There is always an open seat at the table!

Have you ever hosted a party and invited a wide range of people, only to be surprised by who actually showed up? Those you thought would show up, didn't. And, those you thought would definitely not come to your party, arrived early and enthused. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is just like this. How bizarre, right? Luke 14 and Matthew 22 share the Parable of the Great Banquet.

Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son." Matthew 22:2 (NIV)

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of God." Jesus replied "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many quests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' "Still another said, I just got married, so I can't come.' "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' "Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told the servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'" Luke 14:15-24 (NIV)

For the past three years, I have been living in Rhode Island. Within a few months of living here, I got involved in a brand new church plant, The Feast Church, which was starting in the capital city of Providence. It has been such a great experience and one that I know God has given me a calling for during this chapter of my life. For years, Providence has been one of the country's "least churched" cities. The inspiration for the name of the church came from the parable presented in Luke 14 which tells us that many people you would not expect to come will be invited and will be there. We want The Feast Church to be a place for the people of Providence, whom we may not expect to be interested in God and church, to have a place where they can experience the love of God and learn of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is always an open seat at the table. I encourage us all to take this same vision and attitude in our evangelism of the Gospel throughout our lives.

May we have the same spirit of evangelism in our sharing CPFI with others in our profession. We all love CPFI. I pray that we can use this parable of inspiration to help more pharmacists know of all the great benefits of being a member of CPFI and that we would not be afraid to invite those we may not expect to be interested in joining our fellowship. Be bold in your enthusiasm for CPFI - "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) CPFI has tremendous benefits for all pharmacists, those expected to enjoy the benefits and those not, as well. May there always be an open seat at the CPFI table for more colleagues interested in Serving Christ and the world through pharmacy.

Jordan T. Daniel, PharmD
CPFI Board Member
Providence, Rhode Island
**Colorado Springs, CO 80904**

**Student Retreat:** June 14 to 18, 2017  
**Annual Conference:** June 15 to 18, 2017

**Registration closed May 12, 2017**  
(Please call the CPFI office to check on availability.)

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CPFI needs your continued support this year and in the coming year. Please consider giving a gift or a monthly gift to help our organization meet its operational and ministry expenses. Your gift may be made by electronic check or credit card by clicking on the link to the right, or by mailing your gift to the CPFI office: CPFI, P.O. Box 1154, Bristol, TN, 37621-1154, or by calling toll free: (888) 253-6885.

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**2016-2017 CPFI Leadership Team**

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