



*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world,
and those who live in it. ~Psalm 24:1*

Nigeria Report 2008

Dear Praying Friend:



Nigeria was amazing, scary, wonderful, gut-wrenching, and stretching--physically, emotionally and spiritually. The NCFI conference had 456 participants—106 internationals, about half of those from other African countries. The rest were Nigerian. The cost of the Western-style hotel actually prevented many Nigerians from attending. They usually have over 1,000 at their national conferences. The worship was lively and upbeat, with lots of dancing, great singing and passionate prayer. Presentations were excellent and focused on the causes of the global healthcare crisis and how we can get involved in the solutions.

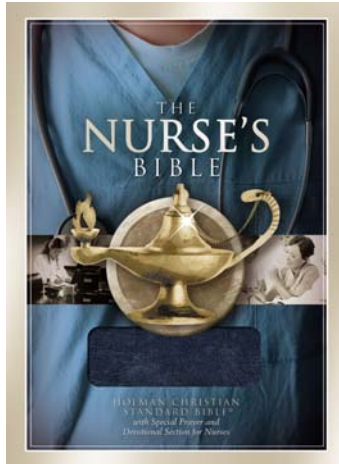
In the Transcultural Immersion that followed, we saw firsthand how the Nigerian Fellowship of Christian Nurses is doing its part in the solutions. We traveled about 1000 miles, saw the work of the Nigerian fellowship, worshiped in village churches, met government officials and enjoyed the hospitality of village communities. We were so impressed with the Nigerian fellowship. Their 5,000 members joyfully sacrifice time and funds for ministry. They have developed excellent discipleship and leadership training programs, hold outreaches to HIV/AIDS patients and families, assist villages in obtaining clean water, and organize free clinics for the poor while clearly presenting the gospel. We participated in each of these ventures, including a temporary clinic that treated 574 patients in two days! We grew to love and respect our Nigerian hosts, especially Peter Maji, who traveled with us (on left below). Our hearts and vision have been expanded.



Things started off pretty scary as team members experienced some serious injuries and illnesses, including one teammate having a finger bitten off by a chimpanzee and another getting malaria. They went home early. I fell on an uneven step and

split my lip open. Most of us had traveler's diarrhea at some point. I was proud of our group, though. Everyone adapted well and maintained a humble attitude—except when very tired and basic-amenity-deprived. Thank you for your prayer support!

I hit the pavement running when we returned, with several strategic meetings, the NCF Fall Conference and three retreats in October. On November 15, I will be speaking at another continuing education event in Schwenksville, PA, *Healing Prayer: Nursing Implications*. The brochure is online if you are interested <http://ncf-jcn.org/conferences/228pa.pdf>.



The Holman *Nurses Bible*, which I edited, is scheduled to be off the press on November 11. I've noticed that it's already on Amazon.com and Christianbooks.com. Here's the description from the Amazon website:

The Nurse's Bible combines the full text of the popular Holman Christian Standard Bible translation with sixty pages of additional information and inspiration for those medical professionals who form the frontline of healthcare around the world. The ancillary material is provided by the Nurses Christian Fellowship/USA and edited by Judith Allen Shelly, R.N. B.S.N., M.A., D.Min, who has won numerous awards from the Evangelical Press Association. Bible's portable design and brief specialty entries enable nurses to step back for just a few minutes to refocus on the important in the midst of the urgent

Thank you for your continuing prayer support! It really makes a difference. In the coming month I will be meeting with my supervisor, Pat Emery, to determine a plan for Spiritual Formation and Prayer in NCF. Please pray for clear discernment in this. This winter I will also be tying up some loose ends with NCF publications, working with a task force to revise the NCF curriculum and leading a workshop on *Christian Mentoring in Nursing* on February 28.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Shelly'. Below the signature is the printed name 'Judy Shelly'.

University of Jos, Nigeria

Judith A. Shelly, DMin, RN
NCF Spiritual Formation and Prayer
302 Township Line Road, PO Box 700, Frederick,
PA 19435
610-754-7001 Email: judyshelly@comcast.net
<http://ncf.intervarsity.org/staff/jshelly/main.php>

