Every Sunday the morning crowd makes its way to church, dressed up and ready to engage in this week’s sermon. The Pastor begins his sermon by asking the clergy to pull out their Bible, be it a hard copy, an electronic version on their Kindle, or smart phone, then proceeds to read a passage that he will later expand upon and challenge the people to apply this lesson in their daily living. Now picture this day a little differently, like Reverend Richard Wurmbrand, a pastor in Romania during the Communist reign would have. Churches were old factory buildings, the basement of a fellow believer’s house, a deserted alleyway, or anywhere that was out of sight of the police force patrolling the streets. The sermon was preached not from a Bible or any written scripture, but from the memory of one brave volunteer who chose to speak out against government control and for his Lord and savior. Rev. Wurmbrand recounts his multiple stays in Communist prison, the tortures, and the martyrs he met in his book titled Tortured for Christ. At the end of his of his story he presents a call to action for the lukewarm Christians of the Western world. He challenges us to help our fellow believers first through prayer. Secondly he asks for help getting the written word to the Christ followers of the oppressed nations overseas. And that’s where the organization “The Voice of the Martyrs” (VOM) comes into play. This organization has partnered with many of the underground churches and is willing to be the feet of Jesus as they deliver these restricted words into hostile territory. So what does all of this mean to you as a Christian pharmacy student? It means that we want to help this organization collect more Bibles than they know what to do with.

See Page 2 for details on the competition and how to win!
Chapter Spotlight
University of Louisiana at Monroe

Our ULM (University of Louisiana at Monroe) chapter of CPFI started spring of 2013 and has grown to 36 members in the past year. Every month we participate in at least one community service project. These have included throwing a Halloween bingo party at the VA, collecting money for Children’s Cup, and feeding the homeless. In addition to community service projects, we also do outreaches within the university. Such outreaches have included a Blessing of the Pencils before finals week, leaving encouraging post-it notes around the pharmacy building, and a Valentine’s Day Love Board.

For Valentine’s Day, we decorated a tri-fold board that had as its centerpiece John 3:16; the word “Valentine” was formed from the words in the verse. Above this verse was a picture of Jesus, our perfect Valentine. On the two side flaps of the board we put the words from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. The board also had pictures of people demonstrating acts of love, such as Mother Teresa feeding a sick child and a man putting shoes on a woman who had previously gone barefoot. We stood outside the cafeteria at the pharmacy school and handed out Hershey’s hugs and kisses and cheesy pick-up lines (“I didn’t know angels flew this low!”) to everyone. We also had sticky notes in the shape of a heart and encouraged everyone to write what love meant to him or her. We stuck these sticky notes onto the Love Board.

People greatly appreciated the Love outreach! The third and fourth year pharmacy students had examinations that day, so they were especially grateful for the special treat that awaited them and the good laugh from the pick-up lines. On Valentine’s Day, people tend to think of the romantic love between a couple. The Love Board was a wonderful way to remind people of God’s unconditional love and how we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Delia Valerio
P2 at University of Louisiana at Monroe

How to Enter the Bible Drive Contest
The basis of starting a successful Bible Drive is understanding why you’re doing this. If it’s not on your heart to do this, then you’ll have difficulties convincing anyone else to do something like this. So let’s start with an easy step-by-step process of how to get your local church or other groups involved with your Bible Drive.

Step 1: PRAY!!!! This sounds simple enough, but as followers of Christ we have to truly listen to God. He will lead you to the right group, to email the right person, and eventually to see the progress that He wants to come out of this.

Step 2: Learn more: As pharmacy students I understand that you don’t have much time to go out and read for pleasure and do research on non-school subjects, but I promise you will be changed after reading this book. Tortured for Christ by Rev. Wurmbrand is a very short book that can be ordered for free from the website. Towards the end of the book he lays out what Western civilizations can do to help out the greater than 50 restricted nations that don’t get to read the Word and let His love soak in daily.

Step 3: Communicate: Tell a friend about this, almost as a test drive for Step 4. Don’t try to convince them based on factoids and numbers you’ve seen, just let them feel your passion for our brothers and sisters that are less fortunate than we are.

Step 4: Contact your local church: If your church has an office with an email address, send them an email that lays out what is going on: what organization you’re with, what we would like to do, who it will affect, and how they can help. When they contact you and agree to help you, they can either donate at the VOM website or send the Bibles to the Voice of the Martyrs headquarters at:

VOM
1815 SE Bison Rd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Step 5: Keep praying: You may not receive a response right away, or may receive a response that they are unable to help you. Neither of these means that you’re done. They may be able to direct you to another organization in your city that can help or it may lead you to a discussion with them that opens their eyes to problems happening outside of their community.

Want to see your chapter spotlighted?
Email
NSC.chairperson@gmaill.com with information on your most recent chapter project!

Remember to book Guest Speakers!
Log on to your CPFI account and under the “Student Center” tab is a section labeled “Guest Speakers” where you can search for a speaker by regions. If a speaker you have hosted would like to speak at other universities, point them to the same page where they can submit information to be available to other students.

Check it out here

Keep track of your numbers and submit them to your regional directors when you get confirmation of the Bibles being sent out. You can find your regional director here. If you have any questions or would like a template of the emails I sent out to my church, please do not hesitate to email me at a.greanias@uky.edu. God bless and I thank each and every one of you for getting involved.
Final Words of Advice
From recent graduates at University of Maryland Baltimore

Be careful of your words
It is very easy to complain and be negative … about everything! It’s a downward spiral and no one feels good at the end. However, -untee
Thank the Lord for clothes, food, the roof over your head, family and friends, etc.
Always treasure what God has given you and don’t be caught up in your future plans for your lives

Let us be the “aroma of Christ” to our saved or unsaved friends and classmates (2 Corinthians 2:15)

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord! (Romans 12:11)

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth
Before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say “I have no delight in them” (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Memorize Scripture
During pharmacy school, you will memorize a lot of information that you may or may not remember. Why not memorize the Word of God which has eternal value? Especially when your mind is so primed for quick uptake! The process can be informal (write a verse in an index card and put it on your mirror or fridge or anywhere you will see it everyday) or focused (use study techniques that have worked for you in school) and fun (many Bible verses are put to song) we can set an example by simply keeping our mouths closed, instead of complaining. Do all things without grumbling or disputing (Philippians 2:14)

Keep an eternal perspective
Especially when things become overwhelming and unclear in the midst of busy school work and deciding what you want to do in the future.

Do not worry (Matthew 6:25)

Make it a priority to keep God first
Do all things to His glory (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Pray (John 16:24)
Find fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to pray with, and encourage each other!
Offer to pray for others. People around you are looking for the hope that you have!
God said, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13)

If you don’t know what God’s will is
You can always remember these verses: Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanksl for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 6:16-18)

Do not compare yourself to others
Be Thankful
 Appreciate that God has gotten you to where you are.
Thank the Lord that He allowed you to pass. Nothing in life is a guarantee
Thank the Lord for clothes, food, the roof over your head, family and friends, etc.
Always treasure what God has given you and don’t be caught up in your future plans for your lives

The Conclusion
When all has been heard, fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)