

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

the waters. What a privilege to join Him in that work, to be His hands and feet... and *how beautiful are the feet that carry the good news*. (Romans 10:15). The verse before that, Romans 10:14, tells us how critical it is to go, tell, and be sent: *“How can they believe in the one who they have not heard...”* Has God asked you to GO somewhere for Him?

Our sending church in Florida had a sign as we exited the parking lot that read, *“Now entering the mission field.”* Sometimes we need a visual reminder that we’ve all been sent to serve the Lord. We must use the gifts and talents God has given us for such a time as this, wherever He has us today and wherever He leads us tomorrow.

Some of us struggle with the idea of whether God can use us, or why He’d even want to. When we explore Scripture, it is clear He uses those who are willing to surrender all and follow Him. None of the disciples were the leaders of their era, and none were particularly exceptional – *until* they surrendered and followed Christ. They lived out what Jesus spoke in John 15 that we are to love others as He loved us, laying down our lives for them. *Laying down our lives*. In the United States, most Christians currently do not suffer persecution to the point of death, as is the case in many other parts of the world. Laying down our lives could mean sacrificing our money, our gifts and talents, or surrendering our precious commodity of time. As with the early disciples, we are to use our time to minister to and serve our families, neighbors, strangers, and even our enemies.

Where do we start? Have you considered what it looks like to serve at your workplace? Maybe you don’t have opportunities there to share a full Gospel presentation; but consider the way we interact with colleagues, the way we educate our patients and students, and how we speak about peers and patients with one another. We may not always see how following the Biblical commands to be slow to speak, slow to anger (James 1:19), and to speak truth with grace and love (Colossians 4:6, Ephesians 4:15) can impact others, but it matters! We may be the only image-bearer of Christ that some people will ever experience. Let’s not miss those opportunities to serve day in and day out. I often tell my students this: anytime Scripture refers to our tongues, we also need to consider that it includes our typing thumbs. So we also need to be careful with what we say in our texts and emails. We should use each and every opportunity to point others to Christ with grace and love at home, at work, at the gym, at the grocery store, while on vacation, wherever we walk and whenever we talk, in person, and on whatever social platform we are utilizing. *Be those beautiful feet that share the Good News* (Romans 10:15). Pray for God to open doors for you to speak the truth in love, giving you the words and the boldness to speak. Then make space in your life to do that.

As pharmacists, we have a skillset and knowledge base that allow us the opportunity to meet the needs of others by being His hands and feet in our workplaces, in our communities (such as free clinics), during disaster relief, and through short and long-term medical trips. When I recently spoke with a friend who is serving in South Asia, he shared that healthcare professionals go there to educate local medical providers via short-term trips which, in turn, supports their Visa (which is difficult to obtain and maintain). While most of us are not called to go overseas on a long-term basis, going and using our skills on a short-term basis can keep those long-term folks on the field longer. Engaging in this way provides the opportunity for wider seed sowing and can lead to more faithful prayer for those we encounter in the field, while also building deeper relationships.

It can be overwhelming to process the call to GO: the where, when, and how. If you would like to utilize your pharmacy skills in medical missions, there are many organizations that need you. The following is a list of conferences where you can learn about their work, the locations where they can use you, and when/how you can be a part of the work they are doing:

- Global Missions Health Conference (GMHC) held each fall in Louisville, KY
- Remedy Conferences held each spring in the eastern and western USA
- “Med Advance” held each year through the International Mission Board
- “Prescription for Renewal” with Samaritan’s Purse
- You can also do an Internet search for opportunities with various other organizations (CRU, Navigators, ABWE, OMF, IMB, etc.).

Why GO? If nothing else, we were commanded to do so in Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:7-8. But telling others about the greatest gift ever given should be our heartbeat! My favorite verses are Revelation 7:9-10, “A great multitude that NO ONE could number, from EVERY tribe, EVERY nation, and peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb clothes in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Emphasis mine.) Can you imagine how glorious that will be? We get to be part of making heaven bigger! What a privilege!

Whether you GO near or far, always put on the full armor of God, as our battle is not against flesh and blood but it’s a spiritual one (Ephesians 6:10-18); pray for a bridge to the Gospel, then speak truth with grace and love. Truth without grace is cruel, and grace without truth is meaningless. None of us have yet arrived, but each new day is a new opportunity to live a life that radiates Jesus in spirit, word, and deed wherever He has led us. So, wherever you are – or wherever you find yourself at any given moment – GO, and be a disciple that makes disciples.



Dr. Deidra Simpson is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology to BSN, MSN, and DNP students at Liberty University School of Nursing. She also serves as the International Student Support Faculty for the School of Nursing, providing mentorship and support for the International Students and Third Culture Kids within the program. She and her family were previously missionaries in East Asia until a security breach prevented their return. Dr. Simpson considers it a privilege to teach, providing daily opportunities to speak truth and life into students’ lives. She is certified in applied pharmacogenomics and being a functional medicine provider enjoys taking a personalized, holistic approach with patients, peers and students.

Psalm 37 “Do Not Fret” By Jeffrey Bates

Life sometimes seems to devour us. There is no good explanation for why those making horrible, self-centered, sinful choices are so successful. Everything they touch seems to turn to gold. We do our best to remain unstained by their sin and to keep our eyes on our loving Savior, but we feel consumed by the constant barrage of their unbridled, boisterous attitudes. In fact, many times, we act as though excessive focus and discussion on their evil somehow makes us more spiritual than we really are. God’s word gives us some exceptional guidance.

“Do not fret” is mentioned by King David three times in the 37th Psalm in the NIV translation. In this context, David seems to be reminding himself and his readers that fretting doesn’t accomplish much. Fretting, in fact, seems to distract in many ways -- and if unchecked, can even lead to the fretter’s own sin.

In verse 1, the Psalm opens with this phrase “do not fret...” and appears to highlight quite simply that fretting is a waste of time and energy. David notes in verses 1 and 2 that evil men wither and die naturally. Fretting about these evil men accomplishes nothing of value.

*“Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.”
(Ps 37:1-2 NIV)*

The second use of this phrase is in verse 7, in which David seems to indicate that fretting is a distraction from focusing on God. Here he commands us to “be still” and to “wait patiently.”

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.” (Ps 37:7 NIV)

It is difficult not to turn three pages to the right and see this “be still” phrasing used again in Psalm 46:10 where the Sons of Korah state “Be still, and know that I am God.” Being still allows us to quiet our minds and our busy lives in an effort to remember that God is indeed in control and that He is fully aware of our circumstances. David’s reminder to “wait patiently” pushes me to James 1:3-4 where Jesus’ brother notes that perseverance, resulting from trials of many kinds, “finishes its work so that (we)