



*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you. Is 60:1-2*

Fall 2009



Dear Praying Friend:

The fall season is off and running! In the midst of pressing events and appointments, the contrast between the darkness of this world and the light of Christ continues to amaze me. Increasingly, as I have prayed through John 1-4 in regard to Urbana and the ministry of NCF, pictures come into my mind of darkness and light. The images, such as the one here, often find their way onto paper. As I pray with colored pencils in my hand, the light of Christ takes on new shapes and meaning in my heart.

Exploring creative ways to hear God and respond in worship was also the theme for the InterVarsity

Northeastern Spiritual Formation and Prayer Cluster Gathering near Albany New York in September. InterVarsity staff member Barbara Brown (on right) led us in exploring various ethnic approaches to prayer and worship. This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to learn from InterVarsity colleagues and personally experience spiritual renewal.



In the face of last year's financial losses, NCF could not afford to plan an overnight retreat at our usual retreat center. Instead, we combined the NCF retreat with the church retreat that I was already facilitating. Our topic, "Is Anybody Listening?" incorporated the DVD curriculum "Just Listen!" produced by Acorn Christian Healing Foundation in the UK (absolutely no relation to the US political organization Acorn!). My husband and I serve on the board of the emerging US branch of this organization, presently called *Christian Listeners USA (CLUSA)*. We are excited about its

focus on listening, healing and reconciliation. Participants at the retreat enthusiastically applied what they learned and immediately began envisioning new forms of outreach in our community using their new listening skills. Let me know if you want to know more about CLUSA courses and resources.

The "Caring Across Cultures: Making a Difference in the World" continuing education workshop the following weekend (October 10), was a blast! Our creative planning team made sure that everyone learned on their feet, as well as from the lectures. When participants registered, each received a sealed envelop with the characteristics of their "tribe." They were instructed to not share their papers with people from the other tribe. Members of the "Wawa" tribe wore leis. The "Gogo" tribe wore beads. First, they had to get to know their own tribe, and then they ventured over to get to know the other tribe. Eventually, they planned a health care project to serve both tribes.



Presentations included a Bible study on John 4, re-enacted in contemporary form as “Sam and the Nurse in the Bar at Sychar.” For those of you who may be wondering as several participants did—no, the tattoos



on Jen’s arms are not real! As we moved on to examining the effects of different worldviews on healthcare delivery, our actors changed roles and became a nurse, trying to explain to a Hmong mother that her child needed to take medication for seizures—as the mother continued to insist that the child’s problem stemmed from losing her soul when her sister slammed the door.



Appropriately, the new *Journal of Christian Nursing* arrived the week of the conference. The whole issue focuses on cross-cultural nursing, including my article about our Nigeria Mission Trip last September, “Into Africa: A Mission Trip with a Twist.”



And another resource production is finally back on track. The *Compassionate Care* Video curriculum is in the final stages of production and should be available soon! This project has been so plagued with glitches. Please pray that everything will go smoothly as the last details are worked out.




The beginning of the fiscal year has been extremely difficult—not only for my support, but for missions across the board. Please pray for those who are out of work, and pray that the economy would truly rebound so that all of us who are serving in Christian ministries would see strong financial support coming in soon! Also, several people have asked if I still need support, since I am retiring June 30. The answer is YES! It is even more important now, since I do not want to leave a deficit for others to have to cover. In the meantime, I am fully engaged in ministry. Please pray for me as I complete projects and participate in upcoming events:

- October 28-31 – peer visit by Renee Lick for spiritual formation
- November – mentoring local potential leaders and completing resources projects
- December 26-January 1 – Urbana Missions Convention, St. Louis, MO

I am so grateful for your intercession, encouragement and support!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

  
Judy Shelly

PS: Please note the new PO Box!

**Judith A. Shelly, DMin, RN**  
NCF Spiritual Formation and Prayer  
302 Township Line Road, PO Box 356, Frederick, PA 19435  
610-754-7001 Email: [judyshelly@comcast.net](mailto:judyshelly@comcast.net)  
<http://ncf.intersociety.org/staff/jshelly/main.php>