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 too 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 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?
When should I do this?
- Mid Career?
Preparation

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

- 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
- 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.