

Taking Steps in His Image

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I was looking out the window on the couch while my brother and sister went out to play outside. My mom then suddenly rushed towards the couch with a worried look and gave me a Benadryl pill and some water. A few minutes before, I had accidentally eaten chocolate covered nuts, which gave me an allergic reaction. With swollen lips and irritated eyes, I couldn't go out and have fun with my siblings.

As a child, without knowing why I wasn't able to eat certain chocolates because they contained nuts, I felt upset but curious at the same time. I grew up with all sorts of health conditions like allergies, asthma, and mild skin rashes that gave me great distinction from my two siblings. I visited my pediatric doctor often for check ups, but one day I asked him, "How come no one in my family has allergies, but I do?" He never gave me a clear answer that I remember, but that was when I decided I wanted to research it for myself when I grew up. With many years leading up to this point in my life, I became curious about the healthcare field. For example, I wanted to specifically work with children because for one, I got along with them well and liked taking care of them because helping them gave me healing. I also wanted to work as a pediatrician because I knew what it felt like to deal with different health conditions as a little girl.

From my middle school years and up to my sophomore year currently, I've found myself working diligently and passionately towards taking classes to help me in the healthcare path and involving myself in healthcare driven clubs. For instance, one club I am in at my school is called "Young Leaders in Healthcare". It is a club that explores various career pathways and introduces leadership opportunities with Scripps Health in San Diego. Since joining this club in ninth grade, I have continually learned more about the healthcare career pathways. Furthermore, I received the opportunity to apply for an internship during the summer to be one step closer to my future

healthcare goals. It was by the grace of God that I qualified for the second step of the acceptance process that only juniors and seniors usually qualify for. The second step was an interview with one of the internship coordinators. Although I was not able to pass for the final step of the process, I felt like God was leading me towards my dreams and goals in the healthcare field.

However, at times I question, “Is this really what God wants for me?” “How could I be so sure this isn’t something I want to do for myself?” I would never know the answer to this without prayer and the wisdom found from the word of God. One Bible verse that left an impactful impression on me while seeking wisdom was “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9) Based on this passage, someone may have their own path in mind and what they want to do. Nonetheless, it is the Lord who decides to lead and make the paths come true. With Proverbs 16:9 in mind, I trust that although my plans for the future are towards the medical field, only by God’s will would he continue to establish my steps.

After witnessing how far God has brought me in my life towards his desires for me in healthcare, I see myself working someplace out of America, in a foreign land, with people who are in need of salvation. I have come to the ultimate goal of wanting to be a missionary. Someone who can not only save and heal lives, but someone who can save lost souls. Working to be a missionary is something I think God desires for me because it is a way to do what I am passionate about while serving people who are non believers. In addition, I envision myself helping children who are in need of medical attention and praying for them during their processes of healing. This may look something like giving daily check ups while spreading the good news of God, looking for symptoms of external or internal health problems, or simply connecting with them to meet their physical and spiritual needs while growing up in their lives.

What motivated me to become a missionary was through a pastor's kids conference in Los Angeles in the summer right after my 8th grade graduation. It was on the third day of the conference that struck me the most by God's personal calling. In the dim lighted, heartfelt atmosphere with the praise team singing, and the pastor inviting those who desired to serve the Lord through missions, I felt the call to go to the altar after a moment of hesitation. After going to the altar, I deeply prayed and felt inspired to serve the outreach through the medical field.

I am thankful for my allergies, my healthcare internship opportunity, and the night I felt God's calling to missions because with these moments, I am who I am. I still have a long journey to go to fulfill my calling in the future. I may not even know the exact image that God has for me yet. Regardless, I trust God with every step he lays down for me. All this because I know that he is a loving, faithful, and all knowing God to me.