

December 2009

*Jesus said to the people who believed in him,  
 “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.  
 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”  
 “But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone.  
 What do you mean, ‘You will be set free’?”  
 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.  
 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever.  
 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.*

*John 8:31-36, NLT*

Dear Friends,

Lately, God has been showing me deeper truth about being set free. Although I am enslaved by my “natural tendencies” and personality as a human living in a fallen world, the Lord of the Universe sets me free! I pray that this Christmas season, you too experience the freedom the Son offers and marvel with me that Jesus came to set us free.

Some ministry updates:



- *Journal of Christian Nursing*: It seems there is never a dull moment with *JCN*! We began a “redesign” with the Jan/Mar 2010 issue (see new logo and cover!) and will continue with more redesigning in the Apr/June issue. To keep up with developments check out [journalofchristiannursing.com](http://journalofchristiannursing.com) and [nursingcenter.com](http://nursingcenter.com), and refer nurses you know to these sites. There always is some *free* content to explore. The Jan/Mar 2010 releases December 17; the continuing education feature is a case study of a young mother who experienced necrotizing fasciitis (“flesh eating bacteria”). The author offers outstanding nursing care of a complex patient, and shows how spiritual care made a huge difference for this patient. Do *pray* for me and the work, that I will be faithful, that God will cause nurses to examine *JCN*, and that he will increase our subscriptions.

- *InterVarsity at Wichita State*: We continue to meet biweekly as “IVCF for the Health Professions” and God is gradually growing the ministry... but not as I would have expected. More and more *faculty* members are attending. In addition, the depth and quality of the meetings grows. I find myself cherishing the time we spend together. Senior students who have been involved for several years now graduate this month. *Pray* for these amazing new nurses as they enter ministry; they all have a heart for God and this work. *Pray* we can be more effective in reaching out to the entire College of Health Professions. Beginning spring 2010 we will have new opportunities to communicate with dental hygiene faculty and students. We did a **hot chocolate outreach** November 23 and gave away 80 cups of hot chocolate (with marshmallows!) in the school lobby as those passing by wrote things they were thankful for. We had good conversations about IVCF and our meetings. *Pray* God brings fruit from this effort.



- *Newman University*: I spoke to around 85 nursing students and faculty at Newman (Wichita) in October about spiritual care and faith sharing. It was a great meeting. The NCF group invited me to come back and I attended the November meeting which was student led and had *rich* sharing and prayer. I was especially touched by a non-Christian student who had been invited by a friend. Newman has a solid group of 15-20 that meets monthly. I will continue attending and offering support in the spring. *Pray* for the student who





came in November to hear God calling her and understand his offer to set her free, *pray* for the NCF leaders.

- *Urbana 09*: InterVarsity's 22<sup>nd</sup> Student Missions Conference is December 27-31, St. Louis, MO. Two nursing students from WSU will be attending, Liz and Jessica. *Pray* for them and for my NCF colleagues who will be working to register, care for, pray for, lead small groups, lead a health ministries track, and more at Urbana. Pray for good weather and safe travel, for a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit!
- *Central Plains Region update*: I have had good networking with InterVarsity campus staff in the region this past year (Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska). In addition, our NCF Student Ministry Director, Renee Lick, is building partnerships with other regional staff to grow ministry to nurses and students. I sense God is saying to *restart* an email prayer ministry to faculty advisors who lead NCF groups at schools in the region. This is something I helped develop and lead in the past, but dropped when I became editor of *JCN*. *Pray* with me that God leads, that I can be an encouragement to the faculty advisors, and that we in NCF can continue to link up with InterVarsity campus staff for effective ministry.
- *Financial update*: **Giving for 2009 remains behind what is needed** and budget in my area is in the **red** about \$12,000. I have cut back on expense reimbursement and continue to work more hours than what my budget can pay in salary. If you would like to make a tax-deductible year end contribution to this ministry, go to <http://www.intervarsity.org/> and click on "Donate to InterVarsity." Please indicate your gift is for the ministry of Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner or for *Journal of Christian Nursing*. *Pray* with me that God will lead in fund development, that I will be obedient, and that he meets the needs of the work. As always, contact me if you have any questions about finances or the work of IVCF.
- *Personal*: My knee is much better thanks to a new anti-inflammatory medication, and exercise. Continue to *pray* I will be obedient in self-care and learn from this "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12). The hospital work continues to be remarkable ... absolutely amazing opportunities to care for the sick and God always teaches me when I work at the hospital. I am so privileged to offer God's grace and compassion to people through nursing. *Pray* God uses me as he wants, and I learn from the work how to encourage nurses and help them minister more effectively to patients.

*Thank you* for your prayers and partnership.

Onward!

*Kathy*

Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner, PhD, RN  
 Editor, *Journal of Christian Nursing*  
 Staff, Nurses Christian Fellowship, USA®  
[jcn.editor@cox.net](mailto:jcn.editor@cox.net), 316-685-0428

#### *Schedule and Prayer Needs:*

- December 23 – manuscripts due for April/June 2010 *JCN*
- December 27-31 – InterVarsity's 22<sup>nd</sup> Student Missions Conference, Urbana 09, St. Louis, MO  
[www.urbana09.org](http://www.urbana09.org)
- January 2010 – Spring semester and campus ministry restarts; dates to be determined
- January 26 – start proofing Apr/June issue, late departments due
- February 1 – Newman University NCF
- February 16-19 – NCF Leadership Team Meetings, Chicago