

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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...All of the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:16 (NIV)

Prayer Wall

When bad things happen?

During this time of social distancing and isolation, no sports or entertainment events for large groups, many who have lost their jobs, gyms and many retail businesses closed AND NO TOILET PAPER. It is tempting to think that things could not get worse. Many are becoming depressed and turning to medications to remedy depression (in USA new anti-depression scripts are up 25% since March 1st). Pharmacists and student pharmacists are considered essential healthcare workers and most of us are still working at our profession, making sure our patients get their needed medications, but the restrictions placed on our practice to keep ourselves and our patients from getting infected are onerous which makes it difficult to be compassionate and interactive with our patients. We want to blame SOMEONE and sometimes that someone is God. As Christians we know that God is not the cause of the difficulties in life and does not cause bad things (like the Covid-19 pandemic) to happen to us. But we also know that He can use the difficulties to make good things happen and I believe that He is already doing that!

Let's go back to the time right after Jesus' death and resurrection when His followers were beginning to preach and tell the world about Him. One of the earliest examples of terrible persecution occurred when Stephen preached a great sermon to the Sanhedrin about Jesus (Acts 7:1-53), but was then stoned to death (and Saul approved of their killing Stephen). After this the church in Jerusalem was increasingly persecuted (Acts 8:1-4) and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. While the persecution was awful, God used it to help spread his word throughout Judea and Samaria AND eventually to the ends of the earth. He then used the awful persecution of Christians by Saul to "convert" Saul into the one (Paul) who began the process of taking the gospel to the rest of the world. Over the century's persecution has continued, as Jesus said it would AND God has continued to use the terrible things that happen to us to create good. So, what will God do with the scourge of Covid-19?

Obviously, we cannot begin knowing all the good that God will create out of this current mess. I do believe whatever it is will be significant. We are already seeing signs of good things happening! Churches have created online activities to provide worship and education and while it is not the same as meeting together, there are some good things happening. In some cases, churches have reported that more people are tuning in to their on-line services than usually attend in-person services. Members of churches are interacting by phone or the internet with those who need someone to connect with! Many people have stepped up to make and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) like gowns and face masks. Some are donating the monies received from the IRS to Christian charities to help the less fortunate. I also suspect that many more prayers are flowing – I know that I find myself praying more! I am seeing all kinds of examples of people caring for others more because of the difficulties everyone is experiencing. As Christian pharmacists we have a great opportunity to step up our sharing of what God is

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doing by demonstrating compassion and kindness to our patients who are suffering because of the current situation. Praise God for making good things happen out of the bad things we are experiencing.

Gene Lutz, R.Ph., CPFI Board Member
Altoona, Iowa



Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International

Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

CPFI On-line 2020 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

4.5 Hours of ACPE approved CE

Student Retreat: June 5, 2020, 8:00 AM ET to Noon
Annual Conference : June 5, 2020, Noon to 9:00 PM ET

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

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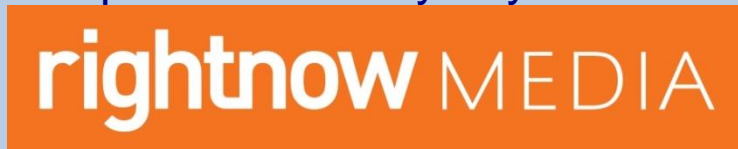
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-Registration closes at noon on Thursday, June 4, 2020-

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CHRISTIAN PHARMACISTS FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 1154, Bristol, TN 37621-1154

Email: office@cpfi.org • Toll free: 888-253-6885