

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

career: it's so important to show unconditional love to an addict and to all those we serve, whether they are addicts or not. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:34, we should live one day at a time, and not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will bring its own worries.

I've gone from a teaching job to a retail setting that serves many underserved people. We partner with a homeless shelter and many other agencies in town to provide our clients their much needed prescriptions. I am usually able to recognize our customers who are in a recovery program from the paperwork they carry. Because of my son's broken road in his life, I have personally learned so much about how to better serve those who are struggling with addiction. Taking an interest in this special segment of our clients has been a real joy for me. When I ask them how they are doing in their program, their faces light up as they share their stories with me. And I treasure the ability to pray for each of these clients, that they would break free

from the chains of addiction and find a loving God who will forgive them, guide them and love them unconditionally.

Visit:

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QB9OZSkxAmY&feature=youtu.be>

My name is Nancy Burgett and I am from Enid, Oklahoma. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in 1982, I moved to Tulsa and worked primarily in a retail setting before our three children were born. Working some relief pharmacy kept me current in the field; and when my youngest child started kindergarten, I was able to attend the alternate pathway education program to obtain my PharmD. After obtaining the degree, I was hired by the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in Tulsa to teach pharmacy practice classes and to develop and maintain the experiential program. Upon my retirement from the College, I continue to work at three settings in the area and I enjoy it very much as I work for my former students! My husband and I have just built a farm in Enid, Oklahoma and enjoy our new surroundings.

The One Who Calls You Is Faithful, and He Will Do It (1 Thess 5:24 NIV)

by Uragijwimana Jean De La Paix



During the years when I was a pharmacy student at the National University of Rwanda (now known as the University of Rwanda), I was a member of the Christian Ministry known as "University Biblical Group". I used to meditate on the motto of our ministry which says that "we have to be the agent of Godly transformation in the church and in our society, and we have to change our working place into our missionary field". Thinking about how to change my working place into my missionary field, I began to reflect more on how pharmacy can be a tool to serve the Lord.

In my first year of pharmacy school (2008), there was a Christian Medical Student Fellowship (CMSF) at our university and fellow medical students invited me to class and faculty prayer meetings organized by CMSF at the campus. Since I appreciated the activities of CMSF at the Faculty of Medicine and especially at the Campus, I wondered if a group of Christian pharmacy students could also be organized to pray together as the Christian medical students

do. I sought the Lord's guidance with hope that He would fulfill my request in due time.

In May 2009, I attended the regional conference organized by International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) held at our University. During that conference, I was challenged to bring

medical professionals and students together to share the issues of Christian faith and the medical profession. From that conference, I was reminded that my profession is not only my job, but it is also my ministry to the Lord. A few days after the conference (July 2009), I encouraged some classmates and we agreed to start the Christian fellowship. We were already used to meeting with each other and sharing the word of God; and we prayed mainly for our class, our educational system, our faculty and our careers.

Since 2008, I didn't cease to mention the unity of Christian pharmacy students in my prayers. In 2011, I began to wonder if there is an organized group of Christian pharmacists elsewhere in the world. On July 12, 2011, I searched the internet for the first time, seeking to know more about Christianity and pharmacy in order to satisfy my interest in a global Christian pharmacist community. By the Lord's grace and guidance, during my internet search I was directed to CPFI's website (www.cphi.org). I have read all the details concerning this ministry and I find

that CPFI is the Christian community which matches my heart's desire to serve the Lord through pharmacy. I started to communicate with one member of the student chapter Advisory Committee of CPFI (Julie Lynch McDonald) who really encouraged and helped me to become a CPFI member even though I was from a non-affiliated student chapter of CPFI.

In December 2011, I shared my CPFI experience with a few students and we began this ministry at our University as a non-affiliated chapter. At that time, I was doing my internship and not residing at the campus, but the Lord fulfilled His work by providing committed members at the start of this ministry. They were not aware of many things concerning CPFI because it was the first time they had heard about it, but they didn't hesitate to join and be committed to serving the Lord through CPFI. In August 2012, we officially became an affiliated student chapter of CPFI.

Currently, the work that the Lord began has continued to evolve. The CPFI student chapter at the University of Rwanda is a community of students with zeal to serve the world and Christ through pharmacy, and it is a community of more than 70 active students! They meet weekly to conduct Bible studies and they do monthly outreach to patients hospitalized at Butare University Teaching Hospital, where they share meals and the word of God with hospitalized patients who have limited means.

I look back upon the challenges I faced in December 2011: I was sometimes afraid