In April 2019, just before Holy Week, my wife Susan and I were privileged to participate in a “pilgrimage” to Israel. We and the other 18 who traveled with us enjoyed nearly two weeks of visiting many sites where Jesus taught His disciples and ministered to His followers. It took us from Jaffa on the Mediterranean coast (Tel Aviv) through Caesarea Maritime to the Sea of Galilee on day one. We spent several days in northern Israel (Galilee area) visiting Nazareth, Megiddo, the Golan Heights, Magdala and the Mount of Beatitudes (Matthew Chapters 5-7) before heading south to the Jordan River site near where Jesus was likely baptized by John the Baptist (John 1:19-28). The next day was spent near the southern end of the Dead Sea followed by a visit to Masada, the flat top mountain fortress and palace built by Herod the Great, where from AD 70-73 the final stand was made by 960 Jews against the Roman conquest of the Holy Land. We also visited Qumran where the “Dead Sea Scrolls” were discovered in 1947. The Dead Sea Scrolls provided confirmation that the books of the Old Testament are accurate, demonstrating how God has preserved His word throughout the generations. Later we visited the “Shrine of the Book” in Jerusalem where these scrolls are preserved.

The rest of our trip was spent in Jerusalem where we visited numerous sites, including the Mount of Olives, the Old City of Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Western Wall (Wailing wall), Pool of Bethesda, the Palace of Pontius Pilot where Jesus was sentenced to death, and the Church of St. Peter of Gallicantu which means “rooster” in Latin and where Peter denied Jesus 3 times (Luke 22:54-62). We also visited the Temple Mount, David’s City, and two sites that are possibly the site of Jesus’ crucifixion (the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Gordon’s Calvary). On our final day we visited The Garden Tomb which might be where Jesus was buried (Matthew 27:57-60). We were blessed to be able to share communion while at the Garden Tomb location.
Our guide for all of this was Jennifer Sands, RPh and CPFI member, who has led multiple trips to the Holy Land. At every major site, she provided teaching and we all participated in her lessons by reading scripture. She was assisted by our Israeli native guide, Yehuda. This reminded us of the way in which Jesus carried out His ministry 2000 years ago in the land of Israel. He taught wherever there were a few or many gathered. To those of us on this trip, it was almost surreal as we were able to experience His presence at the very same places where He walked and talked. Because all of this occurred for us just before Holy Week our experiences during that week this year took on greater meaning. Every service including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday was experienced in a new and wonderful way. It certainly is not required that Christians visit the Holy Land, but it can be an experience that will deepen your faith and help create a closer relationship with Jesus!

Eugene M. Lutz, BS Pharm, FAPhA, CPFI Board Member
Altoona, IA
Save the Dates!
**CPFI 2020 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat**
Bonclarken Conference Center  
500 Pine Drive  
Flatrock, North Carolina 28731

Student Retreat: June 3 to 7, 2020  
Annual Conference: June 4 to 7, 2020

Theme: ‘Faith Can Move Mountains’ from Mark 11:23 and Matthew 17:20

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- **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)

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2019-2020 CPFI Leadership Team

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