

God's Healing Hands in Honduras

By Nina Petrillo

Wimbledon Tennis Champion Roger Federer once said, "When you're playing a point, it has to be the most important thing in the world. And it is. But when it's behind you, it's behind you. The mindset is crucial—because it frees you to commit to the next point with intensity, clarity, and focus."

This quote is powerful because it paints a picture in which being present in the current moment is key—whether that is playing a sport, serving in the mission field, caring for patients as a health care professional, or just spending time with others. Be focused on the moment at hand and not on the moments that have already passed by you.



Nina Petrillo, PharmD and Dr. Kyle Montgomery assessing a patient's blood sugar level by performing a finger stick while on a house visit in San Marcos De Colón, Honduras.



Chip Wight, PharmD lifting up the patient's needs in prayer to God in Duyure, Honduras.

A story I want to share is one of our "God-Sightings" (as the team loved to call them). It is something that can only be explained as the power of God on display. As a team, we were blessed to go on house visits while serving the people in Honduras. This is where a few team members—a doctor, pharmacist, nurse, servant, and translator – go to a patient's home since the patient does not have the ability to come to the clinic.

I will always remember that Thursday morning because it demonstrated how God's mercy and compassion were woven into this patient's story. Last year around this time, the patient had suffered a stroke and was practically confined to his bed. He couldn't get up, let alone perform any basic commands given by the doctor. The doctors who went last year (in 2023) to Honduras thought the patient would not even make it to the end of the year, BUT GOD. God had other plans—more powerful than we could have imagined!

When we arrived at the patient's house this year, the patient was able to sit up in his bed, stand using a stick, and perform all the commands that the doctor had asked of him. It was a miracle!

The patient didn't live his life wishing for the full mobility he had prior to the stroke. He was focused on making the most of the present moment and aiming to get better as each day went on. Unfortunately, due to his circumstances, he didn't have enough money to buy his medicine; so his neighbors came together and bought some for him.



From left to right: Nina Petrillo, PharmD, the patient, Dr. Kyle Montgomery, Katie Main, Pre-Med Student, and Stephanie Daniels, PharmD in San Marcos De Colón.

As we were on the home visit with him, we could tell that he was trying to stretch his medicine to make it last, since he couldn't afford to buy more. Seeing this dire need broke our hearts... and having compassion on this man, we went to the local pharmacy and purchased enough of his medication to last him a few months. While in town, we also decided to buy him a cane so he could balance himself when performing daily activities. When we arrived back at his house to give him the supplies and medications we purchased, he proclaimed with gladness, "God has decided to bless me today!" The patient was immensely grateful and knew that God's blessings had been poured out on him. It wasn't because of anything that we did, but rather God using our team to do His work—for His glory and His majesty! This story reminded me of a biblical truth: we serve an all-powerful God who meets our needs and is there for us every step of the way.

forget the treatments we provided, but they will not forget God's compassion and love that was shown to them. May we learn from Jesus' example and strive to meet needs and show compassion and love to everyone we encounter. More importantly, through our actions may we always point people to Jesus and His perfect love!



Nina Petrillo, PharmD is a graduate of the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy. She is a pharmacist in the Orlando area. This is her first medical mission trip since becoming a pharmacist with her husband, Paul, also a pharmacist. In the past, she has served on medical mission

trips to Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Her hobbies include playing piano, watching fútbol games, trying to snowboard when possible, traveling, having her husband teach her guitar, and spending time with family and friends. She loves being able to use her God-given gifts to serve those in need and cannot wait to embark on more medical mission trips in the future!



From left to right: Jocelyn Freimuth, Pharm D, Nina Petrillo, Pharm D, Hunter Walton, Servant, Sierra Walton, Pharm D, and Paul Petrillo, Pharm D playing fútbol with the children in Duyure, Honduras, holding up the number 1 as a tribute to Lionel Messi, the greatest fútbol player ever!

It also brings to mind Matthew 9:35-38 (ESV) which states, "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Jesus saw a need and had compassion on the people He encountered. He demonstrated the Father's love to everyone He met. My friend Chip shared with me this quote by Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said... people will forget what you did... but people will never forget how you made them feel." This is so true. The patients we saw in Honduras may

Beautiful Feet: Spreading the Gospel Through Pharmacy Practice and Daily Life, Wherever God Leads

By Deidra McIntosh Simpson

Have you ever felt that tug to GO? Yet you weren't sure how it would be possible – financially, time wise, or maybe you even questioned your ability to help (because of your history or your current walk with the Lord)? Or maybe you haven't felt that tug... rather the opposite. Maybe you never understood why people desire to go to the ends of the earth when so many near you need to hear about Jesus too? Well, there is good news for both groups. The Bible is clear: we must GO (Matthew 28:19-20). However, Jesus tells us in Acts 1:7-9 that we must go not only to the ends of the earth, but also to Jerusalem (your hometown), Judea (your state/country), and Samaria (neighboring state/country). The Lord is working all the time in every pocket of the earth, from your backyard to the tiniest village across