



CPFI Mission Committee Report June 02, 2022

Committee members: Christine Birnie, Anne Clay, Jeff Copeland, Marjorie Hayes, Ron Herman, Barbara Hoagland, Paul Kabanga Kapuya, Andrea Mezentsef, Gary Smith, Bob Watt, and Keith Allhands (chair)

Short term mission projects:

GHO trip activity started to pick up last Fall with fourteen trips completed. Three had to be canceled or delayed until 2022 due to COVID travel restrictions. Four trips had two or more pharmacists/students, five had one pharmacist, and five trips went without a pharmacy team member. Through the first five months of 2022 nine trips have been completed and four had to be canceled. Four trips had two or more pharmacists, two had one, and three went without a pharmacist. On the nine trips that have finished, there were a total of 182 team members. Through the remainder of this year, seventeen trips are upcoming. Two have been canceled due to political reasons and all of those individuals signed up to go and have transitioned into one of the other seventeen teams. So far, six of those teams have two or more pharmacists/students scheduled, four trips have one pharmacist signed up, and five are still without a pharmacist. (Two of the trips are surgical trips that do not require a pharmacist.) We have also seen student activity pick up as well. Last Fall there was one student that went on a trip, and to date this year no students have gone, but there are eleven signed up for the upcoming fifteen trips that need pharmacy staff. Those upcoming trips have 297 GHO team members signed up; indeed, activity is starting to increase.

The journal, newsletter, and webpage continue to promote future GHO opportunities. The Mission Committee continues to offer scholarships for pharmacists and students who desire to participate in short-term outreach projects. While we made these funds known to those gathered during our National Student Retreat virtual meeting this past June and have promoted this opportunity while meeting with students at Campbell University, University of Maryland, and Touro University, we have not had any applicants to date this year for our scholarships.

Outreach resources:

The pharmacist's handbook manual for short-term medical missions, the *Best Practices* paper, prescription labels for copying, and a sample formulary, are all available on the CPFI website.

Some people after reading our website page that lists our beliefs might want to know more about how they can have a relationship with God. As a result, there is a link to a page that helps seekers

have their questions answered, and then tries to help them come to Christ (www.everystudent.com).

Support for our African Outreach:

Bob Watt reports: There seems to have been little forward progress in pharmacy for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and for the country as a whole perhaps the progress is even backwards! This has been particularly frustrating for Bob's colleague of more than 35 years, Paul Kabanga Kapuya. CPFI-DRC is going ahead as well as can be expected. Paul was preparing to lead a delegation of more than thirty Christian pharmacists to the 2022 Annual Meeting, but they were blocked by the chaos of trying to obtain travel visas and Covid travel restrictions! Hopefully some other contacts of Paul's, made in his capacity of "CPFI Ambassador at Large", will be able to attend. The pharmacy projects that Paul has been helping to promote for the public health of the DRC are equally in limbo because of the ongoing corruption at all levels of the government and turmoil caused by years of rebel activities in the northeastern part of the DRC where many of the pharmacy projects are planned to be implemented to help the needy people. A year ago in May 2021, martial law was declared in that part of the DRC for thirty days, for the army to clean up the rebel mess, but now one year later, conditions are even worse!

Paul Kabanga Kapuya adds: "Greetings in Christ's name. It should be added that the 30 years of CPFI DRC will be, God permitting, celebrated in Lubumbashi to allow the passing of the torch to Brother Lebon. It is this year, 2022. It will be my last stand with hope and prayer that the Congolese pharmacy will necessarily carry the evangelical mark thanks to our small contribution.

Our prayer, which is answered already by faith, is Psalm 71:18 [*Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.* (NIV)]

We can't be discouraged, otherwise it will be a disaster!"

Paul and Bob are both fighting the dual challenges of age and decreasing physical strength and health. Bob has been "retired" now for 18 months and will no longer make trips to the DRC as he did in the past. Paul would like to retire for health reasons and was planning to introduce his replacement at the Annual Meeting! Time is ticking, the needs are even greater than before, and we continue to do what we can to support the Lord's work through pharmacy and the local churches until He comes for us! Much prayer is needed by our brothers and sisters in CPFI for all these matters.

Equipping pharmacists for outreach:

How often do you prescribe specific and appropriate doses of grace that may bring your patients a step closer to a right relationship with God? Many of us in healthcare struggle with guilt and inadequacy in this area. But there is hope.

Grace Prescriptions is designed to teach you to share your faith with patients in ways that safeguard the important ethical principles of respect, sensitivity, and permission. Originally taught in the popular *Saline Solution* course, these concepts are proven to be effective as thousands of lives have been transformed. *Grace Prescriptions* builds on this legacy. It is taught by co-authors Walt Larimore, MD, and William C. Peel, ThM. The program comes as an eight-DVD (fourteen-Modules) with an instructor's manual and participant's manuals for small group presentations. Further information may be obtained from the CPFI or CMDA websites. If anyone has interest and would like help with a plan to keep the issue of personal outreach before each of us, please let myself or someone on the Mission Committee know.

Respectfully submitted, *Keith Allhands*, chair