Committee members: Christine Birnie, Anne Clay, Jeff Copeland, Marjorie Hayes, Ron Herman, Barbara Hoagland, Paul Kabanga Kapuya, Andrea Mezentsef, Gary Smith, Bob Watt, Lauren Willis, and Keith Allhands (chair)

Short term mission projects:

We thankfully have continued to have pharmacists and student pharmacists go on short term mission projects with Global Health Outreach (GHO) teams, college of pharmacy teams, and church teams. In 2020 there were planned to be 54 GHO teams. At this time 10 teams have competed their tours, however to date 32 teams have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Seven teams that went out had one pharmacist, and three had two on the team. The 10 GHO teams that have provided services in 2020 included 202 team members. The canceled trips had some 368 registered participants with 17 pharmacists and 3 students. Thanks to the many CPFI members who have participated this year. It is our prayer that all or some of the remaining 12 teams not yet cancelled, will be able to be sent. There are 16 pharmacists and 2 students registered for those trips but we could use an additional 18 to have two pharmacists (or students) on each team. The graph below shows the total numbers and the trend over the past 20 years.

GHO Pharmacist Participation
The journal, newsletter, and webpage continue to promote upcoming GHO opportunities. The Mission Committee continues to offer scholarships for pharmacists and students who desire to participate in short-term outreach projects. We have made these funds known to those gathered at the online National Student Retreat earlier this month, and I have promoted this opportunity while meeting with students at Campbell University and Ohio Northern University. No one has applied to date this year for the CPFI mission scholarships.

Keith, in January, was able to attend the Global Health Outreach Advisory Council held in Bristol, TN. Pharmacy involvement is greatly appreciated by the GHO teams. New teams were added in 2019 to Greece, Zambia, Honduras, Guatemala, Gambia, Albania, Nicaragua was added back, and a surgical team to the Dominican Republic. Broadening trip coverage and diversity as well as an increased special focus on orphan care, refugee care and mental health programs are wanted in the future.

Outreach resources:

The pharmacist’s handbook manual for short-term medical missions, the Best Practices paper, prescription labels for copying, and a sample formulary, are all available on the CPFI website. There has been a new pharmacist’s handbook manual published for those associated with the GHO medical mission brigades.

Some people after reading our website page that lists our beliefs might want to know more about how they can have a relationship with God. As a result, there is a link to a page that helps seekers have their questions answered, and then tries to help them come to Christ (www.everystudent.com).

Support for our African Outreach:

Bob Watt continues to keep in frequent contact with close collaborators in Africa. Ebola, COVID-19, and measles have spread in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Bob is persistent in analyzing the data from the malaria clinical trial using the natural plant Artemisia annua which was completed in December 2018. We look forward hopefully, to Bob’s publishing this information. The triple natural therapy (TNT) products manufactured in Kampala, Uganda, continue to be used effectively for the treatment of HIV/AIDS in Bunia with a treatment of only one month. If funds for making additional product are available, this could also result in a significantly more effective and affordable adjunct to the present toxic and expensive products on the market for AIDS treatment.

Equipping pharmacists for outreach:

How often do you prescribe specific and appropriate doses of grace that may bring your patients a step closer to a right relationship with God? Many of us in healthcare struggle with guilt and inadequacy in this area. But there is hope.

Grace Prescriptions is designed to teach you to share your faith with patients in ways that safeguard the important ethical principles of respect, sensitivity and permission. Originally taught in the popular Saline Solution course, these concepts are proven to be effective as thousands of lives have been transformed. Grace Prescriptions builds on this legacy. It is taught by co-authors Walt Larimore, MD, and William C. Peel, ThM, DMin. The program comes
as an eight-DVD (14-Modules) with and instructor’s manual and participant’s manuals for small group presentations. Further information may be obtained from the CPFI or CMDA websites. If anyone has interest and would like help put together a plan to keep the issue of personal outreach before each of us, please let myself or someone on the Mission Committee know.

Respectfully submitted,  Keith Allhands, chair