

Specialist in Internal Medicine at MUSC and Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina before transitioning to her current role in academia at Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina, where she is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, teaching pharmacology to Physician Assistant students. Her areas of interest include experiential education, anticoagulation, and medication/patient safety.



Melanie Smith completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and her Bachelor of Science in Family and Child Development in May 2018 from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. She plans to pursue a post graduate doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy at Wingate University, beginning Fall 2019. Melanie is an active member of her local church, serving as a small group leader in the student ministry and on the production team. She enjoys traveling and seeing the world and its different cultures. Melanie has been to eight countries and hopes to continue traveling in the future.



Matthew Smith is a junior pursuing his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Global Studies at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He currently serves as a Resident Shepherd in his residence hall by nurturing spiritual development and maturity through elevating the priority of gospel-centered discipleship. He is an active member of his local church, serving on the production staff and with the youth. Matthew enjoys all types of sports, rock-climbing, and hiking.

Getting Comfortable with the Uncomfortable: My Journey to Tanzania

By Susie Kim

I believe that all children of God are blessed with unique gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. He planned and formed throughout creation how he would use these spiritual gifts in us to shine light upon this dark and chaotic world, and to lift and magnify His kingdom.

The Apostle Peter describes the two general categories of spiritual gifts that we may receive upon our conversion: speaking gifts and serving gifts. *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen”* (1 Peter 4:10-11 NIV). I believe that God has blessed me with both gift categories: a gift of speaking (manifested through worship) and a gift of serving (manifested through missions). Through these gifts, God has cultivated



my spiritual growth, producing the fruit of the Spirit and blessing others around me. Using my spiritual gifts makes me feel fully alive in Christ, and this is my story of God’s provision and omnipotence in my life.

I have been attending All Nations Church for six years, and for five of those years I have been serving the Lord on mission trips to the Navajo Reservation to spread God’s love through genuine acts of kindness and compassion. I always loved seeing how God used His children to fill the empty void in the hearts of the Navajo Indians, but this year I felt compelled to quench my burning desire for something more. I prompted a conversation with our English ministry pastor about my calling and my hope for our ministry to go outside our comfort zone by going on an international mission trip. I prayed for months and I felt that God was laying Uganda on my heart. I had a plan, a purpose, and all the necessary information to convince our pastor to consider this location. Without giving it much thought, he said, “Maybe next time” and brushed off my proposal. At first I felt discouraged, but God was already working everything out behind the scenes. About two months

later, our college group ministry leader spoke to me about a mission trip to Tanzania this summer in 2018. It would be their first time going to Tanzania and they needed a praise team leader who could minister and lead worship in English. I was speechless, and my heart was already telling me to pursue this mission trip. However, I had only been a worship leader for two years, so I felt that I lacked experience...I didn't feel I could be very useful for God's kingdom. Despite my doubts (which came from my sinful nature), God tested my trust in Him and challenged me to get comfortable with the uncomfortable. After months of training we realized that our mission work didn't begin when we landed in Tanzania – it began when our team had committed to training.

Training was not easy, and difficulties came one after the other. A week before leaving for Tanzania, I was diagnosed with a wisdom tooth infection; and others on the team became sick with the flu and upper respiratory infections. However, God and His children could not and would not be defeated by the devil's schemes. We prayed harder than ever and sought God's providence even more.

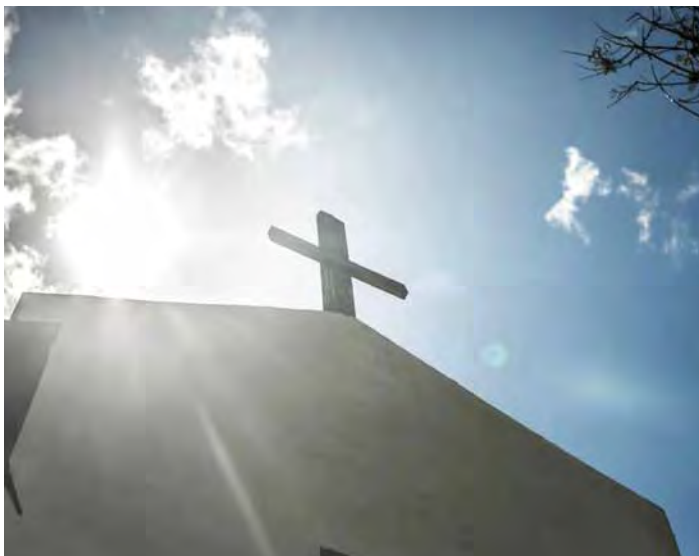
Our mission trip wasn't a typical Vacation Bible School mission trip or a medical mission trip; however, our purpose was to lay the foundation of what it means to harbor a genuine relationship with Christ, and to make disciples who will make more disciples. We planned to accomplish this by strengthening, encouraging, and motivating the pastor and church members to live a Christ-centered life. After the thirty-hour flight and layover, we finally arrived in the foreign land of Tanzania. I didn't know what to expect or how God would use our mission team, but God went above and beyond our expectations to show that He is God. When we arrived at the church where we would serve, the pastor and church members were instantly genuine and kind. With God and His love, there is no language barrier that can separate us! We were greeted with sincere hospitality and were showered with love and thankfulness. The Tanzanian children also made an everlasting impact on my life. They were so pure and innocent, and I saw that they were not tainted with worldly, material things the way many American children are. They were grateful and content with what little they had; and as such they manifested the love of Christ. Our mission team served the church by teaching one-on-one discipleship, setting a foundation for AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) children's ministry, teaching the essentials of worship, and stressing the importance of being a strong witness for Christ. I served primarily in the area of

worship: teaching them what worship truly is and how it must bring honor and glory to God. They wanted to see and hear what contemporary worship is like in the United States. They were very excited, and the Holy Spirit filled the church as we praised our Heavenly Father together, as brothers and sisters in Christ. It really humbled me to see their genuine faith and love for the Lord and for worshipping Him. Their church only had a mediocre sound system with a few cheap microphones and a piano. Despite their lack of quality audio equipment, they gave everything they had to the Lord, using their dances and their voices to honor His name. Already there was a revival happening within Tanzania.

God's miracles were also embedded throughout this entire mission trip. When we held seminars and worship services, the electricity went out *twice* – in both instances, right before the start time – but we all learned the power of genuine prayer and faith. We gathered together, holding hands and praying, united by the Holy Spirit. Within a minute after our prayer, power was restored and the sound system and projector came back to life. God also intervened when our bus became stuck in the mud because of heavy rain. We attempted to push the bus, but it became dangerous and risky. Once again we joined together in prayer, and by God's grace the bus was set free and was on the road again. This happened three different times, and God was with us through each incident. God was mightily working throughout our whole ministry and His love was clearly seen through His people. There were many children in the Islamic community who came to our AWANA children's ministry launch, and we believe that their hearts were slowly moving toward Christ. There were many more instances of God's omnipotence and His miracles throughout this mission trip, and all glory goes to our Heavenly Father. God's power and His perfect glory were revealed through our weakness.

In conclusion, I want to first remind you that God is good and He will never leave you or forsake you. His goodness was





evident through the building of relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters in Tanzania, and His goodness truly radiated throughout this mission trip. Second, God listens to our sincere prayers, and there is mighty power in prayer and praise. Through prayer and praise, God empowered us to safely endure the hardships that we faced. Third, God is love and His love is spreading like wildfire across the different countries. As believers in Jesus, we have all been given at least one spiritual gift, along with the Great Commission to be a witness for Christ; and love is the greatest means of conveying His nature and character to an unbeliever. Finally, God is on the move. He is constantly working to restore His people and His nations. He is working in Tanzania, and the Holy Spirit is seeking and searching for those with an obedient heart who will follow His call.

God has truly blessed me with such an amazing opportunity to serve Him and our Tanzanian family in Christ. I firmly believe in using the spiritual gifts that God has given us to glorify Him and expand His kingdom. I want to encourage every reader that He uses willing and obedient servants to make changes in this world. He doesn't require the strongest or the smartest, but simply the heart to obey and serve. Matthew 28:19 NIV states "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



My name is Susie Kim and I am a third-year pharmacy student at the University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy. I am the CPFI president at my local chapter and serve as the national chairperson-elect for the national student chapter of CPFI. I serve as the worship leader at All Nations Church and serve as a small group leader for the youth group. I was born into a Christian family and accepted Jesus Christ as my savior during a youth retreat in 8th grade. My journey with the Lord in the past could be best described as a roller coaster, but now I have grown to surrender my whole life to Him and let His will be carried out through my life. I love the Lord with all my heart and am made alive through Him and through Him alone. I want to pursue residency after pharmacy school and am willing to be led by God to be used anywhere there is a need. Later along my career I want to become a pharmacy professor and pursue opening nonprofit clinics and schools around the world to serve as a full time missionary.

Save the Date

June 3 to June 7 2020

CPFI 2020 Annual Conference &
National Student Retreat

Bonclarken Conference Center,
500 Pine Drive,
Flat Rock, North Carolina, 28731

National Student Retreat: **June 3 to June 7, 2020**
Annual Conference: **June 4 to June 7, 2020**

Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International
Ph: (888) 253-6885
E-mail: Office@CPFI.org
Website: www.CPFI.org