I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Thanksgiving
By Ron Herman, Executive Director

November in North America is when we often pause to give thanks. More often than not, our minds reflect on the material blessings that God has given us. We think of the abundant harvest we have just experienced, or the job that we have that helps to provide for our daily needs of food and shelter, but this year my attention is drawn to something else. In this passage from 1Corinthians we see Paul giving thanks for the people that enriched his life by what they said and did.

My family has experienced that love and caring of fellow believers this past 5 months more than we can ever recall. In the middle of July, my 27 year old son Joshua was diagnosed with a brain tumor, a glioma of the ependymoma type. Within hours of the diagnosis he had his first surgery to remove 480 ml of cerebral spinal fluid which was causing his excruciating headaches, and within 36 hours he had his second surgery to remove 90% of the egg sized tumor that grew out of his brain stem and filled his fourth ventricle. He was in a coma for about 6 weeks. After 4 weeks in intensive care he was moved to a rehabilitation facility that specializes in brain injuries, about 2 hours from our home. My wife Bev and I and our extended family have come to understand, like Paul, how special and encouraging our brothers and sisters in Christ have been. This Thanksgiving our prayers of praise are for the army of believers who have been there for us with words of encouragement from cards and CaringBridge posts, calls, hugs, meals, gas money and visits to be with Josh and our family.

What a fall this has been. For most of the Evangelical Community the election has been front and center. I am thankful for the many who have tried to put the election into the right perspective. As Christians I believe we have an obligation to vote and I did. As I write this the election has not occurred but I am confident that God is still in control; the sun will come up tomorrow and life still goes on regardless of the election results. But this year, more than any other election, I have done more pondering of what to do. I have also become more comfortable submitting to the Lord because the options before me in the election seemed to make no sense. In my church I am part of a men’s Bible study on James. James 4:7a says: “Submit yourself therefore to God” (ESV). For most of us we often submit only after we have tried it “my way” first or when we do not see any way to solve the problem before us and so we submit. For me the election choices made me want to submit to God because I didn’t see an option that seemed to make sense to me.

Recently my Pastor has been preaching a series from Genesis 1:26-27 on “More Fully Human.” A theme that emerged for me is that as I realize this, then

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At the rehabilitation facility, on with life, Josh began to wake from his coma and has been making a slow, but steady recovery. He has been there for 12 weeks. After 3 weeks he began to wake up and move his extremities with gross motor movement, all except his right arm, but without fine motor control. We called upon our extended family, church friends and an amazing network of fellow believers to pray for Josh’s recovery. God has been faithful and it is amazing to see God’s hand at work.

Josh now has movement in his right arm, is now starting to stand, has taken a few steps with assistance and his talking has been improving greatly every day, so we now understand 90% of what he says, and if we do not understand a word he is trying to say he spells it for us. His memory and comprehension are 100%. We praise God for answering the prayers of so many faithful friends. Our eldest daughter in a CaringBridge post today after a rich time together as a family and with church friends quoted Psalm 126:2-3 (NIV) “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

I trust that as you approach this Thanksgiving season that you would be able to find time to reflect on what God has been doing for you this past year. Whether you have experienced a bounty of material blessings, or a season of trials and difficulties, it is my prayer that you will find a reason to offer up prayers of thanksgiving.

Another thing that I am thankful for is the leaders God continues to raise up for this ministry. We have been blessed to have the Educational Affairs committee, chaired by Fred Eckel, plan the continuing education program for the past 30 years. From the first program in 1988, “Pharmacy: Reestablishing Our Roots,” to the upcoming program in 2017, “Stand Your Ground;” Fred has planned or led the committee to put together an excellent and challenging program each year. He feels it is time to train someone to take over this task. He has agreed to spend the next couple years to mentor the individual who will take charge of this committee. As your executive director I would like you to let me know if you would be interested in being mentored to select the theme for our annual meeting, identify topics that we would like to include in the program and contact potential speakers to see if they would volunteer to present. Please let me know, or contact the CPFI office, and we will follow-up with potential volunteers (emails are in the Board Member panel of this newsletter).

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I can more comfortably submit to Him and His will even in the result of an election. My tendency is to want to help him by voting for the “right candidate.” It is hard to accept that He doesn’t need my help, but as I do it, it makes submission easier. I am thankful for this election because it has really drawn me closer to Him.

Let me share two scriptures from the Old Testament that have been most helpful to me this season.

Daniel 2:44 “And in those days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.”(ESV). The take away for me is that I am really a citizen of this new eternal Kingdom that God will establish so regardless of what happens here I am secure. My prayer is that Daniel’s vision may soon come true but let me submit to God fully until it comes true, remembering that He will make it happen and he doesn’t need my help.

Samuel’s farewell address 1 Samuel 12:24-25 reads, “Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”(ESV). I have been thinking about several things as I reflect on this verse. Are we getting what we deserve because we have lost our first love; How can I help bring about a revival because many of us, and I am afraid even me, have lost our fear of the Lord and are not serving him faithfully. My prayer is Lord make me be part of the solution not contribute to the problem of self-focus rather than God-focus. These thoughts have helped me. I hope they help you too.

Happy Thanksgiving
Leadership, Service, Support! Thank you!

The 1% Group
Jeffrey T. Copeland, Founding Member (since 2012)
Fred M. Eckel (since 2012)
Gregory C. Carlson (since 2012)
Daniel C. Spadaro (since 2012)
Keith W. Allhands (since 2012)
Wagdy W. Wahba (since 2012)
John E. Corkrean (since 2012)
J. Michael Ross (since 2012)
Martin Dale Parker (since 2013)
Michael G. Merrick (since 2013)
Gene I. Erb (since 2015)
Daniel & Suzanne F. Hussar (since 2015)
Daniel J. & Charlotte Wilson (since 2015)
Ronald A. Herman (since 2015)
Jennifer Sands (since 2016)
Earle P. Barton (since 2016)

Monthly Sustaining Gift
Earle P. Barton (since 2011)
Babajide O. Oguntimein (since 2011)
Bob Coulter (since 2012)

Power Hour Gift Group
Several members continue to contribute 1 hour of their monthly salary to CPFI through the Power Hour Gift Club

Join The 1% Group Today!
Learn More and Join Now

Join the Power Hour Gift Group Today!
Learn More and Join

“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)
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 accessed from the CPFI website www.cpf.org or the CMDA website www.cmda.org.

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<th>Upcoming GHO Short Term Projects</th>
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<td>Honduras</td>
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<td>El Salvador</td>
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<td>Jan 14-21, 2017</td>
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<td>North Africa/Middle East</td>
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<td>Nicaragua</td>
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<td>Eastern Europe</td>
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<td>North Africa/Middle East</td>
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CPFi is subject to Financial Accountability

CPFi is a registered 501c3 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.

The GHO website provides a list 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 Keith Allhands, kwallhands@gmail.com the Mission Committee Chair for additional information.