

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



resonance and engagement, rather than distraction, within the group. Thus, the devotionals were an outreach method that was Scripture-based, theologically sound, and encouraging. A group sports activity can be tremendously rewarding in and of itself, but when it also serves as a platform to grow ourselves and others in a relationship with God, it is even more purposeful and edifying. Overall, several dozen devotionals were composed and the ones provided below are examples.

Ebb and Flow

Source inspiration: *Matthew 14:29-31* [NIV]: "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Saints; Soul Riders!
Pedal and roll.
Let us not forget,
This is His open space.
In His Kingdom,
No one left behind.
Truth be told,
He knows our pace.

His peace,
Public and free;
Costs less than
Chain lube; grease.
Day in, day out,
Ride the good ride.

Take time; decide.
In this open space,
Ride; receive His grace.
See; believe.

Some ride unhurried;
Some with great flurry; fury;
Leaders out front;
Followers and sweepers.
Up hills, grunt and grunt
Downhill, steeper and steeper.
No matter;
He knows our true pace.

Up, down
Our feelings come and go;
Ebb and flow.
His love, a constant flow;
Does not ebb;
Relentless; overflows.
Ride the good ride.
Physical; spiritual fitness.
Be blessed; be kept.

The Spoke(n) Wheel

Source inspiration: Psalm 139:14 [NIV]: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Silent harmony radiates.
The well-built wheel spins true.
Each spoke tuned; laced; well aligned;
From flange to hoop; all a silvery hue.
The true wheel: beautifully and wonderfully designed.

Each spoke laced and braced;
Keeps wheel and rider in shape.

A fact we cannot escape.
Let's ride and embrace this grace.

Mounted; skewered to alloy chariot,
True built wheels will liberate;
Hallowed riders testify and celebrate.
The well-built wheel spins true.
Ascends, descends, and transcends.

With daily use and elemental abuse,
Spokes are bent, broken, misaligned;
The wheel becomes maligned;
Just a subtle change in design.

But audible disharmony radiates.
Does this strike a chord?
A damaged spoke, contaminates fellow spokes.
If one spoke suffers, all spokes suffer.
Twelve trinities in discord.

Eventually wheel failure; disgrace.
Damaged: all parts(n) parcel.
Alas poor Judas Iscariot,
Broken spokes and wheels askew,
Lost his line; fell headlong
and burst asunder.

Day in day out,
Attention and maintenance are due;
To spoke(n) rim and Him.

A broken wheel can be mended;
Restored to spin like true nobility.
King of Kings, a true remedy for disunity.
Beloved Chi-Rho, keeps us whole.
Through his grace, we keep the pace.



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Jack J. Chen earned his PharmD from the University of Utah. He is licensed as an Advanced Practice Pharmacist in the state of California and currently serves as a principal consultant in education science and accreditation. His career in academia includes serving as the Founding Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice at the College of Pharmacy, Marshall B. Ketchum University and as Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the School of Pharmacy, American University of Health Sciences where he also provided stewardship in the establishment of a university-wide student ministry.