



Nurses Christian Fellowship

December 2005

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Texas and Louisiana

Merry Christmas



“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means “God with us”).’

Matthew 1:22-23

There’s a lot of talk this year about how stores and politicians are not using the greeting, “Merry Christmas.” But I **MUST** send **this message** to you because it’s the only reason that NCF exists, and it’s why I spend my time talking, praying, and sharing God’s Word with nurses and students. Our whole purpose is to help them know Jesus and to share God’s gift of salvation with their patients and coworkers. *Thank you* being a part of this ministry!

Mary Thompson, NCF National Director, and I traveled to San Antonio in November to participate in the **Nursing Organization’s Alliance**- representatives from over 60 national nursing organizations were there. At the session when the representatives shared about their organizations’ activities, Mary shared about God’s love for nurses and NCF’s purpose to bring a Christian perspective to nursing. Several of these nurse leaders visited with us during the conference, and we prayed with the president of a 22,000 member organization who is also an NCF member! We praise God for putting “Joyce” in this leadership position.

Our journey up and down Interstate 35 included meetings with **Linda**, dean at the Univ. of Mary Hardin-Baylor, **Darlene**, faculty advisor at U HSC at San Antonio, **Rebecca**, faculty at the Univ. of Texas in Austin, and **Jeannie**, faculty at Austin Community College. The day after our visit a student came to Jeannie’s office to find out how she could use her limited free time to be involved in NCF instead of any other campus group. “Susan” also asked Jeannie to pray that her friends would see that the love that is in her “is of the Father”, and not just that she is a “nice person.” These faculty members are on the “front lines” nurturing students, guiding coworkers, and influencing the staff where they have clinical experiences. They also face monumental challenges in their professional and personal lives- the *enemy* is working to discourage them. Please pray that God will sustain them!



On Nov. 21st I met with faculty and students at **UT Tyler**- over 40 students attended their lunch meeting, and some students were participating via teleconference connection! “Mark”, who is graduating this month, thanked the NCF group, both faculty and students, for caring and praying for him during his mom’s struggle with cancer and her death. He said their support and the Lord helped him be successful in his studies. “Rachel” thanked God for her husband’s recent salvation after praying for 5 years for him to come to faith in Christ. Please join me in praising God for how His love and faithfulness are reaching students on this campus!

As 2006 begins, I'll be joining the NCF staff leadership team in **Madison Jan. 24-27** for a work session. Nurses are already registering for **Feb. 3-5** at **Round Top**, and the conference for beginning nurses, **Starting Strong & Staying Strong: Strategies for Beginning Nurses**, will be **March 4, 2006** in Dallas. Registration information is on the NCF web site. If you know a recent graduate, would you tell her/him about this conference?

Offering conferences is a step of faith as we never know how many folks will attend, and we must trust the Lord to provide enough income to cover the budgeted expenses. Each month I'm surprised and grateful for how God provides the income to meet my ministry budget for salary, supplies, travel, etc. As of Nov. 30th, I'm about \$1,500.00 behind for the first 5 months of this fiscal year. Would you consider giving a year-end gift to help my budget get "in line" for the final 7 months of the year? Thank you for all you provide!



Joe and I are so grateful for all of the Lord's blessings- our sweet family (including "Birk"), vibrant church, caring friends, and **more** than we need. Since we've spent time this year with our little grandson, it's easy for us this Christmas to think of Jesus as a newly born, defenseless baby. To think that God the King sent His only son to be born in a dirty manger instead of a gleaming palace! What an act of love towards us, that we can **all** come to the lowly manger and embrace the Holy child.

Merry Christmas... because God is with us!

Jane

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