

Whole Person Care Preceptorship 2023

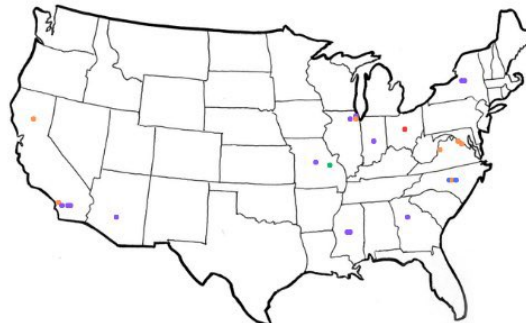


"Christians who happen to be healthcare professionals"

What is Whole Person Care?

The Whole Person Care Preceptorship served as a beacon of inspiration, equipping bright minds with the necessary knowledge and skills to embrace a holistic approach to healthcare, focusing specifically on spiritual care. Through an array of captivating guest speakers and interactive workshops, we delved into the core principles of whole person care from a Christian perspective.

Throughout our time in Redlands, we were exposed to a diverse range of topics that went beyond the conventional boundaries of medical education. Engaging sessions on gospel presentation, the significance of prayer, and the ethical considerations of whole person care opened new horizons and fostered meaningful reflections on the intersection of faith and healthcare. We honed our abilities to integrate spirituality seamlessly into patient care, ensuring that the emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of patients were addressed alongside their physical well-being.



- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Physician's Assistant
- Physical Therapy

Our team included students of different professional backgrounds from across the U.S.!



Spiritual Formation: The Foundation

Along with our Whole Person Care lessons and shadowing, we developed deep relationships with each other and grew in our faith! Engaging in an activity called soul-to-soul, we vulnerably shared our personal stories and learned how to better share our testimonies. We also worshipped and prayed every morning together along with meeting in small groups twice a week to discuss the book *Search for Significance*, by Robert McGee. Additionally, we met weekly with a spiritual mentor. In our free time, we explored some of the sunny sights of southern California. All of these activities laid the foundation for a fruitful experience as we learned lessons that will last a lifetime.



Students going to take spiritual histories and provide spiritual care at Loma Linda Medical Center



Kayaking in La Jolla!



Rocking Peaches: Working Where The Spirit Leads



Mary (name changed) has had her fair share of challenges: medical and financial difficulties, as well as homelessness. When Mary encountered two preceptorship students on our first afternoon in the hospital, she was wrestling with the feeling that her illness was punishment from God. With permission, we began to share our perspective, reassuring her that God's heart is not to punish us but to reconcile us to Himself. That day we were able to share many truths, download a Bible to her phone at her request, and pray.

Returning the following week, God had opened her heart to want to hear the core message of Christianity, so we shared the gospel. Over the following weeks, multiple groups of students were able to revisit these conversations with her, planting and watering seeds of truth. As she read the Bible, prayed, and discussed these things with us, she began to understand that Jesus is "God's free gift to pay for our sin." Alongside this spiritual understanding, she described "a waterfall of peace" that she could feel flowing over her. (Interestingly enough, this coincided with a precipitous drop in her high blood pressure, which allowed her to have a surgery she needed).

Early on, the analogy was given that spiritual care is akin to the process of harvesting peaches; if they are ripe, a gentle rocking will do the job. In this way we are called to gently probe our patients' stories to see where God is at work and join Him. We know we can plant and water seeds but only God brings the growth (1 Cor. 3:5-6). Our time with Mary was a powerful example of the fruit that can come when we are sensitive to His Spirit and follow where He leads.

**A SUMMER
THAT
LASTS A
LIFETIME**



"I learned how to care for emotional and spiritual needs of patients but I did not expect to be emotional and spiritually impacted myself. Being surrounded by people on fire for the Lord I learned how to be loved and love well."

-Olivia Reed, Nursing and WPC Student '23

"Especially in medicine, you need a purpose behind what you're doing to not get burned out. [Whole person care] helps me look at medicine with that purpose and realize that I am a Christian first devoted to Christ and that I'm serving him through medicine and trying to glorify him through that. It puts everything in perspective so that it doesn't become about me."

-Courtney Sparger, M.D., WPC Alumnus and Staff (our favorite camp counselor)