

Robert Santos Garcia: The Life of a Christian Missionary Nurse

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Robert Santos Garcia: The Life of a Christian Missionary Nurse

As Christian nurses it is important to give the best patient centered care possible, while also keeping our faith with God at the forefront of everything we do. We are responsible for providing the best patient centered care possible, the patients well-being is at the forefront of our care, it must be in order to prevent illness and injury and alleviating the pain and suffering many experience. Missionary nursing is a part of nursing which allows the nurse to give care while also spreading the word of God, it drastically helps communities that need it and allows the nurse to spread the gospel while doing so. In order to better understand what the life of a missionary nurse is like, I interviewed a close friend of mine who happens to be a missionary nurse, Robert Santos Garcia. Robert worked as a missionary nurse for many years, and was able to give some insight on what life was like for him and how it affected his spiritual and physical life.

Robert Santos Garcia was born on April 17, 1964 in the sprawling city of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. On his eighteenth birthday following graduation from Arellano High School, he was given the opportunity to relocate to the United States through his uncle who worked at the Philippine embassy in San Francisco, California. Robert saw this as a chance to spread the word of God in an entirely new territory and grow as a missionary while serving Christ and providing nursing care to patients in this new country. He found a local church and started building his faith while also attending nursing school as the only male in his entire class, he graduated four years later and began practicing as a registered nurse. After gaining years of experience as a nurse, he was approached by a man in his church who offered him the opportunity to work as a missionary nurse in his home country of the Philippines. He graciously accepted the job and served as a missionary nurse for years, he met his wife on a medical mission back home and started a family with her back home in California. Robert currently

resides with his wife and two dogs at his home in the beautiful sunset district in San Francisco, he has five children who are all out of the house and pursuing various careers.

During his medical missions to the Philippines, Robert would provide nursing care to hospitals that needed it and assist with children who couldn't afford to be helped. While he was helping the needy, he would always have the Bible on him so he could preach the gospel to his patients whenever he had the opportunity. I remember on one occasion during a trip with him, he was tending to a young boy with a broken arm who got it from falling after running in the streets of Manila. While he was splinting his arm, he would read the young boy stories from the Bible and educate him on why a relationship with Christ is important to keep.

I have had the blessing of meeting Robert on multiple occasions through my aunt, she works at the same church and he introduced me to him during my freshman year of high school. I was fortunate enough to join Robert on a few of his medical missions back home to the Philippines, we distributed medical supplies to needy families and assisted with giving shots and helping local hospitals. I was very inspired by talking to Robert and watching him during his medical missions, the stories he tells and the way he speaks about the word of God is incredibly inspiring and eye opening. Overall, through interviewing Robert and witnessing his actions through my own eyes, I learned how important it is to live through the word of God on a daily basis. I discovered that we can speak as much as we want about how good God is, but we must also supplement our claims by living a Godly life every single day. As a future nurse, I was inspired to keep pursuing my faith as a Christian and to serve my future patients with my love for Christ at the forefront. I am very grateful to Robert Santos Garcia and the opportunity I had to interview him and get an incredible perspective from a Christian missionary nurse.