Clothed with Peace

Clothes are a very popular gift to give and to receive on special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas. That has been true for my family through the years particularly with our kids as they literally grew out of clothes almost before they received them during their big growth spurts. Who doesn’t like receiving that new shirt or a colorful pair of socks to wear to school or work to show others right after you get them?

Paul uses this metaphor of clothing in Colossians when he speaks about spiritual practices. “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Colossians 3:12-14 NIV)

These spiritual practices are analogous to putting on new clothes that we receive on those special occasions. But perhaps Paul is telling us not only to wear these virtues, but to embody them. So that it just becomes a part of what we do and how we act every day. It’s not something that we should change in and out of every day like the physical clothes we wear, but something we should keep on as a part of our own very beings—it’s just who we are.

These virtues not only describe those who follow Jesus, but they are spiritual practices for us to in fact practice. As with anything, it takes much practice—hours, days, years of practice. But the more we practice something, the better we get at it, or as my mom used to say, “practice makes perfect.” And as we are reminded, we are not to practice these alone, but we are to practice them with one another and to support one another, just as Paul summoned the Colossians to do. “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” (Colossians 3:16 NIV)

Each of us can make a difference. Just reflect on the teachings of Jesus when he began his public ministry. He gathered a small group of disciples to walk with him and to witness all he did. Then after his resurrection and death, this small group continued to tell and show others this new way of living—to show them love. This spread to other small groups, and together these small groups changed the world. And it can be the same today.

So friends, go forth into 2019 and be messengers of peace, not only wearing our compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love, but living them out. Our hope is that others may see this and know that the peace of Christ is present. ”Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15 NIV)

Mark S. Johnson, Pharm.D., BCPS
CPFI Board of Directors Member
In Loving Memory of CPFI Member Dr. Manasseh Heeralall

Manasseh (far right) at the 2017 Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado

It is with sadness that we say good-bye to our dear friend and brother, Dr. Manasseh Heeralall. Read more...

2019 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

National Student Retreat: May 22 to May 26
Annual Conference: May 23 to May 26

Doubletree by Hilton
Myrtle Beach Oceanfront
3200 South Ocean Blvd.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

REGISTER

On-line registration opens January 10, 2019 and closes April 18th, 2019. Register before March 16th to have your name included in a drawing for prizes!

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If you haven’t signed up yet Click here to register for FREE or text RIGHTNOW CPFI to 41411. You must be a member of CPFI to sign up.

Notice of change in Membership dues

Last November the Board finalized a plan to change the membership dues for Associate
and Regular Professional members. The dues increase, from $100 per year to $120 per year went into effect at the beginning of 2019. (Student membership, Pharmacists 1st and 2nd year after graduation and International Pharmacist rates did not change). Sustaining and Supporting Membership remains at $500 and $250, respectively, while Contributing Membership increases to $150. If you are a member of the monthly 1% Group or the Power Hour Group, then the membership portion of your gift increases from $8.67 per month to $10 per month.

**Giving Opportunities**

1% Group Annual Gift (membership renewal may or may not be included)
1% Group Recurring Monthly Gift (includes membership renewal)
Power Hour Recurring Monthly Gift (includes membership renewal)
Gift (not recurring)

**GIVE NOW**

**Join or Renew Membership**

2018-2019 CPFI Leadership Team

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