

# SOZO

Greek verb: To Save, To Rescue, To Heal

**The Whole Person Care Preceptorship** is a summer program sponsored by the Medical Strategic Network, training healthcare students to assess and address the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients in an ethical and sensitive manner. Specifically equipped with leadership and ministry skills, students have the opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission and make a spiritual impact on their careers and in their everyday lives.



Loma Linda University Medical Center

## METS Conference: A Place to Build and Send

The Medical Evangelical Training and Strategies (METS) conference is a five-day program designed to provide health professionals and students with the encouragement and training to communicate their faith in Christ to those within their professional sphere. This is accomplished through interactive seminars that feature topics like how to be empowered by the

Holy Spirit, the ethical basis of spiritual care, and patient perspectives on whole person care. Conferees learn how to provide spiritual care through sessions that train them to identify a patient's spiritual needs and effectively share the Gospel. Clinical testimonies shared by seasoned physicians and nurses reinforce the teachings. Through their stories, METS attendees are able to

see how medical professionals employ the same techniques taught in the conference to make their careers their mission fields. The program culminates in a spiritual care practicum to apply the skills learned by engaging in spiritual conversations with patients at the Loma Linda University Medical Center. According to nursing student Irielle Banks, "The conference was an eye-opener that showed me there are Christian doctors and health professionals that are confident and comfortable reaching their patients with spiritual care."

By Stephanie Kunugi



Scott and Sharon Strum leading worship at the conference

**"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick."**

Matthew 9:12

Have you ever told your life story in 45 minutes to a group of people you've known for only a week? The activity *Soul to Soul* was the first challenge we had to face within our small groups at the start of the preceptorship. As its name suggests, we had to dig deep into each other's lives. Originally, I was skeptical. But as we began, I felt free to open up in a confidential and non-judgmental environment and literally share my soul. We also shared laughter, tears and prayer. I felt extremely humbled and

## Soul to Soul

took away a lot from other people's experiences. At the end of the intense day, we walked away feeling like old friends, realizing that underneath all our differences, we are the same broken individuals needing God's healing love and grace.

*Soul to Soul* served as a launch pad for many more in-depth discussions. Having told our stories once, we felt at ease to sit down with any other student and start connecting deeply. Small groups met twice a week for Bible study led by a healthcare professional.



**Megan Curtis, Irielle Banks, Allison Wallace, Lauren Dutkanych, Emily Moser, Courtney Raymond, Debbie Rohrmayer, and Kara Laycock**

In a safe and comfortable environment, the sharing of thoughts, struggles and prayer bonded us in friendships that will undoubtedly last a lifetime.

**By Grace Chan**

"Tell me, what's your support system like?" Dr Stan Shu asked gently.

"Family is important... and definitely *Him*," smiled the lady in front of us as she confidently pointed upwards. Such was the beginning of a deeper probe into spiritual history and the administration of spiritual care.

It is incredibly easy for the secular world to neglect spirituality as an important facet of medical care. This summer, we



**Andrew Wingfield, Irielle Banks, Jen Kim, and Thomasha Smoot**

## Reaching Out in Faith

shadowed Christian healthcare professionals in their workplace to witness and learn how our faith and medical practice can and should go hand-in-hand.

We were privileged to be learning from some of the greatest masters in addressing whole person care. Different physicians had their own unique styles of delivering spiritual care. Some inquired about God's role in patients' coping mechanisms, others proclaimed God's glory through marveling at the wonders of the human body, and still others shared in their patients' joy of experiencing God transforming their hearts and lives in overcoming addictions.

"Shadowing Dr. Yu was amazing! His love for God is so much a part of who he is that he can't help but share his faith with his patients. His practice exemplifies

what I hope my ministry will be like," said Becky Wagner, a physical therapy student.

These experiences, along with the METS conference and preceptorship meetings, prepared our hearts and refined our skills for ward practicums. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we took steps of faith in sharing the gospel, praying for patients and caring for their spiritual and emotional needs. "I was fearful at first, but I quickly realized that I wasn't walking into patients' rooms alone. The Holy Spirit was ministering through me!" said Courtney Olson, a medical student.

As Christians, we are all challenged to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we witness God using His laborers in diverse ways for the common purpose of expanding His Kingdom.

**By Eunice Dai**

## A Mexican City On The Hill



Eleasa Teng and Amanda Marshburn playing with the village children

Scattered intermittently across the dry dusty mountain-tops: blue tarps, 2 x 4's and plywood served as shelter for families knowing no other life. Amidst the bareness of Lomas Bonitas, a small white cross nestled in the distance embodied the vision of the Great Commission – to go to the nations and proclaim the name of Christ.

The Lord used us to facilitate physical and spiritual care to patients in clinics. Individually, students were able to use their God-given skills to minister to the people of a village transformed by the help of a church and clinic. Michelle Nix, a newly certified physical therapist, said, “Working in the clinic was such a blessing. I loved the

### The Great Commission

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Matthew 28:18-20**

opportunity to work with patients and was so encouraged to know there is a place for physical therapy in the missions field.”

God’s love and power were so real that anticipated hindrances vanished. Ashley Townsend invited a friend to Mexico and experienced the power of God transcend many cultural boundaries. “It was amazing to see how God used my sharing the gospel in Spanish to bring a villager *and* my Korean friend to Christ at the same time.” Serving as the hands and feet of Christ, God revealed how he could work through us if we would only heed his call.

Outside the church clinic, the sun illuminated Christ’s body working together to build a home for a newlywed couple. In the building process, students were able to construct a clearer vision of what God might desire for their own lives. “It was an awesome experience to not only tell

about God’s love, but to show His love through the work of our hands,” commented medical student Amanda Marshburn.

In addition, we were also able to minister to the children of the community. Through hugs and piggy-back rides, both students and children gave and received genuine compassion. In a small village in Mexico, students saw how they could be God’s vessels and express His love in a concrete way.

That weekend we all joined at the foot of the small white cross, united with the people of Lomas Bonitas to be representatives of Christ to the world. Jesus said to his people, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden” (Matthew 5:14). It is our humble prayer that God’s love would transform this community into a “city on the hill” so that His love would be made known to all.

**By Lindsey Doolittle**



Students working together to complete the roof of the house

“It has been an incredible experience to come alongside believers who seriously love the Lord and have hearts for people who don’t know Christ; to worship with them, to sit under the teaching of radical Christians from all kinds of specialties, and to grow in faith for what God wants to do with our lives. We as healthcare professionals need to remember that we are agents of God’s grace, entrusted with His masterpieces.” – *Emily Moser, Nursing*

“It has been an amazing experience filled with personal growth, practical evangelism training, and life transformation.” – *Jordan Wong, Physician’s Assistant*

“God has revealed Himself to me in so many ways on this trip and I feel so blessed to have been here. Words are not enough to describe the change that He has begun in my heart. He has truly broken me and shown me His great love for us. I cannot wait to see what He has in store for the rest of my life.” – *Jen Kim, Medicine*

“This summer has been an incredibly refining experience. God has shown me in many tangible ways that he is not only relevant but necessary to the practice of medicine. It’s been amazing to learn and grow alongside such loving, like-hearted brothers and sisters.” – *Eleasa Teng, Medicine*



**The entire preceptorship: students, faculty, and family**

“It is so wonderful and encouraging to be a part of this summer mission project with so many outstanding peers, physicians and counselors who want to grow in Christ and have similar desires and burdens. It has been exciting to see the Holy Spirit working in our lives, in the lives of patients, and of those in need, especially in Mexico. This has truly been a milestone in my lifetime personally, and I will walk away with friendships that I will hold dear eternally.” — *Christopher Cooper, RN*

“Our greatest joy was having the privilege of being used by God to introduce a woman to the hope that is Jesus Christ. Having a terminal illness, she was very ready to turn her enormous burden of sin and guilt over to the Lord and excited to meet her Savior one day soon. This confirmed for us the compelling need that patients have to be cared for as whole people and not just as illnesses.” — *Bruce Sabath and Scott Fujimoto, Medicine*

“I think the greatest gift I gained this summer is a new focus: seeing my medical practice as a mission field and my patients as souls in need of a loving Savior. Before this program, I thought that showing God’s love through my actions would be sufficient, but now I see the need to be intentional and more direct in sharing Jesus with my patients, and by doing so, truly giving them the best care possible.” – *Glenda-Gayle Haskin, Medicine*

“God met me here on the project and broke me down within a few days. He showed me how poor my life is on my own, and He’s beginning to show me how sufficient He is. I’m truly thankful for the Christian brothers and sisters I’ve met here. God’s been showing me how to walk with Him through my new relationships.” — *Jeremy Wang, Medicine*

**We were called from diverse regions and backgrounds so that we can return and reach out to people in all these areas.**

Irielle Banks (LA)  
Grace Chan (Hong Kong)  
Christopher Cooper (SC)  
Eunice Dai (Hong Kong)  
Lindsey Doolittle (NY)  
Lauren Dutkanych (IL)  
Scott Fujimoto (CA)  
Jonathan Gee (CA)  
Glenda-Gayle Haskin (CA)  
Erica Hobbs (IN)  
Jen Kim (OH)  
Stephanie Kunugi (CA)  
Amanda Marshburn (NC)  
Emily Moser (OH)  
Michelle Nix (TX)  
Courtney Olson (RI)  
Sarah Ongstad (ND)  
Courtney Raymond (OK)  
Debbie Rohrmayer (PA)  
Megan Rushing (OK)  
Bruce Sabath (MD)  
Thomesha Smoot (OH)  
Jen Stopher (IN)  
Eleasa Teng (WI)  
Ashley Townsend (IN)  
Jonathan Wada (CA)  
Becky Wagner (IL)  
Allison Wallace (PA)  
Jeremy Wang (FL)  
Andrew Wingfield (KY)  
Meridith Womick (OH)  
Jordan Wong (NY)

Disciplines: Medicine, Nursing, Physician’s Assistant, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, Pharmacy, Athletic Training, Emergency Medical Care

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