

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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*May your unfailing love rest upon us, Oh Lord,
even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:22 (NIV)*

Prayer Wall

Living Out “Matthew 25 Care”

“Sympathy” and “Empathy” are two similar sounding words. While sympathy entails feeling badly for another individual’s situation or even having pity on them, empathy is formed from two Greek words: “Affection” and “Feeling.” These two words combine to give us the word “compassion.” Thus, empathy takes “feeling” much more personally. Empathy requires us to sincerely strive for a solid understanding of another’s situation and then to act accordingly.

As believers, God doesn’t allow us to simply be aware of another person’s problem – he expects us to prayerfully intervene, addressing their needs physically and tangibly (James 2:14-17 ESV) - and probably sacrificially.

Mother Teresa, a humble giant in modeling empathy, encapsulated this Matthew 25 principle so powerfully, pushing us to go beyond casually addressing needs that we happen to see. Her approach was much more intentional, searching for these needs, even adjusting where we spend our time so that perhaps, with God’s grace, we will have more opportunity to care for “the least of these.” She states:

I see Christ in every person I touch because He said, ‘I was hungry, I was thirsty, I was naked, I was sick, I was suffering, I was homeless and you took me in.’ It’s as simple as that. Every time I give a piece of bread, I give it to Him. That is why **we must** find a hungry one and a naked one. (If Disney Ran Your Hospital, Lee, F 2004, p. 139)

Like Mother Teresa, we must hold ourselves accountable for those individuals that God places in our path, recognizing that Matthew 25 *requires* us to meet whatever needs we can for our brothers and sisters, regarding each and every gift that we possess – our finances, homes, cars, tools, intellect, etc. - not just for our own personal enjoyment and comfort, but instead, for “the common good” of all believers as Paul notes in 1 Cor 12:7 (ESV).

Holding ourselves accountable in this regard means that we must model godly approaches: dispensing love and care to every patient, every neighbor, even every stranger. We must routinely ask whether those who we connect with are sincerely experiencing the love and care that is due “Christ’s brothers” and sisters (Matt 25:40 NIV). Sincere evaluation of this care requires a number of intentional steps:

Training ourselves to deliberately look for the “least of these”, daily asking God to open doors for us to pour into others, becoming intentionally and even *preferentially* drawn to those who are struggling, offering whatever support we can.

[Outreach Opportunities](#)

[Student Newsletter](#)

Taking personal responsibility for those in our protectorate, shepherding, teaching and shaping these people for as long as they are entrusted to our care for this season.

Avoiding excuses to seek easier, less bothersome individuals. Though it is completely natural in our society to celebrate those who find success easily, we must embrace Mother Teresa's challenge to find those who need our care the most.

Expecting that there will be "pain in the offering." Personal responsibility for the weakest in our society will almost always cost us dearly.

Forcing ourselves to reach for something much more important than comfort: maturity. Mission-minded Kingdom ambassadors must remind themselves of eternal impact; comfort cannot be our ultimate goal.

Jeffrey A. Bates, PharmD, BS Pharm, FMPA, CPFI Board Member
Yellow Springs, OH

-CANCELLED-
APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition
CPFI Prayer Breakfast

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
National Harbor, MD (minutes from Washington, DC)

Prayer Breakfast: March 22, 2020

Room: Annapolis 2

Time: 7:30 AM to 8:45 AM

Speaker: Jennifer Sands

Message: *"By God's Grace and for God's Glory:
a 9/11 Widow's Ongoing Journey"*

[Register and purchase tickets for this event](#)

CPFI in partnership with Bonclarken Conference Center are closely monitoring the Covid-19 concern and will follow protocol set by the CDC. We will continue to accept registrations for our event which is still over two months away, but be assured all registrations will be refunded should the need to cancel our event become apparent. Additionally, we have extended our early registration date to May 1st.

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

[Program Schedule at a glance](#)

[Student Program](#)

[Speakers & Worship Leaders](#)

[Students Present a Virtual Poster at the Annual Conference](#)

[Pharmacists Present a Virtual Poster at the Annual](#)

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Registration opens: January 10, 2020
Registration closes: May 18, 2020
Early Registration closes: May 1, 2020

[Conference](#)

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