

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

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.

Jordan Wulz is a 2015 Palm Beach Atlantic University, Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy alumnus who is currently completing a PGY1 residency at Samford University. In this residency Jordan works side by side with primary care providers in taking care of the indigent patient population seen at the Jefferson County Department of Health. He has accepted a PGY2 residency with Samford University with a focus on ambulatory care.

Hanna Sung completed her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree in 2015 at the University of the Pacific, Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in sunny California. After graduating, she made the trek to the southern, football loving, sweet tea drinking state of Alabama where she is currently a PGY-1 pharmacy resident with Samford University/ Jefferson County Department of Health. Since moving from the west, she has enjoyed the city of Birmingham and the people here so much that she has committed to a PGY-2 in Ambulatory Care with her current program!

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.