

## Divine Provisions

September 2020

*“We don’t know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”*

2 Chronicles 20:12

COVID changes almost everything. As a new school year began, we faced many challenges. This cry of Jehoshaphat mirrored our hearts. So when our team met for prayer before the new students arrived, we were seeking new solutions to new obstacles.

First, our normal method of connecting with arriving students at the orientation club fair was not happening. Bob was able to have a few minutes before the entire incoming class to let them know what we offer, but we did not know how to get in touch with students beyond that. So we prayed for God to somehow connect us with the students in whom He wanted us to invest. We asked Him for wisdom, creativity and favor.

We knew two arriving students through their older siblings. In talking to one of them, we discovered that he knew several other students, so we invited him to invite others over to our house for dinner. Many students showed up! Sitting in our backyard enjoying a home-cooked meal, we had a wonderful time getting to know them and sharing the opportunities we offer. Most were interested in connecting further in one-on-one appointments and in small group Bible studies.

The next hurdle was how to gather and effectively train students through weekly Spiritual Care Practicums. Again, Bob was able to make an announcement in class and one of the guys posted info on the class Facebook page.

You see, a core distinctive of this training has been the “hands-on” experience of taking spiritual histories bedside with real patients at the medical center. Understandably, the pandemic currently does not allow for this. So what do we do?

God gave us the idea to recruit preceptorship alumni, upperclassmen, and friends to help us by posing as patients. And God has provided! These “virtual patients,” have appeared in recent weeks from Florida to Minnesota to Mississippi to California. And they come to help us train these future physicians.

At our first practicum, a capacity crowd showed up on Zoom. We start with a teaching time that is often led by an attending physician who as medical student personally benefited from our training. Then, in various virtual Zoom breakout rooms, two students will meet their “patient” to conduct a spiritual history just like they would with patients in the hospital. Morer, this allows these budding professionals to develop direct spiritual care skills that will prepare them to better connect with future patients in both the clinical and telemedicine sectors.

We give thanks to the God of heaven in whom is power, wisdom and creativity for answering our prayers. We are also grateful for your standing with us! Thank you for continuing to make this daily and ongoing work possible.

*Bob & Diana*



P.S. Willing to be a “virtual patient”? Email Diana at [diana.mason@cru.org](mailto:diana.mason@cru.org)! You can help on whichever Fridays you are available from 4:15-4:45 pm PST. It’s easy and requires no medical knowledge. You only need to be able to answer some simple questions. We’ll provide all the info you need!

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