

June 2021

An Atheist, Two Docs, & God



Alex (name changed) had been raised in a home where God and faith were present. Yet as a geologist and one committed to science, he personally could not find a reason to believe in God.

Recently, Alex's marriage ended in divorce. He found himself in the hospital as a result of a drug overdose and suffering from withdrawals.

Physician-in-training John Davilmar (left) and addictive medicine fellow Mitch Schoen (right) found Alex exhausted, covered in blankets in his hospital bed, and mostly unresponsive to their questions. John is a whole person care preceptorship alum. Mitch has long sought to care for the spiritual needs of patients and has helped us train others.



In the coming days, John made frequent and repeated visits to Alex. Gradually, John was able to gain some insights into Alex's life, priorities, and support system. While Alex still did not believe in God, he did find meaning and strength from his mom and his son.

At one point John asked if it would be helpful to Alex if he prayed for him. Alex reiterated that he was an atheist, but expressed genuine appreciation for John's offer. Surprisingly, Alex accepted John's offer to pray.

John's visits continued. Among other things, he learned of Alex's interest in movies and books.

Due to various medical reasons, Alex was not able to begin rehab. On the day of his discharge, he shared his plans for his life going forward. He wanted to spend more time with his mother and his son. He had a list of books he wanted to read. There were movies he wanted to see.

John was shocked to hear the last thing on Alex's list. **"I want to explore my faith again. I'm open to God. I want to learn more."**

John believes it mattered that he and Mitch showed an interest in and empathy for Alex that went beyond the normal medical care. "We're dealing with human beings who are away from home and usually uncomfortable. Spending a few more minutes than usual with them is a great way to show you care not only for the physical but also the spiritual. Patients are more willing to open up about their illness and themselves."

Thanks for helping us make a difference in the lives and the training of John and so many more. And pray for Alex, that in his openness to revisit faith, he will soon find reasons to believe in God and follow Jesus.

Bob & Diana



Upcoming Events

JOIN US!!!

June 3-5 CCHF National Virtual Conference
June 11-13, Whole Person Care Conference, Redlands, CA
June 10-July 3 Whole Person Care Preceptorship
October 8-9 Whole Person Care Conference, Tulsa, OK

A caring community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ