



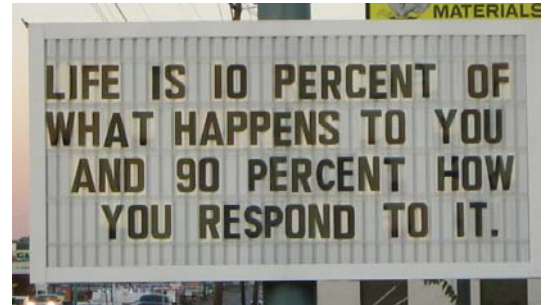
Nurses Christian Fellowship

October 2005

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Dear Friends,
I saw this billboard last week on a major street in Waco.
What do you think about it?

This message made me think about what's happened in our world these past weeks and **how people have responded** to their circumstances. It is also relevant to ministry that I've been a part of these past 2 months. There's much to share!



Sept. 8-11th, NCF retreat, Ogunquit, Maine- *Extreme Makeover: Your Heart Edition*

Thirteen nurses and I explored how God desires for us to respond to Him when Jesus comes to live in our hearts. We covered every "room" of our hearts - where we spend time with Him and others, satisfy



our appetites and work- and the "hall closet" where we keep things that make Jesus feel unwelcome.

I was blessed by the nurses' commitment to Christ and their faithfulness to share Him with others, and God showed me His majesty and power in

the beautiful Atlantic Ocean. Leading this retreat was a new and *stretching* experience for me.

Sept. 13-18th, NCF Staff Leadership Team (SLT) and Executive Committee of the National Advisory Council meeting in Chicago Staff and volunteer leaders continued our work on how NCF is to respond to the nursing profession, to today's students, faculty, and NCF members. The world of nursing practice and education is not always "Christian-friendly" or supportive of nurses. NCF leadership is examining our functions and structure so that we can continue to make Christ known and equip students and nurses to bring Christ to their patients and colleagues. Our challenges are many and great. Would you pray for me and others to have God's wisdom as we plan? The "SLT" will meet again in late January in Madison, WI to continue this vital work.

Katrina and Rita I was involved in caring for folks in shelters here in Waco through my work at the health dept. Shelter folks were familiar to me- minorities of all ages with very few resources, but with many needs. Some responded with despair, anger, and fear. Many have been prompted to think about their values and spiritual issues. I am thankful that some were open to prayer.

Amanda, NCF student leader at LSU Health Science Center now in Baton Rouge, has shared how she, her classmates, and her faculty have responded to Katrina. Many lost their homes and possessions- including text books- and some lost family members. Currently, the students are meeting weekly at Amanda's parents' home for Bible study and hosting a free lunch. They will distribute "compassion" gift bags for their teachers, and have included a message of encouragement from NCF National Director, Mary Thompson. Their faculty advisor's husband has suffered a broken leg, and she is "commuting" between her home and Baton Rouge. Please keep them in your prayers as their lives have been turned totally upside down.

In response to the *regular* challenges of nursing school, faculty members, Tracey at South Plains College in Levelland and Melinda at Trinity Valley Community College in Kaufman, have helped their students begin new NCF groups. Others are gathering across Texas. Jeannie in Austin has recently invited students to pray in her office before exams, and UT Tyler students meet two times a month for lunch, speakers, and prayer. Their group's purpose and mission work was highlighted in the summer issue of the School of Nursing's magazine. Texas Tech students are meeting for Bible study and prayer, too. Pray that these faculty and students will grow in their knowledge and love for God and their classmates will see Christ in them.

Forgiveness: Implications for Nursing Care, Round Top, Feb. 3-5, 2006 Verna

Carson, our speaker, and I have been working on the content and program. Nurses and students will focus on how people **respond** to hurt, how they need to forgive or receive forgiveness, and how the Christian nurse can care for them. Registration information is on the NCF web site at www.ncf-jcn.org/conferences/25tx.html.

I am so very thankful for the opportunity to help nurses and students have an eternal, God-focused perspective on their lives- that they can know that NOTHING IS MORE POWERFUL THAN GOD AND HE IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS. Pray that they can **respond** to their life circumstances in faith and, in turn, will take opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus with their co-workers, fellow students, and patients. **Thank you for giving me this opportunity!**

Soon it will be December, and the ministry year will be half over. I look forward to another "SLT" meeting in January, Round Top in February and the "Recent Grad/Beginning Nurses" conference in Dallas on March 4th. Please pray for me to stay "God-focused" and to respond faithfully to His calling as I minister at conferences and to individual nurses and students. Please also consider a year-end financial gift to my support and ministry expenses. If you are interested in donor information, including on-line services, please go to on the internet at <http://ncf.intersity.org/donate.html>.

So what do you think about that billboard? What influences your response to life's circumstances? I've come to learn that the major influence is our perspective- it can be a perspective rooted in insecurity or fear or an "eternal" perspective based on our knowledge of God and our faith in Him. Scripture is full of God's promises to care for us and Jesus' desire to give us abundant life, but it's up to **us** to believe and trust in His Word. Having a God-focused perspective comes from spending time with Him, getting to know Him, and obeying Him. Even when all we can say to God is "*why*" or "*help*", He is listening to us and caring for us. **We can move beyond asking "why" because His Word assures us that "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."** Lamentations 3:22-23

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