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Compassion in Action

THE MEDICAL STRATEGIC NETWORK
WHOLE-PERSON CARE PRECEPTORSHIP



Did you know...?

...the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations requires healthcare workers to offer spiritual care?

...that research shows patient spirituality can improve health?

...that most patients want their healthcare provider to address their spiritual issues?

Whole-Person Care Preceptorship

Whole-person care is treating patients as physical, emotional, and spiritual beings, emphasizing more than just their physical condition. Thirty-five healthcare students attended this year's Whole-Person Care Preceptorship out of a common desire to learn how to integrate spiritual care into their future medical careers. Through Christ-centered lectures, clinical shadowing, and interaction with patients, students gained practical knowledge and training in how to recognize a patient's need for spiritual care, to genuinely love their patients, and to lead others to Christ when called to do so. Through devotional times, personal study, and mentoring with Preceptorship staff, students learned to seek and maintain the foundations of a Spirit-filled life. With this foundation, students began practicing making spiritual care a natural outflow of their relationship with Christ rather than the result of their own effort.

-Phil Song

Medical Evangelism Training and Strategies Conference

The Medical Strategic Network hosts a five-day Medical Evangelism Training and Strategies (METS) conference in which we Preceptorship participants joined thirty-five other healthcare students and workers from around the U.S. to discuss whole-person healthcare. The METS conference equips Christ-followers in the healthcare system with skills to competently and confidently address and treat patients' emotional and spiritual issues. This unique opportunity to apply what we learned drew participants from twenty states and five countries. Doctors and nurses shared their personal testimonies and gave lectures describing the ethical, legal, and practical principles of spiritual care. Professional speaker and former patient Elizabeth Sutherland shared her hospital experiences with spiritual caregivers. Her raw emotion and frank descriptions gave a unique testimony from the perspective of a suffering person, inspiring us to offer spiritual care for the pure goal of meeting patients' needs, rather than proselytizing. Loma Linda University Hospital graciously opened their wards for us to practice the Whole-Person Care principles we learned. In groups of two's and three's, we visited patients for three hours; afterwards, we shared our experiences and gained feedback and instruction. Though together for only five days, we learned how to take the Hope of the world to our own parts of the world.

-Bekah Williamson



Ongoing Filipino Connections

In 1973, God gave a first-year student Yang Chen at the University of the Philippines School of Medicine a vision to share his belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God with his classmates. He went on to found the Medical Evangelism Training & Strategies (METS) conferences, which currently trains hundreds of health professionals each year to give whole person care to their patients, emphasizing the importance of incorporating evangelism into one's medical practice. Seven years ago, the conference was expanded to include a month-long preceptorship open to students of various health professions.

Since its conception, METS has been globally-oriented by encouraging medical missions and expanding METS far from its original beginnings in the Philippines to various locations around the world. The preceptorship in Southern California is no exception to this global orientation, and the program draws students from all around the world. This year's preceptorship hosted four students from the Philippines, two students from Hong Kong, a student from South Korea, a speaker from India, and several students who have either immigrated to or attend school in the United States.

This year, the Filipino connection was particularly strong: physician Jaybee Baazan, and three medical students, Paul Lim, Roy Sarmiento, and Jemuel Cristobal, traveled across the Pacific in order to attend the preceptorship. Each of them has hearts to see God use their medical practices for His purposes in the future, and are excited to pass on to others at home the training received at the preceptorship. When asked what he plans to bring back to the Philippines, Paul Lim quickly says, "My fire, baby!" God clearly has plans to use each of these four gentlemen in powerful ways.

METS plans to expand the summer preceptorship to an additional location in the Philippines in the future. Expanding will provide even more opportunities for international students to participate in this experience which God clearly uses to change the lives of healthcare students around the world each year.

-Davey Williams



Paul Lim, Roy Sarmiento, Jemuel Cristobal, and Jaybee Bayzan show their playful side

Clinical Spiritual Care Experiences

Upon entering the Loma Linda University Hospital, we immediately felt the challenge of applying our new spiritual care skills and knowledge. Our hospital practicums provided the chance to practice listening to patients, speaking about spiritual topics with patients, even sensitively sharing the Gospel when asked to do so. Whether the results were a brief exchange, saying a prayer for a patient, or leading a patient to Christ, we gained invaluable on-site training.



Students listening intently during one of many lectures on the principles of spiritual care

Local Christian healthcare professionals allowed us to rotate through their clinics and workplaces. We watched as they addressed the patients' spiritual needs, often marveling at the frequent desire of patients to pray with their doctors. Witnessing these professionals provide spiritual care in their various health care settings showed us how to adapt whole-person care to many situations. We found the blessings of spiritual care spread beyond the patient. "We are supposed to be learning how to bless our patients through spiritual care, but by delivering spiritual care, we actually are opening *ourselves* up to some of the most incredible blessings we will ever receive," said Matt Maready. In the future, we all hope to maintain our visions about spiritual care and continue to view our patients through the eyes of Christ.

-Connie Ho

Fellowship and Community

Thirty-five strangers from sixteen states and five countries came to Southern California to learn how to provide whole-person care, but left with so much more than knowledge. We formed deep relationships and enjoyed Godly community both in our small groups and as a whole.

Our small groups began with Soul-to-Soul, in which each person shared their life story. I was admittedly less than thrilled when I thought about telling my life story to six other women and two mentors whom I had known for only one week. “These people are perfect,” I thought. “They’ll never see me the same after they know my past.” Yet as we talked for an entire day, we discovered that underneath our appearances, “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

Christ said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” We experienced this reality as our new friends met us where we were, just as Christ did. Emotionally exhausted but undoubtedly encouraged, we enjoyed closeness unlike anything we had ever experienced.

The following weeks only strengthened that bond. We shared in everything together, from intense games of Ultimate Frisbee to caulking windows in Mexico. Events such as swimming in the Pacific Ocean and watching fireworks on the 4th of July were a first for some students. For four weeks, we lived together, laughed together, learned together, and loved together. -Amanda Volkmann

A Typical Day at the Preceptorship

8-10AM: Personal devotional time

10-12PM: Group Worship and Lecture on Bioethics

12-1PM: Lunch at Redlands

1-5PM: Shadowing Dr. Stan Shu at his pediatric neurology clinic

5-6PM: Dinner at Redlands

6-7PM: Watergun fights and Ultimate Frisbee

7-9PM: Soul to Soul time in small groups

Down in Mexico!

Our objectives were clear: in one day, run two clinics, build a house, and have a kid’s fair in the town of Ensenada, Mexico. Due to the language barriers, many of us felt a little like Moses: “But Lord, what if I can’t speak for You?” However, the Lord revealed Himself and provided for our insufficiencies.

One of the greatest testimonies to the Lord came through Noah So and Dana Donnersbach at one of the clinic sites. Though both lacked Spanish skills, they pressed on anyways and shared the message of God’s love with patients who had finished their medical treatment. The power of Christ indeed revealed itself, as they watched a woman accept Jesus as her Savior *in Spanish*.

The Lord also tore down the language barrier at the clinic and kids’ fair at one rural migrant camp, where the families spoke Ojaca, an American Indian tribal language. This barrier challenged the team, and yet the love of Christ was poured out through prayer, hugs, songs, and even a beloved Jesus sock puppet.

At the end of the day, the scattered teams gathered on a nearby mountain to dedicate a beautiful loft house our building team constructed for one hard-working but homeless family. The house team had enough sunburns to make any dermatologist nervous. Covered in paint and sweat but still beaming, they recognized the Lord had given them strength to do His work. With tears in their eyes, the family accepted the keys to their new home.



A new home is built. **A:** The empty plot of land before construction began. **B:** Jennifer Jung paints with a smile. **C:** The first wall is raised. **D:** Putting on the finishing touches to the house.

In His sovereign grace throughout the trip, God showed that His love overcomes barriers and we can trust Him to make the impossible possible. As we desired to serve Him, He blessed our mouths, hands, and hearts, allowing us to become part of His remarkable plans in Mexico. -Ashley Anthony



“Through our clinicals, lectures, and practicums, we learned to meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our patients, and I have personally seen how grateful patients are that we take the time to love, care, and pray with them. It has been a wonderful experience working alongside fellow students who are passionate about God learning how to love patients the way Jesus does.” -Janet Ma

“Spending time with doctors that truly love the Lord has completely redefined my career goals as a physician.”



“The importance of incorporating the great commission into my job is definitely a lesson applicable to my lifelong practice as a physician.” -Kevin Scott
-Connie Ho

“I realize that even though physical care will heal the sick, spiritual care will heal their spiritual being, something that will carry into eternity.” -Christine Kim

“One thing God really showed me is that it’s all about Him.”
Lindsey Novak

“The preceptorship has been an unforgettable experience for me. I gained many awesome friends, learned how to be more sensitive to all the patients’ needs by using the whole-person care approach, and strengthened my walk with God.” -Marcus Trayer



“I will never forget the moment we handed the keys to the home we built over to the recipient family...the tears in their eyes were the most valuable payment I could ever imagine receiving for my time and service.” -Daniel Westerdahl

“METS has given me a deeper excitement and joy in pursuing medicine because as a doctor, it is now a part of your job title to inquire about your patients’ spiritual health. If there is unrest, guilt, anguish or other needs there, you are available to offer great hope to real needs. That’s exciting!” -Jennifer Jung



“My view of the Holy Spirit has been completely transformed. I’ve learned what it means to rely on Him for guidance and power, which is essential to provide spiritual care.” -Laura Meekins

“It’s been amazing to see and to experience personally the joy of living everyday by the power of the Holy Spirit. Learning this essential ingredient to the Christian life has truly been a life-changing experience in and of itself.” -Dana Donnersbach

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