



*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. ~Psalm 67:4-5*

Fall 2008

Dear Praying Friend:



In just a couple weeks, I will be leaving for Nigeria with 20 other U.S. nurses to attend the NCF International 50th Anniversary Conference. NCFI Conferences are always a little taste of heaven, where nurses from around the world praise God, enjoy rich fellowship and learn together. The picture at the left is part of the music team at the last NCFI

conference in Korea (2004). This time, the conference theme is “Strengthened to Serve: A Christian Response to Global Health Needs.” I will be presenting on Prayer Ministry in Nursing.

Following the Conference, Renee Lick and I will lead a Transcultural Immersion for 11 U.S. nurses. We will be accompanied by members of our sister movement in Nigeria, as we travel between Jos and Abuja to visit nursing schools and hospitals, and participate in outreaches to AIDS patients and their families.

We covet your prayers! If you’d like to pray specifically each day, I am attaching our itinerary. I’ll be gone from September 12 through October 1. Overall, we need your intercession for:

1. **Health and safety** as we travel, both internationally and within Nigeria. It will take most us 24 hours to get there, with two overnight flights. We’ve all had to receive a huge number of immunizations, including Yellow Fever, which is prevalent. We will also have to take anti-malaria drugs, which often have side-effects. Tap water is not safe to drink. The weather will be hot and humid (it is the end of rainy season). Health care can be risky (a high probability of AIDS-contaminated equipment).
2. **Flexibility** for all participants, especially the mission trip people. Westerners are used to hot showers, electricity 24/7, well-maintained roads, reliable vehicles, wireless internet access and instant gratification. We probably won’t find all that in Nigeria! We are also time and task oriented. Nigerians are relationship oriented. Events may not unfold the way we expect. We will also be eating unfamiliar foods.
3. **Freedom from fear**. Nigeria is unstable politically and culturally. There is unrest between Muslims and Christians. We cannot use our credit cards. No one, including banks, will cash Travelers Checks. Banks will not exchange currency, so we will have to rely on street



vendors to exchange our dollars for Nigerian money. We'll also have to carry all our worldly wealth in money belts strapped to our bodies—no wonder foreigners are targets for mugging!

4. **Ability to lovingly present the gospel in word and deed** to those we encounter along the way. The Transcultural Immersion group will be participating in outreaches to AIDS patients and their families with Nigerian Christian nurses. We will also be visiting nursing schools and hospitals. Our ministry will be to encourage Nigerian nurses and patients by learning from them and affirming their best practices. It is always tempting for Americans to feel and act superior. May the Lord deliver us from arrogance.
5. **Open hearts to what God wants to teach us**—about ourselves, about our Nigerian hosts and about His faithfulness. Pray for the Nigerian fellowship as they lead and host us.


The summer has gone quickly. Mary Anne Voelkel and I completed the **Intercessory Prayer Manual** with our noses to the grindstone right up to the last minute. The InterVarsity Intercessory Prayer Course in June was an exciting time of learning and growing together in prayer. Twenty six staff and volunteers participated. At the end, we had to say goodbye to Mary Anne, who officially retired as InterVarsity's National Prayer Coordinator. We will miss her! (The picture on the right shows course teachers praying for Mary Anne.)



The **Mentor Training Workshop** for NCF staff, July 29-August 1, was another delightful time of working and learning together. Our time together ended with “breakfast on the beach with Jesus” after we spent four days looking at the mentoring relationship between Jesus and Peter. We actually ate inside, but served fish and scrambled eggs with a beach theme, then studied John 21. We look forward to a rich harvest of “fish” (nurses!) as we take the training to the field. We are now working to hone the content down to a one-day workshop that can be reproduced at the local level. The Mid-Atlantic Region will pilot one version on February 28.

As always, the Lord was faithful in bringing my full support in by June 30, although I began the month with a \$15,000 deficit. Again, I stand amazed and thankful to each of you who gave so generously. I keep wondering why it has to go down to the wire each year, but it does keep me on my knees and points me to the Lord, who is the source of all good gifts. I have spent most of August visiting supporting churches to say thank you. That in itself has been encouraging. I wish I could visit each one of you to say thank you in person. Please know that I am deeply grateful for you, your gifts and your prayer support.

Yours in Christ Jesus,


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