



The Faith Script

Vol. 34 Issue 3

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*If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 4:11 (NIV)*

A Note from the Executive Director
By Ron Herman

Is there any longer a need for CPFI?

By Fred Eckel, President

This question was recently brought to my mind again when a friend and pharmacy colleague sent our office a notice that he has not renewed his pharmacy license and had decided not to renew his CPFI membership. He mentioned that he was 81 and had faithfully been a member for many years. If one has left pharmacy as their occupation and can no longer travel to participate in CPFI meetings I can understand why one might not feel a need or desire to maintain CPFI membership. This incident provided me a chance to reflect again on this question and I share my perspective with you. Hopefully you will reflect on this question and share your answer with me at: fredeckel77@gmail.com.

We can probably all agree that pharmacy has plenty of organizations although there always seems to be a place for a “niche organization,” and a Christian pharmacy group may still have a purpose, especially now that we are living in a post-Christian era. One purpose may be to help pharmacists learn how to live as a Christian in a secular society that often doesn’t acknowledge biblical truths as foundational to decisions needing to be made. Of course we have to acknowledge that there are many churches and para-church groups that are engaged in this role. Local church membership and active participation in its ministry may be the best way to learn how to follow Jesus in a secular culture. I would not want anyone to think that CPFI membership can take the place of local church membership in teaching Christians how to live. It doesn’t and it can’t. But maybe CPFI can contribute a unique insight on how a Christian pharmacist can model Jesus’ teachings in the workplace.

If that is what CPFI can do then maybe it should focus attention primarily on Christian student pharmacists. After all this is a formative period in their lives where they are being “professionalized” to think and act as a pharmacist.

(Continued on page 2)

President Eckel has provided us with a thought provoking insight on the role of CPFI and I encourage you to accept his challenge and share your thoughts and insights with him. As I reflect back on the history of CPFI God has provided some amazing leadership to shepherd and guide many young professionals desiring to make an impact. Thirty-six years ago (in 1981) I had been in practice only 3 years, serving on the mission field. I sat in on a meeting with a group of pharmacists led by Dean Warren Weaver. They were discussing the possibility of starting an organization of Christians who were pharmacists to establish a fellowship of like-minded professionals that could spur one-another on in a market place ministry.

CPFI was incorporated in 1984 and the ministry that began then has been blessed with great leadership. We have a wonderful Board of Directors and amazing officers, and a small but dedicated staff. Recently the Board recognized a need to continue to draw on the rich history of our leadership. This year at our annual meeting in Glen Eyrie (Colorado Springs) we are asking that all past presidents of CPFI that can attend the meeting get together for a

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1 ...President's Challenge)

Having a strong CPFI student chapter at the school may be helpful in the professionalization of Christian student pharmacists as they learn how to live and practice pharmacy with a biblical perspective. That may be reason enough for needing CPFI and clearly students have become an important part of CPFI activities and we are a stronger organization because of it.

Recently I attended a 3 week Sunday School session at my church on "Issues in Health Care." All of the panelists and most of the participants were health professionals. A question that the moderator kept raising was what role our church should play in helping Christian health professionals practice appropriately and deal with difficult issues they will face. For me this activity was very helpful in answering the question I posed at the beginning of this article. If the local church could address these needs of Christian health care professionals then maybe an organization like CPFI isn't needed. I left each week's session pondering my question. The last session clarified my perspective. There are many health issues that are of interest to both patients/consumers of healthcare as well as providers of healthcare that have a biblical component to them. These may be important topics that a local church can address and they would be as beneficial to health professionals as to consumers. The presence of both groups in these sessions would lead to richer insights than sessions that only had health professionals present.

As the only pharmacist present in these sessions I realized health professionals have many similar issues in common but there are nuances that are unique for each discipline, too. It would also be hard for a local church ministry to meet all the needs of each health professional, so it became clear that an organization like CPFI is needed until such time as a Christian healthcare organization emerges in which each healthcare discipline has equality and each discipline can address its unique practice issues. For myself, I need a local church for a sense of community and to be held accountable. I need CPFI to be part of a community of Christian pharmacists where I can address unique issues faced by a Christian pharmacist: how to practice pharmacy in a secular society; discuss ethical issues that might confront a Christian pharmacist and learn how to handle them; and be encouraged and find help if I find myself discriminated against for following my conscience.

If I am right, what should be the response of all Christian pharmacists? Support CPFI by membership and gifts. Pray regularly for the organization. Actively participate in its activities as you have time and interest.

(Continued from page 1 ...E.D. Note)

Past-Presidents reception to establish an advisory board to provide additional council to the organization and provide a mechanism to help mentor new leaders within CPFI. God raised up many servant leaders over these past three decades and we thank God for His faithful provision and for their servant hearts.

On a personal note, thanks for everyone who has faithfully been praying for my son's recovery from brain cancer. He was hospitalized for 6 months, but is now home with us and will be completing the last of his radiation therapy next week. He is still not walking and has a lot of issues with tremors and ataxia, but we have seen great progress and we praise God for His faithfulness during this season of our spiritual journey.

Register Today!

**2017 CPFI Annual Conference
& National Student Retreat!**

**Glen Eyrie Conference Center
Colorado Springs, CO**

Conference: June 15 to 18

Student Retreat: June 14 to 18

(Registration closes May 12th)

Tour Glen Eyrie



**Speakers
Program**

Student Program

Silent Auction

Virtual Poster Session



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Upcoming Events:

- **CPFI Prayer Breakfast
APhA Annual Meeting
& Exposition**
San Francisco, CA
Sunday, March 26th, 2017
7:30 am to 8:45 am
- **CPFI 2017 Annual
Conference & National
Student Retreat**
Glen Eyrie Conference
Ctr.
Colorado Springs, CO
Student Retreat: June 14
to 18, 2017
Annual Conference: June
15 to 18, 2017



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

Babajide O. Oguntimein (since 2011)

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](#)

[Join](#)

Join The Power Hour Gift Group Today!

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“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)

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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 our many members who make regular contributions beyond their dues to support this ministry.

CPFI welcomes 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 accessed from the CPFI website www.cpfi.org or the CMDA website www.cmda.org.

Upcoming GHO Short Term Projects

Mar 4 – 12, 2017 Nicaragua	Jun 24- Jul 2, 2017 Nicaragua
Mar 4 – 12, 2017 El Salvador	Jul 8- 16, 2017 Dominican Republic
Mar 11 – 18, 2017 Haiti	Jul 14 - 22, 2017 West Africa
Mar 18 – 26, 2017 Ecuador	Jul 15 – 23, 2017 Nicaragua
Mar 18 – 26, 2017 Dominican Republic	Jul 28 – Aug 7, 2017 Ghana
Mar 18 – 26, 2017 El Salvador	Jul 29 – Aug 6, 2017 El Salvador
Mar 31 – Apr 7, 2017 Vietnam	Aug 5 – 13, 2017 Nicaragua
Apr 1 – 9, 2017 Nicaragua	Aug 12 – 20, 2017 Nicaragua
Apr 13 – 24, 2017 Eastern Europe	Aug 18 – Sep 2, 2017 Pacific
Apr 22 – 30, 2017 Ecuador	Aug 26 – Sep 3, 2017 Guatemala
May 12-27, 2017 North Africa/Middle East	Aug 29 – Sep 10, 2017 North Africa/Middle East
May 13 – 21, 2017 Nicaragua	Sep 15 -23, 2017 Moldova
May 27 – Jun 4, 2017 Honduras	Sep 15 – 27, 2017 North Africa/Middle East
Jun 10 – 18, 2017 Nicaragua	Sep 16 -24, 2017 Nicaragua
Jun 17 – 25, 2017 Dominican Republic/Haiti	Sep 16 – 26, 2017 East Africa
Jun 17 – 25, 2017 El Salvador	Oct 5 – 15, 2017 North Africa/Middle East
Jun 24 – Jul 1, 2017 El Salvador	Oct 23 – Nov 4, 2017 Myanmar

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 Keith Allhands, kwallhands@gmail.com the Mission Committee Chair for additional information.