



The Faith Script

Vol. 31 Issue 3

March 2014

Choices

“Mary has made the right choice”

The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her,” Luke 10:41-42 (HCSB).

A recent sermon at a church I was visiting focused on this familiar passage from Luke. As I listened to the sermon I reflected how issues in this passage impacted my life and even my pharmacy career. Martha found herself overwhelmed by the responsibilities of life. In this specific situation Jesus and some of his friends were coming for a visit, and Martha wanted everything to go well. That meant getting everything picked up so the house looked spotless. Food had to be prepared so Jesus and His friends could have a relaxing meal. Martha wanted to make a good impression so everything needed to be perfect. Her focus became self-centered instead of focused on the guest. I think we often do this in pharmacy as we focus on getting the prescription filled properly rather than thinking about the patient who would be using the medicine. Is the label typed correctly, or did I fill out the forms correctly to get reimbursed? We think these thoughts rather than thinking about how the patient has been adhering to the dosage instructions or if there is a special message I should make known to the patient. We become more preoccupied with the manager not fussing at us than ensuring the patient is using the medicine properly. Perhaps, because it is most important to the patient, we should be focused on whether or not the medicine is having the desired outcome. Yet few pharmacists even think about this question because they are busy doing everything else.

Martha reached out to Jesus for help by asking Him to get Mary focused on helping with the chores. Perhaps Martha was feeling a little self-pity because she was overwhelmed and nobody else seemed to care. We probably all can relate this to a pharmacy situation. “I can’t catch up with my work” or “I’ll never get out of here tonight.” So we call the manager asking for help. Rather than thanking our manager or God that we have a job, we feel self-pity and complain to everybody. Instead of focusing on what’s right about our situation, we become self-centered and focus on what’s wrong.

Martha was worried and anxious, perhaps because she was consumed by her self-worth. In our pharmacy work environment we may complain about our workload, but be unwilling to delegate or stop doing things that aren’t important any longer. I think of how some pharmacists have difficulty delegating responsibilities to technicians, feeling like this is too important a task to give away. Often I think this occurs because we want to focus on our self-worth as a pharmacist rather than what will really be best for the patient.

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A message from the Executive Director:

**Jehovah Jireh
“Our Provider”**

Gen. 22:14 (ESV) tells us this is the name Abraham gave to the place where he was about to sacrifice his son in response to God’s request. He chose this name to honor God who provided a sacrifice in place of his son. I should not be amazed, but I am totally humbled by how God faithfully provides for us. Since it is our President’s turn to share a short devotional, I thought I would “appropriate” his note column, and share a story about how God has faithfully provided for our ministry here at CPFI.

Membership contributions are important for our ministry to continue, but they do not cover all of our operational and ministry expenses, so we rely on the generous contributions of our members. Nena, our Administrative Director, came in to the office on December 31st to process the end of the year donations, and close out the books on our financial year. As she processed those donations she realized that we were coming close to ending the financial year in the “black”, but it did look like we were going to come up short. Then she opened the last donation and was humbled by seeing the largest single donation that we have ever received. It was amazing, because it was not from a CPFI member. She contacted the individual and learned that the donor was a first year pharmacy student who discovered CPFI on the internet. This student has been blessed with a family trust that helps pay for her education and she wanted to give from her income and chose to honor God and CPFI with this donation. (P.S., she is now a CPFI student member!) God is such a faithful provider! Praise Him!

Ron Herman

Choices (cont'd)

Jesus's response showed both gentleness and kindness. He repeated Martha's name twice to show His tenderness and caring. He then focused on what was right rather than putting Martha down for not doing what was appropriate. When we have our priorities in order we gain, but when our priorities are misplaced we lose. That is what He suggested to Martha.

As I reflected on this story during the sermon that Sunday morning, I made these observations:

1. We live in a Martha's world, so how do I develop a Mary's heart? Life is busy for all of us because we do live in a Martha's world. Jesus didn't suggest that we leave things undone, but that we should focus on what's most important. That means I need to spend time with Jesus before work but also briefly during work.
2. I need to focus less on what I can do for Jesus and more on what Jesus can do for me. Our busyness often comes from a feeling that I have to do this because it's part of my job or others want me to do this. When I start focusing on casting my burdens on Him because He cares for me, my perspective changes.
3. Since worry often comes when I feel like I am losing control, I need to realize that I am never really in control, God is always in control, and I can trust Him completely to work all things together for my good.

The Christian Life should be a life of growth. As we reflect on a Bible story like Mary and Martha we can see how it can apply to our current situation. Change in personal practices and/or priorities may result. It has been occurring throughout a lifetime of wanting to be more like Jesus for me. Unfortunately, some lessons I have to keep learning.

I plan to talk about "The Illusion of Certainty" at the CPFI Prayer Breakfast at the APhA meeting on Sunday morning, March 30th, in Orlando because it is an area of my life that has received much attention recently.

Fred Eckel, CPFI President

Please Pray...

During March and April there are 4 pharmacists and 2 students going on GHO mission trips to Latin American, Asia, and Africa. Pray that God would use them to minister to the team and to the patients they have the privilege to care for.

CPFI 2014 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

Springmaid
Beach Resort



Give Glory to God!

**"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)**

Registration has begun for the 2014 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat! Please make your plans to join us at the newly remodeled Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, from June 11 through June 15, 2014. Check out the [Schedule-at-a-Glance](#) for a complete list of events and times and the [Full Program](#) and the [Student Retreat Program](#).

God has blessed CPFI again this year with amazing speakers and devotional leaders including Dr. J. Scott Ries and Dr. Sam Molind from the Christian Medical and Dental Association. All of the conference speakers generously volunteer their time to travel and participate in our conference and cover their own expenses. We are truly grateful for how each speaker honors God with a heart for service and through spiritual leadership. To learn more about our speakers click [Speakers and Worship Leaders](#).

To learn more about the CPFI 2014 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat click [Register Now](#).





**CPFI Prayer Breakfast
'The Illusion of Certainty'**

[Click here](#) to register for the conference and prayer breakfast.

Each year CPFI hosts a prayer breakfast at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting and Exposition. Join us this year on Sunday morning, March 30th, at 7:30 am to 8:45 am at the Orange County Convention Center, Rm 308A-B, for a time of fellowship, refreshing, and inspiration as CPFI President Fred Eckel speaks on 'The Illusion of Certainty' and how recent events in his life have caused him to think about the Biblical perspective on certainty. You will not want to miss this message and an opportunity to apply this Biblical perspective when facing your own life challenges!

(There will be a limited number of tickets available at the door the morning of the breakfast.)



Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International
at Palm Beach Atlantic University
PO Box 24708
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4708
Email: office@cpfi.org
Web: www.cpfi.org
Phone: 888-253-6885

Upcoming Events:

- CPFI Prayer Breakfast
APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition
Sunday, March 30th
Orlando, FL
- 2014 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat
Retreat: June 11th to 15th
Conference: June 12th to 15th
Myrtle Beach, SC



We thank God for our 1% Group Members and other faithful CPFI members for their generous support!

2013-2014 Members of The 1% Group

- Jeffrey T. Copeland (re-pledge)
- Fred M. Eckel (re-pledge)
- Gregory C. Carlson (re-pledge)
- Daniel C. Spadaro
- Keith W. Allhands (re-pledge)
- Wagdy W. Wahba (re-pledge)
- Anonymous member
- J. Michael Ross (re-pledge)
- Janet A. Lei (re-pledge)
- Maj. Don A. Belt
- Wayne G. Myers
- Michele L. Lennox
- John E. Corkrean (re-pledge)
- Martin Dale Parker (re-pledge)
- Michael G. Merrick (re-pledge)
- Sarah Roth (P1 Student)

[Learn more](#)

[Join Now](#)

"For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will." II Corinthians 8:3(NLT)

CPFI Board Members

Executive Director, Ron Herman
Iowa City, IA, 319-335-4825, ronald-a-herman@uiowa.edu

Administrative Director, Nena Lindrose
West Palm Beach, FL, 888-253-6885, office@cpfi.org

President, Fred Eckel
Chapel Hill, NC, 919-967-2237, fred@ncpharmacists.org

Vice-President, Sue Hussar
Newtown Square, PA, 610-353-8262, danandsue3@verizon.net

Secretary, Susan Lutz
Altoona, IA, 515-967-6260, lutzrxsl@gmail.com

Treasurer, Greg Carlson
Stuart, VA, 276-694-8627, gccarlson@hotmail.com

Ex officio Member Warren E. Weaver, PhD, Founder, CPFI

Keith W. Allhands,
Bennington, IN, 812-537-8138, kwa@dch.org

John Cowley
Hampton, VA, 757-851-6225, jdcowlevjr@gmail.com

Amanda Hayes
Colorado Springs, CO, 626-253-8839, Amanda.CPFI@gmail.com

Herbert Hames
Chapin, SC, 803-781-0885, hamesherb@aol.com

Dan Hussar
Newtown Square, PA, 215-596-8880, d.hussar@usp.edu

Mark Johnson
Winchester, VA, 540-723-4262 Mjohnson@SU.edu

Gene Lutz
Altoona, IA, 515-967-6260, lutzrxel@gmail.com

Julie Lynch McDonald
Craig, AK, 561-222-3330 Julie.cpfi@gmail.com

Michael Merrick
Norman, IL, 309-452-5228, merrick83@comcast.net

Lisa Sims
Peoria, AZ, 602-380-1860, lsims413@cox.net

Student Representative, Charlotte Taft
West Palm Beach, FL 540-623-5151
Char.taft@gmail.com

Prayer Coordinator, Don Belt, Greenville, SC, 864-322-2594, dabelt38@gmail.com

Editor, Tim Welty
Ankeny, IA, 913-945-6904, twelty@bellsouth.net

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

<i>Apr 3 – 14, 2014</i> Moldova	<i>Jul 26 – Aug 3, 2014</i> El Salvador
<i>Apr 5 – 13, 2014</i> Nicaragua	<i>Jul 28 – Aug 10, 2014</i> Ghana
<i>Apr 12 – 19, 2014</i> Dominican Republic	<i>Aug 1 - 16, 2014</i> Namanga/Nairobi, Kenya
<i>May 9 – 24, 2014</i> Kabul, Afgh*nistan	<i>Aug 2 – 10, 2014</i> Ecuador
<i>May 24 – June 1, 2014</i> Nicaragua	<i>Aug 15 - 30, 2014</i> Sumba, I*donesia
<i>May 30 – Jun 7, 2014</i> N*geria	<i>Aug 9 – 17, 2014</i> Nicaragua
<i>May 31 – Jun 8, 2014</i> Honduras	<i>Sep 19 – 28, 2014</i> Moldova
<i>May 31 – Jun 8, 2014</i> El Salvador	<i>Sep 19 – Oct 3, 2014</i> Lebanon
<i>Jun 13 – 22, 2014</i> Ecuador	<i>Sep 27 – Oct 5, 2014</i> Guatemala
<i>Jun 21 – 29, 2014</i> Haiti	<i>Oct 4 – 18, 2014</i> Ind*a
<i>Jun 21 – 29, 2014</i> Nicaragua	<i>Oct 18 – 26, 2014</i> Ecuador
<i>Jul 5 – 13, 2014</i> Nicaragua	<i>Oct 18 – 31, 2014</i> Eth*opia
<i>Jul 12 – 20, 2014</i> Dominican Republic	<i>Oct 28 – Nov 8, 2014</i> Tikapur, N*pal

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 at (ronherman1939@live.com) for additional information.

In 2013, 57 pharmacists, 29 students and 1 technician participated on 40 different trips! There was \$7,700. provided in mission scholarships to 3 pharmacists and 26 students in 2013!