

Don't Overlook Divine Appointments by Ralph Boyle



And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:17 ESV

It was opening hour at the pharmacy where I was doing some relief work while home from Tanzania on medical leave to receive radiation therapy. The pharmacy – a wonderful compounding pharmacy – had a policy of “Whoever you are speaking to is the most important person at the moment.” There was no pharmacy technician that

day; so when the bell rang on the drive-up window, I answered. Opening the window, the young lady immediately asked, “Have you read the book, *Final Exit*?” I answered, “I hadn’t and I wasn’t sure that would be something I would be interested in reading.” The patient then asked a second question: “Will 20 plus Valium 10mg and a fifth of whiskey be enough to commit suicide?” While praying in my heart, I answered, “Yes Ma’am, I am pretty sure that will do the job, but let me ask you a question. Are you ready for such a final decision?” Immediately she began to cry and said no.

Inviting her into the pharmacy, I told the other pharmacist (a young recent graduate) about the situation and let her know that I would be busy for a few minutes. It was truly a divine appointment as the patient began to relate her story of leaving her husband and children for another man, and then that bad decision going south. The consequences now left her feeling hopeless, worthless, and deserving only of judgment. An hour passed and the young lady passed from under judgment to marvelous grace, from a Jew to a born again believer. She and I kept in touch after I returned to Tanzania. Several years later she eventually returned to her hometown.

Even in a retail pharmacy drive-through window, God is ready and able to use a pharmacist to share the wonderful good news of redemption. The Apostle Peter wrote to

some believers undergoing persecution and living in an environment hostile to their faith in Christ. He encouraged them to persevere in their tribulation, because it is Christ who transforms and empowers Christians to live the life that will glorify Him. In 2 Peter it says,

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful” 2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

As pharmacists who are also Christ’s disciples we work each day asking God to use us, however, rarely will we confront a similar situation, but daily we are challenged to stand for Christ. Today’s culture is actually making it harder in some ways, but we are called to be witnesses of His Grace in our lives. God will always use us where we are if we are watchful for those divine appointments share the hope that lives within us.

Ralph Boyle, BS pharmacy, MA Missiology. After 13 years in pharmacy ownership, our family spent 27 years in Tanzania as missionaries. We retired from Tanzania in 2009; now I am practicing pharmacy again and enjoying it immensely at one of the Tribal Indian Clinics of Oklahoma. We still regularly participate in mission trips, mainly back to our beloved country of Tanzania.

Son's Broken Road Changes Pharmacist Mom's Approach

by Nancy Burgett

During my youngest son David’s junior year in high school, I had made a courageous decision: to leave an abusive relationship, one of which looked “fine on the outside”, but was definitely not. Our other two children had already moved out of the house, and a counselor was working with David on the best arrangement for his daily living.

When it was announced by the lawyers that David would live primarily with his dad, my heart sank but I made the best of it. I was able to see him every Tuesday night and every other weekend. At that time I was teaching at University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, and our state pharmacy organization



had just produced a wonderful video to deter drug use called *The Road to Nowhere*.^{*} As pharmacists in the state of Oklahoma, we were all encouraged to view this wonderful publication with as many youth as possible and their parents. I watched the heartbreaking story of drug abuse and wanted to share it with my son. He refused to watch it. Little did I know he was on his own road to nowhere.

A wonderful man came into my life unexpectedly one day. After the divorce was final, we started dating which eventually turned into a marriage several years later. Matthew 6:8 (“your Father knows what you need before you ask Him”) proved true once again in my life as my sweetheart helped me navigate through the next several years of my son’s addiction. With his encouragement, we both attended *Celebrate Recovery* at our church and learned about addiction and addicts.

Like many other addicts, my son relapsed 7 or 8 times in 6 years before he got serious about a faith-based treatment program. What I learned from the recovery meetings was very relevant to my pharmacy