

## Something Different

For the last 23 years each fall, we've mailed you the newsletter from our summer Whole Person Care Preceptorship (WPCP). This year, we're trying something different. Below is a letter that 2025 WPCP med student Isaac Knouff sent to some friends. We think you'll enjoy his story. It's more lengthy than our usual letter, but worth the read!



Isaac chats with Greg Bonnen, MD

"Developing a personal relationship with God—who became human and died for my sins so that I could be forgiven—has radically transformed my life. Because of that simple truth, my relationships, my sense of purpose, and my life trajectory have changed for the better.

By means I can't fully explain, God changed my heart toward school and sharpened my mind to prepare me for the rigors of medicine. By His grace, I went from failing high school classes to ranking near the top of my class at the University of Washington in courses with hundreds of students. Glory be to Him.

Not only did God provide the academic foundation to pursue medicine, but He also gave me a reason to live—and a purpose: to share the radical love of Christ that transformed me, something that I am still learning how to do today. When I was accepted to medical school, I began to wrestle with new questions: What does it mean to follow Jesus as a doctor? How do I integrate my identity in Christ with my identity as a physician?

Even in my earliest clinical experiences, I saw that many patients carried burdens deeper than their medical conditions. Their stories echoed what I call "laments of the soul"—questions of purpose, suffering, value, and hope. These reminded me of my own struggles and the ways God met me in them. Compelled by this, I began offering to pray with patients when it felt appropriate. Many patients received it well, but I often felt isolated in this practice. **I had never seen another healthcare provider offer spiritual care or even express an interest in doing so—until I attended the WPCP.**

At WPCP, I *finally* received structured training in spiritual care. I learned practical tools for engaging in spiritual conversations, praying with patients, and refining my approach to these delicate yet powerful moments of connection.

For the first time, I heard story after story of healthcare providers who had helped patients find forgiveness, self-worth, and hope—not through medicine alone, but through the message of Christ. I was deeply encouraged to be surrounded by a community of professionals who shared the same heart and calling I had felt.

**What surprised me most was *how open even nonreligious patients were to spiritual conversation*.** Many were grateful just to reflect on their values or to be prayed for. For the first time, I realized I wasn't alone—not just spiritually, but professionally. God had placed others in healthcare with this same burden and calling.

*Story Continue Continues on Back...*

### Upcoming Events **JOIN US!!!**

**October:** Carolinas CMDA Speaking Trip

Speak at IV Med Student Retreat, Austin, TX

**November:** Speak at Global Missions Health Conference

**May:** METS Whole Person Care Conference, Tulsa, OK

**July 9-12, 2026** Preceptorship 25th Anniversary Reunion/Celebration



A caring community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ



2025 WPCP students worship at Corona Del Mar Beach

Soon after the program ended, I was on a rural medicine rotation and had a particularly difficult encounter with a patient. After listening to her story, I gently asked if it would be helpful to pray with her. She began to cry and said, “***You’re going to be one of those doctors—one who really cares. Most doctors don’t listen. It’s hard to find someone who genuinely cares.***”

This moment reaffirmed something I learned during the WPCP: spiritual care builds trust, brings comfort, and helps fulfill the deeper call of healing that Jesus modeled. It’s not just good for patients—it’s essential to whole person care.

One story from Scripture continues to shape how I think about spiritual care: the woman who suffered from bleeding for twelve years. When she touched Jesus’ cloak, she was instantly healed. But Jesus didn’t stop there—He turned to her, called her out, and publicly affirmed her healing.

Why?

Because His mission was not only to heal her body, but to restore her soul and reintegrate her into her community. In a society that had cast her out because of her disease, Jesus declared her whole—physically, socially, and spiritually.

That’s the kind of care I hope to offer as a physician.

Spiritual care reaches into places medicine alone cannot go. It allows us to tend to the deep wounds of the soul with the love and intentionality of God. And as I continue my medical training, I carry the lessons of the WPCP with me—not just as skills, but as a calling. I also hope to share these lessons with our medical student ministry, so that they too can be encouraged to seek out the whole person in their care. For those of you who find prayer meaningful, I ask that you would keep our faith family in your prayers.

May the peace of Christ be with you all!”

Thanks, Isaac!!!

We praise God that we get to invest in students like this. And we thank you for helping make this all possible!

*Bob & Diana*