

career: it's so important to show unconditional love to an addict and to all those we serve, whether they are addicts or not. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:34, we should live one day at a time, and not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will bring its own worries.

I've gone from a teaching job to a retail setting that serves many underserved people. We partner with a homeless shelter and many other agencies in town to provide our clients their much needed prescriptions. I am usually able to recognize our customers who are in a recovery program from the paperwork they carry. Because of my son's broken road in his life, I have personally learned so much about how to better serve those who are struggling with addiction. Taking an interest in this special segment of our clients has been a real joy for me. When I ask them how they are doing in their program, their faces light up as they share their stories with me. And I treasure the ability to pray for each of these clients, that they would break free

from the chains of addiction and find a loving God who will forgive them, guide them and love them unconditionally.

Visit:

\* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QB9OZSkxAmY&feature=youtu.be>

*My name is Nancy Burgett and I am from Enid, Oklahoma. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in 1982, I moved to Tulsa and worked primarily in a retail setting before our three children were born. Working some relief pharmacy kept me current in the field; and when my youngest child started kindergarten, I was able to attend the alternate pathway education program to obtain my PharmD. After obtaining the degree, I was hired by the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in Tulsa to teach pharmacy practice classes and to develop and maintain the experiential program. Upon my retirement from the College, I continue to work at three settings in the area and I enjoy it very much as I work for my former students! My husband and I have just built a farm in Enid, Oklahoma and enjoy our new surroundings.*

## The One Who Calls You Is Faithful, and He Will Do It (1 Thess 5:24 NIV)

by Uragijwimana Jean De La Paix



During the years when I was a pharmacy student at the National University of Rwanda (now known as the University of Rwanda), I was a member of the Christian Ministry known as "University Biblical Group". I used to meditate on the motto of our ministry which says that "we have to be the agent of Godly transformation in the church and in our society, and we have to change our working place into our missionary field". Thinking about how to change my working place into my missionary field, I began to reflect more on how pharmacy can be a tool to serve the Lord.

In my first year of pharmacy school (2008), there was a Christian Medical Student Fellowship (CMSF) at our university and fellow medical students invited me to class and faculty prayer meetings organized by CMSF at the campus. Since I appreciated the activities of CMSF at the Faculty of Medicine and especially at the Campus, I wondered if a group of Christian pharmacy students could also be organized to pray together as the Christian medical students

do. I sought the Lord's guidance with hope that He would fulfill my request in due time.

In May 2009, I attended the regional conference organized by International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) held at our University. During that conference, I was challenged to bring

medical professionals and students together to share the issues of Christian faith and the medical profession. From that conference, I was reminded that my profession is not only my job, but it is also my ministry to the Lord. A few days after the conference (July 2009), I encouraged some classmates and we agreed to start the Christian fellowship. We were already used to meeting with each other and sharing the word of God; and we prayed mainly for our class, our educational system, our faculty and our careers.

Since 2008, I didn't cease to mention the unity of Christian pharmacy students in my prayers. In 2011, I began to wonder if there is an organized group of Christian pharmacists elsewhere in the world. On July 12, 2011, I searched the internet for the first time, seeking to know more about Christianity and pharmacy in order to satisfy my interest in a global Christian pharmacist community. By the Lord's grace and guidance, during my internet search I was directed to CPFI's website ([www.cphi.org](http://www.cphi.org)). I have read all the details concerning this ministry and I find

that CPFI is the Christian community which matches my heart's desire to serve the Lord through pharmacy. I started to communicate with one member of the student chapter Advisory Committee of CPFI (Julie Lynch McDonald) who really encouraged and helped me to become a CPFI member even though I was from a non-affiliated student chapter of CPFI.

In December 2011, I shared my CPFI experience with a few students and we began this ministry at our University as a non-affiliated chapter. At that time, I was doing my internship and not residing at the campus, but the Lord fulfilled His work by providing committed members at the start of this ministry. They were not aware of many things concerning CPFI because it was the first time they had heard about it, but they didn't hesitate to join and be committed to serving the Lord through CPFI. In August 2012, we officially became an affiliated student chapter of CPFI.

Currently, the work that the Lord began has continued to evolve. The CPFI student chapter at the University of Rwanda is a community of students with zeal to serve the world and Christ through pharmacy, and it is a community of more than 70 active students! They meet weekly to conduct Bible studies and they do monthly outreach to patients hospitalized at Butare University Teaching Hospital, where they share meals and the word of God with hospitalized patients who have limited means.

I look back upon the challenges I faced in December 2011: I was sometimes afraid

that I might not succeed based on my lack of leadership experience and my shy personality; and considering the busy life of pharmacy students, it is not easy to introduce them to a new plan requiring more of their time. I also lived very far from the campus during my internship; but the Lord is so faithful to His work – He has answered our prayers and He is still fulfilling His will through the CPFI Chapter at University of Rwanda. I

thank God that He has blessed my few days of outreach at the University of Rwanda; and by His faithfulness, He continues the work He has begun there. Since my graduation in August 2012, I have been working on organizing the CPFI-Rwanda Chapter (pharmacists and pharmacy students) in partnership with Paul Kabanga Kapuya and the entire CPFI Family.

*As a Rwandan pharmacist, I graduated from the former National University of Rwanda in 2012. I worked in retail pharmacy after graduation (2013-2014). Since January 2015, I have been a medical representative at Ethica for the account of Merck Sharp and Dohme. In October 2015, I also became the owner and pharmacist at Good Life Pharmacy LTD (a retail pharmacy in Nyabihu, Rwanda). I am currently President of the CPFI-Rwanda Chapter which is still in the process of becoming established.*

## Just Make Time for Jesus by Paul Petrillo and Jason Bowen



Over the course of our lives it is easy to become consumed with all we have to do on a daily basis. It doesn't take much to realize that once a pharmacist, technician or intern steps into the pharmacy, there is very little idle time. There is always a patient who has a question, a phone call to answer, messages to check, supplies to be ordered or medications to prepare. All of that is just the first 10 minutes of your day! Likewise, pharmacy school is no walk in the park. If there isn't studying to be done, there is a project to work on, an organizational or volunteer event to attend, a trip to plan or an application to complete. The business of life often diverts our attention from the true reason we are placed on this earth, which is to share the love of Christ with those around us and lead others to Him.

One such instance of this occurred in the early evening of February 3, 2016 at the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy at Palm Beach Atlantic University. I was attending our chapter's regularly scheduled CPFI meeting as I had been doing since the Fall semester. After the meeting was over, I headed off in distress to a study room to panic and attempt to prepare for the next day's therapeutics exam. A few minutes later, my friend, Jason Bowen, called me over and asked to chat for a bit. I thought it was pertaining to the upcoming exam, but boy was I in for a surprise. We headed outside and found some tables where we could talk. This is when my friend turned and told me, "I can't sit idly by anymore. I don't care that we have an exam tomorrow. What I am about to say is much more important than that... What's holding you back?" I was thrown and confused. He continued, "You have been to the CPFI meetings, we've had several discussions and I see you struggling with your faith. What is holding you back from accepting salvation?"

To fully understand where I was coming from, I should share a little about myself. I grew up in a Christian home and attended Faith Christian Academy in Orlando, FL from 1<sup>st</sup> grade till my senior year. It was during these years that I was taught Biblical principles. However, for some reason I never felt like a true believer. Each time I heard someone else's testimony, the common theme was that a dramatic change occurred in their lives. In the past I thought that I had accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, yet in my case there was no noticeable change in my life. I was still struggling with the same sins from my past. That part of my life did not change and therefore after much reflection, I was convinced that I was never truly saved. After some trial and error regarding the plan of salvation, I had this crazy mistaken idea that I had to be perfect before coming to God with my troubles. I felt in a sense that I had used up all of my salvation "tickets" and that the next time I came to the Lord was the last chance I had, and I didn't want to blow it.

Now back to my story. I finally understood where Jason was going with his questions and I naturally became a little defensive. I tried to explain my situation to him, but he was adamant in his stance and for good reason. Jason was trying to explain to me how everyone's walk with Christ is different. He shared with me the story of the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) and how the thief had no chance to make up for his sins, yet Jesus forgave him and welcomed him into heaven with open arms. Jason also shared that it's okay not to have a night and day salvation experience. He assured me that not everyone's salvation experience is similar to the one Saul had on the road to Damascus.

At this point, I knew I was at a crossroads. Apparently Jason could tell and so he suggested that instead of continuing to talk in circles, that I take some time to think and pray about what we had discussed. As he left the table, I did just that. At first, I did not want to change. I was still stuck in my past. But then my thoughts turned to the thief on the cross. He committed countless crimes and sins, and yet Jesus forgave him and saved him at that instant. The key was that the thief had the desire to be saved. I had that same desire to change, to change my ways. I began to accept that the key for me was to be Christ-like and not perfect like Christ. I considered that if the thief had lived, then he would have attempted to gradually change his life. Shortly after coming to this realization, I called Jason over and asked him to pray with me. I thanked the Lord for His free gift of salvation and asked that He would forgive me of my sins and guide me to live a life that would bring Him honor and glory.