



The **Faith Script**

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The Same Race
Marc Sweeney
CPFI Board Member

**A message from
the President:**



During my high school and collegiate cross country and track competitions, I would often see shirts and signs referencing a well-known scripture. Many are familiar with the verse, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize?" I Cor. 9:24 (NIV) However, when isolated on a shirt or quoted out of context, the intent of the scripture can be missed.

The focus of I Corinthians 9 is Paul's authority as an Apostle and his motivation for all that he does...the Gospel. He chose to surrender what he could rightfully accept like money, security, or a spouse, as not to put any obstacles in the way of the Gospel. He chose to surrender anything that would hinder anyone's acceptance of Christ. He chose to be a good steward of the gospel in which he was entrusted. He goes on to claim "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them." I Corinthians 9:19 (ESV) Paul essentially sacrificed that which brought others comfort for the sake of maximizing his ministry.

If we read I Corinthians 9:24-27, in the context of the rest of the chapter, we get a little more insight into the challenge Paul lays out. "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." Paul puts himself in the race with the rest of us. He doesn't put himself out in front, but simply alongside us as fellow servants of Christ. We are all pursuing the same goal...taking the gospel forward.

This is a challenge to all of us. What are we willing to sacrifice for the sake of our call as servants of Christ? Are we being good stewards of the gospel in which we were entrusted? Are we willing to sacrifice that which may not be wrong to possess for the sake of propelling the gospel forward? Are we willing to give up that which we enjoy for the sake of the gospel?

Taking this challenge forward to the profession of pharmacy, in what ways are we being a light to the people we serve every day? Is it possible to remove things in our lives to foster the gospel? Are we willing to sacrifice for someone else? Would we be willing to pay for someone's medication to create an opportunity for expressing our motivation to do so? Would we be willing to work late to serve someone for the sake of the gospel? Paul does not "prescribe" anything in this passage...he simply "describes" his own life. The challenge may be applied many different ways in the context of our own lives. However, if we simply remember that being a light to the world begins by a life marked by sacrifice, it may affect the very next decision we make.

Paul O. Gerritson serves as Pastor-Director for the Triangle Christian Medical Fellowship, in the area where I live, the Research Triangle of North Carolina. They work with Christian health professional students and professionals. Paul usually prepares a weekly note of encouragement that is e-mailed to a large group. I have found his insights very helpful and often share them with the CPFI Board. As I was preparing to write this commentary for the CPFI Faith Script the following Note of Encouragement arrived. I thought his message clearly conveyed why I have invested so much of my time and energy into CPFI. As is so true in life, when you invest yourself into something important you get much more out of it than you give to it. That is certainly my experience with CPFI. The key for me was to make it a priority to get involved with CPFI activities. I wanted a way to identify myself as a committed Christian within pharmacy. Identifying myself with CPFI, putting that affiliation on my CV, and coming to meetings to get to know members better all became "Faith Flags" that became part of my identify. Even wearing my CPFI lapel pin gives me opportunities to share my faith walk because many people ask me about my lapel pin. What happened as a result of planting those "Faith Seeds" only God knows but I believe they do have Kingdom value. Enjoy Paul's commentary (on page 2).

A message from the President (continued from page 1)

“Recently I had the privilege of fellowship with two Christian health care practitioners. They are ministers doing very different things in very different settings. They clearly had the joy of the Lord in their lives. Yet they both mentioned a common theme: they needed discernment regarding their circumstances. One was happy where they practiced but now had a hint God might be moving them to a new situation. The other is in a setting where there is little happiness and was considering moving to another setting – only to have a sense they were being called to stay put. So what was God doing, where was He leading, and how should they follow Him? These were their questions.

Notice they were doing the right thing in the way they were asking those questions. God was at the heart of each question, not the happiness of the person asking. Demonstrating a right attitude with their first questions, how to discern the answers becomes the next question. Here are three suggestions.

First, wisdom and victory can come from seeking the counsel of advisers (e.g. Proverbs 15:22). *Who should be our counselors and advisers?* If we as Christian health care practitioners take God’s Word seriously, then we recognize that regardless of our specific vocation, we all share certain common and eternal things: we are of one body and share the same Holy Spirit, are called to the same hope, have the same faith in and are likewise baptized into the same Lord Jesus Christ, belong to the same God and Father; and, we share the mind of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-5; 1 Corinthians 2:16b). Who better to seek advice from about discerning God’s leading than from others who already share so much with us in God *and* who also have an affinity with us through similar vocations?

Second, it is important to be building relationships with such people on an ongoing basis, for we don’t know when we may need their help or one of them might need our counsel. That’s one major reason why we so strongly encourage participation in organizations like the CMDA, CPFI, and TCMF. Here are women and men willing to not only come alongside you in counsel but go with you in prayer to God’s throne, seeking discernment for you in your situation.

Third, in the context of sharing the mind of Christ, will your decisions contribute to building on the foundation of proclaiming Christ crucified (silver, gold and precious stones) or building on the shifting sands of happiness (wood, hay and straw)? Paul and Peter encourage us to focus our thoughts and efforts on building what will last, not on things which will one day burn up (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 1 Peter 3:7-10).”

Let me close Paul’s commentary with several observations. As we live in a culture that clearly is no longer operating by Christian values, those of us who try will find more difficulties doing so. Society seems to be saying, “you can believe what you want to, but keep it to yourself. Don’t let it influence your decisions about health care delivery.” We know as Christians that what we believe influences what we do. That is true for everybody, but Christians seem to be the only group not allowed to do it. When we think of how Jesus suffered living out His convictions, why should we expect any less difficulty? Jesus reminds us in Matthew 16:24 that “If anyone would come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” (HCSB) It doesn’t make it easier however. Interacting with those of like mind as well as similar calling/vocation can provide encouragement. Again that’s what CPFI has done for me.

As I think about the difficulty of living out our faith, I see the value of organizations that help define Christian ethical behavior in health care and encourage Christian health professionals to practice that behavior. Be encouraged because we know how the story ends. 1 John 5: 3b-5 reminds us “for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

Fred Eckel

CPFI PHARMACIST RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED YOUNG PHARMACIST AWARD

Anchorage, AK, Feb. 16, 2013 – Julie McDonald, Pharm.D. a pharmacist at Whale Tail Pharmacy has been named the recipient of the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award. Julie is an active member of the Alaska Pharmacists Association, representing the Southeast region of the state. She is also a dynamic pharmacy student preceptor at Whale Tail where students thoroughly enjoy their time learning from Julie. She is involved with Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International (CPFI).



Patients at Whale Tail Pharmacy have expressed their gratitude for the comfort and counseling she provides. She reaches out to help and serve others from all walks of life and shows genuine empathy to those who are hurting. Julie is also active in the community where she volunteers as a gymnastics coach. The award was presented by Kara King, Pharm.D.



Twelve pharmacists supported CPFI in 2012 by becoming members of The 1% Group. In addition to their annual membership renewal, each donated \$1,500., one-percent of CPFI's budget for the year. These donations made a tremendous impact on what we were able to accomplish in 2012. We continue to diligently search for new opportunities for support for this ministry, however most of our support continues to come from our professional members. Please prayerfully consider the role that you can play in helping CPFI achieve its mission to serve Christ and the world through pharmacy.

[Learn More](#)

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Upcoming Events:

- 2013 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat Conference: June 6th to June 9th Retreat: June 5th to June 9th Bonclarken Conference Center Flat Rock, North Carolina
- 2013 CPFI Regional Student Retreats (locations and dates have not been determined)

2013 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

CPFI Annual Conference June 6th to June 9th
National Student Retreat: June 5th to June 9th

Join your Christian pharmacist colleagues this summer for the 2013 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat at Bonclarken Conference Center located in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Western North Carolina!

Enjoy several days of faith integrated pharmacy education, opportunities to fellowship and network with friends and colleagues, and a time of refreshment away from busy schedules. A country barbeque for Friday evening has been planned which includes 'beachball' volley ball (students vs. professionals), a dual 700 ft. zipline, and singing and toasting marshmallows around a campfire. On Saturday afternoon join a guided tour of The Cove - Billy Graham Training Center or explore nearby historic Hendersonville and Asheville. The Cove tour will be led by CPFI member, Robert Stillwell. The area also boasts beautiful hiking trails with breathtaking mountain vistas which can be enjoyed at Chimney Rock Park, Dupont State Forest, Pisgah National Forest, Mount Mitchell, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Biltmore Estate is also within a short drive.

This year, for the first time, our CPFI student members will host a National Student Retreat in conjunction with the Annual Conference. Students will arrive on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, and the retreat will begin in the evening and continue on Thursday. Students are invited to join the pharmacy continuing education sessions beginning at 2:30 pm on Thursday. Additional student activities are planned for Thursday evening and Saturday evening.

Pharmacy continuing education sessions begin at 2:30 pm on Thursday and a total of twelve CE credits will be available. Registration for the conference opens at 1 pm on Thursday. Learn more about Bonclarken by visiting www.Bonclarken.org.



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CPFI is subject to Financial Accountability

CPFI is a registered 501(c)3 organization. We depend entirely on your tax-deductible gifts and membership dues for the financial support of our ministry. Gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. (Consult an accountant regarding tax deduction of dues.) We are grateful for the many members who make regular contributions beyond their dues to support this ministry.

CPFI welcome's articles with a Christian focus. If you are interested in contributing an article for possible publication in our journal, Christianity & Pharmacy, please submit your manuscript directly to the CPFI office or to the editor. The deadlines for the journal: Spring Journal, December 1; Fall Journal, July 1.

Short Term Foreign Mission Opportunities

CPFI partners with the Christian Medical and Dental Association, the Fellowship of Christian Nurses and the Fellowship of Christian Physician Assistants to send out short term medical teams through Global Health Outreach. The primary care teams are usually one or two weeks, and our goal is to have two pharmacists on each team. Below is a list of upcoming trips. For a complete list of the projects and dates, visit the GHO website which can be found on the CPFI website www.cpfi.org or the CMDA website www.cmda.org.

Upcoming GHO Short Term Projects

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| Mar 23 –30, 2013 Puerta Plata, Dom. Republic | Jun 22 – 30, 2013 Cubulco, Guatemala |
| Mar 23 –30, 2013 Tela, Honduras | Jun 22 – 30, 2013 Isla de Ometepe, Nicaragua |
| Apr 2 – 11, 2013 Vietnam | Jul 6 –14, 2013 Matagalpa, Nicaragua |
| Apr 6 – 14, 2013 Managua, Nicaragua | Jul 14 – 22, 2013 Santa Domingo, D.R |
| Apr 11 –22, 2013 Moldova | Jul 20 –28, 2013 San Miguel, El Salvador |
| Apr 12 – 26, 2013 South Sudan | Jul 22 –Aug 2, 2013 Kwa/Fieve, Ghana |
| May 10 – 24, 2013 Kabul, Afghanistan | Aug 2 – 16, 2013 Namanga/Nairobi, Kenya |
| May 18 –26, 2013 Ciudad Sandion, Nicaragua | Aug 4 –12, 2013 Somotillo, Nicaragua |
| May 25 –Jun 2, 2013 San Marcos de Colon, Honduras | Sep 7 – 21, 2013 China |
| May 25 – Jun 7, 2013 Burkina Faso, West Africa | Sep 20 – 30, 2013 Moldova |
| Jun 1 –9, 2013 Boqueron, El Salvador | Sep 21 – 30, 2013 Gualaquiza, Ecuador |
| Jun 1 –9, 2013 Santa Ana, El Salvador | Oct 5 –13, 2013 Santa Domingo, D.R |
| Jun 8 –15, 2013 Managua, Nicaragua | Oct 5 – 20, 2013 Chennai, India |
| Jun 22 – 30, 2013 Santa Domingo, D.R. | Oct 30 – Nov 11, 2013 Tikapur, Nepal |

The GHO website provides a link for each trip, the name of each team leader, and the estimated cost of each trip. You may apply on-line to participate in the trip of your choice or e-mail Ron Herman, the Mission Committee Chair for additional information (ronherman@mchsi.com).