



C P F I  
**N S C**  
 National Student  
 Council

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## Operation Christmas Child

For many years, CPFI chapters throughout the country have teamed together to support the Samaritan's Purse in their Operation Christmas Child project. Once again it is time to gather those shoeboxes and fill them with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children in need around the world. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

First, do not wait! It will take some time to get the word out and gather supplies. Collection week is not too far away.

Once you have publicized, start collecting items. You could ask people to fill a box, drop off items, or donate money to purchase the items. When you have gathered all of the items, have a packing party to fill the shoeboxes. Try to raise enough money to donate approximately \$7 for each box to help with shipping.

More information can be found at the Samaritan's Purse website (<http://www.samaritanspurse.org>) about appropriate items, drop-off locations, and publicizing materials.



*Collection week is  
 November 12-19*



## GLOBAL MISSIONS HEALTH CONFERENCE 2012

It is time to register for the Global Missions Health Conference! Those of you who have been before know about the amazing opportunities to learn from fellow healthcare professionals about medical missions, listen to inspiring speakers, and collaborate at the Expo with missions from around the world. And best of all, you are participating in this with hundreds of other professionals who share your faith. If you have not been, you are missing out. The knowledge exchanged about medical missions is incredible, but the Christian fellowship is unforgettable. To learn more about the conference, speakers, breakout sessions, and registration, go to [www.medicalmissions.com](http://www.medicalmissions.com) click on GMHC at the top.

## Operation Inspiration: A Message of Encouragement

As a student it is easy to look to the podium and power point presentation from professors and have a narrow-minded, bigger than life perspective of them. We forget they have families, beliefs, and life outside of research, patient care, and academia.

Each year the CPFI chapter at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy compiles, prints, and distributes a publication known as Operation Inspiration (OI). This publication contains words of encouragement *for* the students *from* the faculty and staff. The brief submissions from professors, administrators, and student affairs personnel entail anything from a testimony, a story, or their favorite Bible verse. Not all submissions have to be a heart wrenching testimony, nor does CPFI only take submissions from Christian faculty and staff. We encourage submitters to share anything that may provide inspiration to the students, while respecting our Christian heritage and beliefs. Just saying, "You can do it", and sharing a personal example of some of the same struggles we deal with in pharmacy school is enough. Those who may not be comfortable sharing their faith or do not want to be recognized by the

entire College may submit their items anonymously.

In the two years of Operation Inspiration's existence at the University of Kentucky there has always been a sense

of awe at the professors who submit statements for OI, and even more astonishment about what some of them write. Many instructors are open about their faith in ways we never knew. Through OI we began to see our professors as more than just intellectuals. We were also inspired by the written contributions of our staff, who work hard for us every day and are rarely recognized for their efforts. Most importantly, the entire college was exposed to the Gospel and the changing work Jesus can make in the lives of others.

If you would like additional information about OI, including the steps required to produce your own, please contact our Chapter at [zrnoel2@uky.edu](mailto:zrnoel2@uky.edu).

— Andrew Stacey and Zachary Noel, University of Kentucky

**Note from the Editor**

This year, our theme is "Beyond the Student Chapter." We believe that CPFI has great potential. When chapters branch out and share their ideas with one another, other chapters benefit. Events such as the Student Retreat, the CPFI annual meeting, and the Global Missions Health Conference are great places for students to fellowship with one another and share ideas to strengthen other chapters. For example, if the University of Kentucky did not attend the student retreat, Operation Inspiration would never have been shared with the rest of us. I encourage you to attend these events and find out what you can

### Is Your Advisor a CPFI Member?

Believe it or not, many CPFI chapter advisors are not members of CPFI. We encourage you to check with your advisor to make sure they are registered with CPFI. Not only is this very helpful for communication, but it also helps them to stay engaged in upcoming events. To learn about registration and setting up a profile on [www.cphi.org](http://www.cphi.org), we have prepared a [video](#) to help.



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## CPFI National Student Retreat



UNIVERSITY OF  
CHARLESTON

This year's CPFI National Student Retreat was held at the University Of Charleston School of Pharmacy in Charleston, WV. The retreat brought student pharmacists from across the country, even as far as Florida and Indiana. The weekend kicked off with a movie and refreshments on Friday evening. This gave arriving students the opportunity to meet and fellowship with one another. Saturday morning was reserved for informational workshops for the retreat attendees.

One of the speakers in attendance was Mr. Fred Eckel, the National CPFI President. Mr. Eckel's topic was titled "God has a Plan

***"You don't have to be brilliant to be a pharmacist; you just have to be dedicated. God will get you around the barriers."***

for You". He talked about how his plans for himself had changed over the years, and ultimately how his faith had grown. One scripture quoted by Mr. Eckel seems to sum up his speech: *"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails"*—Proverbs 19:21.

Other speakers in attendance were Reverend Janet Harmon from UC Campus Ministry, Tracey Tooley from Marshall University Campus Ministry, and Candice Slate, Pharm.D., who discussed ideas that CPFI Student Chapters could implement within their respective schools.

The afternoon sessions wrapped up with Shelley Schliesser, Pharm.D, CPFI Faculty advisor for the University Of Charleston School Of Pharmacy. Dr. Schliesser

discussed the topic of "Practicing the Practice" in which she presented the retreat attendees with situations and barriers they may face as future practicing Christian pharmacists. Dr. Schliesser left the attendees with a thought-provoking quote: *"You don't have to be brilliant to be a pharmacist; you just have to be dedicated. God will get you around the barriers."*

Saturday evening was reserved for a dinner and baseball game at Appalachian Power Park in Charleston. However, due to inclement weather, the game was cancelled. So, after dinner, Dr. Schliesser took the group on an impromptu tour of downtown Charleston. The weekend wrapped up with breakfast and a Sunday Worship service at Gateway Christian Church in St. Albans, WV.

This year's retreat had a great turnout of student pharmacists. Events like this are important for emerging Christian pharmacists as they help promote some of CPFI's core values: *to provide fellowship among like-minded professionals, to challenge and promote spiritual growth, and to encourage evangelism and the integration of faith into practice.* The University Of Charleston School Of Pharmacy was honored to host this year's retreat and is thankful for each and every student pharmacist who was able to attend. Thank you for making this year's Student National Retreat such a success!

—Adam Brumfield, University of  
Charleston