Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power, and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Revelation 5:11-12 (NIV)

Getting Our Patients Through the Tabernacle Gate

As we enter a new year, it is natural to reflect on lessons learned from the past year and how they may be used to make a positive impact this year. Last year was quite the year for lessons, some new and some old that seemed to have a bright light shone upon them. One such lesson for me was just how critical it is for unbelievers not to delay their decision to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. This has always been true, but the Covid-19 pandemic has made it all too obvious. The other side of that coin is that it is also critical that we share the gospel message, both verbally and by our lifestyle.

The tabernacle of the Old Testament is a fascinating study. Its materials and construction symbolically point to Jesus and provide a blueprint for fellowship with God. Everything from the court fence and gate to the Holy of Holies tells a story. For our purposes, I would like to focus on the fence and gate. The court fence surrounded the tabernacle and its height was 5 cubits (7.5 feet). On the eastern side was a gate made of blue, purple, and scarlet materials. It was the only entrance into the tabernacle. Since the average Israelite height was about 5 feet, they could not see over the fence. Their sole way to God was to go through the gate He provided. The fence symbolizes the separation from and inaccessibility to God that all unbelievers experience (“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23 ESV). The colorful gate symbolizes Jesus as the one and only way to God (“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”) John 14:6 ESV). People cannot go to the Lord on their own terms, but only on God’s terms…through the gate. To enjoy fellowship with God (symbolized by the other parts of the tabernacle), it must be done on His terms.
As we attend to our patients in 2021, may I suggest we place an even greater emphasis on their spiritual health than ever before? As important as physical health is, it is temporary. Spiritual health has eternal consequences. The one and only treatment for the spiritual disease of the lost is Jesus. We can offer this treatment by sharing the gospel message and by living our lives as ambassadors of Christ for all to see. As your patients come to you, visualize them coming to the tabernacle trying to find the entry gate. This can be a reminder to you to share the truth about Jesus and lead them to the one and only way to God…through the tabernacle gate. If we make that our goal, 2021 will be a blessed new year. God bless you and CPFI as we serve Him this year.

Daniel C. Spadaro, PharmD, CPFI Treasurer
Little Rock, Arkansas

REGISTER NOW

2021 CPFI Online Annual Conference & National Student Retreat
Theme: Declaring God’s Glory Through Pharmacy from Psalm 19

National Student Retreat: June 4, 2021, 8:00 AM ET to Noon ET
Annual Conference: June 4, 2021 Noon ET to 9:00 PM ET (with dinner break) and June 5, 2021 7:45 am ET to 5:30 pm ET (with lunch break)

REGISTER NOW
12 Hours of ACPE Approved CE
$150. Pharmacist Member
$270. Pharmacist Non-Member (includes cost of membership)
$10. Student Member
$40. Student Non-Member (includes cost of membership)

Register before March 15th and be entered in a drawing for prizes!

CPFI’s Prayer Ministry
The CPFI Past Presidents Committee was asked to implement a prayer ministry on behalf of CPFI. In March, we started a weekly Prayer Meeting on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. ET, initially to pray about Covid-19 needs. In August, we began meeting monthly on the 1st Sunday of the month. We’ve been having around 12 participants. We want to give other members a chance to join us. If you would like an invitation, e-mail Nena Lindrose at Office@cpfi.org. She will send a reminder e-mail with instructions on how to join and some suggested prayer concerns during the week prior to the meeting. We
hope you will join us **February 7, 2021** for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary.

Fred Eckel, Past President

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You must be a member of CPFI to sign up.

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