

find yourself involved in while working. An opportunity may arise when you will be asked about your faith, and it is okay to share. However, it is not acceptable to make stipulations or judgments based on faith when making decisions about your coworkers. For example, if a technician asks for permission to leave work early for a church activity and you let the technician go, you must do the same if someone else needs off early for example a sporting event. Otherwise, this could be seen as preferentialism. Lay down expectations in advance and refer to the company policy to remain fair when making decisions.

Most importantly, remember to let your light shine every moment. When your coworkers and patients see you doing the right action, it is noted in their memory. Especially in reoccurring patients, the opportunity is there with every interaction, and there may be a time when they ask you about your faith. When the pharmacist invests in the patient's life by simply knowing their name, this shows your technicians and other patients that you value them. Knowing the names of those visiting your pharmacy makes them

feel like friends or family, further adding to the positive experience they have while there. Taking in the concerns of your patients and following through on an adverse event they experienced will show your compassion for them. The examples are endless, but all examples have one thing in common and that is the pharmacist taking interest in the lives of others. After all, you never know when a moment of your time will mean a lifetime to someone else. Being a light requires intentional actions, focusing on others, and a nourished spiritual life that is disciplined with daily prayer, reading Scripture, and involvement in a faith community. Without these it is really hard to show God's love.

Pharmacy may not be the place where you can be extremely proactive verbally about your Savior, but you can display His character every moment. Every impact for the Lord is important, and the pharmacy is a great place to start showing your love for the Lord. Whether you are talking on the phone, performing medication therapy management, or operating the cash register with a positive attitude and a smile on your

face, you are making a difference. After all, Romans 3:23 tells us that we have all sinned and fall short of God's glory. Verse 27 also states that boasting is excluded; and this is especially important in pharmacy, as one person is not better than another. The question during every personal interaction is: Will you or will you not choose to show the love of your Savior?

#### References

1. U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Compliance manual section 12: Religious discrimination. <http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/religion.html>. Updated July 22, 2008. Accessed June 10, 2015.

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## Live Each Day by Charlotte Wilson

I was standing on a large portable stage with a microphone in my hand. My gaze roamed through the African crowd, thousands of people listening to me speak about the Lord's love and sacrifice. That was it. The beginning and end of what I believed was a glimpse into my calling and future. During worship one Sunday, that image came to my mind so clearly I was certain it was cementing my hopes to be a long-term missionary in an African country. I forged through each day seeking out each and every missionary-focused event, book, YouTube video, and magazine article. I thought that if only I could get my hands on it all, then I would find out where God wants me to go. "I will go Lord!" I cried over and over, "I will go, send me!"



Fast forward several years and I am in deep discussions about theology and missions with a young man where I live. He pushed me to consider my motives for becoming a long-term missionary and because of his questioning I grew deeper in my faith. As we spiritually grew together it became clear that we were an excellent team. We discovered how we could serve God far better together than apart and were married. The most difficult part of marrying this wonderful man of God was that he was very clearly called to serve in short-term

missions, but he was still waiting on God to indicate if long-term missions was also an aspect of our calling. We are still in that place. While seeking guidance from the Lord on our future, we were both struck by the importance of living as missionaries at all times in all places. Perhaps we are all called to be not just long-term, but life-term missionaries in whatever area God places us.

This year God placed us in Selbyville, Delaware; a rural town on Delmarva's Eastern Shore. We moved there shortly after I graduated from school because I matched with an excellent community pharmacy residency program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Apple Discount Drugs. While completing my residency, I have been praying that God would lead me to live in a way as to be a shining light for Him. I must say, I do not always feel that I fulfill that calling. There are days when I am grateful that I just made it through without screaming in frustration. There are days I made it through to spill tears at home. That is the nature of life. There have also been days when I felt that I truly made a difference in a life or two, and I would like to tell you about an experience which provided two of those difference-making opportunities.

Early in the residency I was given the opportunity to precept two advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) students in their community/ambulatory care rotations. As part of the rotation, the students accompanied me to a comprehensive medication review appointment. Breast cancer, arrhythmias, diabetes, and hypertension started off our patient's past medical history. As you can imagine,

these conditions brought less frequently used drugs that had narrow therapeutic indexes. Ms. Smith (as we will call her) had a solid understanding of each medication she took, but she was consumed with fear. She feared side effects, drug-drug interactions, and alternative medicine-drug interactions. Her fear was expressed through many questions on these matters, but she always followed with a statement of needing to have faith in Jesus. The appointment lasted longer than most as I walked Ms. Smith through each medication and answered questions patiently. I then looked at her and said “Ms. Smith, I would like to pray for you before you leave. Would you be ok with that?” Tears formed in her eyes and she praised the Lord! Little did I know that each healthcare provider she encountered, including me, had been a believer in Christ and was able to provide spiritual comfort along with medical advice. That was a prayer I will not soon forget.

Later the same week I found out that the prayer had not only impacted me and the patient, but also my students. Both came from different religious backgrounds. Being employed by a state school for my residency training, I have been told to be careful about sharing the gospel with my students. Thankfully God is bigger than state schools and He opens doors even when they seem impenetrable! Because of my simple prayer and daily life, one of my students asked me to elaborate on my faith and how I encourage people. I was able to share with both students about how I believe God has gifted me with the ability to provide encouragement to others, and that He has given each of us unique gifts with which to serve Him. I shared God’s role in the journey to finding my residency and providing me daily strength and joy. I do not know what seeds I planted in the hearts of my students over those five weeks, but I know that they were impacted. Please pray that those seeds will find soft ground and grow into faith.

*“This is what the LORD ALMIGHTY, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SAYS TO ALL THOSE I CARRIED INTO EXILE FROM JERUSALEM TO BABYLON: ‘Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters*

*in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD FOR IT, BECAUSE IF IT PROSPERS, YOU TOO WILL PROSPER” (Jeremiah 29:5-8, NIV).* Throughout these past few years, my husband and I have moved and changed our plans for the future many times, yet this recurring theme continues to show. If we will dwell in the Lord where we have been planted, we will be rewarded. We moved to Selbyville without any friends and only one family member close by. We had – and still have – no idea if we will be here for a year or for many years, yet we made a choice to plant ourselves. That choice has given me the opportunity to invest in my patients through kindness and prayer. Because I was content living here instead of yearning for a future calling, I was able to speak hope and truth to two pharmacy students – all because I let go of longing for the grandiose of my imagination and took advantage of where God has placed me for the moment. I still think of that vision of Africa... and when I do, I merely pray, *God let Your will be done, and continue to be with me here as I live each day.*

*Dr. Charlotte Wilson completed her pre-pharmacy requirements and subsequently her Doctor of Pharmacy at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Charlotte is an active member in the American Pharmacists Association, the American Association of Diabetes Educators, and Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International, and has served each in various leadership capacities. In her current position as the first PGY-1 community pharmacy resident at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Apple Discount Drugs, Charlotte is involved in various aspects of patient care and academia; including teaching diabetes self-management education classes, teaching all levels of pharmacy students and other healthcare professions, precepting pharmacy students, conducting comprehensive medication therapy management sessions, and conducting a research project on depression and its effect on diabetes. Charlotte has a passion for equipping patients through education both on U.S. soil and on medical mission trips. She is driven to improve lives locally, nationally, and abroad through efficient, empathetic, and effective healthcare.*

## Overcoming Difficulties of Integrating Faith into Practice

By Jordan Wulz, PharmD and Hanna Sung, PharmD

Many doctor of pharmacy graduates know the difficulty of transitioning from a fourth-year student to a full-fledged registered pharmacist. But what about the difficulties of Christian pharmacy students transitioning into a new life as Christian pharmacists? Both authors of this article are new pharmacists and the transition hasn’t been as easy as we thought it would be. Both of us were also highly active in our Christian pharmacy student fellowships throughout pharmacy school. Why then has it been difficult to express our faith since becoming pharmacists?

Entering the work-force, especially in the public sector, can have many barriers to expressing faith. For one, it is very easy to

get wrapped up in day-to-day activities as a new clinician who is simply trying to stay on their feet. It is easy to become stagnant in your faith when you are trying to learn the ropes at a new facility. In addition, praying with patients is not exactly encouraged by government and other secular agencies. These barriers can be extremely frustrating since we typically spend about half of our waking life at work. When I (Jordan) was a student at a Christian pharmacy school, it was very easy to pray with patients and share my faith with their families and loved ones. In fact, it was highly encouraged to do so by fellow students and faculty. Since graduating, this cultivating and encouraging work-education environment has not been the same. We are now the leaders of our own

practice and often seem to be alone in our faith. It is simple to talk to people about our God when we know they have the same beliefs; but in reality, while we rejoice with fellow believers, it is more urgent to share our faith with nonbelievers.

So what is the best way to do this in an environment where this behavior is not typically expected and is often rejected? Patients come into a pharmacy, hospital, or family medicine practice expecting to receive medical advice and answers. Typically these patients are concerned with their physical well-being and they do not even consider their spiritual health. If their chief complaint is not taken care of right away, the patient will assume you are not listening to them