

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph. 2:10

[Prayer Wall](#)

God's Handiwork

God has designed each of us for special purposes. I have a colleague who was in a bad situation. His girlfriend was pregnant and although he wanted to marry her, she had turned away from him. Not only would she not marry him, but once their child was born, she did not even want to let him see their daughter. My friend grew increasingly sad and hurt. He fell into a deep depression and expressed intentions of committing suicide. One of our other co-workers said "Somebody ought to do something." Her statement really included an unspoken second sentence: "...but I don't know what to do." None of us had a clue how we could help. However, about that time, the church I was attending began offering a program called Stephen Ministry. Lay people in the church were being trained to care for people with big problems. One of the big problems discussed was helping people who had thoughts of suicide.

It is important in our personal and professional areas of influence that when we recognize an area of need that we seek the training and input necessary to equip us to reach out to others. I registered for the Stephen Ministry program. Through their training, I learned quite a bit about working with people contemplating suicide. Unfortunately, I did not get much of an opportunity to talk with my friend about what was going on in his life. Both he and I left that employer and moved on to new jobs. Although I tried to keep in contact, we eventually lost touch and drifted apart. I did sense, however, that his life was improving, but I did not have much of a chance to be involved in the process.

The most important lesson that I learned from this process came a few years later. I went back to school to pursue a PharmD degree. Some of the required rotations led me out of Illinois to a large hospital in a neighboring state. One day, our work involved a visit to an off-site lab facility. I volunteered to drive one group of students over to the lab in my car where I generally keep my radio tuned to Christian music. Although I turned the volume down out of courtesy to my passengers, as was my habit, I left the radio playing in the background as we chatted during the drive. Days later one of my passengers stopped me in the hospital workroom and asked if I was Catholic, because of the insignia on a folder I carried from my employer, a Catholic hospital. I responded that I was not, and she then inquired whether I was a Christian based on the music she had heard in my car. When I said that I was, she burst out that she had been a "bad girl" and was thinking of killing herself. Although I was never able to use my Stephen Ministry training to help my first friend as I had originally intended, I am thankful that God provided the opportunity to use that preparation to help another person get the spiritual and medical help that she needed.

Paul wrote to the Church in Ephesus (Ephesians 2:10): "For we are God's

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handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” While I was concentrating on my own plan to help one individual, God was preparing me to offer support to another of his children several years down the road. It is amazing, and encouraging that God has His perfect plan for how He would like to use us to be a blessing to others!

Michael Merrick
CPFI Board Member

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for the Global Missions Health Conference*



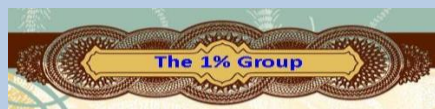
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