



*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ~1Peter 5:6-7*

Winter 2009

Dear Praying Friend:

Watching the world economy plummet over the past few months seems to have spread a shroud of anxiety over our society—secular and Christian alike. In NCF we see it reflected in declining conference registrations. Participants hesitate to spend the money when their jobs may be in jeopardy. Conference planners fear huge deficits—and often face them when registrations don't cover costs. In addition, NCF staff are facing drastically reduced donor support and increasing expenses. We all want to be in control, and we obviously are not.

Interestingly, in the passage above, Peter reminds us Who is in control and why He allows us to get into these difficult situations—so we can experience His care for us. I want to share some of the ways I have been seeing evidence of God's care.

For the first time, our fall conference and retreat went deeply in the hole. Attendance was much lower than usual and expenses were quite a bit higher. However, those who attended loved the more intimate atmosphere of the smaller group. As our staff team looked at the combination of great evaluations and need for a less expensive venue, we began to plan a series of smaller, more frequent events in an intimate setting. At the same time, extended care facilities began offering us space at no charge—and giving us a complimentary breakfast! The November *Healing Prayer* seminar was well-received and overbooked. On February 28, I will be leading another seminar on *Christian Mentoring in Nursing*. Space limitations restricted participants to 12, but we have 15 registered.



One advantage of these small events has been the opportunity to develop reproducible resources—PowerPoint presentations, outlines, handouts and continuing education packages—so that staff in other areas can easily use them.

Another positive effect of difficult times is the rising interest in prayer and learning how to listen to the Lord. My work over the past couple of months has included developing materials for nurses to use during Nurses Week (May 6-12) for organizing prayer events for nursing. I have also written Bible study and devotional guides for NCF staff conference (April 25-28) and will lead the daily prayer times. Again, I am serving on the Prayer Leadership Team for Urbana 09. My assignment is to lead the team that prays for and with the missionaries and other exhibitors who come to the convention this December.

**URBANA09**  
 INTERVARSITY'S 22ND STUDENT MISSIONS CONFERENCE  
 DECEMBER 27-31, 2009 ST. LOUIS WWW.URBANA09.ORG

In January, I joined with other Urbana prayer leaders in St. Louis to pray and plan for intercessory prayer and prayer ministry during the Convention. It was a time of great hope and expectancy.

My personal support has recently presented some challenges. Through December, my support base was very strong; however, as the full impact of the economy began to take effect in 2009, it has taken a nosedive. Several very generous donors have told me that their financial advisors instructed them to stop giving at this time. A supporting church had to cut their budget another \$1000 due to their own financial deficits. Donations totaled only \$795 for January and \$595 so far for February. That is a serious deficit, which could affect my ability to remain on staff. I believe that the Lord will provide, but it will take a miracle! Please pray with me and spread the word to potential donors. For those of you receiving this via snail mail, I am enclosing envelopes to make it more convenient to give. If you prefer to give online see the options at <http://ncf-jcn.org/donate.html>. Thank you for your faithfulness and for your help in this crisis.

Prayer points for the coming spring include:

- February 28 – Christian Mentoring in Nursing Seminar, Schwenksville, PA
- March 25-28 – NCF Staff Conference, Atlanta, GA
- April 1-3 – InterVarsity Spring Leadership Meetings, Madison, WI
- April 22-24 – Northeast Staff Cluster InterVarsity Spiritual Formation and Prayer
- May 2 – Southeast Pennsylvania NCF Prayer Breakfast, Frederick, PA
- June 25-28 – NCF National Summit, Dallas, TX
- My preparation for each of these events!
- NCF staff Jackie Iatesta and Robert Campbell, whom I supervise. They also need support.

Thank you!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Judy Shelly

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PS: In another effort to cut costs, I would like to send as many prayer letters via email as possible. If you would be willing to receive an email notice with a link to my staff webpage (where the prayer letters are posted), please email me at the address in the box above. I will also send you short prayer points more frequently in between prayer letters. –Judy.



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Summit 09  
*Nursing as Ministry*  
Caring in Context  
Westin Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Hotel  
Irving, Texas  
June 25-28, 2009

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