

October, 2009

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NCF Continuing Education Director

Dear Friends,

### **Are you a candle or a lamp?**

What is the difference? Both give light, but a candle consumes itself in the process. A lamp (as in oil lamp) burns by consuming a continuous supply of fuel from another source so that it gives continual, steady light. In the Old Testament tabernacle, the priests were charged with never letting the lamp in the inner Holy Place to go out. They were to trim the wicks and refill the oil regularly (Ex 25, Lev 24). In Matt 5:14 Jesus said that we, His disciples, are to bring His light to a dark world and He sent the Holy Spirit to be our fuel (Jn 14; 16). Like the OT priests, we need to daily allow that fuel to flow into our 'lamps' through spending time with Him through His Word and prayer. In the same way a branch needs to stay connected to the vine (Jn 15) in order to flourish and bear fruit. NCF ministry helps nurses and students to establish and maintain that connection with the Eternal source of power to bring God's love and healing to nursing and healthcare. I am so thankful for your partnership and prayers.

### **Ministry Updates**

Here are some updates about NCF Continuing Education Ministry this fall. God is answering our prayers for the three NCF conferences in October. (The September conference "Stem Cells 101: What Every Christian Nurse Must Know" in Denver was postponed until February 20, 2010.)

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"

I can tell you first hand that the presentations at the Cleveland and Detroit conferences went well and nurses and students considered ways that Christian faith and principles can make a difference in their practice. Nurses who attended the October 3 Cleveland conference shared ways the session will influence their nursing, *'I will be able to assess and address the spiritual needs of my patients more effectively'. 'I will assess for spiritual distress in all my patients.'* *'This content will help me identify patients' spiritual distress and more effectively apply appropriate interventions.'*

In Detroit, Dr. Kamalini Kumar challenged us with ways that integrity should be the basis of our practice and what it means to be a servant leader. She urged us to be intentional in using our time for eternal purposes so that if we only have five minutes with someone (like a patient), we should not waste it on social chit chat, but move into deeper levels of meaningful interaction.

**I am praying** that you will experience unending supply of God's grace, peace, and provision in Jesus Christ ... that you will faithfully tend the lamp of God's presence in your heart ...and that YOUR light will shine brightly to those around you, reflecting God's glory, even in the midst challenges and circumstances.

*Fran*

#### **Continue to pray:**

- That participants in the Fall conferences will implement what they learned to better address the spiritual needs of patients and coworkers.
- For wisdom and creativity in working with local committees to develop CE activities.
- That our NCF CE ministry team will develop and send publicity to reach potential participants in time for them to plan to come.
- That, even in these more difficult financial times, God will draw nurses and students to NCF activities to be empowered for the ministry they have through nursing.
- That God will be glorified in all of NCF ministry as nurses and students have brief but meaningful conversations with patients and coworkers.
- That many nursing students will attend the URBANA '09 missions conference and catch a vision for using their nursing skills in ministry.
- For NCF staff and volunteers as they present workshops in the Leadership and Health Care tracks, staff the NCF display, and pray with attendees in the Exhibit Area prayer rooms.