

Bob & Diana Mason

The Medical and Dental Ministry

February 19, 2014

Divine Appointments

Phil (name changed) arrived at the ER bleeding from the stab wound he received when he was attacked and robbed at a local business. Strangers found him lying on the ground and called paramedics. He was lucky to still be alive.

Several days later we met him during our weekly Spiritual Care Practicums which are designed to give hands-on training to the local students. Justin, a first year medical student, introduced himself and Bob and sought permission to ask a few questions about the emotional and spiritual aspects of his hospital stay. Phil readily agreed, but often struggled to answer our questions due to a newly developing respiratory condition. Yet it quickly became clear that Phil had a spiritual need which he was eager to discuss.

Phil told us that he had been reared in a home where God and the Bible were honored. Yet like so many, he pursued other interests and life goals. After a long and honorable stint in the military where he served in Desert Storm, Phil found himself broke, addicted to drugs, and living on the streets.

When he was stabbed, he knew God was trying to get his attention.

Phil proudly showed us the Bible that a fellow patient had given him. He had been reading it and had twice requested spiritual help, but for some unknown reason, none came. With his Bible open, Phil recounted major biblical events—creation, the exodus, the crucifixion, and Easter. When Bob asked him why Jesus had to die, he said he was unsure and asked Bob to tell him more.

Bob flipped to John 3:16 to briefly explain God's love for us, our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. He told Phil that we each need to individually put our trust in Jesus's death as the payment for our spiritual death penalty. At one point Phil emphatically exclaimed, "***I know that I am here in this bed right now so that I can hear what you are telling me!***" That is what we call a divine appointment.

Within a few minutes, Phil prayed aloud to trust Christ as his Savior. Bob encouraged him to continue reading his Bible, beginning with the book of John. A few days later, Bob returned with Daniel, another medical student who is eager to learn to provide spiritual care to his future patients. Daniel helped make sure that Phil truly understood the Gospel and the eternal difference it would make in his life. Bob encouraged Phil to connect with a local church upon his discharge.

In all and with your help, Phil passed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Justin, Daniel, and other students became more proficient in their whole person care skills. And Bob was able to live out another week of God's calling on our lives. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many.

Upcoming METS Whole Person Care Events

June 14-18, 2014 Redlands, CA * October 2014 Moscow, Russia * December 2014 Cuba

Whole Person Care Preceptorship June 14-July 16, 2014

Pre-Med / Pre-Pro Health Student Project July 5-15, 2014



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Redlands, CA 92373 * 909-335-9877 * masons@gomets.org * gomets.org