



The Faith Script

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Reflection on CPFI Annual Meeting By Fred Eckel

The CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat was held at the new Doubletree by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from May 22 to May 26, 2019. 164 pharmacists, student pharmacists and family members came from 26 states. Several pharmacists from the Democratic Republic of the Congo also attended. The theme for the conference this year came from Psalm 46:1,10 - **“God is Our Refuge and Our Strength -- Be Still and Know that He is God.”**

The National Student Retreat was coordinated by Miranda Miles, Medical University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy with assistance from Pakou Vang, Palm Beach Atlantic University. They both did a fantastic job of coordinating the retreat while finishing up pharmacy school and planning weddings! Speakers for the retreat included Jeff Bates, Faith Brown, Ron Herman, Kathy Moore, David Shirley, and a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Tristram Ford. Panelists included Joy Greene, Mark Johnson, Daniel Wilson, and Ron Herman.



CPFI also held a mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors. Vice President Dr. Daniel Wilson presided over the meeting. Dr. Mark Johnson provided the opening prayer and devotion with a focus on scripture meditation. Minutes for the meeting will be posted on the CPFI website for members to view.

Dr. Jeffrey Bates did another excellent job of putting together our program and leading our Praise and Worship. At one point during the conference he referred to himself as a ‘cruise director’ and we can testify that he is one excellent cruise director! It cannot be an easy task to oversee the presentations and the music and Jeff did this with grace and excellence. The worship team included Jeff and Sheryl Bates, Douglas Anderson, Zach Krauss, Austin Greanias, Susie Kim, Andy Ballentine. The speakers for the conference this year were Douglas Anderson, Fred Eckel, Phillip Gerck, Ron Herman, Daniel Hussar, David Kisor, Joy Green, Jon Sprague, and Virgil VanDusen. Our Thursday evening devotion was given by Luigi DeBoni, Friday morning devotion by Joy Greene and Saturday morning devotion by Wagdy Wahba. *(Continued on page 2)*

I have attended every CPFI Annual Meeting for two primary reasons. I wanted to grow professionally and, more importantly, become the best Christian pharmacist I could be. As I listened to speakers explore practice topics or talk about their practice, it enhanced me professionally. Hearing from someone in a different practice type broadened my professional outlook and made me realize I was a part of a much larger profession. I could get this from other pharmacy meetings, although I don't think they are any better than CPFI. The way CPFI integrates the spiritual into the professional doesn't happen in any other pharmacy meeting, and continually challenged me in my growth as a Christian Pharmacist. Add in the worship times and I frequently left each meeting feeling like I just had a mountain top experience. It gave me spiritual confidence to be a better Christian Pharmacist.

I am now retired from active pharmacy work. Although I still have my license and need CE, the reason I continue to attend this meeting is because it gives me an opportunity to reconnect with my “Christian Pharmacy Family”.

Additionally, it allows me to give back to my profession in various ways such as a word of encouragement here, a mentoring tip there, or an example from my own experience. Christians in pharmacy are only one generation from extinction so I want to pass the torch to the next generation of pharmacists. Attending CPFI annual meetings gives me that opportunity. I hope I meet you next year in Bonclarken. Unless the Lord has different plans I plan to be there.

On Thursday evening Dr. Wahba gave a special tribute to our dear friend Dr. Manasseh Heeralall who went to be with the Lord on December 7, 2018. This was a special time of remembering Manasseh again and how he loved and served CPFI through his music. On Saturday morning, Dr. Wahba provided one of his wonderful skits (which he is known for at Palm Beach Atlantic University) as part of his devotion. He enlisted the help of two young men on the worship team he had not previously met prior to arriving in Myrtle Beach – Zach Krauss and Andy Ballentine! The skit focused on Matthew 21: 28-32. Luigi and Joy also blessed us with outstanding messages and personal testimonies. The devotions will soon be posted on the CPFI website and on RightNow Media. You must join RightNow Media (free to CPFI members) to be able to view the devotions.



Friday evening, we had a picnic on the Live Oaks lawn near the sea shore. It was a great time of fellowship, food and fun with lawn games following dinner. Herb Hames showed us once again that being young at heart can often lead to being young in body, too! At an undisclosed somewhat mature age... Herb is always one of the first to jump into the lawn games with the students!

The annual conference silent auction which is held to benefit student chapter community service activities through the CPFI Hands & Feet Grant raised just over \$2,800. this year. A portion of these funds are also used to help promote CPFI activities in the DR Congo. Susan and Gene Lutz and Suzanne Hussar did

a tremendous job in coordinating this event.

The CPFI annual business meeting was conducted late Friday afternoon. Elections were held for the offices of President and Vice-President and three board positions. Jeff Copeland was re-elected as President for another two-year term, and Greg Carlson was elected as Vice-President. Keith Allhands, Susan Lutz and Herb Hames were elected for director positions. During the awards banquet on Saturday evening, outgoing Vice President Daniel Wilson and board members Joy Greene and Mark Johnson were thanked for their faithful service. New officers and board members were installed by Past-President Fred Eckel.

Several individuals and one student chapter were recognized at the Saturday night Awards Banquet. The Fred M. Eckel Distinguished Student Award was presented to Pakou Vang, of West Palm Beach, Florida who is a 2019 graduate of the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy at Palm Beach Atlantic University. This award was established in 2011 to identify a person who has distinguished themselves as a strong leader dedicated to promoting student activities and leadership development within CPFI chapters. Pakou has exemplified these characteristics throughout her service to CPFI as a student member, serving in her student chapter, on the CPFI Board of Directors as the student representative including attending Board meetings at the annual meeting and in Louisville, KY, assisting in coordinating our National Student Retreat, serving as photographer for several of our annual conferences including our 2019 conference and other behind the scenes service to our students and members. We are grateful for Pakou's servant heart for CPFI and her commitment to remain involved as a recent graduate.



The Chapter of The Year Award was presented to the University of Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy. Susie Kim and Sharon Baik accepted the award on behalf of their chapter. Susie will be serving on the CPFI Board of Directors this upcoming year as the student representative and Sharon will be the UIW chapter president. *(Continued on page 3)*

This award was established in 2012 and is designed to acknowledge one student CPFI chapter each year in appreciation of their dedicated service to the National Student Council and their advancement of student activities and leadership development. This chapter served students and their community through numerous chapter activities and outreach. They were also a recipient of the CPFI Hands & Feet Grant and presented a virtual poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Conference. CPFI President Dr. Jeffrey Copeland is their chapter advisor. At Thursday's board meeting the Board of Directors approved a motion to rename this award the Manasseh Heerahall Chapter of the Year Award in honor of the late Dr. Heerahall who was actively engaged in promoting the work of student chapters while a student at Palm Beach Atlantic School of Pharmacy and after he entered practice.

The Psalm 145 Award was presented to Kathy Moore, chapter advisor for the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. Several students from the chapter accepted the award on behalf of Ms. Moore. This award was established in 2014 and is intended to recognize CPFI's outstanding chapter advisors.

The Dr. Warren E. Weaver award established in 1990 was presented to Dr. Joy Greene of Trinity, North Carolina. Joy is a 1998 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Joy works at High Point University in the Fred Wilson School of Pharmacy where she serves as a Professor and the Assistant Dean for Experiential Education. Joy has served CPFI in many key positions, including Board member, chair for marketing and promotions, devotion speaker, annual meeting speaker, national and regional student retreat speaker, and student chapter advisor. Joy has consistently demonstrated the characteristics of a person this award was created to recognize - "The person who most exemplifies the Lord's example in service to others through CPFI." Joy's talent, enthusiasm, kind heart, and most of all her devotion to our Lord and Savior are a blessing to our organization.



The awards banquet and all of the meals were held in ocean view ballrooms. It was a special time of fellowship and an opportunity to recognize these deserving individuals and chapters. Saturday evening concluded with 'Singing Under the Stars' on the beach. Jeff and Sheryl Bates did another great job of leading worship on the beach. The back drop of the Atlantic and melody of the gentle rolling surf added a special backdrop to this time of coming together to praise our Lord.

The conference concluded after breakfast and a worship service on Sunday morning. Immediate Past President Fred Eckel delivered a message to a packed room titled 'The Promise, The Process, and The Palace.' Dr. Jeffrey Bates coordinated and directed the praise and worship music.

Our conference evaluations were excellent and a number of students and pharmacists told me they were sad to be leaving and wanted it to last longer. It takes many volunteers to put on this event, and we are grateful to each person who gave of their time and resources to help with the event and/or attend. We praise God that our conferences are touching lives for Jesus. It was great to be at the beach again and Doubletree did an exceptional job of hosting our conference!

We have set our sights on next year when we will return to a CPFI favorite location - the Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock, North Carolina on June 3 to June 7, 2020. Our theme for 2020 will be "Faith Can Move Mountains" from Matthew 11 and 17. We hope you will save these dates and join us for a special time as we gather together again to enjoy fellowship, faith integrated pharmacy education and to celebrate our Lord and Savior in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. [Click here](#) to view the 2019 photos.



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Wagdy W. Wahba

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Dawn Battise

Anne Clay

Jordan Daniel

Joy Greene

Gary Lewis

Gene & Susan Lutz

“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.cphi.org or the CMDA website www.cmda.org.

Upcoming GHO Short Term Projects

Jun 8 – 16, 2019 El Salvador	Sep 14 – 25, 2019 East Africa
Jun 14 – 29, 2019 Zambia	Sep 20 – 28, 2019 Albania (Moldova)
Jun 15 – 23, 2019 Dominican Republic	Oct 1 – 13, 2019 Myanmar
Jun 22 – 30, 2019 El Salvador	Oct 4 – 11, 2019 Ecuador
Jul 6 – 14, 2019 Dominican Republic	Oct 11 – 25, 2019 Middle East
Jul 13 – 24, 2019 Guatemala	Oct 18 – Nov 2, 2019 Middle East
Jul 20 – 27, 2019 Nicaragua	Nov 1 – 10, 2019 Greece
Jul 26 – Aug 6, 2019 Ghana	Nov 2 – 10, 2019 Dominican Republic
Jul 27 – Aug 4, 2019 El Salvador	Nov 9 – 17, 2019 Ecuador
Aug 1 – 15, 2019 Tanzania	Nov 16 – 24, 2019 Nicaragua
Aug 2 – 17, 2019 Kenya	Jan 11 – 19, 2020 El Salvador
Aug 3 – 11, 2019 Honduras	Feb 15 – 23, 2020 Nicaragua
Aug 3 – 12, 2019 Asia/Pacific	Feb 15 – 29, 2020 East Africa
Aug 15 – 31, 2019 Asia/Pacific	Feb/Mar, 2020 Southeast Asia
Aug 30 – Sep 12, 2019 North Africa	Mar, 2020 Eastern Europe
Sep 9 – 21, 2019 Albania (Moldova)	Mar, 2020 Ecuador, Dominican Republic

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.