

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7(NIV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

~From the President~

The theme for the upcoming issue of CPFI's journal, *Christianity & Pharmacy*, focuses on change, especially changes in the healthcare system. Most of us have heard the expression that change is inevitable, and if we live long enough we often gain a deeper understanding of just how inevitable change can be in every aspect of one's life. We are living in a rapidly changing world, and I am more convinced than ever that Christians must unite to face these changes. In this issue of The Faith Script, I want to share some news with you concerning a big change for the Fellowship.

This fall CPFI will relocate its office back to Bristol, Tennessee, where it will share space with the Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA). This decision was reached following a long process spanning many months. Some of the discussions were held at the CMDA offices, where we met with CMDA senior leadership. Other discussions were held during the last several meetings of the CPFI Board of Directors. Early this year a CPFI sub-committee was formed to gather additional information and make a recommendation to the Board regarding whether CPFI should move its office in with CMDA. The committee was comprised of Ron Herman, Herbert Hames, Nena Lindrose and myself as an ex officio member. The committee traveled to Bristol this past April and met again with CMDA leaders. We also held numerous telephone conferences and discussed various scenarios in great detail. Ultimately the committee deferred the decision on whether we should move the office to Bristol to the Board of Directors without making a recommendation. However, a point the committee was united on was the desire, if not the need, to work more closely with the CMDA. The Board decided that this could best be accomplished by bridging the gap between the two organizations, geographically speaking, and at the annual meeting in June we voted unanimously to move the CPFI office to the CMDA offices in Bristol.

CMDA has been very welcoming to us and has demonstrated a strong desire to join together with CPFI, as well as with other Christian healthcare organizations, in an effort to strengthen goals and activities. However, CPFI will, at least for the foreseeable future, continue to operate as its own separate organization. This means we still have the same financial needs, perhaps in some ways even more so, that we have had in the past. So we encourage you to continue to renew your membership on a timely basis and support CPFI when you are able with your gifts.

We are excited about this next chapter for CPFI! However, we would be remiss if we didn't also recognize the great service and generosity of Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBAU) and the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy (GSOP). We want to specifically extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Daniel Brown, past Dean of the GSOP, Dean Mary Ferrill, PBAU President William Fleming, and countless others, including faculty, staff, students, and University administration who, for the last seven years, have selflessly volunteered their time and talent to help support our efforts in the CPFI office and in various CPFI activities. On July 31st I met with President Fleming, members of his staff, and representatives from the GSOP to express our appreciation for their kindness during the seven years we were based on the Campus. In recognition of their support I presented him with an inscribed

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plaque.

We also presented Dr. Daniel Brown on behalf of Dean Ferrill with a framed cover of *Christianity &*



Pharmacy,

which she edited for us for five years.

I told President Fleming that two changes seem to be occurring that brought our Board to make this decision to move. As we move into a Post-Christian era in our country, those who want to live by biblical principles will have a harder time. Christian health care workers need to unite more than ever. We felt that working more closely geographically will help facilitate the closer working relationship with CMDA. The other change is the growth in interdisciplinary education and practice in health care. We are now working more as a health care team and becoming more collegial. Our physical presence in the CMDA facility should enhance our collaboration and better convey our commitment to team work at the Organizational level too.

With this change it is our prayer that we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, will continue to support each other, and support Christian healthcare, and other Christian activities, with our prayers, fellowship, and love through Jesus Christ.

If you would like to e-mail me regarding this topic, I would be happy to read any comments and will respond as I am able. You can send your comments to [Office@ CPFI.org](mailto:Office@CPFI.org) or Fred@ncpharmacists.org. It is our prayer that this move and this new collaboration with the Christian Medical & Dental Associations will serve not only to strengthen CPFI as an organization, but will blaze a trail for all Christians in the healthcare arena to understand the great need to take a stand together. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:13 to “Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” (NIV)

Fred M. Eckel, CPFI President

Your support is needed

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