift bibles, please turn to Joshua 3:5. With open eyes and ears, please follow along as I read: “Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’” (NIV 2011)

Students, there they were, Joshua and the nation of God's people, on the banks of the Jordan River. On the other side of that river was the Promised Land. They could see it, smell it, hear it, and almost touch it. Finally, after a very long journey, they were about to enter! Students, they were on the verge of an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime event. Their lives were about to change forever!

Students, good news! Just moments ago, on this stage you were consecrated and sanctified into the ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences. In the next few years, your lives will be transformed and will never be the same again. You, too, are on the verge of something amazing. I see each one of you sitting there in your white coats and the inspired word of God filling your hands. Not only are you student pharmacists, but you are student saints! So, fill your hands, your hearts, and your minds with all that is good. Set yourselves apart. Here, at Loma Linda University, you are God's people. You are student saints in the ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences. You are so very blessed and as you grow in grace, know that your knowledge, skills, and words will edify those who seek and listen to you. Your spoken and written words will carry significant weight, so when you edify others, do so with an attitude of grace.

Everyone, please, I invite you to stand and pray with me:

Dear Heavenly Father

We thank you for your bountiful love and ever-present grace. We thank you for your precious gifts of faith, hope, and love. We praise you and give thanks with an attitude of

gratitude, because we are so very blessed. We thank you for each and every sunrise, when we can awake renewed and regenerated and once again experience another day in your fellowship. We are here, during this special moment, just as we are, incomplete but with a desire to be complete and a desire to be like the salt of this earth. Where two or more are gathered in Your name, there You will be. We know that You are with us and that You, too, have just witnessed the consecration of these student saints. This moment is special and our students are on the verge of something great.

Heavenly Father, You are the Alpha and Omega, the source of our 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. You are not of this world, but through Your one and only begotten Son You witnessed us and walked our world, from Bethlehem, throughout all of Galilee, to Gethsemane and, finally, Calvary. You showed us true piety. You have tasted the sweetness of apples and honey, and the bitterness of the earth.

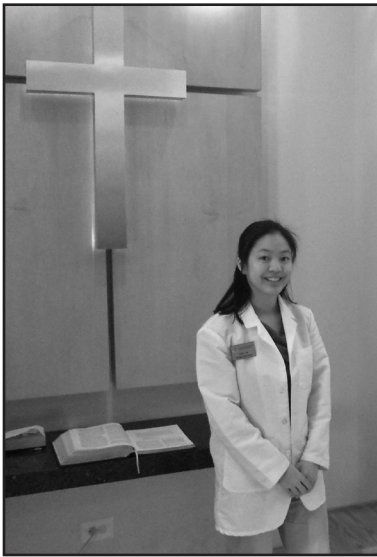
So Father God, we thank you for your sacrifice and humility. I pray that in our daily walk, as we grow in Your grace, Your goodness, and Your strength, that for just a brief moment, we can sneak a peek into the wonder and glory of creation. Let us experience a peace and understanding that surpasses all things; a peace which is like your peace, a peace like no other.

Father God, as the ministry of pharmacy and the healing sciences, let us help and serve and do no harm. I pray that each one of us chooses to be excellent. I pray that, rather than taking a pedestrian stroll into mediocrity, that we choose to be excellent and we aspire to “walk on water.” I pray for this glorious reality, for we can do anything through You who gives us strength. I pray that as we leave this auditorium,

Your gaze follows us and continues to shine upon us, and that Your outstretched arms and open hands embraces each one of us and keeps us steady. With Your open hand, continue to sprinkle, dash, and pour blessings upon us. Bless our family, friends, neighbors, and our country. Let us help each other and support each other and, if we happen to stumble, please soften our tumble. As our cup is filled, let

our faith grow stronger, our hope remain constant, and our love grow deeper.

For all of us, I pray all of these things, in your precious name, the name of Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Amen and amen.



Student Highlight

Integrating Faith & Pharmaceutical Care: Contemporary Pharmacy Practice at Lawndale Christian Health Center

by Sara Low, PharmD Candidate
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Sara Low is a fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy candidate at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She served as CPFI student chapter president from 2008-2010. After graduation, Sara will begin the Indian Health Service PGY1 ambulatory care pharmacy residency in Anchorage, Alaska. She hopes to glorify God and serve him lifelong as a U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officer. Sara would like to thank CPFI for the student scholarship.

Since learning about Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) in the months before out-of-program rotation requests were due, I knew God was placing the organization on my radar. A classmate, Tiffany Choe, completed a rotation at LCHC in November 2010 and told me about the experience. As a result, I contacted the preceptor, Sara Parsons PharmD, and arranged a five-week pharmacy clinical rotation for October 2011. Prior to this rotation, I had served others using my pharmacy knowledge and skills, but never in an openly Christian environment that focused on an underserved population. I was privileged to be able to serve through a rotation at LCHC and gained new perspectives and skills along the way.

New Perspectives

A nonprofit organization, LCHC provides health care without regard to insurance to an underserved com-

munity on the west side of Chicago. The clinic was founded by Lawndale Community Church in 1984. Over the years, LCHC has maintained its original mission “to show and share the love of Jesus by promoting wellness and providing quality, affordable health care for Lawndale and the neighboring communities.”¹ For example, LCHC has declined grants that would force the clinic to promote abortions or compromise Christian values. God has blessed the faithful efforts of the clinic and expanded LCHC’s reach with three additional sites.

The openness of glorifying God at LCHC deeply struck me. As you walk into the clinic you might notice Christian literature in English and Spanish at the check-in desk. At 9 AM, you cannot miss the sound of joyful praise and worship in the chapel. Stick around, and you might

join a midday Bible study or prayer. Several healthcare providers and staff members make it a point to pray with every patient.

LCHC is one of few Christian health centers with a complete pharmacy department. The pharmacy is comprised of 5 pharmacists and 11 pharmacy technicians. The pharmacy department is committed giving God glory. For example, before I made a presentation to pharmacy staff, a pharmacy technician opened the meeting with short devotional and prayer. On another evening, I participated in pharmacy department prayer meeting in the home of one of the pharmacists. Even the pharmacy polo shirts proclaim, “Loving God, Loving People”.

The Patient Counseling Window

In the pharmacy, I verified and transferred prescriptions and counseled patients or caregivers. Medication

counseling was offered to all patients picking up prescriptions. However, patients with new prescriptions, antibiotics, high alert medications, or medications with a dose or direction change were urged to receive counseling by a pharmacist. At the beginning of the rotation, I was unsure of my ability and had little experience communicating with Spanish speakers. With the help of my preceptor, I quickly learned pertinent counseling points in Spanish. Soon, I internalized many Spanish phrases and became comfortable using a translator when necessary.

Multidisciplinary HIV Clinic

At a multidisciplinary HIV clinic, a team of professionals, including a physician, physician assistant, nurse, psychologist, dietician, and pharmacist works to ensure comprehensive care for patients. With the team pharmacist, I counseled patients, especially dealing with medication adherence. We helped patients weigh medication

options, based on factors such as adverse effect profile and pill burden. Eligible patients were reminded to apply to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. As I am interested in ambulatory care, this clinic experience was a treat. It was made even sweeter when, near the end of one counseling session, we joined hands with the patient, thanking and petitioning God together.

Passing on the Savings

For the pharmacy and therapeutics committee, I reviewed and made recommendations for gastrointestinal and cholesterol-lowering medications. After gathering data on usage and cost, I calculated savings in dollars should certain medications be added or removed from the formulary. I was surprised when my preceptor informed me that this figure was not as relevant here as it would be at other institutions. Instead of keeping the savings, Lawndale would decrease the price to the patients. What faith in action!

Faith and Deeds

James challenges me when he frankly states that *“faith without deeds is dead”* (James 2:26b, NIV). He explains, *“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?”* (James 2:15-16, NIV). As student pharmacists and pharmacists, we are uniquely trained to provide pharmaceutical care, a physical need. I had an opportunity to provide this care in a Christian environment, but there is still a challenge to provide this care in every pharmacy setting. Compelled by Christ’s love, let us integrate faith and pharmaceutical care.

References

1. Mission and Values. (Accessed March 22, 2012, at http://www.lawndale.org/aboutus_mission.html.)