



I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! ~Psalm 27:13-14

Spring 2007

Dear Praying Friend:

In many ways, 2007 has been a time of waiting—and continues to be so—but it has also been an amazing display of the goodness of the Lord.

As we continue the search for a new NCF Director, I find myself making future commitments tentatively, tempered with, “I don’t know who my supervisor will be then, but…” However, the search is going well. We will be interviewing the final candidates on March 23, and expect an appointment to be made soon. The search itself has been good for NCF, forcing us to examine ourselves and our hopes for future of NCF.

NCF ministry is moving forward with a great deal of hope and expectancy. The Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council (MALC) became the Mid-Atlantic Ministry Team and divided into smaller area teams in January. Plans are already underway for a conference in Virginia and a Nurses Week Prayer Breakfast in Pennsylvania (May 5). We welcomed Audrey Hay to official volunteer NCF staff status in December. She and Jackie Iatesta are making great inroads into the “field” ministry, meeting with several new contacts who are interested in starting NCF groups in their areas.

Prayer Ministry has been a strong focus in NCF and we provided the ministry team for the Urbana Missionary Convention Exhibit Hall. It was wonderful to see those who came into the prayer room looking bent over, broken, sad, anxious or afraid leaving radiant and standing tall. As I watched the team function, I could literally see God breaking through as they prayed. Audrey Hay, Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner, Ruth Snapp, Jane and Dave Pfeiffer, served on the team, as well as Dan Wynard (a Lutheran pastor from Illinois) and my husband Jim and I.



Jim and me at Urbana 06



On January 25 I had the privilege of delivering the Zeile Lecture on Christian Vocation at Valparaiso University, hosted by both Christ College and the College of Nursing. Renee Lick, NCF staff at Valpo, joined me. We enjoyed meeting faculty, administration and students from both colleges, as well as participating in a seminar on spiritual care with nursing students.

While I met with the Dean and attended a nursing class, Renee met with several nursing students interested in starting an NCF group. They had their first NCF meeting last week with 15 students attending. Six more students wanted to attend, but could not make that meeting. Please pray for this beginning student group.

Then February 2-4, I spoke at the annual NCF conference at Round Top, Texas. What a great experience! They were an overflowing, enthusiastic crowd, eager to practice nursing from a Christian perspective. I also enjoyed a warm introduction Texas hospitality and culture.

Less than two weeks later, I left for Biloxi, Mississippi, with a team from my church and NCF. We joined with physicians and nurses from all over the country to staff a free clinic at Bethel Lutheran Church. Spiritual care was strongly encouraged, so we enjoyed sharing the love of Jesus in word and deed, and praying with most of our patients.

We may never know all the powerful work of God that took place in that clinic, be we do know that the enemy was trying to thwart it from the get-go. First, one of our NCF team members, Sandra Reece, died suddenly just a week-and-a-half before the trip. She was 47, healthy, a vital NCF volunteer and a beautiful person in every way. We miss her greatly!



Sandra Reece

We also did not know if we would have a physician until the day we arrived in Biloxi. As we traveled south, we fully expected to be hanging drywall instead of nursing, despite all the work and expense involved in getting Mississippi nursing licenses. To our delight, we had two physicians, who decided to come at the last minute.

Next, Linda Heckman, another NCF team member called the day before we were to leave, saying that all the roads between her and us were still closed from the snow and ice. She didn’t make it to Biloxi.



Jackie and Audrey in Biloxi

Finally, after three full and wonderful days in the clinic, I was awakened by another volunteer at 3 AM on Thursday morning, saying that one of our church team members was sick. I went to check on her and got her set up in the clinic, when another volunteer came out of the bathroom saying he was sick and had missed the toilet. I took care of him and went to clean the bathroom. When I came out, there were seven patients lined up in the clinic. Another nurse came out to help and we woke the doc and started giving Phenergan injections. Soon there were 10. By breakfast we had 26, so we closed the clinic to the public, called in the health department and began running a MASH unit. The bug was identified as the Norovirus—the same one that strikes cruise ships. We had 101 people sleeping in the church, so it required rearranging rooms to set up isolation units. Eventually, 41 volunteers got the virus. The nurses held out until the end when two of us got the bug on the last night. We are still sorting out what we learned from that experience, apart

from the fact that God's plans are not necessarily our plans! It also reinforced what I had been preaching from the beginning, that the first rule in missions is to "be flexible."

A week after returning from Biloxi, my husband and I attended a conference in Virginia on "Christian Listening" led by Russ Parker. Russ, an Anglican priest from the UK, is the author of several books that I had found invaluable in dealing with some conflict situations (especially the book, *Healing Wounded History*). We were not disappointed! We came back with some excellent ministry resources, as well as some wonderful new friends.

I go to Chicago March 21 for NCF Staff Leadership Team Meetings, NCF Director search candidate interviews (3/23) and National Advisory Committee meetings (23-25). I'll travel to Madison and meet with the IVCF Media Department (2100) to reopen work on the *Called to Care* video project on the 26th, and then attend InterVarsity Spring Leadership Meetings the 27th through 30th.



I deeply appreciate your prayers and your financial support. As we move toward the June 30 end of the fiscal year, my support is much stronger than last year, but I do still need to make up a \$5,000 deficit by then. Please pray with me that this will happen!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Judy Shelly

Coming Up (Please pray!)

- IVCF Spiritual Formation Cluster, Apr. 17-19 (Upstate New York)
- NCF Prayer Breakfast, May 5 (at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Obelisk, PA)
- NCF Staff Conference, June 26-28 (which I will coordinate)
- NCF Summit, "Nursing as Ministry." June 28-July 1 (I am both a plenary and workshop speaker)
- JCN Editorial Review Panel meetings July 1-2
- Holy Island, UK, July 21-31 (retreat and vacation, with a side-trip to Scotland before or after)



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