

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ...Love your neighbor as yourself.
Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)***

“When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans and lentils, honey and curds and sheep and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat, for they said, ‘The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.’” 2 Samuel 17:27–29 (ESV)

Over the past year, my church community group has been studying 2 Samuel. Though I had read the book before during “read-the-Bible-in-a-year” plans, this time I slowed down. Familiar names and events like Joab, Absalom, and Bathsheba gave way to quieter, easily overlooked passages—like the one above—that reveal something profound about the heart of God.

David runs from his own son Absalom, who has betrayed him. He and his followers feel exhausted and vulnerable in the wilderness. Then, unexpectedly, three men arrive—Shobi, a Gentile from a pagan nation; Machir, once loyal to Saul; and Barzillai, an elderly man of eighty. They bring comfort and provision: food, rest, and encouragement.

Why did they come? Scripture gives a glimpse: they had experienced David’s *hesed*—his lovingkindness, loyalty, and mercy—earlier in the story (2 Samuel 9–10). But now, in David’s darkest moment, they respond with *hesed* of their own.

But behind David’s kindness stands a greater reality: **God initiates *hesed***. He loves first. He shows mercy to enemies. While we were still sinners—indeed, while we were still His enemies—God demonstrated His *hesed* through the ultimate King, Jesus Christ. David’s kindness casts a faint shadow of the loyal, sacrificial love Jesus has shown to us at the cross.

These seemingly minor verses—just a list of people and supplies—quietly testify to a divine pattern: love begets love. When we receive mercy, we extend mercy. When God’s covenant love touches our lives, it does not leave us unchanged.

Reflection:

How has God’s *hesed* changed you?

Does it still move you to love Him with your whole heart, and to love your neighbor as yourself?

May we pause today not just to admire acts of kindness in Scripture, but to remember the origin of all true *hesed*, God Himself, who pursued us in the wilderness of our sin, now calls us to walk in His love.

Rick Hess, PharmD, Board Member
Johnson City, TN

Join CPFI for a Complimentary Prayer Breakfast

ACCP Annual Conference

Sunday October 19, 2025 at 6:30 am ET

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis - Lake of the Isles (4th Floor)

Speaker: Dr. Rick Hess, PharmD, Professor - Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, East Tennessee State University



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National Student Retreat: June 3 to June 7, 2026

Annual Conference: June 4 to June 7, 2026

Registration opens January 5, 2026

Lake Junaluska Conference Center

91 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

The cost of your room, meals, and registration will be paid by a generous member donor. Travel and other expenses are not included. Space is limited so register early!

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National Student Council Newsletter



**Join us for prayer!
Sunday, September 21, 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 except when the meeting date falls on a holiday.** 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, September 21, 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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