

# International Science Education

The world needs you!  
You can make a difference!

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# Where Am I Coming From?

- Peace Corps doctor in Kenya
- Academic staff at OHSU
- Visiting Professor at the National University of Singapore
- CMDE conference
- MEI



# Why Would We Want to Share Our Knowledge In An International Setting?

- Why Education?
- The Need
- Opportunities
- Preparation
- Rewards



**Who Was the Ultimate  
Teacher?**

# Jesus the Teacher!

- What example did he leave for us?
  - Servant attitude
  - Who did he teach?
    - Pharisees and Lawyers – Faculty?
    - Disciples – Residents?
    - Crowds – Medical students?
    - One on one – John 20:16 Mary Magdalene exclaimed “Teacher”

# What Makes a Good Teacher?

"Someone who loves his subject and loves his students"\*

\* John Patrick



# Why Might We be Reluctant to Consider Teaching?

- Don't like public speaking
- Not sure how to prepare a lecture
- Lack of self confidence
- Takes to much time
- Students don't appreciate your efforts



# Why be a Teacher?

- Build into others lives
- Share experiences with others
- Leave something behind when we are gone



# We are all Teachers!

- We teach by:
  - Example and modeling
  - Attitude
  - Influence
  - Demonstration



# Do We Want to be a Positive or Negative Influence?

- We will be influencing a generation of young people!



# What is the Need for Medical Personnel in Africa?

## ■ Africa

- Africa has 11% of the world's population, but 25% of the health burden
- Has 3% of the world's health care workers
- Uses 1% of the world's health care dollars
- 40% of the hospitals in Africa are mission hospitals and give 60% of the health care



# Why Is There Such A Need

- What happens to people trained in Africa?
  - In some countries as many as 75% of the countries doctors leave to work in Europe or N. America
  - The same thing is true of nurses and pharmacists

# How can Science Education be Translated to Missions?

- You can multiply your hands
- Demonstrate the Love of Christ
  - Attitude towards students, peers or patient care
  - How you treat others – patients, nurses, cleaners
- We can teach and train, but nationals may be better able to reach their own people for Christ because they know the culture and the language

# How can Education and Training be Translated to Missions?

- Why not just do direct patient care or a project?
  - Rewards are more tangible
  - Instant gratification
  - But what happens when you leave?
  - In teaching you can do both!



# How can Educating Nationals be Translated to Missions?

- Missions can be an *iffy* business
  - If you are the only person in your field what happens when you go on furlough, leave the field or retire?
  - What if your visa is not renewed?
  - What if there is civil unrest and you have to leave?

# Opportunities

- Most countries will welcome teachers who are willing to share knowledge
  - Closed or creative access nations
  - Short term – 1-4 weeks



# Opportunities

- Most countries will welcome teachers who are willing to share knowledge
  - Medium term – 2-12 months
  - Long term – 1 year or longer
  - Invited Speaker



# Opportunities

- Medical Schools/Training Programs
  - Basic Science
  - Research
  - Clinical
  - Students
  - Residents/trainees
    - Specialties
    - Family Practice



# Opportunities

- New Medical Schools – few or inexperienced teaching staff
  - Indonesia
  - Liberia
- Special needs
  - Curriculum development
  - Problem Based Learning



# Opportunities

- Paramedical Fields
  - Speech Therapy
  - Physical Therapy
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Audiology



# Opportunities

- Other fields
  - Engineering
  - Science
  - Law
  - Christian education

# Preparation

- When should I do this?
  - Student?



# Preparation

- When should I do this?
  - Resident?
  - Other



# Preparation

- When should I do this?
  - Early Career?



# Preparation

- When should I do this?
  - Mid Career?



# Preparation

- When should I do this?
  - End of Career?



# Preparation

- Specialty Training?
  - Credentials
    - Board certified
    - Academic position
  - Education courses
  - Practice! Practice! Practice!



# Cultural Considerations

- Short term vs long term
- You may be viewed as a threat
- "You are eating out of my rice bowl"
- Cachet of being a foreigner
- Losing face
- Visas and medical licenses
- Teaching may be acceptable

# Cultural Considerations

- How can I overcome potential negative impressions?
  - Remember God has given us so much
  - Be thankful
  - Share
  - Don't have a superiority complex



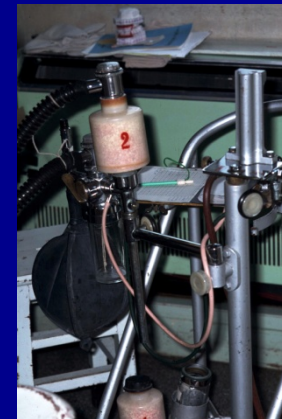
# Cultural Considerations

- Be sensitive to your hosts
  - Culturally
    - Respect their taboos
    - Respect government prohibitions



# Cultural Considerations

- Be sensitive to your hosts
  - Medical knowledge
    - may be inferior to ours, but?
  - Lack of or outdated texts available
  - Poor teaching techniques
  - Lack of experience
  - Paucity of equipment



# Cultural Considerations

- What can I do?
  - Don't be critical of their techniques
  - Develop trust and be truthful
  - Acceptance and respect will come



# What Do We Have to Offer in Medical Education

- Attitude – servant model, approachable
- Interact with students in class room and patient care



# What Do We Have to Offer in Medical Education

- Encourage questions
- Allow hands on not just observation
- Demonstrate a methodical and evidence based approach

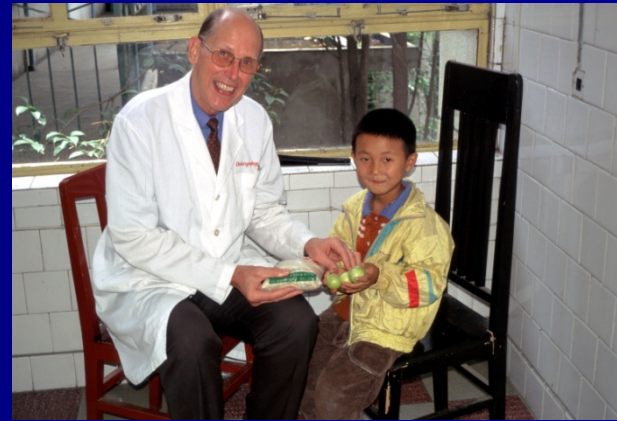


# What Do We Have to Offer in Medical Education

- Encourage residents to ask for help
- Make friends of students, residents and faculty outside the hospital



# REWARDS!



# REWARDS!

- Opportunities to show Grace
- Opportunities to show the Love of Christ
- Students and residents will be more likely to ask about your beliefs
- Influence the next generation of physicians
  - Medical knowledge
  - Caring attitude for patients
- Model teaching as a worthwhile career

# What Can I Do?

- Try a short term trip with an established group
- Be culturally sensitive
- Ask questions and listen
- Don't pass judgment
- Be flexible
- Adapt to the unexpected. You never know who you may be asked to treat!



# Where Can I Look for Opportunities

- Medical Education International (MEI)
- International Institute for Christian Studies (IICS) – [www.iics@iics.com](mailto:www.iics@iics.com)
- Mission Boards
- Fulbright Scholarship
- University exchange programs
- Personal contacts

# What Can We Learn From Scripture?

- "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38



# What Should be Our Motive?

- Our overriding reason is to show the love of Christ
- I Peter 3:15 – Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.