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All scripture is from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise stated.

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Flash From the Past...

CPFI would like to acknowledge those who have made the newsletter and journal available to CPFI members over the years. Thank you for your service.

Former Newsletter Editors:	Former Journal Editors:
Tim Welty	Tim Welty
Mary Ferrill	Mary Ferrill
Roger Lapp	Normal Stava Robinson
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Letter from the New-ish Editor: **Testify to the Truth** by Dr. Mary Ferrill



It is my pleasure to once again serve as Editor of *Christianity and Pharmacy*. Rather than providing the typical mission article that is often a journal of daily activities, I thought the membership would like to hear stories of lives changed for eternity. I often say that we Americans are not as receptive to miracles because we have so much. I know each time I am on the mission field there are such inspiring stories that I know others would like to hear.

Jesus came to earth with a full agenda and a variety of goals. High on His to-do-list was to testify to the truth (John 18:37), to save the lost (Luke 19:10) and to teach us how to live and treat others. For the medical mission field, Jesus gave clear instructions (Luke 9:11 and 10:9). Jesus serves as a great role model for modern day medical missions. He went to a town, got the people's attention by healing them so that they listened to what he had to say. In other words, he earned the right to be heard. We should model this same approach. Isn't it interesting that Jesus had Luke, a physician, provide us with much of the information we need to evangelize on the mission field?

But what do you say to people about Jesus Christ? Evangelism seems to be one of the most difficult parts of a mission trip for many individuals. But God has given

us all the information we need in His Word. In the book of 1 Peter, it tells us that we should be prepared: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to **everyone** who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15). How do we prepare? By meditating on God's Word and reflecting on what God has done in our lives.

But what if you still don't know what to say? Well, God has taken care of that also (Luke 12:11, 12). If you open your heart, God will direct you as to what to say to each individual. Some general questions you could consider are:

Do you know who Jesus Christ is?

Why do we need a Savior?

If you died today, do you know where you would spend eternity?

That third question is rather significant when you consider how long you will spend in eternity compared to the time you will spend living in this life. I once had a discussion with someone who was raised Jewish, but was considering Buddhism. Nothing I tried seemed to get through to him. I kept silently praying to God to give me the right words to say during our conversation. Finally, when we started to talk about Heaven and Hell, he told me he did not believe in either. When I asked him what he did believe in, he stated reincarnation - that you will come back as something "good" if you are "good" and "bad" if you are "bad." With God's help I asked, with what you believe, I will come back as something "good" and so will you. With what I believe, I will go to Heaven and you will go to Hell. So, either way, I end up in a "good" place. Do you think my Jesus is worth looking into further? It was then that he said "yes!" I was silently praising God! I asked him to read the book of John and I can only pray that God's spirit has entered his heart since then. I did my part, the rest is up to God.

For our job is to plant the seeds about Jesus Christ and it is God's job to convict the individual's heart (see the Parable of the Sower, Luke 8:4-15; Matthew 13:2-23, Mark 4:1-20).

When witnessing to others, just remember to be yourself and to pray to God for guidance. If you have never witnessed to someone, think about how you would start a conversation with someone about Jesus.

Thank you to those who sacrifice their time and talents in the missions field and especially to those individuals who contributed their personal stories about what medical missions has meant to them for this issue. I encourage others to submit their stories for future publications.

Also, the CPFI Board would like to acknowledge Tim Welty with heart-felt thanks for his devotion and service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the fellowship of CPFI for his years of service as Editor of *Christianity and Pharmacy*.†

*Dr. Ferrill completed her Pharm.D. at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy and then two ASHP accredited residencies in Drug Information and Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She spent 10 years in California as a professor at the University of the Pacific School of Pharmacy. The Lord called her and her husband to Palm Beach Atlantic University School of Pharmacy in 2001, to Wingate University School of Pharmacy in 2003 and back to Palm Beach Atlantic in late 2005, early 2006. They feel blessed to be able to work jointly to help with the spiritual growth of pharmacy students. Dr. Ferrill was on the Board of Directors of CPFI for 6 years and was the Editor for the CPFI publications, *Christianity and Pharmacy Journal* and the *Faith Script* newsletter for five years and is returning as the Editor for the *Journal*. mary_ferrill@pba.edu*