



Kristin is originally from West Monroe, LA, but has been blessed to call many places home over the years. As a pharmacist, Kristin started in a community setting before transitioning to a tribal outpatient clinic in Oklahoma, where she gained the majority of her practice experience. She served for three years as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at William Carey University School of Pharmacy in Mississippi before moving to Searcy, AR, to join Harding University College of Pharmacy in July 2024. She has a true passion for teaching and delights in any opportunity to encourage, equip, and empower students. Kristin is also a Licensed Master Social Worker and spent 5 years serving children and families through foster care and adoption before becoming a pharmacist. In addition, she completed her BA in Missions and Spanish and enjoys discovering ways to apply these skills to her current work and service. She loves travel, all things Christmas, and enjoys spending her free time with family and friends.

## The Importance of Objective Truth in Pharmacy and Medical Missions

By Corey Furman

Within the practice of pharmacy, objective truth is paramount. Pharmacists rely on evidence-based medicine to ensure the safety and efficacy of the medications they dispense. This commitment to truth means adhering to rigorous scientific standards, verifying the accuracy of prescriptions, and ensuring that compounded medications meet stringent quality controls. The consequences of neglecting truth in pharmacy can be dire, as evidenced by tragic cases in which errors in compounding have led to patient deaths. Therefore, pharmacists must remain vigilant, continually updating their knowledge and skills to uphold the highest standards of care. *"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."* (John 17:17, NIV).

In contemporary society, the concept of objective truth is often challenged. Relativism and subjective interpretations of truth have become prevalent, leading to confusion and conflict. When objective truth is dismissed, it can result in a lack of accountability, misinformation, and ethical dilemmas. For pharmacists, this societal shift poses significant challenges. It is essential to advocate for objective truth, emphasizing its importance in ensuring patient safety and effective treatment. This is not only true in our daily practice setting, but also in the mission field. Humanism, with its focus on human values and secular ethics, can sometimes conflict with the true purpose of medical missions. While humanism emphasizes compassion and empathy, it overlooks the spiritual dimension of care that is central to Christian medical missions. Balancing these perspectives requires a careful approach, ensuring that the mission's objectives align with both humanitarian and spiritual goals. *"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."* (Colossians 2:8, NASB).

For Christians, the Bible represents the ultimate source of truth, guiding our beliefs and actions. In medical missions, this truth informs the purpose and approach to providing care. It is not merely about addressing physical ailments but also about ministering to the spiritual needs of patients. By grounding their work in the objective truth of scripture, medical missionaries can offer holistic care that addresses both body and soul. *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NASB).

Pharmacists have a unique and impactful role in the medical mission field. Their expertise in medication management, patient education, and disease prevention is invaluable. By participating in medical missions, pharmacists can provide essential services such as dispensing medications, educating communities about health practices, and supporting local healthcare providers. Their contributions help bridge gaps in healthcare access and improve overall health outcomes in underserved areas. *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* (1 Peter 4:10, ESV).

To be effective in medical missions, pharmacists must incorporate the truth of their education into their purpose. This means applying their knowledge and skills with integrity, ensuring that their actions are guided by evidence-based practices and ethical principles. By doing so, they can provide care that is both scientifically sound and spiritually meaningful. It also means recognizing the greater importance of medical missions. While our time on Earth is fleeting, our eternal rest dwarfs the importance of merely caring for each other. While aiding and caring for

each other's needs are crucial and should never be seen as trivial, the more important and quintessential aspect of medical missions is sharing the truth of John 14:6. *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"* (John 14:6, NIV).

Ultimately, the success of medical missions hinges on accepting that objective truth is both acceptance of scientific truth and the truth of scripture. The Holy Spirit provides the motivation and spiritual foundation for the work, our years of training and experience ensure that the care provided is effective and safe, and the truth of Christ directs the ultimate purpose of missions. By integrating

these elements, pharmacists can offer comprehensive care that honors both their professional standards and their spiritual commitment to the belief in the truth of the Gospel. The importance of objective truth in pharmacy and scripture cannot be overstated. It is the bedrock upon which effective and ethical pharmaceutical care is built. As pharmacists, we must strive to ensure our work reflects both our professional expertise and our acceptance of the truth of Christ. *"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20a, NIV).



*Corey Furman, PharmD, is a pharmacist, business leader, and community and political activist from Boone, NC. A 1989 graduate of Watauga High School, Corey was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts of America Honor Society, in 1987 and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1988. He earned his Doctorate in Pharmacy from Campbell University in 1995.*

*Corey began his career at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, where he worked in both Central Pharmacy and Internal Medicine until 1997. He then returned to Boone, NC, to join Boone Drugs, Inc. Since 2016, Corey has served as the President and Partner of Boone Drugs, Inc.*

*In 2011, Corey founded and served as the course director for Campbell University's Christian Pharmacy Missions Elective class for second- and third-year students. As an alumnus of Campbell University, he has held several significant roles, including Member of the Board of Trustees, member of the Medical Missions Advisory Council, and the Presidential Board of Advisors. His contributions have been recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award and the M. Keith Fearing Community Pharmacy Practice Award.*

*Corey is deeply committed to his community, having served as a Deacon in his church and on various church committees. He has also been the BSA Troop 100 Committee Chairman, a member of the Baptist Campus Ministries Board of Directors, and the Appalachian Christian School Board of Directors. He currently serves on the North Carolina Pharmacist Association Policy & Advocacy Committee, the Southern Evangelical Seminary Board of Trustees (Treasurer & Finance Committee Chairman), and the Samaritan's Purse Board of Directors.*

*Corey married Ashley Riggan Furman, also a graduate of Campbell University School of Pharmacy, in 1995. After a courageous three-year battle with ovarian cancer, Ashley passed away in 2024. Corey resides in Boone, NC, and is blessed with two adult children, James and John.*

*In his spare time, Corey enjoys fly fishing, various forms of exercise, reading, and spending quality time with family and friends. Since 1994, he has been actively involved in short-term medical missions, serving in areas of need and disaster such as Rwanda, Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Peru, Haiti, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.*

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.

Matt 28:19

