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# Practicing above the Treetops

Running a Christian Practice  
- Sharing the Gospel -  
(Part 5 of 5 in a series)

In our Christian offices, we are attempting to set a standard - a zesty, tasty lifestyle that will give patients a hunger for "what you got." We've discussed the importance of several factors:

- The atmosphere of the office
- The absolute integrity of our actions and words
- The wonderful staff that God has brought together who reflect the same standards and vision that keep you going each day

These are crucial factors that we can look at as parts of living life at a level above the norm. We've termed this "Practicing Above the Tree Tops," or living at a level of professionalism and excellence that is beyond what is expected of every professional in our great career of chiropractic. These factors bear witness to our character, and are important in themselves. Beyond merely living out an impeccable character, however, they also earn us a right to take the next step.

Sharing Christ with people can be like throwing cold water on a shivering person, or may be welcomed as a meal to a starving man. The difference may very well be in how we've set the stage. Have we built a stable platform of integrity, from which we can share with credibility, or not? If so, the next stage is simple and will come naturally. No forcing, no faking, just sharing what is in our hearts.

It starts with the first interaction with each new patient, and may continue, as the Spirit leads, through the entire start-to-end relationship with the patient. In our office, our new patient paperwork 'front loads' the importance of the spiritual factor of life by asking the patient to rate their spiritual interest. This is located in the same series of questions that rate their energy level, flexibility and pain levels. Next, our consultation includes an introduction to sharing spiritual matters by talking about the importance of spiritual health to being truly physically healthy. We briefly mention six areas of health that will impact their wellness - nutrition, rest, exercise, stress management, spiritual health, and the function of the spine.

The next opportunity occurs in the report of findings on each patient's second visit. At that time, there is a short paragraph on spiritual health, and we also give a paper that discusses the plan of salvation. At each patient lecture we discuss the six health factors as well. This includes an overview of the Bible, what Jesus did at the cross, and the importance of faith.

In addition, all through their care, we as a team are aware of patients' need for prayer. We pray for them each morning, and with them when the Spirit leads us to offer it. In 30 years of practice, I've had only one patient refuse prayer when I offered it. I've also had 2 (*that I know of*) patients so offended by our Christian content that they dropped out of care for that reason. I suppose,

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*Treetops, concluded,*

if a patient is going to be offended in our office, I'd rather have it be over the Gospel. Even those who left were exposed to the Gospel at least twice.

Finally, let me recommend short-term mission trips as a last form of witness in the office. These trips are a great conversation starter for patients who wonder why you would give up a couple weeks of your life to go to a poor area and donate your expertise and finances. Patients love knowing that their doctor is selfless enough to go, and often enjoy contributing finances or gifts to make your trip more effective.

There we have it: Four aspects of practice in which we set ourselves above the level of all the good, nice, ethical chiropractors in our cities. We are salt and light. Living above the treetops so that others can see, and desire what it is that makes our lives different.

**Dr. Charles Roost** has been a member of the CCA since 1989 and is currently serving on the Board of Directors as our Missions Committee Chairman. He and his wife Judith live in Lansing, MI.

The entire 5 part series is available to read or download on the CCA website at: [www.christianchiropractors.org](http://www.christianchiropractors.org) under the "articles" tab.