

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV)

Prayer Wall

What is your favorite sport to watch? For me, that is an easy question to answer---Carolina basketball! When college basketball season rolls around, there is an excitement that builds inside of me and I can hardly wait to watch my Tar Heels take the court and hopefully achieve victory. When I watch them play, I am too excited and sometimes too nervous to sit still. I am up, jumping around, cheering the Tar Heels on to victory! Why do I get so excited during Carolina basketball season? Because I want them to win! I think it is wonderful when everyone on the team plays their best and demonstrates good sportsmanship, but the goal of playing the game is to win! Winning is the reason players devote hours to practices and workout routines. It is the reason why coaches spend so much time reviewing game footage and developing new game strategies. It is the reason why the average American family spends hundreds of dollars a year attending sporting events. We want our teams to win! In the book of 1 Corinthians, there is a familiar passage of scripture where Paul is talking to the Christian Corinthians about running a race. Look at what he says in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27:

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize”. (NIV)

Paul was teaching the Corinthians that everyone has a race to run—their own life’s race. He encouraged them to train themselves spiritually so they would be ready to run. How do we train ourselves from a spiritual standpoint? The first step is to get serious about knowing God. In order to know God, we need to do more than just read His Word, we need to be studiers of His Word. Another requirement of spiritual training is prayer. Prayer is how we communicate with the living God. We should examine our prayer life and make it a priority. To prepare ourselves spiritually for our own race, we must spend time listening to God’s Spirit speak to us. Sitting quietly with God allows us to discern His still small voice. We need to be listening and be ready and willing to hear what He says.

Paul tells the Christian Corinthians to run their race in such a way as to win the prize! What do you think the prize is? Interestingly, scholars disagree on this matter. Some say the prize is heaven, some say it is living a life of faith, others say it is leading others to Christ. When you study the book of Corinthians, it appears Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to spend their lives walking as close to God as possible. He is encouraging them to live a righteous life and urging them to not stray away from their faith. Paul is exhorting them to do everything to the best of their ability all for the glory of God.

We only get one life to live and we all have a race to run. There are choices each of us makes how we

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choose to live the life God has given us. God provides the guidance we need through His Word and His Spirit on how we are to run our own life's race. I am encouraged by Paul's letter to the Corinthians to take the life I have been given and use it fully for the glory of God. Running a race requires training, discipline and perseverance. May we strive to run a worthy race towards victory and when we see our God face to face, may He say to you and me, "Well done, good and faithful servant". (Matthew 25:21)

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Manuscripts Needed Winter 2012-2013 Issue of Christianity & Pharmacy

How do we communicate the Gospel through our practice? Beyond praying with patients, what can be done to let patients and caregivers see the Gospel in action through your practice model? What do financial, payment for service, and reimbursement schemes communicate about the Gospel to our patients? Since a number of the diseases our patients experience today are the result of personal choices (e.g., diabetes can result from obesity that can be a result of poor self-control, COPD and lung cancer are associated with a person's choice to smoke), is there a place for pharmacists to deal with guilt that some patients must feel?

These and other related issues will be the focus of the next issue of Christianity and Pharmacy. The theme for this issue is, how do our pharmacy practice models communicate the Gospel to patients, caregivers, and the community? We would like to discuss if our current practice models communicate the Gospel effectively. **We are looking for a blend of critical thinking manuscripts to challenge what we do with what we believe and we would like other articles that share some practical stories about successes or failures that you have had in your practice environment when you incorporate your faith in your day to day interactions with patients.** This is a request for manuscripts to address some of these important issues. Please contact the CPFI office or Tim Welty if you are interested in submitting a manuscript. We have a short time frame so please pray about how you could make a contribution to this important discussion.

Global Missions Health Conference

Louisville, KY
November 8-10, 2012

With the collaborative support of Global Mission Health Conference, The University of Findlay College of Pharmacy and Cedarville University School of Pharmacy, there will be ten (10) breakout sessions at the GMHC ACPE-approved for continuing pharmacist education credit. At least one CPE session is included in each breakout hour of the conference. Be sure to visit the GMHC website and register for the conference at <http://www.medicalmissions.com/>.

Giving Thanks

Thank you to our NSC Chairperson, Daniel Wilson, for taking the initiative to create a CPFI promotional DVD for our student chapters. Also, thank you to Charlotte Taft, Assistant NSC Chairperson, and her sister, Michelle Taft, for the many hours they spent reviewing photographs and creating the DVD!

Save The Date

CPFI 2013 Annual Conference, Bonclarken Conference Center
Flat Rock, North Carolina
June 6 to June 9, 2013

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