

The Mantle

By Nena Lindrose



It has been several years since I authored an article for *Christianity & Pharmacy*. I must confess that I have thought about submitting an article many times over the last several years. Part of my hesitation has been that I am not a pharmacist or a

student pharmacist; I am not writing from the mission field or going into the mission field. I am merely someone who received the blessing of being called to serve the Lord through my work. I had no idea what subject to write on, especially since this issue focuses on ‘missions.’ This morning with my plan in place for a day of working on membership retention, writing an article for the journal was the farthest thing from my mind. However, during my morning devotion time, I felt the Lord leading me to write and address the very subject of the Bible teaching I was reading today.

The focus of today’s devotion from 1 Kings 19:19 was Elijah placing his mantle over Elisha. It took me a few minutes to identify a connection between Elijah’s mantle and working on CPFI membership retention. As I meditated on where the Lord wanted to take this writing it became clear to me. I hope it will become clear to you, too, by the end of this message.

In Jonathan Cahn’s book, *The Book of Mysteries*, one of his daily devotions speaks about donning the mantle. The author said “Elisha must have felt overwhelmed and totally inadequate when Elijah placed the mantle on him. From Moses, to Isaiah, to Jeremiah, to Peter, they all felt unworthy of the mantle given them, and with good reason... the mantle was too big. It didn’t fit. But that is the nature of the mantle. In Hebrew the mantle is called the “*aderet*”. *Aderet* means large, big, great, wide, powerful, excellent, noble, mighty, and glorious. You see, the mantle is bigger and greater than the one it is given to. And so it is with you... Each one is given a mantle, a calling... there will be times when you will struggle with that, with its magnitude in comparison to who you are... It will always be greater, more powerful, more noble, more excellent, and more glorious than the one who wears it and to whom it is given.... It must be that way...that you might become greater, more excellent, more noble, more powerful, and more glorious than you are now.”¹

When I came to work for CPFI I felt wholly inadequate to be the administrative director of anything much less an important

Christian ministry. I had been working for an angry and wounded attorney, trying to witness to him while at the same time trying to keep my job and survive as a single woman. Through an unusual set of events, I met the executive assistant to the provost at Palm Beach Atlantic University who encouraged me to apply for a rather unique position at the university. After several days of prayer, I applied on the last day applications were being accepted. The next morning while driving to work, I received a telephone call from the pharmacy school dean saying they had interviewed many people for the position, but felt I was the right person for the job. “If you want the job, it is yours.” Wow! This would be a stunning change in direction if I would only step out in faith and believe God was calling me to do this. After prayer and consideration I gave a two-week notice at the law firm. Thankfully there were several additional opportunities to speak with the lawyer about the Lord. My leaving seemed to provide both of us with space to speak more freely. On my last day he asked me to take him to pick up his car that was being repaired. As we pulled into the parking lot of the repair shop, I brought up salvation again. He accepted some tracts I had readied to give him, and he sincerely thanked me for talking with him about God and salvation during my time in his employment. I don’t know if he ever accepted the Lord, but I do know he was given an opportunity. This was not my first job as a paralegal working with lawyers who were not Christian, and some were very outspoken about their disdain for Christians. I remember being singled out and ridiculed during weekly attorney and paralegal luncheon meetings at several law firms over my many years of employment there. I was never one to be pushy about my faith or try to force anything on anyone who did not first indicate they wanted to know more. Therefore, I was astonished when I was picked on for being a Christian. To say I had had some challenging jobs in the legal profession would be an understatement.

However, God had a different plan for my life. Two weeks later, I found myself sitting in a beautiful large office in the dean’s suite of a Christian university with an extraordinary view of the campus, not knowing how in the world I ended up there or how I was going to do a job I had little experience or education to do. The mantle was huge, and I felt completely inadequate. As 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 [NIV] says, “Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things –and the things that are not –to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God –that is, our

righteousness, holiness, and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him that boasts boast in the Lord.” And 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 [NIV] says, “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant....”

CPFI has been my mantle for nearly 12 years. I have grown under the weight of the mantle, but the mantle has always remained bigger and greater and I thank God for that. What is your mantle? As children of God, we all possess one. Do you acknowledge your mantle and heed God’s call on your life? The mantle may be something unfamiliar to you, and may require you to step out in faith. Faith to serve, give of your time or resources, change directions, or support Christian organizations with your membership. You may feel inadequate to assume the mantle when it requires a great deal from you. Paul says in Ephesians 4:1 [NIV], “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” I have had the privilege of working with individuals who wear their mantles magnificently. Just when I think they may be ready to take off their mantle, they surprise me (and probably themselves, too) and continue serving the

Lord. I expect they, like many of us, have learned a blessed, joyous, and meaningful life is one lived in service to God -the One who placed our mantle on us.

As you consider how God has called or may be calling you, please pray about what role you may play in building up the ministry of CPFI.

Reference

1. *Cahn, J. The Book of Mysteries. Frontline, Lake Mary, Florida; 2016.*

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Sports Ministry

By Jack J. Chen

Psalm 96:1-3 [NIV]: *Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

When I was in elementary school, I sang well enough to be selected for the school choir and it was a joyful experience. However, with age, the quality of my voice changed and it was no longer suitable for group singing. As a result, I turned to creative writing.

Written in the format of “spoken word” poetry, I have provided devotionals as a means for myself and others to grow in our relationship with God. My largest set of devotionals were an element of Christian ministry outreach to a small community of mountain cyclists comprised of several hundred members. Being a lay pastor, I would post weekly Scripture-based devotionals on

the ministry blog to encourage riders in their faith identity and journey. As one of the groups’ ride leaders, I also organized many group rides and, aside from the physical and health benefits of exercise, these rides helped members strengthen in character, confidence, fellowship, healing, personal correction, resiliency, wellness, and group trust.

The methodology for the devotionals were based on set principles. First, a Scripture passage was selected as the inspirational platform on which the devotional was crafted. Second, every effort was made to ensure that the devotional was theologically sound. Third, I took a non-traditional approach by formatting each devotional as spoken word poetry so that the content would not be perceived as overly pedagogic (i.e., preachy) or generic. Lastly, to aid in effectiveness, the language of each devotional was a sports theme centered around mountain biking to create

