



And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ~Mat 6:28-30

Fall 2007

Dear Praying Friend:

The Lord has been speaking to me through transition, poppies and lost luggage. Summer began with NCF National Staff Conference and the National Summit. It was a good time of recognizing former NCF Director Mary Thompson's faithful ministry and welcoming our new Director Pat Emery and Interim Director (until Oct 1) Harriet Coeling. As we enter this transition, NCF faces many changes, but we do so in great hope. Please pray for the NCF Staff Leadership Team and National Advisory Committee as we meet in Chicago August 22-26 to begin discussing the next steps with Harriet and Pat.



Pat Emery

Mary Thompson

Harriet Coeling



Shortly after returning from the national meetings in St. Paul, MN, my husband and I set off for two weeks of vacation in England. After four delightful days in York, we spent 10 wonderful days on Holy Island, which has become our favorite place to unwind and be close to the Lord. It took our luggage 9 days to catch up with us. That's when the Lord began speaking through the poppies. Their striking beauty dotted the landscape all over the island. The lessons quickly moved from the fact that I really didn't need all that baggage that I had packed, to a deep contentment in knowing that God is clothing NCF in beauty. If he makes poppies to grow wild out of rocks and sandy soil, he will also glorify his name in the shifting sands of NCF.

As the NCF Mid-Atlantic and Blue Ridge Leadership Teams met in Shickshinny, PA, last weekend, several participants remarked that they were grieving for what had been in NCF. They felt uncertain about the future. At the end of the prayer-filled weekend, everyone left expressing hope and expectancy. Leadership transitions can be unsettling, but they also give us an opportunity to assess, re-evaluate and refocus. Please pray with us as we discern how NCF can serve nurses and nursing students more effectively. As a staff team, we will be spending extra time in prayer, searching the Scriptures and discussions in the coming months.

Next month (Sept. 11-13) I will be meeting again with the InterVarsity Northeast Spiritual Formation Cluster. This is a delightful group who are focusing on how to restore prayer to its rightful place in InterVarsity. We are learning from each other, and seeking the Lord to develop ways of training staff and the students they serve in prayer and spiritual formation (what we called "discipleship" in the old days).

October 12-13 is our Mid-Atlantic Conference and Retreat. Somehow, I ended up being speaker at both. The Friday conference, "Compassionate Care: Nursing's Christian Legacy," will be filmed by InterVarsity's media department "2100" as the next step in developing the *Called to Care* Video Curriculum. The Saturday retreat, "Seeking Shalom: Prayer that Heals," will be an introduction to the healing ministry of Jesus and how that applies to our lives and work. Our new Director Pat Emery will be attending and visiting with staff and other NCF leaders afterward.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and giving. The fiscal year ended in the black on June 30 because of your generosity. I do not take you for granted, but thank God for you daily.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Judy Shelly



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