Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship…” Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Webster’s dictionary defines the word “family” as “the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children.” It has been expanded to mean “any of various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family.” It may also include a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head. It also refers to “a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation.” Reading all these definitions elicits some emotional responses in each of us, depending on our situation. My family was very small; I was an only child raised from the age of seven by a single parent after the death of my father. My husband, on the other hand, was one of six children. Without question, our concepts of family were quite different, but it quickly became apparent that family meant acceptance and love all around.

The term family, as noted above, also applies to a group united by certain convictions. For us as Christians, we are united in Christ and are all a part of His family. We are part of the fellowship of believers in our Christian family. Following Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, this group “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer…they were together and had everything in common.” Acts 2:42, 44 (NIV) They were really a family! They “broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” Acts 2: 46-47 (NIV) Because we share our common faith, we each recognize that no matter how long our life on earth, we will be reunited in heaven with Christ and with our loved ones. We have the promise of eternity to look forward to!

Pharmacy is a family as well. We are united in a common professional affiliation, no matter what our practice setting. Our patients are a part of our “family” also, as we provide our knowledge and skills to their care, and often support them emotionally during times of health and personal crises. CPFI is a special pharmacy family. It offers support and encouragement to its members through the organization and especially through its annual conference. I would encourage each of you to make the commitment to get involved in this family and to attend the annual conference. This “family” provides a faith-centered atmosphere, faith-inspired continuing education, praise and worship and the opportunity to expand your Christian pharmacy family around the country and beyond. The fellowship at this conference is truly special and not to be missed. Bring your family along and experience a Holy Spirit-filled time with other pharmacists and pharmacy students. You will want to keep returning yearly for this “family reunion.”

Our CPFI pharmacy family is an excellent example of Christian love to one another. Friendships are formed and retained in this family and care for one another is evident. This past year, CPFI and pharmacy lost a young pharmacist from its ranks, Dr. Manasseh Heeralall. As a musician, Manasseh had contributed so much to the CPFI family at our annual conferences, as well as in his professional life the rest of the year. The outpouring of love and tribute by his pharmacy friends at the news of his death demonstrated the bonds that are formed within this organization. “Greater love has no man than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13 (NIV)
Christ said, “…go and make disciples…baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit…teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matt. 28: 19-20 (NIV) This great commission is our calling to spread the gospel. Within our pharmacy profession, each of us probably knows a colleague who is waiting to be called! Let’s make an effort in the coming months to extend that invitation, not only to join our fellowship of Christian believers but also to join our CPFI pharmacy family. Be blessed by being a blessing to others!

Susan Lutz, CPFI Immediate Past Secretary
Altoona, IA

**CPFI DR CONGO**

From CPFI Member Paul Kabanga Kapuya in DR Congo

Meeting ICSC Prayer and Planning-ICSC Great Lakes 2019 at the Headquarters of the Order of Pharmacists at Kimpwanza on February 10, 2019

(Paul right side next to CPFI banner)

**2019 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat**

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

Learn more about the program, speakers, and special events
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!

CPFI Prayer Breakfast
2019 American Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting & Exposition

REGISTER

Date: Sunday, March 24th
Time: 7:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Location: Washington State Convention Center, Rm. 401
Speaker: Dr. Daniel A. Hussar
Topic: ‘Priorities’
Ticket Required: $25.

Register for this event when you register for the conference. A small quantity of tickets will be available at the door.

rightnow MEDIA

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.

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)

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