

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

I was 19 years old when I started seriously thinking about a career in pharmacy. At that point I felt it would be a good idea to gain some exposure to pharmacy. To make sure I really was interested in it, I started volunteering in the “medication room” at a medical clinic that served people in a poverty-stricken area of downtown Phoenix. My role here was similar to that of a pharmacy technician. I would type prescription labels and prepare medications for dispensing. Then the medication would go the physician for its final check before being dispensed to the patient. One of the very first things that stood out to me about this early pharmacy experience was that I was always one of the last ones to leave when the clinic closed each day. First, the staff at the front desk would lock the doors and leave, the Medical Assistants and majority of health providers would go home, and other volunteers would also make their way out. The clinic would close, leaving one health care provider, one or two remaining patients, and me to finish up. The very last step of the patient visit was for the provider to order the necessary medication(s), making me wait until then to complete the patient care process by providing those medications. As an impatient, tired college student who always had my own agenda, I didn’t love this. Not only that, but in this setting I never even saw the patient! In fact, I never really saw anyone. I certainly never received the acknowledgement for my hard work and late hours that I felt I deserved.

It’s interesting to look back on my early perspective of pharmacy. My initial complaints about pharmacy are now my favorite things about our profession. In most settings, the pharmacist is the first one to arrive to work and the last to leave. In some environments the pharmacy never closes and the work of the pharmacist never ends. We need to be there at all times to serve our patients. Pharmacy is a very humbling profession. We may be hidden in the back of a grocery store or in the underground level of a hospital. Many of us will never get a great deal of credit for the knowledge that we have or the hard work we do to help ensure that people receive appropriate medical treatment. We are sometimes even mocked by others, who refer to us as “pill counters”. Pharmacists definitely do not spend much time in the limelight.

I love this about my job. It’s like I have this little secret with God. I continue learning and growing as a Pharmacist so that I can best serve patients. I know that I am knowledgeable on medical care, regardless of who else knows it. I know that I pray for patients I meet while on the job. And I know that I am making God happy by serving others with a (mostly) good attitude. Though I may work long hours and deal with unpleasant patients (and sometimes other health care providers,) I may never receive praise for it. But that’s okay.

In James 4:6 we read, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Whether or not we receive acknowledgement and admiration for our work as a pharmacist, remember to appreciate what God is teaching you. If He is teaching you humility through your work, be encouraged. He will reward you for putting the interest of others first.

Lisa Sims, CPFI Board Member
Peoria, AZ

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Conference: March 28 to March 31, 2014
CPFI Prayer Breakfast: Sunday March 30, 2014 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Prayer Breakfast location: Orange County Convention Center, Rm 308A-B
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2015 CPFI Annual Conference Survey

As we explore new ways to collaborate with the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA) we are considering joining the 2015 CMDA Annual Conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Please take a moment to complete a three question survey to let us know your preference for 2015.

[Survey](#)

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2 Corinthians 9:13 (NIV)

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