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Dear Friends:

Six months after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, most of the news media no longer report on the devastation that continues to dramatically affect the lives of thousands of people. I spent the last week of February in Biloxi, Mississippi with a mission team from my church. The experience made me realize all over again why I love nursing. Prepared with a temporary Mississippi nurses license, I ended up coordinating a free clinic with a team of volunteers—all of us newly arrived for the week. It only took me a few hours to get up to speed clinically. We worked with some great nurses and social workers from all over the US and a wonderful physician from North Dakota (an amazing story in itself—we found him hanging sheet rock with a work team and drafted him after our first doc got pulled to another clinic. I listened to some mind-boggling stories of God at work in the ruins, did lots of spiritual care, ran the pharmacy,



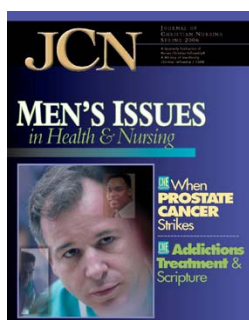
did admissions, dressed wounds, gave injections and hugs, and generally ran full speed for 10-hour days in the clinic. We slept in a tent with 48 bunks (co-ed), showered in a tractor trailer (8 for 200 people) and used outdoor toilets, but nobody complained. The group from our congregation bonded and grew together—and attracted others to our evening worship. We all want to go back and take others with us.

In NCF this has been a time of transition. Mary Thompson, our National Director for over 21 years has asked that a search begin for a new Director in preparation for her retirement. The Staff Leadership Team met in January to begin that process along with Mary's supervisor, InterVarsity Vice President Barney Ford. We developed an in depth profile of NCF and assessed the changing needs of those we serve. As we bathed the entire process in prayer, we grew into a stronger team with a new sense of unity and vision. InterVarsity Prayer Coordinator Mary Anne Voelkel led us in Bible study and prayer, helping us to appreciate the treasures and humbly face our struggles within NCF.



Staff Leadership Team (L to R) Front: Mary Thompson and Judy Shelly, Back: Sandra Jamison, Ruth Snapp, Grace Tazelaar, Jane Hall

After the Staff Leadership Team meetings, I met with Steve Falk of the IV Media Department "2100" to edit the NCF video curriculum based on *Called to Care*. Although some sections turned out well, others still need a lot of work, including some retakes. I will meet with Steve again in April. The filming will probably take place in early May. Please pray that we can overcome the technical difficulties and improve the didactic presentations.



Another huge NCF transition involves the *Journal of Christian Nursing*. NCF has been in dialogue with Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, publisher of *AJN* and many nursing journals and books. We are moving toward outsourcing *JCN* production and marketing to them. NCF would retain full editorial control. *JCN* would become a full-color journal with expanded editorial pages. Their marketing would greatly expand *JCN's* influence as a Christian voice in nursing. Although the initial transfer will be expensive, the long-term outcomes should significantly ensure *JCN's* financial viability. Please pray with us as we enter final contract negotiations. Needless to say, Mary Thompson, *JCN* Editor Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner and I have been going through the contract with a fine-toothed comb, along with IV legal and financial people. We are convinced that this partnership is truly a gift from God.

Praise God that both *Called to Care: A Christian Worldview for Nursing, Second Edition* and *The Nurse with an Alabaster Jar: A Biblical Approach to Nursing* are off the press and available. See their websites at <http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=2765> and <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/> respectively.



Another transition in my life has been a deeper commitment to prayer and spiritual formation. That has resulted in a growing ministry in this area, both within NCF and in my church. Corresponding with this, my assignment for Urbana 06, InterVarsity's Missions Conference, December 30-31 is to assemble a prayer ministry team to serve the missionaries who come to exhibit at the convention. Please pray with me as I look for a few more team members, and for our preparation, which includes a training program in Madison in June. My husband Jim and I will also be taking another course with Francis and Judith MacNutt in June.

Blessings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Shelly".

Judy Shelly

Please pray:

March – Rewriting scripts for videos, recruiting prayer team, preparation for upcoming events

April 3-7 – InterVarsity Spring Leadership Meetings in Madison, meeting with 2100

Early May – retakes on *Called to Care* Videos

May 18-22 – Speaking at Christian Community Health Fellowship Conference, Philadelphia

June 5-9 – School of Healing Prayer Level II course, Jacksonville, FL

June 9-11 – NCF National Planning Retreat, Chicago

June 20-27 – IVCF Prayer Ministry Training, Madison