

September 2009

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NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
A MINISTRY OF INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

# Greetings from Grace

## God Sightings



*"Dear Grace*

*My Name is Irene Cheruto Akena, former Matron of Kuluva Hospital. I was searching something in the Internet and I came across your news letter of June. I was very excited to see your picture and read your letter. I left Kuluva many years ago and many things have happened since then. I am now working with the Ministry of Health as Midwifery adviser, a newly created position between UNFPA and International confederation of Midwives and Ministries of Health.*

*I met Kim recently and she suggested to me that we can start a christian nurses association in Uganda . I am interested in it but I have no idea how to start. May be we can get some guidance from you. Do you have any projects abroad? Will keep in touch.*

*Irene"*

I received the above e-mail on July 16. I couldn't believe my eyes. This was truly a God sighting. For years, I have been praying about helping nurses in Uganda to first commit their lives to Jesus and then to use the gratitude for their salvation as motivation for their nursing practice. This was the vision that Connie Jarlsberg and I shared as we talked about nursing when we met in Uganda. Now here was a message from Irene saying that God had also placed this on her heart and the heart of Sister Kim, a Korean American missionary nurse with whom we both had worked at Kuluva Hospital in the West Nile many years ago.

Let me tell you about Irene and Sister Kim. Irene is a nurse from the Mount Elgon region of Uganda which is far eastern part of the country. She attended the Deliverance Church in Kampala when attending nursing school and felt that God had called her to be a missionary nurse. She met Dr. David Morton, the medical director of Kuluva Hospital in the West Nile, the far northwestern part of the country. Irene is from the Sabei tribe; Kuluva ministered to the Lugbara and Madi people. David was able to convince her to serve for several years as the head matron of Kuluva Hospital. She was truly a missionary nurse in every sense of the word.



**Irene and Grace 1987**

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## Fall Schedule

September 17—19, 2009 Best Practices meeting and West Coast Healthcare Missions and Ministry Conference, Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, CA. Leading discussion and presenting two workshops.

September 20—October 2, 2009 Vacation in Hawaii

November 5—7, 2009 Christian Community Health Fellowship board meeting , Wheaton, IL

November 11—15, 2009 Global Missions Health Conference, Global Health Outreach Advisory Committee meeting, Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY. Presenting a workshop.

December 4—5, 2009 Medical Education Advisory Committee meeting, Deerfield, IL

December 27—31, 2009 Urbana 09 Student Missions Convention, St. Louis, MO. Coordinating the Healthcare major.

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Sister Chung Youn Kim is a World Concern missionary nurse who began a nursing school at Kuluva Hospital. A woman of prayer and deep faith, she was able to accomplish the impossible of beginning nursing school. I had taught some nursing classes for her, together we shared her banana fritters and tea, traded toilet paper for rice when she had more of the former and I had more of the latter, and celebrated the Fourth of July as Americans in the West Nile. She continues to run a clinic in the West Nile and minister to HIV/AIDS patients.

I can't think of two more committed, qualified people to answer our prayers for beginning a Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) in Uganda. Not only that, but the timing is perfect! Connie is leading a healthcare team from her church to Kampala in September and will try to contact Irene. I had sent NCF materials to Jemimah Mutabazi at Uganda Christian University. Jemimah had been Irene's lecturer when she left Kuluva to advance her nursing education at Makerere University. Irene could get in touch with her. My good friend and colleague Andy Propst, who had worked with me in Uganda and whom Irene knew, is working with fellow AIM missionary Pam Howorth, on beginning NCF in Kenya. Irene and Andy could be in touch with each other via e-mail and phone. Finally, we are planning our first NCF Global Project to Uganda in July 2010 for nursing students from the US to go to Uganda. Wouldn't it be great if they could help NCF Uganda to begin?

*"Dear Grace,*

*Thank you very much for your quick response and the amount of information you have given me in a short time. I am excited and believe that God can use us to impact the health of many Ugandans in the rural areas where there is great need. Thanks also for giving me the addresses of Connie, Pam and Andrea. I am sure God is prompting us to do something. Lets all pray for Gods direction on how to proceed....*

*I am looking forward to working with all of you to implement Gods Agenda and influence nursing in Uganda. God Bless you all.*

*Irene"*

Nurses are the backbone of healthcare. They meet people at some of the most vulnerable times in their lives. They have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus as they care for the people God places in their care. NCF provides them with the necessary knowledge and skills to care not only for the physical and emotional needs of their patients but also their spiritual needs. Please pray with me that God would use the nurses in Uganda and the US to advance His Kingdom wherever they practice.



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## Praise and Prayer Requests

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### **Praise — Thank God for:**

- Answered prayer for Ugandan nurse leaders to have a vision for Christian nursing in Uganda
- Christian nurse colleagues who share this vision and work with me to engage students and nurses with the Good News of Jesus Christ to bring God's love and healing to nursing and healthcare
- Providing for NCF's financial needs during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The economy presented its challenges; but God was good to provide for our needs.
- The good NCF summit in Dallas, TX. While registration was lower than we had hoped for, those who attended were blessed. I enjoyed a visit with former West Suburban student and faculty member Betsy Rees Owens and family following the summit.

### **Prayer — Ask God to:**

- Open the doors for a Uganda Nurses Christian Fellowship. I'm planning on going to Uganda with Connie next April to arrange for the NCF Global Project and hope to meet with Irene and Kim at that time.
- Be with the Urbana 09 staff as we prepare to welcome around 25,000 delegates to the convention.
- Bless the Urbana 09 seminar leaders who will be teaching in the healthcare major seminars as they prepare their presentations.
- Protect all of us as the flu season begins and the H1N1 virus threatens our health.

*Gifts for the ministry of Grace Tazelaar can be sent to Nurses Christian Fellowship P.O. Box 7895, Madison, WI 53707-7895*