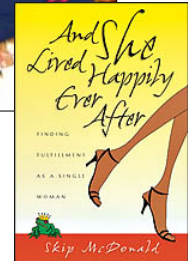
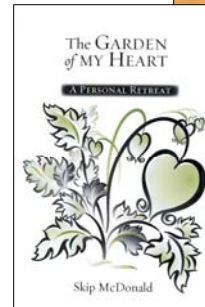




Spring 2005

Dear Friend:

As the spring flowers begin to burst open, I'm delighted to announce the release of Skip McDonald's book *The Garden of My Heart* from NCF Press. Skip has been busy lately. InterVarsity Press just released her second book, *And She Lived Happily Ever After: Finding Fulfillment as a Single Woman*. Many of us in NCF have enjoyed Skip's friendship, wisdom and joy in person, so it's fun to see her sharing more widely through the printed page.



My role on NCF staff right now is sort like John the Baptist's in the life of Jesus, when he explained, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). My primary focus at this point has become mentoring, enabling and encouraging younger staff to take on some of the more up-front roles that I have had in the past. That is both a joy and a struggle for me.

The joy comes from seeing new staff appointed and mentored, and "older" staff coming into positions of leadership and prominence. I am delighted to see them bringing new vision and creativity to NCF ministry.

Another joy has come from learning more about prayer and the power of God to meet us in tough situations. That statement also betrays some of the struggles.



Over the past two years, a great deal of my time and energy has been invested in serving on a steering committee of three to develop a plan for the proposed Institute of Christian Nursing (IOCN). Our work together resulted in a structure with concrete vision, mission and goals, a solid foundation of core values, core knowledge, core competences and measurable outcomes. We developed funding proposals and began seeking a director. However, we also began hearing a loud, "Not yet!" from the Lord.

The funding did not materialize as expected. The right person to fill the position of director did not become evident. However, more importantly, it became very clear that NCF did not have the administrative infrastructure to handle such a huge undertaking. We were planning for too much, too fast. Of course, we were extremely disappointed.

The Lord had more important plans for us. The apparent crisis over IOCN sent us to our knees and Jesus met us in amazing ways. The NCF Leadership Team—Mary Thompson, Jane Hall, Sandra Jamison, Grace Tazelaar, Ruth Snapp and myself, met in Chicago in early March to seek the Lord together and re-evaluate our strategic plan. We spent more time praying than planning—spending time in confession, praise, thanksgiving and

supplication. When we finally got to the planning stage, we were united in heart and vision. We still have many details to complete, but we are all on the same page.

Three weeks later, we met with the whole NCF staff team, followed by NCF National Council meetings. Again, we experienced a new sense of unity and commitment to one another as a piece of Christ's body within nursing.

Next month, Mary Thompson and I will meet again in Chicago and Madison—to pray and to investigate potential funding possibilities for IOCN and for NCF Publications. We will join with two members of the InterVarsity Prayer Team to seek healing for NCF as a movement, from its beginnings in the 1940s until the present. Nehemiah and Daniel prayed in a similar way for Israel (Neh 9, Dan 9). We are trusting God to “throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it” (Mal 3:10).

My other huge struggle over the past year has been fund raising. As my roles become less visible, my support has dramatically diminished. When I gave up the editorship of *JCN*, giving dropped by 50%! It has not recovered.



Without the behind-the-scenes work of prayer, mentoring, staff recruitment and training, writing and editing, the more visible work of NCF cannot flourish. Please pray with me for the floodgates of heaven to pour out blessing in my various areas of responsibility.

- ✦ As **NCF Publications Director, Director NCF Press**—editing books/projects in press and soliciting manuscripts, supervising Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner and the publications team, mentoring newsletter editors and serving as in-house writer/editor as needed.
- ✦ As **NCF Mid-Atlantic Area Director**—supervising staff members Jackie Iatesta and Dorothy Allbritten, recruiting and training additional staff, serving as staff liaison with the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council (MALC).
- ✦ As a member of the **NCF Leadership Team** and **NCF National Council**—strategic planning and setting vision and direction for NCF as a movement.

As we approach the June 30 end of the fiscal year, my support level stands at 44% of budget. Please pray that it will be 100% by the time the books are closed. I need your help! Please consider making a regular commitment to invest in this crucial ministry. If you are already giving, thank you!

Yours in Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Judy Shelly, NCF Publications Director

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<http://www.intervarsity.org/ncf/staff/jshelly/main.html>