
Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

I am blessed to participate in a weekly men's Bible study focused on the Gospel of John. Last week, while discussing John 9, the topic of trust arose. Throughout these nine chapters, Jesus encounters religious leaders multiple times. Accounts of His ministry spread rapidly. Thus far, the leaders have seen or heard significant events: John the Baptist baptize Jesus with the Father's approval (John 1), Jesus turn water into wine (John 2), talking personally with the Samaritan woman at the well discussing key parts of her life (John 4), healing the Royal Official's son (John 4), healing a paralytic man at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5), feeding 5,000 men (John 6), walking on water (John 6), and healing a blind man (John 9). I paused in disbelief questioning what issues troubled the religious leaders; what more do they need to see and hear, and how many times must they experience this? Almost as soon as I typed these questions, I found myself shifting from "they" to "I" in each instance.

I became a Christian as a young boy about half a century ago (yes, back in the 1900s or last millennium). Over those 18,250+ days, I have seen, heard, and read about the Lord doing many remarkable things. Two passages come to mind as I evaluate my faith journey: John 15:5 and Hebrews 10:24-25. The first passage, John 15:5 ("I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me – and I in him – bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing."), speaks of my personal responsibility in spiritual growth. The second passage, Hebrews 10:24-25 ("And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near."), emphasizes of our corporate responsibility for spiritual growth. We are on a faith journey. I encourage everyone to evaluate their journey and make any necessary personal and corporate course corrections.

Dr. Jeffrey T. Copeland, Executive Director
San Antonio, TX

The Follow Me Series

Throughout its history, faithful men and women have shaped CPFI not only through programs and initiatives but by quietly and consistently pointing others to Christ. Some have served in visible leadership roles, while others have led more quietly—through mentorship, prayer, encouragement, and a steadfast commitment to living out their faith in the practice of pharmacy.

This new series will be one that occurs in The Faith Script several times per year and will honor those individuals and allow us to learn from their example. Like the Apostle Paul's exhortation in 1 Corinthians 11:1—"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ"—these leaders exemplify what it means to pursue Christ with integrity and purpose in both life and vocation.

Many of them have worked behind the scenes, not seeking recognition, but striving to “walk in a manner worthy of the gospel.” Their lives have reflected a quiet faithfulness, allowing their light to shine for the sake of testifying to the goodness and glory of Christ.

As we share their stories, we pray that they will encourage and challenge each of us to lead with humility, serve with joy, and follow Christ more closely in every aspect of our lives and work.

*~Introducing Fred M. Eckel, BS, MS, SCD (Hon),
CPFI Director Emeritus~*

Dr. Fred Eckel’s influence on Christian pharmacy extends far beyond titles, awards, or professional accomplishments. For decades, Fred faithfully shaped the vision and spiritual foundation of the Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International (CPFI), leaving a lasting impact on pharmacists, students, educators, and ministry leaders across the nation. Those who know him best consistently describe him not first as an accomplished pharmacist, but as a humble servant of Christ whose life reflects wisdom, integrity, compassion, and unwavering faithfulness.

Fred played an instrumental role in helping establish and grow CPFI beginning in the mid-1980s alongside Dr. Warren Weaver. Through his leadership as Executive Director and later President, Fred helped transform CPFI into a thriving fellowship devoted to integrating faith and pharmacy practice. In recognition of his extraordinary service, he became the second recipient of the Dr. Warren E. Weaver Service Award in 1991. In 2017, CPFI further honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing decades of faithful leadership, mentorship, and ministry.

Professionally, Fred served as Professor of Pharmacy at Eshelman School of Pharmacy at Chapel Hill (NC), was intimately involved in the groundbreaking *Ashville Project*, and earned national respect through his work as Editor-in-Chief of Pharmacy Times and Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists. Yet despite his stature within pharmacy, colleagues consistently recall his humility and accessibility. Nena Lindrose once shared that a pharmacy dean overheard her casually speaking with Fred on the phone and exclaimed, “Fred Eckel is an icon in pharmacy.” Her response captured Fred perfectly: “He’s just Fred to me.”

Throughout the years, Fred became known as a servant leader whose wisdom was always grounded in Scripture and whose decisions reflected spiritual maturity. During difficult organizational discussions and moments of uncertainty, he listened carefully, treated others graciously, and offered thoughtful counsel that brought clarity and unity. Tom Robertson reflected that Fred possessed a remarkable ability to “cut to the heart of the matter” while remaining humble and respectful toward others.

Fred’s influence also deeply shaped students and young pharmacists. Many shared how CPFI became a source of spiritual encouragement and fellowship because of Fred’s faithful leadership. Dan Spadaro recalled how Fred’s invitation to become a state membership coordinator eventually led to the establishment of a thriving student CPFI chapter at the University of Arkansas that continues more than twenty-five years later. Tristram Ford described discovering CPFI during pharmacy school and realizing it provided opportunities to share the gospel while growing personally in Christ.

Perhaps the greatest testimony to Fred’s life is the consistent way others describe his Christlike humility and faithful witness. Greg Carlson remembered Fred’s passion for integrating Christian faith into pharmacy practice and his deep love for the Savior. Jeff Copeland described him as a living example of the faithful

servant found in Scripture, while many others reflected on how Fred consistently pointed people not toward himself, but toward Jesus Christ.

Dr. Fred Eckel’s legacy continues to inspire pharmacists across generations to courageously integrate faith into professional practice. Through his leadership, mentorship, and Christ-centered example, he strengthened CPFI and encouraged believers throughout pharmacy to pursue both excellence in their profession and faithfulness to the gospel. His life remains a powerful testimony to servant leadership marked by humility, wisdom, and enduring devotion to Christ.

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Join us for prayer!



Sunday, June 21, 2026 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, June 21, 2026** 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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