

In The News...

Palm Beach Atlantic Student Given Carnegie Heroism Award

Joe Alaimo was sitting on the beach studying for an exam with a fellow classmate when he heard someone yelling from the ocean. "We looked at each other, I said, 'Are you a strong swimmer? Should we go out? Let's go.'" A 10-year-old girl, Abby, was saved by Alaimo that day. Alaimo then spent the next 6 days in the hospital with pneumonia and a kidney infection after rescuing the girl from a vicious rip current.

Alaimo, along with Kenneth Slade, the girl's uncle who died while trying to save her, were given Carnegie Awards for heroism at a ceremony at the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, FL on Friday, November 4, 2005. "The hero award fund was established by turn-of-the-20th-century tycoon Andrew Carnegie. In a century, 8,902 civilian heroes have been recognized and \$27 million has been distributed to award winners," according to a local newspaper. Alaimo told his story to the paper, "After swimming far into the ocean, he took 10-year-old Abby Slade from her father, David Slade who was

tiring. 'I kept swimming, my left arm around her, trying to tell her everything would be all right. 'I was getting tired. I would look up and I wouldn't be any closer to the beach. That's when I knew I was in trouble.' I came to terms with the fact that I was going to die that day.' Alaimo tried swimming

parallel to the shore, but continued to weaken until someone took Abby from him. Even when his toes touched the sandy bottom, he couldn't move closer to shore. Finally, he was grabbed and pulled to the beach.



How My Faith Developed

By Joe Alaimo

Note from the Editor: After I heard the Joe Alaimo had received the Carnegie Heroism Award (see story above), I asked Joe if he would write a short testimony.



There are many days that mean something to people for one reason or another, such as December 25th or September 11. For me, it is March 21st because it was the day that I got a second chance at life. While I was

trying to help rescue one of two girls from the ocean, I became trapped in a rip current. When I thought I was not going to make it back, I started to prepare myself to die. Before I let go, by a miracle, I felt arms go around me to help me back to shore. As I look back at that moment, I feel that God was telling me that my job with His work on this earth was not over yet.

After I was brought back to shore, I was sent to the hospital to recover from pneumonia, dehydration, and extreme exhaustion. As I was recovering, Dr. Wahba, a professor at PBA School of Pharmacy, who did not know me, came and prayed for me. The love and compassion that he showed me that day really touched my heart and opened my eyes to Christianity for the first time.

Dr. Wahba still challenges me to learn and sets aside time in his busy schedule to be with me one-on-one to answer

questions that I have about the Bible. And if you ever had me as a student in class, then you know I always have a bunch of questions to ask. What I have learned from my readings was reinforced by listening to the devotionals that are said in the beginning of class at PBA. These readings allow me to get a little more insight into the Bible. Even with this exposure, it was still hard to grow spiritually when I didn't know how it all began. The Ethics class at PBA that I took allowed me to learn all about the history of the Christian religion such as Moses, Abraham, and of course, Jesus. Not everyone knows about the story of Jesus and if I had gone to pharmacy school anywhere else, my heart would probably still be closed off to hearing the Word.

I am very grateful for Palm Beach Atlantic University allowing me to attend pharmacy school. But being a Christian school of pharmacy, sometimes the focus should not be just on strengthening one's faith but allowing some people to find it. As I am an example of it; I once was lost, and now I am found.

With God's Love,
Joseph Alaimo

GLOBAL HEALTH OUTREACH MISSION TRIP CALENDAR

For more information on these mission trips, call 423-844-1000 or e-mail gho@cmdahome.org or The Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA). You can also contact Ronald Herman, ronherman@mchsi.com to learn more about short-term mission trips.

February 4-12 Honduras	May 20-28 Ecuador	August 2006 El Salvador
February 11-25 Honduras Trip is Closed	May 20-28 Honduras	Fall 2006 West Africa
February 18-26 Mexico	May 20-28 Zambia	Sept 28 - Oct 14 Ghana
March 10-19 Vietnam	June 16 - July 1 Nigeria	Oct. 6-21 China
March 11-19 Honduras	June 17-25 Honduras	October 7-15 Mexico
March 18-26 El Salvador	Jun 21-Jul 8 Zambia	Oct OR Nov 2006 Mexico GYN Surgical Team
April 1-8 Mexico	June 16-24 Ecuador	Oct OR Nov 2006 Mexico
April 1-8 Mexico	June 17-25 Honduras	
April 13-24 Moldova	July 22-30 Honduras	
April 22-30 Honduras	July 29-Aug 6 Guatemala	
April 22 - May 6 Ecuador	August 5 - 13 Haiti	
May 2006 Afghanistan	August 11-26 Kenya	

GHO is no longer accepting applications for closed trips.
*All trips welcome Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, Optometrists, Nurses, Techs, Students, Interpreters, and Non-Medical Volunteers unless noted as a specialty team.

GHO HAS THE FOLLOWING URGENT NEEDS:

Where: La Esperanza, Honduras, Feb. 4-12, 2006

Who: Physicians (Family Practice, Internist, Peds, OBGYN), Dental Assistants, Nurses, Physical Therapists, Logistics (Helpers)

Status: Accepting applications

Est. Project Fee: \$1,600

Team Leader: Dr. Bill Sasser

Where: Palenque, Mexico, Feb. 18-26, 2006

Who: Urology Specialty Team Need 3 Urologists, 2 OR & Post OP RN's, 1 Anesthesiologist.

Status: Accepting applications

Est. Project Fee: \$1,600

Team Leader: Dr. Theron Hawkins

Where: Hanoi, Vietnam, March 10-19, 2006

Who: General Dentists and Dental Specialties (endodontist, orthodontist, periodontist, pedodontist) for clinical training.

Status: Accepting applications

Est. Project Fee: \$2,950

Team Leader: Dr. Sam Molind

Good News! Many Pharmacists Oppose Law Requiring Filling of Emergency Contraceptives

In the last issue of the *Faith Script*, a Medscape international poll showed that only 22% of respondents felt that pharmacists should refuse to fill prescriptions that conflict with their personal beliefs and 77% felt that pharmacists should not refuse to fill prescriptions that conflict with their personal beliefs. However, Medscape admitted that they do not currently have a system that will allow them to capture responses from pharmacists only.

Medscape has now reported on results from a new survey of US pharmacists that showed that "69% of pharmacists [n=859 total] said they should have authority to refuse to fill prescriptions for emergency contraception" (EC). However, only 39% of respondents were against state laws that would require them to fill prescriptions for certain medications. Although 61% were in favor of laws requiring pharmacists to fill prescriptions, the majority thought that a pharmacist should have the option to refer a patient to another pharmacy if they found a prescription objectionable. This survey was completed shortly after four pharmacists in Illinois were placed on unpaid leave by Walgreens for refusing to fill prescriptions for EC because of moral or religious objections. Walgreens policy states that a pharmacist can refuse to dispense medications that violate their moral beliefs, except where state law prohib-

its, as long as they facilitate the prescription to be filled somewhere else. Due to the Governor of Illinois' emergency rule, Illinois state law requires pharmacists to fill all prescriptions. When those pharmacists involved in the survey were asked about the Walgreens case, 63% thought the four pharmacists should not have been placed on unpaid leave for refusing to fill the EC prescriptions with only 29% supporting Walgreens decision.

Look for an article in the next issue of *Christianity and Pharmacy* on Luke Vanderbeek, a pharmacist in Illinois who has taken the lead to fight the Governor of Illinois.

Medscape is a free service, you just need to register the first time you access their system. The exact link to the article for those already registered with Medscape is: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/518508?src=nldne>

Philippians 1:27

"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

New American Standard Version

There's so much need, isn't there? Here is a little prayer request from us in Solomon Islands. To make it more sensible I guess I must fill in some background.

Solomon Islands is in the SW Pacific, just a few degrees south of the equator (which means that it is hot and humid all year round). The country is mostly ocean, and lies about 1500 miles NE of the Australian mainland. There are about 500,000 people, scattered across a large archipelago of more than 900 islands. Our friends will know we are here presently in Solomon Islands (SI) by my working as the SI Government's "Chief Pharmacist"; though my official title is Director, Pharmacy Services Division, Ministry of Health.

The remit I hold is a national one, covering the development and implementation of national medicines policy; direction of national pharmacy human resource development programs; oversight of public sector pharmacy services standards; oversight and direction of the national medical supply systems; medicines information activities; and all the administration and regulatory affairs that go with those matters. Serving in this way puts us in-country where Sylvia my wife, and I, are also able to give to, and work with, a local independent church and associated communities in different islands. We do this in various ways such as primary school teaching (Sylvia) who also does sewing and vocational training and English improvement. We encourage and help to provide Bible training, and I often work with small groups towards "community development." All of this is simply, in our view, "Christian living and working." Through these things we reach out to touch lives with light and love, and bring good news. Or, as many would say we "do outreach." By being here in the capital we also are able to host others from various churches/works, who visit SI for different kinds of service (i.e., we try to be hospitable where we can!).

Having shared all that - in which so many prayer needs might be implied! - what is our specific need for prayer at

Missions Moment

this time? Well, my present contract with the Health Ministry here ends in January 2006,

and it needs to be renewed for a further two years. Time is running short. Not only does this need to happen in the next few weeks, we also need to have the Australian sponsor agree to it too - as that is where about 4/5ths of our allowances comes from in this placement.

The status of the health and pharmacy services in SI is still very fragile. While in some ways SI has recovered a long way from the ethnic inter-islands conflicts of 1998-2001, it is estimated that economic recovery is still so slow that it will take at least another ten years or more just to get the earnings for people back to their 1995 levels!! There is still a huge amount of work to do to bring services up to a proper professional, yet sustainable, standard. This is, in every way, a least-developed country. In this situation, you will appreciate that we feel we still have a role to play here, and certainly we do not feel any change in our sense of calling.

May we therefore ask folks to pray with and for us to be renewed (in every way!!), both as we take a break in Australia during Dec/Jan, and hopefully as we come back for a further period of fruitful service.

Yours in Christ,
Ray

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Calendar of Events

APhA Prayer Breakfast

March 19, 2006
San Francisco, CA

2006 CPFI Annual Meeting

June 9 to 14, 2006
Myrtle Beach, SC

2007 CPFI Annual Meeting

Date and location TBA

SPECIAL MEMBERS

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Sandra L. Sperling
 Keith W. Allhands
 George & Linda D.
 Armstrong
 Tony Ogden
 Warren E. Weaver

Presented as the Benediction at the Palm Beach Atlantic University Fall Commencement

By Dr. Ahmmed Ally

Dearest Heavenly Father, God of all beginnings and endings,
 We praise and thank you for the gift of this commencement ceremony. We thank you, dear Lord for the graduates and their families, for the professors, staff and administrators of our beloved Palm Beach Atlantic University. Lord, you allowed us to have these precious students for a short while as a blessed gift from you.

It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,
 With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.

The days have passed quickly, O Lord.

The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays and the holy days,
 The exams, vacations, breaks, and assemblies,

All have come forth from the goodness of your hand.

While we trust that your guidance has always been at work each day,

Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and appreciate

Just what you have planned for us in our school.

Dear Lord, give our graduates the rest and refreshment they need.

Let their efforts of these years bear fruit.

Bring all of their plans to a joyful conclusion,

And bless them abundantly, according to your will.

With the fulfillment of all hopes and dreams.

Watch over them,

And guide them each day as you have done during their time at PBA.

Give them a new spirit and a new energy.

May they continue to grow

In wisdom, knowledge and grace

All the days of their lives.

Dear Lord, may our graduates be empowered to be your ambassadors in words and deeds. May they become servant leaders dedicated to the community, our country, the world, and all humanity.

Let their aim be as steady as a star.

While they may be insulted, slandered, wounded and rejected,
 and even chased by foes,

May they never lose sight of focusing on you.

Give them steadfast determination

and unfaltering zeal

Embolden them to pursue and follow your purpose for their lives

until at last they can say:

“We have finished the work

which you, dear God, have given us to do.”

Dear Lord, we release these graduates held in your caring hands into the world. God, we all seek your continued blessings, divine guidance and great protection. We honor you, glorify you, and praise you. In the name of the Father, the son, our Lord, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.

Faith Script Newsletter and Christianity & Pharmacy Journal Submission Deadlines

The deadlines for each edition of the newsletter and journal are listed below. We welcome articles with a Christian focus.

Newsletter #1: November 15

Spring Journal: December 1

Newsletter #2: February 1

Newsletter #3: June 1

Fall Journal: July 1

Newsletter #4: September 1