

"I think that you've missed your true calling!"

I hear that comment from a patient about every other month or so. Usually it is after I've been sharing one aspect or another of how God has been working in my life or sometimes after bringing the gospel to bear on an issue in their own lives. Yesterday it came after I gave my gospel talk to a young man who was struggling with depression after a relationship of his ended after 3 months. Though he had been "churched" growing up, he, like so many Americans, had no idea what it meant to have a saving relationship with Jesus. Sharing from my own life how God had rescued me from trying to find my identity from my job, money or status and helped me to find my ultimate value in Him, I went on explaining about how none of us is worthy or "good" enough to be accepted by God on account of our works. Sometimes I can lapse into a monologue- I get excited talking about the gospel of grace, but patients usually appreciate it. When I was done, his mother, who was with him said what I frequently hear- *"I think you've missed your calling!"*

I laugh when I hear that, because I would have been a terrible pastor. Like Moses, I'm terrified and pretty terrible at public speaking. Truth be told, I tell patients when they tell me that, I am so fortunate because I get to talk about Jesus all day, as the Lord gives me opportunity, help make sick people better and get paid more than most pastors get paid! An added bonus is that people open up to their doctor in ways that many would never do to a pastor. What a privilege and a gift it is to be able to play the role that we get to play in our patients lives.

Recently, one of my patients, a rollicking, hard-living hillbilly passed away at the age of 77. She and I had a special relationship- she would pretend to complain about coming in and shake her fist at me in the hallway. We used to laugh and joke around during our visits- and when it was becoming clear that her many decades of smoking and chronic medical disease were going to end her life prematurely, I began to pray with her at the end of her visit each time. By God's grace, the Holy Spirit took her from being an enemy of God without hope in the world and turned her into a child of God who trusted in Jesus for the salvation of her soul. When it was time, she was ready to go and as I visited her in her home to say "goodbye" for the last time, I wept tears of sadness but also tears of joy knowing that she was going to meet her Savior. Truth be told, I wish more people came to know the Lord more, in some way connected to my sharing the gospel with them. I rarely know what is going on in people's hearts- but I look forwards to finding out one day.

What is your calling? I believe that it is more than just working 40 hours a week, saving up for retirement and dying to go to Jesus one day. Not all of us are called to be pastors or missionaries, but as Christians we are called to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them teaching them to observe all that Christ commanded us. Has your job or life been feeling dry at times? I think that there are two remedies that I can think of- soak deeply in the Word of God and take a radical step of faith, perhaps taking the opportunity to pray with a patient or share with someone something that God has done in your life. Nothing stokes the fire in my soul like

seeing God doing something amazing in someone's life- and we can be conduits of God's blessing.

Speaking of taking radical steps of faith, I'm excited that our **Celebration 2015** banquet (coming up on **Saturday, April 18** at Christ Community Chapel in Hudson) will be featuring missionaries [David and Nancy Writebol](#), RN, who have served in Liberia. Nancy shot to [national prominence](#) last year when she and Dr. Kent Brantly were infected with Ebola while they were serving the sick. There was some [controversy](#) about whether or not it was safe to bring patients with Ebola back to the states but by God's mercy both she and Dr. Brantly survived. It such a privilege that they will be joining us- I hope that you will consider coming and inviting your friends. I suspect that she will have quite the inspiring story to tell- relevant to anyone, not just medical people. You can register at our website, [NEOCMDA.com](#). *Please register early so we can plan our meals appropriately.*



As we look forward to the Holy Week, I just wanted to end reflecting the love of God shown to us in the cross of Christ. What a glorious reality that Jesus Christ, the promised messiah who was utterly worthy of receiving all praise, instead went to the cross, taking upon himself all of our sin and shame and reconciling us to a Holy God. Thanks be to God that he rose from the dead and reigns victorious at the right hand of God. This is the wonderful life giving message that we have been charged to tell. Let's try to do that, especially in this season where it is more social appropriate to be open about what we believe.

for the glory of Christ,
Mike Chen
NEOCMDA chair

p.s. here is a [wonderful free book](#) which is a helpful devotion you might consider going through during the Lenten season.