

What President Trump must do: By Dr. Glenn Mollette

President Trump and Congress must end the pharmaceutical robbing of America. Every day Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, Roche, Novartis, Merck, Sanofi and others are driving America’s indebtedness toward another trillion dollars in drug money debt.

Americans obviously need drugs. I’m talking about the legal kind. These are the medicines, pills, injections, drips and liquids dispensed to you at your local drug store such as CVS, Walgreens, Walmart and your small town independent pharmacist. Of course there are the mega number of drugs that you may receive if admitted to the hospital. Those are never reasonable.

President George W. Bush trying everything under the sun to be re-elected in 2003 set up a deal with Congress to enact Medicare part D that covers the cost of prescriptions - Medicare Modernization Act. The federal government was barred from negotiating cheaper prices for such medicines. Why would the government actually pass a law saying that you can’t negotiate drug prices? Simple answer - The drug company lobbyists have funneled about 2 billion dollars into the nation’s capital since the beginning of 2003. In just 2015 and 2016 alone drug companies spent the equivalent of over \$500,000 per member of congress. Congressmen and Congresswomen care most

about being re-elected.

A paper released by Harvard Medical School researchers cited the size of Medicare part D program and its lack of government negotiating clout as among the reasons why Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. A co-author of that paper, Ameet Sarpatwari, estimates that Part D accounts for nearly 30 percent of the nation’s spending on prescription drugs.

Unbelievable as well, Part D pays far more for drugs than do Medicaid or the Veterans Health Administration. Both of these mandate government measures to hold down prices. Reports cite Medicare Part D pays between 70 - 80 percent more than Medicaid and VHA. Why has this continued? Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, who recently retired, received over \$1,303.157 between 2003 and 2016 to his election committee and leadership PAC. Sen. Orin Hatch of Utah has received over \$1,182.560. Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, \$995,350. Rep. James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, \$834,508 and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. of New Jersey \$731,078. This is only a few of them who have rolled in the drug cash.

Sixty-five year old Americans and up can elect to have D which is a no brainer if you need prescriptions which most senior Americans need. The average cost of Medi-

care D prescription drug coverage in 2016 was \$41.46 per month. To senior adults on fixed incomes any additional expense is an expense. However, the cost of Medicare D is cheap in comparison to what a trip to the drug store can cost. A hospital stay requiring an expensive treatment can push a medical bill up by thousands. In this day and time it only takes a couple of nights in the hospital to rack up a \$25,000 hospital bill or much more.

Here is the problem, Medicare D allows the Pharmaceutical companies to submit whatever bill they want to Medicare and Medicare is obligated to pay for it. Anything. Any cost. There is no Board of Supervisors negotiating the cost of the medicine that Medicare pays for. Do you think your \$41.46 per month (your cost is probably more now) is actually covering the cost of all of your prescriptions? No it is not, the American taxpayers are being stuck with the bill. Billions and billions of more debt is being heaped on the American people to cover the real cost of Medicare part D. From 2003 to 2012 part D added \$318 billion dollars to the national debt. A report in the 2013 Medicare Trustees reports projects Medicare Part D will add \$852 billion to our debt over the next ten years pushing it over one trillion dollars.

Conservatives Senator Orin Hatch of Utah, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Rick

Santorum of Pennsylvania all voted for this. John Boehner of Ohio, Eric Cantor of Virginia and Paul Ryan of Wisconsin voted for Medicare Part D or the Medicare Modernization Act.

While most Americans on Part D greatly appreciate that our government is eating most of the bill. Americans will be asked to pay more eventually. Our leadership (?) has to fix the problem. Sadly our leadership is being bought so don’t expect them to fix it as long as the cash is pouring into their pockets.

President George W. Bush did achieve his goal through the Medical Modernization Act. According to exit polls he increased his share of the over 65 vote to 52 percent in 2004.

President Trump has a lot to do, but he must lead the way to change how we are doing business with the drug companies and Medicare D.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 12 books. His syndicated column is read in all 50 states. READ HIS NEW BOOK “UNCOMMON SENSE.”

Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at www.glenmmollette.com Like his facebook page at www.facebook.com/glenmmollette.

Church News

Community Bible Church

A thousand acts of kindness

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NKJV) 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

I have been thinking lately of all the acts of kindness I have seen or experienced over the past couple of months. Responses from busy maybe even overwhelmed people who gave a little extra and blessed my heart in the process.

I remember a person working the checkout line at a store in Grants Pass. There was a line of people waiting to check out, yet this individual shared with my wife and me some of their Christmas plans and the excitement in anticipation of having family over.

I stopped at a local restaurant and ordered pancakes. One of the pancakes was overcooked, and the server asked if I would like another. I said no, but she showed up in a couple of minutes with a new pancake. I was so encouraged

by her act of kindness.

At another restaurant, a young man who used to be in our school came up and gave my wife and me a hug and asked how we were doing – again I was very blessed.

The *I.V. News* letting me put an article in the paper has been a blessing and a kindness. I probably could go on about the friendliness and kindnesses I have witnessed and experienced for months of my articles and still have more to tell.

Sometimes a person’s single act of kindness changes the course of a whole day or more! Thank you to all of you who put aside personal struggles and even indifference to show kindness, concern or any other positive action. You may not hear from those you have blessed, but I want you to know that you are doing a good thing.

May God bless you all in this coming year, and may you be a blessing to others. See you Sunday.

**In Christ,
Pastor Dave**

Ministry at CBC

Wednesday, Jan. 17
A.W.A.N.A.
6:15-8 p.m.
Preschool to Grade 6

Sunday, Jan. 21
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Praise and Prayer 6 p.m.

Community Christian Academy
Preschool – 12th grade

Free Senior Exercise Class
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
9-10 a.m.
Dining Room

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Gospel is made for cynics

John 1:43-51 could be titled: “Philip the Enthusiast Meets Nathanael the Cynic.” The passage starts off with Christ’s calling Philip to follow him. Now, we don’t know much about this call. John only tells us that Philip responded in faith and followed. But then look at what Philip did next. He found his friend Nathanael and told him, “We’ve found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth.”

Although the gospel is pretty sparse on details, I think we can infer a few things: 1) Philip knew Nathanael well enough to know about his interest in the coming of the Messiah; 2) Philip was enthusiastic about sharing his encounter with Christ. That’s how the gospel spreads – one person recommending it to another: face to face, person to person, in the context of a relationship.

Nathanael, however, comes back with a

cynical reply, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Many people make this out to be a reflection on Nazareth; that Nazareth had the reputation of being full of fools. That may be the case, but I believe that there was more going on here than that. I believe Nathanael had become a cynic.

But Nathanael’s caustic response couldn’t dampen Philip’s enthusiasm. Instead, he invites Nathanael to come and see for himself. Now we don’t know exactly what Nathanael expected. He was probably expecting a sales pitch. Something like: “This is why you should follow me. I’ll tell you what I can do for you, and then there are my qualifications: Four out of five experts agree that I am the Messiah.” But Nathanael didn’t get pitched. Instead, Jesus greets Nathanael by speaking directly to what was most on his heart.

Jesus immediately broke through the cynicism to reach the yearning that Nathana-

el felt most. And Nathanael responded with simple faith and joy. He told Jesus, “You are the Son of God, the King of Israel.” His quick switch from cynicism to faith shows the depths to which Christ had touched him. Jesus gets past our walls and defenses to touch us where we most need it.

Jesus spoke to Nathanael’s inner yearning in a way that only he could, and Nathanael responded. But that’s not unique. Although we live in a cynical world, the power of Jesus Christ can break through the hardened hearts of even the most cynical among us. Our neighbors, our friends, or the stranger behind us in line at the grocery store; anyone may be the next Nathanael. But we’ll never know unless we offer them the chance to know Jesus Christ. This is our chance to change their world by sharing the Good News, because the Gospel is made for cynics.



Places of Worship

BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
5181 Holland Loop Rd., CJ
541-592-3923
“Come Join the Worship!”
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Sonny Moore
www.bridgeviewcch.org

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
Pastor Dave Gordon
113 S. Caves Ave., CJ
Office: 541-592-3896
Email: cbccca@gmail.com
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Christian Academy
Pre-K to 12th grade
Awana - Wednesdays - 6 p.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
East River Street
& Lewis Court, CJ
Annemarie Richardson
Lay Pastor.
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.
Church Phone: 541-592-2290
www.goodshepherdlutheraniv.net

7th DAY ADVENTIST
265 S. Old Stage Rd., CJ
Sabbath School - 10:15 a.m.
Saturday Worship 9 a.m.
Bible Study 11:15
Pastor Charles Byrd
Church (541) 592-3218
Madrone Adventist School
541-592-3330

ST. PATRICK OF THE FOREST CATHOLIC CHURCH
407 W. River St., CJ
541-592-3658
Fr. William Holtzinger, Pastor
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m..
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Holy Days TBA

VALLEY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
498 Laurel Road, CJ
P.O. Box 1248
Pastor Marvin Porter
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
evfree@frontiernet.net
541-592-6160

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Watkins St., CJ
Phone 541-592-3876
Pastor Charles Chase
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 9:15 a.m.
Child-care for small children

TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH
10343 Takilma Road, Takilma
Pastor Dan Robinson
Bible Study / Prayer Time
9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m
Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
451 S. Junction Ave., CJ
541-592-3956
Pastor Mark McLean
Morning Worship
9:30 & 11 a.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study

Illinois Valley Praise Center
28569 Redwood Hwy. CJ
Non-denominational
Bible-believing Church
Sunday school - 9:30 a.m..
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Thursday Seekers 7 p.m.
Youth group Thursday - 7 p.m.
www.ivpraisecenter.com

First Baptist Church of Selma
18285 Redwood Hwy., Selma
541-597-4169
Pastor Monty Pope
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship - 11 a.m.

ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
25904 Redwood Hwy., CJ
541-592-2006
Rev. Bryant Bechtold
Sunday Worship
Service 10:30 a.m.

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