

Campus Vitals

Winter/Spring 2009

A newsletter from Nurses Christian Fellowship for nursing students

- **Encouraging Words**
- **Ideas from what other groups are doing**
- **New benefits for groups who affiliate with NCF**
- **Evangelism Tools for your group to use**
- **Reflections on the Global Health Missions Conference**
- **Announcements – many about upcoming conferences – don't miss these!**
- **Faculty Corner**
- **A Bible study for group or personal use**

Encouraging Words

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

~ Proverbs 3:5-6 (The Message)

What are groups doing?



Austin Community College did a sock drive for the homeless. They partnered with another ministry and packed sacks with socks, wipes, crackers, and a Scripture card. Greta, the NCF student president shared that when they started the project they were hoping for 100 pairs of socks. However, there were so many donations that they were able to take over 600 bags containing socks, all sorts of toiletries and a snack to the homeless. WOW! What a successful and blessed outreach.



Something for free!!!!

Students bundled in hats and scarves entered the **U of IL at Chicago** College of Nursing building on the frigid Monday morning before Thanksgiving. As they made their way to class, they were greeted with a surprise.....smiling students from NCF were offering them free hot chocolate! The students were asked to write what they were

thankful for on a large sign. Students read others' responses to the question "What are YOU thankful for?" and were reminded themselves of their many blessings. The NCF students at the table also had a box to collect prayer requests, invitations to hear their guest speaker for World AIDS Day the following week, and brochures about NCF. "We wanted to remind others of all they have to be thankful for, because we believe that we have much to thank God for every day. We also wanted to let students and faculty know who we are, what our purpose is on campus, and to feel welcome to join us anytime." Next time, we decided it would be helpful to have a way to intentionally start spiritual conversations with students and invite them to join a GIG (see more information on these below under the Evangelism Tools section).

~Renee Lick





NCF Chapter Affiliation – New Benefits



I know that many chapters have started the process of affiliating with NCF but have not completed the process. In the past, I have mentioned the benefits from your school that affiliation offers. Now there are new benefits that InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is offering:

- 30% discount from InterVarsity Press
- A well designed Bible study guide focused on the biblical basis for our Doctrinal Statement
- Local, regional and national training camps and conferences
- Access to StudentSoul.org, our web site designed particularly for students
- Custom-designed urban and overseas missions projects

If you have affiliated with NCF in the past, please just submit a renewal form. This needs to be done annually with the signatures of new student leaders.

If you are in the process of affiliating, I would encourage you to complete the process as soon as possible. Perhaps make February 1 your goal. Be sure to send your paperwork into the NCF office. We will send you a letter and certificate as well as instructions on how to get the other benefits.

If you need more information on what affiliation is and what forms to complete, please see the links at the bottom of <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/student/start/plan.html>.



Evangelism Tools

NCF wants you and your chapter to be equipped, both to nurture nursing students and also to reach out to them. For that reason, we have compiled some resources for you:

- A handout based on the Bridge model of salvation but modified for nursing students available at <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/publications/evangelismtools/bridgediagramsheet.pdf>
- A handout that looks at many ways that God meets our practical needs today available at <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/publications/evangelismtools/goodnewskingdom.pdf>
- GIG (Groups investigating God) studies – not geared specifically for nursing students, but instead can be used with any student – available at <http://www.intervarsity.org/biblestu/page/gigs-index>

Reflections on the Global Health Missions Conference (held Nov 13-15)

The Global Medical Missions Conference was incredible and very informative. This was my first time attending this great event and will definitely not be my last. I was able to praise, worship, and network with other Christian nurses, doctors, missionaries, pastors, and healthcare students. Also, I was impressed by the exhibit hall; there were so many Christian missionary organizations that have short and long term mission trips throughout the year. Also, I was ecstatic to see Nurses Christian Fellowship at the conference because of its great impact in spreading the good news through nursing.

The conference had great focus sessions and speakers. The topics varied from having a passion for urban ministry to being devoted to a tribal group in South America. Also, I had the privilege of hearing Steve Saint and the Admiral whose fathers both were martyrs for Christ. Their boldness, courage, and strength renewed my passion for fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in my everyday walk with the Lord. I would encourage everyone to attend this conference, even if you are not interested in being a missionary. Remember, we are all a part of the body of Christ which means that we must intercede and support the mission---winning souls for Christ!



Irielle Banks, BSN,RN
LSU Nursing Alumnus
NCF Member

Announcements – Announcements – Announcements –



- NSNA convention
- NCF Summit
- Urbana '09
- Annual survey reminder

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NSNA Convention - "Making it Big: Nursing Students Stepping Up & Stepping Out"



NSNA's 57th Annual Convention - April 15-19, 2009
Opryland Hotel - Nashville, TN

Over 3,000 nursing students from around the country will gather in Nashville, TN this April for the NSNA convention. Maybe you are attending or have attended in the past, but this year, NCF is asking for each and every one of you to be an integral part of this convention! NCF has the amazing opportunity to exhibit and to host a break-out session at this convention. As students from across the U.S. come here to grow professionally, would you join us in praying that they would also know this convention as a place where they met with God? Last year at the NCF exhibit we were able to pray with many students who were carrying heavy burdens and struggling to find hope in the midst of their difficult situations.

Would you and your NCF student community commit to one prayer meeting focusing on praying for NSNA?

Please pray:

- For students who don't know Jesus or think a loving God does not exist – that the Holy Spirit would be pursuing them and that they would come to know His love for them while at NSNA
- For boldness for the Christian students who attend the convention, that they would be able to share with their classmates the hope they have in Christ
- For students, nurses, and faculty to clearly be able to see God's truth with clarity and to be able to identify ideologies often taught in nursing that contain deception.
- For clarity of communication for Skip McDonald as she presents in our NCF-sponsored break-out session. May God give her the words to speak that the students in her audience need to hear!
- For students who are in need of hope, are suffering from depression, or are overwhelmed with life's struggles – that the NCF exhibit would be a place of rest, restoration, and grace – not because of us, but because God's presence is there with us.

Thank you for your prayers, an integral part of God's kingdom flourishing in the nursing world!

Please let us know if you have been praying for NSNA and we would love to include a description of your prayer meeting along with our stories from the convention.

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NCF Summit '09



Nursing as Ministry Caring in Context

June 25-29, 2009

Westin Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Hotel - Dallas, Texas

There will be workshops for nursing students, nurses and nurse educators. See <http://www.ncf-icn.org/conferences/summit09.pdf> for more information.

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Annual Survey Announcement

Every spring, usually in April, NCF sends an online survey to group leaders and faculty advisors. We ask for information such as how many were involved in your group, what activities the group did, who will be the group contact for the next school year – things that help NCF staff know how to best plan and serve you.

We also ask for contact information for the seniors in your group. NCF has some special “graduation gifts”, and it is easiest to email them details. It is best to have their permission before giving NCF their names and contact information, so we are asking that in one of your next meetings, please provide a sign-up sheet for those graduating in spring to list their name and email address if they would like to receive the information from NCF. Then you will have this available when the survey is sent to you. Thanks for your help!



Faculty Corner

Sometimes faculty advisors wonder how they can keep up with all of the NCF students or how to use technology effectively to reach students. Tracey, the faculty advisor at **South Plains College**, shares a great example. This was sent out earlier this month:

Welcome to all the new students and welcome back to all you veterans. I hope everyone had a great Christmas break, but it is time to get back to the task at hand.

I have scheduled our first Nurse's Christian Fellowship meeting for [time/location]. I recently read 1 Corinthians 12:12 where it states “the body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many they form one body. So it is with Christ.” I submit so it is with nursing students. You all came here from different places with varying backgrounds and experiences. You have been placed with a group, your class, and you will need to support each other throughout this program. Those of you who have been here and have “lost” a classmate (due to dropping, etc) can testify the impact it has on the class. Our goal for NCF is to provide one avenue for you to support each other through this phase in your life. I commit to pray for you while you are here. You will find that several of the faculty in this program will also pray for you. If you have any prayer requests please email me, I will forward them to the rest of the NCF group (unless you ask me not to) so you will have many prayers on your behalf. I also commit to contacting you each week via email with a word of encouragement. I look forward to meeting you all on the 27th, in the meantime I will pray that the first

week of school excites you about all that you will learn this semester and does not overwhelm you too much.

I think there are a lot of keys in this email that can help you write encouraging emails to your students too. This email is concise, it is welcoming, it is relevant to their situation, it shares scripture, it states the goal of the group for this semester, it shares Tracey's commitment to pray for them and connect with them and it sets a tone for the whole semester. Tracey has also sent out short devotionals. This way those who can't make it to the meetings can still feel a part of things, and students can also forward them on to others as an outreach.

Devotional/Bible study for personal or group use

What Sets you Apart?

1Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **2**Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3**For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4**When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6**Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7**You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8**But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9**Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10**and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11**Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13**Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14**And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

22Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. **23**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, **24**since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:1-17, 22-24

What commands are given to believers in this passage? Look for at least 16 things. Underline the verbs to each command (eg. Rid, clothe, bear with). Which commands stand out to you personally?

What do you think makes a Christian nurse different than any other nurse?

What do you think will make you, as a Christian nurse, different from any other nurse you will work with or currently any other student nurse you interact with?

Do you all experience the same stresses and issues? What do you have in common and what differentiates you?

Looking at the commands in this passage, how do you think God wants you to be different in the areas of:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Work Ethic
- Attitude
- Compassion for others

Take some time to reflect on this and pray about it. Take time to thank God for all he has done to transform your life. Then ask God for guidance and help on the areas that you may need some work on. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to transform you into the image of God.