

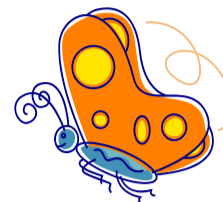


*You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever. ~ Psalm 30:11-12*

Winter 2007

Dear Praying Friend:

Last week I visited Barbara Brown, an InterVarsity colleague with whom I am working on a writing project. A crayon drawing in her powder room fascinated me. It was series of loops and squiggles with a colorful butterfly in one section. "There's a story behind it," Barbara commented. "That's my life, and the section where the butterfly appears is when I experienced prayer ministry... Prayer ministry gave me my wings." I could certainly relate!



The past three years have been an incredible journey for me. I'm sure you have picked up some of that from my prayer letters, but as I look forward to InterVarsity Staff Conference '08 with a new role in NCF, it's time fill in the details.

I went to IV Staff Conference '05 feeling discouraged and defeated. However, during the conference Mary Thompson introduced me to Mary Anne Voelkel and InterVarsity's Prayer Ministry. Over the following months, I experienced the deep healing that comes through prayer ministry. My life changed radically and I wanted to be able to share what I had experienced with others. I began to learn more through conferences, courses and Mary Anne's mentoring. This time I will go to Staff Conference '08 as a member of the prayer team.

The focus of my NCF ministry has gradually been shifting to spiritual formation and prayer. In many ways, this is really what I came on NCF staff to do, but it had become crowded out with lots of other good things, like writing books, editing the *Journal of Christian Nursing*, teaching, speaking, supervising staff and other administrative duties. As of October 16<sup>th</sup>, my title officially changed to "NCF Spiritual Formation and Prayer." The greatest part of that work will be in caring for staff and in keeping prayer at the heart of our NCF ministry. This will include praying with individual staff members, leading retreats, assisting Pat Emery in planning spiritual formation events for staff development, teaching and mentoring in spiritual formation and prayer and participating in InterVarsity spiritual formation and prayer ministries. I will continue to supervise NCF staff in the Mid-Atlantic and Blue Ridge regions for the time being, and be available to NCF as a publications consultant, editor and writer on a limited basis.

Why does NCF need someone to focus on prayer? Because we are all wounded healers. Research has shown that the vast majority of nurses have experienced abuse and dysfunction. NCF members staff are no exception. Our most popular conference topics center on things like "compassion fatigue," tension in the workplace, forgiveness and resolving inter-personal conflict. Younger nurses often feel like they are being eaten alive. Our staff can't give out what they don't have.

In many ways, our **Mid-Atlantic Conference/Retreat**, October 12-13, was symbolic of this transition. The conference, "Compassionate Care: Nursing's Christian Legacy," outlined and applied the content of *Called to Care: A Christian Worldview for Nursing*. InterVarsity's media department, "Twentyonehundred," filmed the conference, so we are back on track with the *Called to Care* video curriculum package. The retreat that followed, "Seeking Shalom: Prayer that Heals," introduced nurses to healing prayer, not only for their work settings, but for themselves. We saw nurses radically transformed before our eyes as they experienced the power of prayer.



Pat Emery praying for me before the conference.

In the coming weeks, I will be involved with several exciting events and projects.:

- November 3, attending a "Healing our Wounded Histories" conference near Philadelphia.
- November 29-Dec 1—meeting with NCF **Mentoring Task Force** (Renee Lick, Skip MacDonald and Fran McHolm) to develop a mentoring plan and resources for NCF.
- Developing a service-learning **Continuing Education experience in Nigeria** following the NCF International Conference in September 2008 (with Fran McHolm).
- January 2-6, **InterVarsity Staff Conference**, St. Louis—serving on prayer team.
- January 7, meeting with **IV Intercessory Prayer Manual** writing team in St. Louis.
- February 16-24, **disaster relief at Bethel Clinic, Biloxi, MS**, with Mid-Atlantic Staff Team (let me know if you are interested in more information, or if you want to join us).

Financially, this has been an interesting month. I was disappointed to learn that one of my supporting churches has had to decrease their giving by \$1000 next year—a significant chunk! On the other hand,

October was the best income month so far this fiscal year. Thank you to those of you who gave special gifts, as well as those who give faithfully each month.

Fund-raising is kind of weird at this stage of ministry. Most of those who began giving when I first came on staff in 1970 have either died, or retired and are living on fixed incomes. At the same time, our new Director is recognizing that NCF staff are not even receiving what entry-level nurses are paid and wants to pay us more equitable wages. That necessitates finding new donors. If you pray, but haven't been giving, would you please pray about whether God may be calling you to consider giving on a regular basis? I do love and appreciate you (even if the answer is "no")!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



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