



Nurses Christian Fellowship

Bringing Good News to Nursing

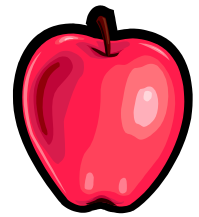
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“Megan’s” Story of True Compassion

“Megan”, a “beginning” nurse, recently shared a personal experience with other nurses in NCF’s email discussion group. She wrote about her care for “Shannon”, a woman stricken with a life-threatening lung illness and her husband, “Sam”. Megan shared her heart- how sad she was that this woman’s health had declined after a double lung transplant and many complications. Shannon was on a ventilator and was not mentally alert. She also had a terrible medication reaction that made blisters all over her body.

It was hard for Megan to be around Sam as he watched his wife suffer. Megan asked herself, “What can we do for Sam?” She noted that he was frustrated, angry, and sad- he was realizing that his wife was going to die. While she cared for Shannon, Megan noticed an apple that Sam had brought with him. She knew that he and Shannon had a small orchard on their farm. She asked Sam if the apple came from one of their trees. He began to talk about Shannon, how she loved horses, baked the best apple pies, and cared for many people in need. He talked for two hours then went to his motel. That night, during the long process of changing Shannon’s dressings, Megan “just started singing worship songs, any worship song I could think of. Then I began to pray out loud.” Megan wrote that she often talks out loud to her patients regardless of their mental status.



She said to Shannon, **“I know you’re here, and I know there are a lot of things you would want to tell us if you could. I know it must be hard for you not to be able to communicate with us. We are at the end of what we can do for you. But there is one who can hear you and can understand you...this is the time to cry out to Him. Cry out to the Lord because He hears you, and He longs to heal you, however that might be.”**

When Megan finished her shift that morning, Shannon looked peaceful. When Megan returned after being off for two days, she found a different patient in Shannon’s bed. Shannon had died. Megan didn’t see Sam again, and she had to deal with her feelings of sadness. She was surprised by some of her reactions to this patient-family situation, but she had some wise things to say about how nurses can respond.

Megan recommended that nurses take time to be alone, to relax, and to share their reactions with a Christian friend. She also reflected on the meaning of **“compassion”**. She wrote that **“passion”** came from a Latin word for **pain**, and it literally means to **share pain**. “That isn’t easy...But look at our ultimate example of **compassion**. He endured much of our pain. This isn’t saying that sharing pain can’t be taken to an unhealthy level, but it is to say that if we truly have the love of Jesus in us then we will likely ‘share pain’ to some extent.”

Megan gave excellent, compassionate nursing care to Shannon as she dressed her wounds, talked to her, and sang hymns to her. She also cared for Sam when she asked him about the apple and listened to him. Her story tells us how Christian nurses are guided and strengthened by their faith.

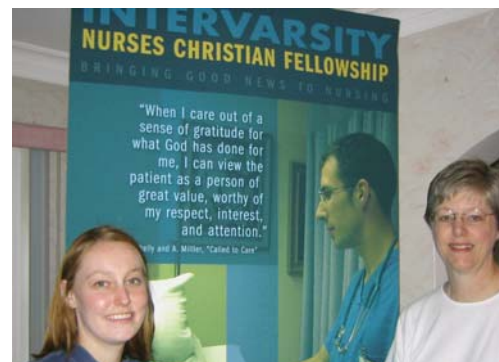
God calls Christian nurses like Megan to share in the pain and suffering of the people He puts in their care. Please join me in thanking God for Megan's ministry to her patients and to other nurses and students who read her story. **And thank you for allowing me to help nurses and student care for patients, families, and coworkers in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

What I've been doing...

Planning the NCF Feb 2-4, 2007 weekend conference at Round Top. Judy Shelly, NCF publications director and author will be our speaker for *A Legacy of Faith and Compassion: Implications for Contemporary Nursing Practice*

The brochure and registration info. are on the NCF web site at:
<http://ncf.intervarsity.org/conferences/24tx.html>

Working with NCF staff and volunteers at the Chicago Sept. meeting to guide the ministry forward- designing a new "model" for meeting the needs of nurses and students and connecting those who share common interests; planning for staff recruitment and development to expand the ministry and for our **national 2007 conference**. Here's a photo of other staff with our new banner.



Ministering to nurses and student leaders on Texas and Louisiana campuses and nurses across the region on a one-to-one basis.

Serving on the InterVarsity/NCF Search Advisory Committee to provide for the transition process for the next NCF National Director.

Preparing for service at **URBANA 06** in St. Louis, Dec. 26-Jan 31st. www.urbana.org Ask God to bring students to this wonderful opportunity. Ask Him to strengthen and guide all of the InterVarsity workers and speakers.

Praying for the Lord's guidance regarding expanding my role with NCF. Thanking God for His faithfulness! Please pray with me.



Being "Grammy"- Birk was helping me at the computer!

In His love, *Jane*

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thank to God the Father through him. Col. 3:17

If you would like to be removed from this list, please let me know.

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