

WHOLE PERSON CARE PRECEPTORSHIP

"A SUMMER TO LAST A LIFETIME"

"Our identity must be Christians that happen to be healthcare professionals, rather than healthcare professionals that happen to be Christians."



A Letter From The Students

The students of the Whole Person Care Preceptorship (WPCP) came to Southern California for 5 weeks. In this time, we went to a METS conference, shadowed physicians who practice whole person care, practiced whole person care in the hospital wards and nursing homes, taught others how to practice whole person care, and had a lot of fun along the way. Most importantly, we grew in our relationship with God and learned how to truly be Christians who happen to be Health Care Professionals. We are SO thankful for this summer and how it has changed our lives forever.

OUR GROUP:

- 1 PHARMACIST**
- 1 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**
- 2 PHYSICAL THERAPISTS**
- 3 NURSING STUDENTS**
- 15 MEDICAL STUDENTS**

"See one. Do one. Teach one."

SEE ONE: METS CONFERENCE AND SHADOWING AT LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

We began the WPCP with a three day METS (Medical Evangelism Training and Strategies) Conference, designed to train healthcare professional students in how to ethically and sensitively have spiritual conversations with patients, listen to a patient's emotional and spiritual concerns, and share the gospel when appropriate. Lectures from attending physicians and medical faculty taught us how to take a spiritual history and shared how they regularly integrate their faith into their practice.

Throughout the summer, local clinicians allowed us to shadow them during their working hours. We watched how these physicians did spiritual care. This meant praying with patients, listening to their needs, and occasionally sharing the hope found in the Gospel with them. These physicians sacrificed their time and efforts so that we could see what it looks like to practice whole person care in everyday work life. They taught us so that we could then practice this care ourselves.

STUDENT TESTIMONIES

"The Gospel of Mark says that the Kingdom of God is at hand. It is within reach, but it is not here yet. In the meantime, we have a role to play in helping the broken realize their need for a deeper healing. Medicine offers us a unique privilege to reach out to people and help them in their need."

"The WPCP taught me that we can reflect God's character by demonstrating integrity, compassion, and competence in our work. But most importantly, that we must see our primary vocation to be serving the one true Healer."

"See one. Do one. Teach one."

DO ONE: WARDS AND GOSPEL SHARING

During wards we practiced providing spiritual care in hospital, clinic, and nursing homes. This included sharing testimonies, Scripture, and prescribed resources. We learned to love patients where they were at and not come with an agenda. Here are just two of many stories of how we were able to be led into Gospel conversations from taking spiritual histories:

Matt and Daniel were shadowing a family medicine resident on a quiet afternoon, and took the time to listen to one particular patient's needs. They asked questions that prompted her to recognize her need for the Gospel. She later echoed the sinner's prayer.



Josh and Estefania visited a patient in the hospital during practicum and the first question they asked her was, "How's it going?" She answered, "I feel like I'm being punished by God" and later shared that she had just had an abortion. They were able to explain the Lord's pursuit of her and the concepts of grace and forgiveness. That afternoon, she made the decision to follow Christ.



One of the humbling lessons of the WPCP was to walk through trenches with people. We want to look like Jesus as we live our lives: following his teaching and healing ministry. However, we cannot always heal. Jesus did not always end a person's suffering, but what he did do was share in it with us. We were able to do this as we listened in order to notice others' needs. At times, we were able to empathize through shared experience of abuse, addiction, or other brokenness. Other times, all we could do was be present, listen, and be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. But like the Apostle Peter says, we were to "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks for the hope that we have" (1 Peter 3:15), not just to patients, but all whom we met.



"See one. Do one. Teach one."

TEACH ONE: WORKING WITH PRE-PROS

Lastly, we were able to practice discipleship through being paired with 24 undergraduate students. We taught the students about spiritual histories, tenets of the Christian bioethic, and worked alongside them through our practicum in nursing homes.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

FELLOWSHIP

"Some relationships here are like those childhood friendships where you don't need to have commonalities- you just enjoy experiencing life together. It feels like a glimpse of what Heaven might look like."

"Together, we could remind ourselves that this is not our ministry; it is God's ministry. We just have to be available as God re-commissions us."

"This is the truest community I will ever experience on this side of Heaven."

