

***“In this world, you will have trouble.”
John 16:33 (b) (NIV)***

Quiet, Faithful Perseverance

Most of us can easily relate to Jesus’ words in John 16:33. Some days, it seems that trouble jumps out from behind every corner. If you’re like me, you can find it difficult to “consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds” (James 1:2). It is only possible when we trust God’s plan and His promises.

God often provides encounters with saints who inspire us in this area. Though he doesn’t get much attention in scripture, Caleb is a great example of a person who joyfully displayed quiet perseverance and strength during an extended time of trial.

In Numbers 13, Caleb was one of the twelve spies sent to explore the Promised Land. You’ll recall that Caleb and Joshua both returned from this assignment with excitement, proclaiming, “Let us go up at once...” to take the promised land because they knew that God would give them this land (Num 14:8). The other ten spies also loved what they saw but were far too afraid because they were relying only on their own strength.

For their faithfulness and exuberance, both Caleb and Joshua were nearly stoned to death (Num 14:10). Moses intervened, and God sentenced their rebellious Israelite relatives to wander and die in the desert over the next forty years. Instead of moving into this Promised Land “that flowed with milk and honey” (Num 13:27), Caleb and Joshua were destined to spend the next forty years watching as every soul older than 20 died.

When we fast forward to the book of Joshua, God prompts the next generation of Israelites to begin taking the land they could have had four decades earlier. In Joshua 14, Caleb is now 85 years old. He approaches their new leader, Joshua, the same teammate he had during the original exploration, and Caleb reminds him of what God had promised forty years before.

“So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me (and you) out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as He said.” (Joshua 14:10-12)

It’s important not to forget these Anakites were the same giants that made Caleb and the other eleven spies feel “like grasshoppers” (Num 13:33). An 85-year-old, battle-hardened man *pleaded* with Joshua to give him the biggest, nastiest, hardest-to-reach problems in the whole land.

But... it seems important to listen to what is not said: Does scripture record any complaints from Caleb over the prior 40 years? Did Caleb’s character change during this very long time of trial? Did Caleb dismiss God’s plan as faulty? No. No. and No. He submitted to God’s plan, remaining faithful, serving Moses and Joshua as well as the Lord that he loved so much.

I have so much to learn from the way Caleb handled this 40-year trial. His quiet, joyful perseverance and strength were clearly on display. He *knew* that God would fulfill His promises (Joshua 23:14), even if it took half a lifetime to do so.

Who is someone who inspires you to fully trust in God’s promises? Perhaps there is a Bible character or even a modern-day saint who encourages you to trust God. Whatever your inspiration, my hope is that we all will be found to be “good and faithful servants” (Matt 25:23), quietly and faithfully persevering to the end, sincerely trusting that God *will* fulfill every single promise He has

made.

Jeffrey A. Bates, PharmD, CPFI Secretary
Xenia, Ohio

The Following Global Health Outreach (GHO) trips need pharmacists. For more information visit <https://cmda.org/global-health-outreach/gho-find-a-trip/>

Nicaragua - April 5-13, 2025

Ecuador - May 31-June 8, 2025

Nicaragua - June 14-22, 2025

Dominican Republic - June 14-22, 2025

CPFI Prayer Breakfast at the APhA 2025 Annual Meeting & Exposition Nashville, Tennessee

Title: *Habits of the Heart: Cultivating Grace and Guarding Against Sin*

Sunday, March 23, 2025

7:45 am to 8:30 AM

Location: Music City Center - RM 209A

Sign up with APhA when you register for the conference!

Speaker: Andrew Straw, PharmD, BCADM

Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Vice Chair, Cedarville University

As Christian pharmacists, our habits and attitudes toward patients reflect the state of our hearts and shape how we show Christ's love. The Gospel empowers us to see every patient as a person made in God's image, extending grace and empathy even in challenging situations.

<https://aphameeting.pharmacist.com/General-Info>

**Connect with us on social media!
(links below)**



CPFI 2025 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

**Epworth-by-the-Sea
100 Arthur J. Moore Drive
St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

Schedule at a glance

National Student Retreat: May 28 to June 1, 2025

Annual Conference: May 29 to June 1, 2025

[Pharmacists Register Now](#)

[Students Register Now](#)

**A wonderful member donor will cover the cost of your registration, room and meals this year.
This gift is available to pharmacist members, their spouse and children, and student members and will be
available until our room block is filled. Space is limited so register early!
Travel expenses and incidentals are not included.**



Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)



Samaritan's Purse is seeking to hire clinical pharmacists to serve with the **DART**, a roster of on-call staff members who respond at a moment's notice to disasters worldwide – serving as the hands and feet of Jesus in remote locations.

Access Archives for CPFI Publications



The Faith Script

Christianity & Pharmacy

You can take a look at our recent work in this [video](#), and can find more information and links to apply on our website.

National Student Council Newsletter

Samaritan's Purse - Learn More & Apply

Join us for prayer!
Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 5:00 pm ET



Agenda

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. **We are meeting monthly now on the third Sunday.** 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, March 16, 2025** for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary.
Fred Eckel, Director Emeritus

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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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