

“WORK: Redeeming Our Labor” - Blog #6

Jordan, Physician Assistant



This blog series is a part of our sermon series “WORK: Redeeming Our Labor”. We hope this set of interview style blogs is encouraging to our church family as we strive to be faithful in our labors and put our vocation into the story of God, for His glory, our good, and the benefit of the world around us.

**Answers have been lightly edited for grammar and spelling.*

1. Tell us what you do and how long you've been doing it.

I am a Physician Assistant in blood cancers and bone marrow transplant at Levine Cancer Institute. I have been doing this work for about 8 years now

2. What are some of the highlights or things you enjoy about your job?

The thing I enjoy most about my job is being able to build relationships with patients and their families when they are going through such a hard season. I knew when I was going into medicine that I wanted to be in a field where I would get to know my patients so being able to see the same people on a regular basis is great. On a nerdy level, I love learning about the disease processes and the medicines we use and are developing to treat them. It's fascinating being on the front line of scientific breakthroughs and seeing how God has so intricately designed the body that even when something goes wrong, there are ways to make progress toward fixing the problem.

3. What are some of the more frustrating parts of your job?

I work on a fairly large team with lots of personalities and opinions so sometimes it can be frustrating trying to navigate what is actually important or best vs someone's opinion about how things need to be done. This can be especially hard to navigate when patients are nearing end of life. Not many people I work with are

Christians, so those conversations don't usually have an eternal focus. I also tend to get frustrated with the "tasks" I have to complete during the day – completing charts, refilling medications and reviewing test results – mostly because I never feel caught up on those things.

4. How do you see your work as "joining God in cultivating the world?"

Jesus cared for the sick and hurting and in my job I get to join Him in caring for them in a very literal way. I try to remember that I am acting as His hands and His heart in the way I care for them. Seeing peoples' diseases getting better or sometimes even cured is such a beautiful picture of God acting as our healer, and a reminder that he is sovereign in the times that they don't get better.

5. How does the gospel of Jesus impact your work?

The gospel feels very urgent when you are working with people with terminal illnesses. There is such a sense of peace that truly surpasses understanding when you have hope in a secured eternity because of what Jesus has done for you, and knowing that one day there will be no more cancer or any of the pain that comes with it. For me specifically in this role, the gospel reminds me that while I am invited to join God in loving and caring for people who are living with cancer well, it is not ultimately up to me to save them. It frees me up from striving to be the one that fixes them because I never can.

6. What are some current prayer requests you have with your job?

Pray for stamina and endurance for myself and my patients. It can be an emotionally draining job for me, and emotionally and physically draining for my patients. Also for my discernment and obedience in boldly offering people the hope of the gospel in a field where it is not always encouraged for me to do so. Finally, and very specifically, I have a patient right now who honestly just needs a miracle. Over the last year, he really has had everything that could go wrong go wrong, and then some. He is admitted right now for a second stem cell transplant. Pray that this one works, and that God would get the glory when it does.