

and subsequently they will not listen to you. Sometimes the most important and loving thing we can do for our patients is to focus on and provide answers to their chief complaint. In all relationships, people want (and need) to be heard and understood. If our initial reaction is to start talking about our faith, we may get shut out completely. This example may sound silly, but imagine calling 911 and telling a police dispatcher that your loved one has just been shot and is clinging to life. The dispatcher immediately begins telling you that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Very few people would be helped or comforted by that statement in such a desperate time of need, especially if they are nonbelievers. Instead, however, if the dispatcher immediately sent out a medic team to the house and they saved the person's life, this would open up a great opportunity to express one's faith.

While there may be some challenges when integrating faith into practice, there is a light at the end of the tunnel... and sometimes that light is a lot bigger than you've imagined it to be! We believe prayer is the best starting point for integrating faith into practice – and into life! During my (Hanna) last year as a pharmacy student, I met my preceptor and mentor, Dr. Frank. He told me that every morning before coming into the pharmacy, he prayed for the pharmacy staff, the patients he would encounter, and even for the pharmacy students he precepted. He was intentional in his relationships with patients and truly showed people God's love and

comfort. I remember thinking that one day, I hope to do the same.

I was reminded of Dr. Frank as I was driving to one of my rotation sites as a pharmacy resident. For some reason this particular morning I felt the urge to pray for the patients and the staff that I would interact with. Moments later I found myself in a room with a woman who just learned her initial HbA1c was 15.9%. She was in tears at the thought of needing insulin injections. I hugged her and in my mind thought, "Oh Jesus, would You please comfort her." Soon after she looked up and said, "Did someone pray for me this morning? Because I feel a sudden peace about starting insulin. It's going to be okay." This encounter continues to remind me of the call to prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Moments like this make me realize that God has entrusted me with these patients, to use pharmacy to love them with His heart, and to care for their health to the best of my ability.

We don't claim to have all the answers for overcoming these barriers, nor do we know the ideal strategy for showing people that we live for Jesus Christ. However, we hope that this article will serve as a catalyst to meaningful conversations in the workplace regarding integrating faith into practice. It is easy to say the words, but challenging to find the right way to express our faith in a

loving and direct way that brings glory to Jesus Christ. Balancing work responsibilities with actively telling people about Him is something that takes practice. It also involves listening to the Holy Spirit and how He guides us. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will give wisdom and guidance to every Christian pharmacist as to how they should best display the love of Jesus to their patients.

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Servant Leadership: Applying the Mission of the Gregory School of Pharmacy to the Medical Mission Field

by Justin Dorotheo, Austin Greanias, Olivia Joyce, Michael Montejo

Matthew 28:19 (NIV) "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew writes these words in his gospel shortly after the death and burial of Jesus Christ, who was both fully man and fully God, and was sent to this earth to save sinners. Who are we to choose which sinners are to be saved based solely on geographical convenience?

We are four clerkship students; and along with 31 fellow faculty, staff, peers, and friends of the Gregory School of Pharmacy (GSOP), we had the opportunity to do what Jesus calls each and every believer to do: "Go." May 18, 2015 marked a day that would not only impact our lives, but also the lives of many people we met in Orosí, Costa Rica during our medical mission trip. Countless hours went into the preparations needed to make this trip successful, but the memory of those grueling preparations were soon forgotten.

What has remained, however, are the lessons that the Lord taught each one of us through this experience. We all gained a new perspective on what is truly important. We are to be servants of God on this Earth, and He has a unique plan for each of our lives that we may do just that. In order to go into the world and make a true impact for His kingdom, we must each utilize leadership skills. We believe the leadership skills that are necessary to fulfill this calling cannot be cultivated without the wisdom and example provided by the life of Christ and His Word. This type of leadership can be described as "servant leadership", which is displayed in the life of Christ. We have the example of Jesus to emulate, and we must base our actions and attitudes on His example while leading others. Mark 10:45 (NIV) states, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." As children of God, we are sent to serve the people of this world so that they may know His love.

And as a leader, Peter reminds us in his first letter to the churches in Asia to lead by example and to lead as a servant. 1 Peter 5:2-3 (NIV) challenges us to *“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”* As servant-leaders for Christ in Costa Rica, we had the ability to impact people medically and spiritually in ways far different than what we have experienced in the United States. In the way we conducted ourselves, interacted with those around us, and went about our daily activities in Costa Rica, we pray that those around us saw Christ in us.

The GSOP mission team answered Christ’s calling to share the gospel with the people of Costa Rica, and we wish to share with you what we learned about servant leadership. Most people participate in mission trips to change the world by providing much-needed medical attention while hopefully sharing the gospel. We do not contest that spreading the good news of the gospel should be the primary focus; and that the knowledge and resources available to us for providing medical care are blessings from God and should be used as an avenue to reach His people with the good news. In order to do so effectively we must use Jesus’ example of servant leadership, and that is what we would like to discuss. There are many different forms of servant leadership, and the following are three ways in which servant leadership made a great difference during our mission trip to Costa Rica: The first form of servant leadership that stood out to us was leading the team in preparation for clinic days. Next, was the inspiration of the minds of clerkship students to step up and lead through service by following Christ’s example of servanthood when opportunities presented themselves. Finally, the most important description of servant leadership is leading our patients to faith and prayer.

A large part of a pharmacy student’s education at GSOP is focused on servant leadership. Christians who are placed in leadership positions in their careers or on the mission field are called to lead in a much different manner than how the world defines leadership. The world’s perception of leadership emphasizes power. The world says that subservient-perceived behavior is the definition of a passive follower and not a leader. However, that is a stark contrast from the Christian view of leadership. We believe the message of the gospel: that God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to earth as a sacrifice for the whole world. This truth is summarized in the frequently quoted verse, John 3:16 (NIV) *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* God is the ultimate leader and our creator, yet He made the ultimate sacrifice for us. This is the supreme example of servant leadership. Christ’s leadership example is what we should be striving for throughout our lives.

We can also learn a tremendous amount from looking at Jesus’ disciples. He didn’t “hire” the most intelligent, wealthy, handsome or popular people for this important job. There wasn’t anything extraordinary about these fishermen and laypeople, yet Jesus invested in each one, saying, “Come follow Me” and leading them with guidance and love. Leadership on the mission field is similar to an employer-employee relationship that is found in a corporation. An individual (or a group of people) must act as the CEO, making sure that smaller tasks are executed in a manner that supports the grand vision. On a medical mission trip, that vision is to spread the message

of the gospel while providing the best medical care possible with the resources available. If there is any setting that servant leadership should be applied, it is the mission field! In order to lead a mission team in a Christ-like manner, the individuals who delegate tasks to the rest of the team must do so with love for each team member. In order to lead with love and follow Christ’s example, the leaders of the mission trip must also consider the best interest of everyone in the group, taking into account their strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for development.

The 2015 GSOP mission trip to Costa Rica was a great opportunity for clerkship students to apply this concept of servant leadership in real-life scenarios. This mission trip was the students’ first rotation as they recently finished their didactic training of pharmacy school and entered into their fourth year of experiential rotations. One of the responsibilities of the clerkship students was to assign roles that needed to be filled within the clinic by non-clerkship students participating on the trip. There were many opportunities to stretch knowledge previously gained either in pharmacy school or working in a pharmacy. In addition to participating in treatment decisions by collaborating with the physicians and performing dosing and dispensing activities in the pharmacy, students were able to perform duties within the triage station such as evaluating patients’ blood pressure, blood glucose, and obtaining medical histories.

As a way to care for each team member, it was important for the clerkship students to listen to each other, gauge where they were in the development of these clinical skills, and seek the best opportunities to develop these skills so they can take the knowledge and experience into their future practices. Successfully providing this service to fellow students was one way that the trip leaders were able to practice servant leadership.

“Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” -Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV)

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” –Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV)

As we began our first of four clinic days, our thought was: “Lord, how will we be the leaders that You want us to be today?” We had our work cut out for us to lead a team that would orchestrate four clinic days in a foreign country and perform various tasks including (but not limited to) assessing patients, filling prescriptions, and counseling patients. Although there was much to do, we felt responsible for doing it to the best of our ability with the help of Christ, trusting that He would give us the strength and wisdom to do so in accordance with His will.

As each day brought its own challenges and complications, there was often a temptation for the clerkship students and team leaders to injudiciously place burdens on others; whether it was evading

a patient's problems (ignoring a physical or spiritual need), or overloading other student missionaries. It was the example of Christ that beckoned us to act differently. As enticing as the temptation was to take a comfortable back seat and command the ship from the stern, Christ calls us to lead from the front – to pick up an oar and row with the crew.

It is much easier to be served than to serve others. In fact, it is an impossible task without the strength and wisdom that only God can provide. On the mission field where there were challenges such as language barriers and a heavy workload, we know that it is Christ who enables us to succeed. *Lord we lift up our hearts, we surrender our hands, we place today at Your feet. Give us the strength to persevere, the strength to lead, and the strength to serve.* This was the prayer of the clerkship students each day. To draw from scripture, it is Christ's profound words in Matthew 20:26 (NIV) that remind us: **"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave."** When we use Christ as our example of leadership – when we become the last and not the first – we become the lesser and the poorer become the greater. Once we asked for God's grace to humble ourselves, we were empowered to inspire, to motivate, and to create a sense of morale among the team. With this sense of Christ's presence and willingness to serve, our team became a seemingly unstoppable force of healing hands, stable feet, loving eyes and powerful mouths preaching through the body of Christ. With God we were able to accomplish what seemed impossible.

Servant leadership can take on many forms, each one of them unique in their own special way. During this mission trip there were many times when we found ourselves leading our patients in a spiritual direction, which often involved prayer. We encountered several patients who were on the wrong path, suffering from depression, dealing with family complications, or suffering from spiritual brokenness. Many times as we sat alongside the physicians, the patients mentioned they had other issues that were not medically related. Some confessed that they had fallen away from God because of unanswered prayers. Others felt they were being punished for something they had done. We reassured them that their prayers will always be answered in God's time and on His terms. After each visit, we asked patients if there was something specific they wanted us to

pray for. They would often ask for us to pray for their family, friends, even our medical team; yet they rarely mentioned themselves. That showed us how incredibly humble and selfless they were by placing others first – whether it was family or a stranger from another country.

This trip made some of the team members realize how many people need prayer and guidance in finding Jesus Christ. There were many patients who were just a prayer away from growing closer to the Lord, and some had the life-changing experience of coming to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Countless times we interacted with patients who did not know how to speak to God. Since the Lord allowed us to be there, we were able to show them how they could experience His presence and everlasting love.

As a rotation assignment, the clerkship students were required to read a book called *Miracle at Tenwek: the Life of Dr. Ernie Steury*, by Gregg Lewis. The book tells the story of a time when Dr. Ernie, a missionary physician, had just closed the hospital gate at night. In the darkness, two men approached him with a sick child. The men tell Ernie that they are looking for Tenwek Hospital – they didn't realize they were standing right outside the hospital gate. Without hesitation, Ernie opened the gate and took the men and the child inside to treat the child's illness. In Costa Rica, each one of us had the opportunity to be like Ernie as we showed our patients the way to Jesus and opened the gates with prayer. Many of them had no idea they were standing in the darkness, right outside the gate... and little did we know that we would bring light into their lives. Such a simple gesture can help cure their spiritual brokenness with one prayer at a time.

Being able to participate in the GSOP mission trip to Costa Rica was such a wonderful blessing for each of us. The Lord worked in each of our lives to teach us many things: we gained a deeper perspective of the meaning of servant leadership. We utilized it within the mission team and worked synergistically to best serve the people of Costa Rica. Striving to follow the leadership style of Jesus Christ as the supreme example of leadership on the mission field and in our daily lives, we realized our responsibility to love and serve others by leading them into a relationship with Him. We will never forget this entire experience and the lessons we have learned, especially how best to exemplify a servant leader.

