

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”(Psalm 127:1 ESV)

In a recent small group meeting one of our members included this verse as part of his prayer and asked the Lord to help us remember this truth. That began my pondering. What would it mean for me to remember and apply this verse to my life? After all, at 83, I wasn't doing much building or was I? I meet weekly with several grandsons in a book study. Wasn't this helping them build their lives? I meet weekly with several different Bible study groups where we share our experiences and biblical insights. Yes, I am still building my life and theirs. These weekly activities are one help I use to make sure I finish strong.

Psalm 127 is in the middle of the 7 Psalms of Assent, like a lynch pin holding the pilgrims worship experience together as he moved up to the Temple. Imagine a group of Jewish pilgrims heading to Jerusalem for a festival and getting prepared for worship by singing together. As they reached Psalm 127 it finally dawned on them what they were really doing. Worshiping the one who has made my life meaningful. The One who loved me and promised to care for me. He is the only one worthy of my devotion.

As he left for home, might he ask himself, how am I going to make sure I build my house, life, or career on the Lord? Maybe he was reminded of Deuteronomy 6:4-5. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You should love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might (ESV).” If he took this verse to heart, he would realize that this required a daily commitment to getting to know God deeply. This doesn't happen by giving God a few minutes here and there, but requires a plan to spend meaningful time with Him daily. Rather than fitting a time when convenient, I need to make this the first thing I do each day, even if it means getting up earlier. After all, I don't want to build my life or career on the wrong foundation only to realize later in life my labor was in vain. Isn't this what Psalm 127:1 is saying?

As he thought if I make this effort to really spend time to get to know God is it worth it, maybe he was reminded of Jeremiah 29:11. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope (ESV)”. Would he realize that putting God first in my life and career makes the most sense because God promises me a life full of purpose and hope. Instead of trusting in myself to make good things happen for me, I can trust that God will do it for me. It may not be what I think is best; but because it's God's plan it will be the best possible plan, and my labor will not be in vain. Following Psalm 127:1 requires us to walk by faith, not by sight.. As you prepare to

worship God this Sunday, reflect on Psalm 127:1 and make plans to build the rest of your life and career on letting the Lord help you get it done.

Fred M. Eckel, Board Member
Chapel Hill, NC

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APhA 2023 Annual Meeting & Exposition CPFI Prayer Breakfast

"A Humble, Limping, Servant-Leader or Something Less"

Sunday, March 26, 2023

7:30 AM to 8:45 AM (GMT)

Cost \$25.

Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey A. Bates, Dean ([Bio](#))

Cedarville University School of Pharmacy

Tickets may be purchased when registering on the APhA website. A small quantity will be sold at the door.

Register: <https://aphameeting.pharmacist.com/>

Visit www.cpfi.org for updates on the prayer breakfast.



2023 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

91 N Lakeshore Dr., Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

National Student Retreat May 24 to 28

Annual Conference May 25 to 28

<https://lakejunaluska.com/>

Registration opens January 16, 2023

Early Registration Ends March 13, 2023

Registration Closes April 17, 2023

[Schedule-at-a-glance](#)

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CPFI Prayer Ministry Join us Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 5:00 PM ET!

The CPFI Past Presidents Committee was asked to implement a prayer ministry on behalf of CPFI. In March 2020, we started a weekly Prayer Meeting on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. ET, initially to pray about Covid-19 needs. **In 2023, we plan to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please join us at 5pm ET on February 19th.** 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 **Sunday, February 19, 2023**, for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary.
Fred Eckel, Board Member

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