

I now understand that there is a difference between *salvation* and *sanctification*. I know that by God's grace and through my faith in Jesus, I have the certainty of spending eternity in heaven – so I know that my *salvation* is secure and guaranteed. As for my *sanctification*: that is an ongoing, lifelong process as God continues to slowly transform me into the image of His Son. Like every other believer, I'm a work in progress.

Today Jason and I are third year students striving to complete our last didactic semester of pharmacy school. I am still not where I want to be in my walk with Christ, but I am thankful that I am not who I used to be! As the Bible says in Philippians 3:14, I will continue to press toward the mark for the prize!

*Paul Petrillo was born and raised in Orlando, FL. He went to Faith Christian Academy from first grade until high school. Since high school, Paul always knew he wanted to become a pharmacist. Part of his inspiration to become a pharmacist*

*came from his aunt, who was a former pharmacist. She would take care of him and his siblings after school which allowed him to be immersed in the field of pharmacy. After graduating high school, he went on to study at Valencia College where he received his Associate of Arts degree. Now, Paul is a third year pharmacy student enrolled in the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy program at Palm Beach Atlantic University.*

*Jason Bowen was born in New York City, NY. At a young age his family moved to Tampa, Florida where they began attending West Gate Baptist Church. After a Sunday school message in 2000, Jason accepted the Lord as his Savior. He graduated from West Gate Christian School in 2009 before going on to graduate from the University of South Florida in 2014 with a degree in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Public Health. Jason currently serves as the President of the PBA student chapter of CPFI and attends Central Baptist Church in West Palm Beach. His hobbies include playing basketball, bike riding, reading, volunteering and spending time with friends and family. His life verse is Proverbs 20:11 (KJV) which says, "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."*

## CPFI Southeast Regional Student Retreat



On the chilly weekend of January 28th and 29th 2017 Christian pharmacy students from all over the Southeast gathered together for worship, service, Biblical study, and fellowship. The second annual CPFI Southeast Regional Student Retreat was held this year at Wingate University in North Carolina. Forty-five students from eight different pharmacy schools attended. Speakers including Fred Eckel, Joy Greene, Keith Allhands, Bob Cisneros, Campbell McInnes, and Susan Smith presented challenging messages to students at each session. Topics from Scientific and Historical Evidences of Faith to Medication Safety provided valuable lessons in both faith and pharmacy practice. Students also participated in a service project in which they prepared lunches and hygiene kits for a local homeless shelter. On Friday night, a game night fellowship was held at a cozy renovated barn with a bonfire. Students in the Southeast region look forward to further involved in CPFI and seeing each other again at the National Conference this summer.

# The Second Annual North Pacific Regional Conference

by Deborah Chen and Seung Song



For the second time, CPFI, Loma Linda University and the Medical Strategic Network collaborated together to host the Annual North Pacific Regional Retreat. The theme of the conference was again on whole person care. Whole person care means being able to see a patient beyond their disease state. It also means caring for a patient physically, spiritually, and mentally. Therefore, participants of this conference had the opportunity to network, share, and encourage each other as well as if given the opportunity, pray for the patients.

My school is Christian (Loma Linda University) and we hear frequently about the importance of whole person care. However, through my years in pharmacy school, I firmly believe that this concept was never fully applied. In classes, we mostly learned about optimizing therapeutics, filling medications correctly, counseling, and monitoring, but where does the spiritual part come into practice?

At the conference, I first learned that I am a Christian who happens to be a pharmacist, not a pharmacist who happens to be a Christian. Providing spiritual care becomes spontaneous only when I put my identity in Christ. I also learned to provide spiritual care in a sensitive and ethical way.

One of the speakers that excited me the most was an outpatient pharmacist. Listening to her stories made me realize that whole person care was possible even in the retail setting. Additionally, I believe the highlight of the conference was going to the medical center to interact with patients. My original goal of going to the medical center was to serve patients, but in the end I felt like the patients served me more. In most of my patient interactions, I noticed

that the majority of patients shared only about their medical ailments. However, when I spoken with them about how they were dealing with their illness, it made my own academic stresses seem trivial. I was so blessed to be the hands and feet of Jesus by offering listening ears and prayer.

All in all, what shocked me the most was seeing how God used me to touch patients and many thanked me at the end of my encounter with them. They were encouraged and loved as was I. A simple prayer in Jesus' name brought tears to their eyes. That moment I realized that Jesus was the ultimate Healer. I may not be the most competent and intelligent pharmacist but I can be a great pharmacist when Jesus works through me.

**Seung Song, PharmD Candidate Class of 2018**  
*Seung Song currently serves as the president of the CPFI Chapter at the Loma Linda University. He is also the spiritual vice president for Loma Linda University Class of 2018.*

**Deborah Chien, PharmD**  
*Deborah Chien previously served with the CPFI Loma Linda University Chapter as the first Inter-Professional Liaison. She then progressed into becoming the first North Pacific Regional Director and has been serving in this position for the last two years. Additionally, she currently works as an inpatient pharmacist at Desert Valley Hospital in Victorville, California.*

