

August 15, 2009

Dear Friends,

Hope this finds you well and enjoying a nice summer. In Ohio we have been blessed with many days of low humidity and not so hot temps. However, things are beginning to 'heat up' in NCF Continuing Education Ministry so I want to give you a quick update and share how the Lord has been working.

SUMMIT 09

Your prayers for the NCF Summit 09 in Dallas, June 25-28 were answered. Those who attended expressed their delight with the opportunity to worship together in unity, begin and continue relationships with fellow nurse believers from all over the US, and to be challenged to continue in the mission of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to nursing education and practice. Some Summit 09 details: 103 attendees included 14 students, 24 nurse educators, and many staff nurses; 10 continuing education credits were available in 6 plenary sessions and 7 electives; each morning participants met in 12 small groups to discuss Bible passages that related to the theme of "Nursing as Ministry: Caring in Context." I have not completed compiling the evaluations yet, but the response was overwhelmingly positive to the individual sessions, small groups, setting, food, and flow of the schedule. When asked to share how they will implement what they learned during the conference, some wrote:

- *"I hope to improve my communication and spiritual care skills. I will also improve my self-care to reduce compassion-fatigue."*
- *"I want to be more conscious of implementing value-based nursing."*
- *"I want to remember that God truly has called me to this profession, It is easy to forget that it isn't about me, but about what God is doing in peoples lives."*



- *"By God's grace I am going to let Him do His work through me! He has given me new perspective on my current workplace and I want to serve with love."*
- *"I am going to write out my philosophy of nursing based on God's Word and then carry that out... trusting God to take care of what I can't control (staffing, change, the economy, surprises, etc)."*
- *"This conference has put me back at His feet, allowing me to both pour out my heart to Him to express my insecurities/frustrations and to be blessed."*

- *"I feel enlightened and refreshed to go back into the glorious challenge of nursing. Thank you for affirming my journey to bring my faith into what I do every day. I will renew my habits of seeking to know Jesus more intentionally."*
- *"I want to be more disciplined in spending time with God. I will seek to know Him more as He seeks to reveal Himself more to me. I want to have and to exercise faith for the next step in my career."*



Nurses (above) and students who participated in Summit 09

God is so good, and the planning committee for Summit 09 is grateful that the purpose and objectives of the conference have been met as revealed by these responses. Please pray with us for wisdom about where to go from here regarding future national and regional conferences.

CE MINISTRY

We are currently working on four CE conferences for this Fall '09 and four for Spring '10. Please pray for the organizers and especially for those who will attend that they will be equipped and challenged to see their nursing practice as ministry: (for more info on these events go to www.ncf-jcn.org/conferences/main.php).

Denver, CO	September 12	"Stem Cells 101: What Every Christian Nurse Must Know"
Cleveland, OH	October 3	"Comfort Care from the Christian Perspective: Helping Those in Spiritual Distress"
Obelisk, PA	October 10	"Caring Across Cultures: Making a Difference in the World"
Detroit, MI	October 17	"If Not YOU, Who?? Extraordinary Nursing for Extraordinary Times"

Please pray that our constituents in these areas will receive their brochures and emails advertising these conferences at just the right time for them to respond and plan to attend. These are great topics and each one is being actively planned by the local NCF committees in response to the needs that have been expressed by nurses in their areas. My role is to encourage them, to give input on speakers and content, make sure that the ANCC/WNA criteria for CE are being met, develop brochures, and provide evaluations and certificates, as well as work with the national office staff to post information on the website, send email announcements, and print / mail the brochures. Pray for the local committees who gather together to plan these events as outreach to the nurses in their area will be encouraged, blessed, in their own faith as they serve the Lord in this way. Pray that I will adequately manage all of these details for several conferences at once and provide the service that is needed by the planners. Pray that weather, the economy, or other distracters will not prevent attendance, and that attendees will experience the love and care of the Lord through interactions with the presenter and local NCF folks. Most of all pray that the name of God will be glorified in all aspects of the planning and implementation of these conferences.



Our whole family gathered at the end of July!

As reflected in the comments of nurses attending Summit 09, growing deeper in relationship with Jesus Christ is the essential factor to empower us to nurse (develop CE, teach, engineer, do hair, etc.) in a way that will bless / encourage others and fulfill the mission He has given us. As scripture notes, "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach the statues and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10) Please pray that I will continue to put down deep roots as I read and meditate on His Word and spend time in solitude with Him so that my life and my ministry brings glory to the Lord and blesses those I work with in the name and power of our Savior.

Thank you for blessing this ministry with your gifts and your prayers. You are a vital part of this ministry team. The Lord has provided through you to make up much of my deficit from last year. I am praying that you will be blessed by knowing that through this ministry you are making an impact on the hearts of nurses who are, in turn touching the lives of those encountering the challenges of health crises.

Many blessings,

Fran

Fran McHolm - 1105 Linwood Ave SW, North Canton, OH 44720 - 330-966-4773 - mcholm.ncfce@yahoo.com

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