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A Pilgrimage of the Heart

Upcoming events:

Aug. MALC Council Retreat,
 19-20 Shickshinny, PA

Sept. National Staff Leader-
 13-15 ship Team, Chicago

Sept. NCF National Council
 15-16 Exec, Chicago

Oct. Mid-Atlantic NCF
 14 Seminar, Valley Forge

Oct. Mid-Atlantic NCF
 14-15 Retreat, Valley Forge

Nov. Filming Called to Care
 10-11 Videos

Special points of interest:

- Connecting the past with today
- Fiscal year ends in miracle
- Hearing God speak
- Joy in Nursing
- What lies ahead?

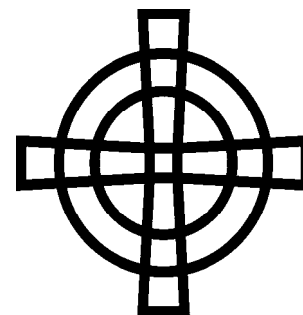
The posts in the photo above mark the two-mile way along which pilgrims have approached the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, a tidal island in northeastern England, for over 1000 years. Ancient Celtic Christians referred to the Island as a “thin place”—where the presence of God is palpable. Connected to the mainland at low tide, it is isolated by water at high tide.

My husband Jim and I experienced the joy of this holy place in July. We became immersed in the prayer rhythms of the Island and continue them now as part of our daily routine.

I walked the “Pilgrim Posts” with two other women. We began the journey with instructions to refrain from talking to

one another, but “listen to God.” I carried my Bible and some suggested meditations. We walked barefooted on this holy ground—sandy, wet and sometimes muddy. The Lord spoke clearly about depending on Him for whatever lies ahead, even when there are no visible “posts” to follow.

Actually, this was a pilgrimage in reverse time. It began by finding the little Methodist Chapel that my great grandfather and great-great grandfather pastored in Yorkshire in the 1800’s, and then to Lindisfarne, founded by Saint Aidan, who came from the Isle of Iona in 653. After that, we went to Iona, founded by Saint Columba who arrived from Ireland in 560.



Blessed are those whose strength
 is in you, who have set their
 hearts on pilgrimage.
 Psalm 84:5 (NIV)

Through it all we gained a new appreciation for the church as “witnessing communities.” Both the historical witness of the saints who went before us, and those today who minister among us bringing a fresh and vibrant glimpse into the kingdom of God. ✠

Awesome Developments

When I wrote my spring letter, my ministry support account was only about 50% of budget. However, when the IVCF fiscal year ended June 30, the account closed in the black! That was nothing short of a miracle.

Many of you gave generously and sacrificially. Several new donors gave large gifts—some of them were from people I have known since my student days, who had not given previously. What a tremendously humbling and affirming experience to see those gifts appear

on the financial reports!

Thank you to each of you for your faithfulness and support.

As the new fiscal year begins, I will need to build a more consistent support base (some of those gifts were one-time).

Thank you for your help! ✠

Listening to God

In my last letter, I also told you about an upcoming time of prayer that Mary Thompson and I would have with two members of the IVCF Prayer Team, Mary Anne Voelkel and Lorita Boyle. We met in Chicago, May 24-25. That was a powerful experience that resulted in some deep healing, both personally and organizationally.

We were able to pray for NCF as an organization and for

NCF staff throughout our history, thanking God for them and the work they did, as well as confessing our sin and committing our future to the Lord.

This has been part of an incredible journey in learning to listen to God in new ways. I am setting aside more time in my daily schedule for prayer, and spending more time listening than talking. I am also growing in a ministry of intercession.

This academic year, my “continuing education”—both reading and conferences will focus on prayer ministry. That will eventually influence what I write and the publications and resources that NCF produces.

Please pray with me as I seek to listen more carefully to the Lord. ✠



*Cross on St. Cuthbert's Island
Lindisfarne*

Joy in Nursing

Rediscovering Joy in Nursing, the Mid-Atlantic NCF Fall Continuing Education Seminar led by Willa Decker, October 14, 2005, will help us identify the “joy stealers” in our lives, examine the sources of personal and professional joy, identify ways to infuse joy into our work settings,

explore biblical principles for joy and consider ways to maintain a healthy, joyful lifestyle.

Following the seminar, we will host a retreat, *Abiding in Joy*, October 14 (evening) and 15. I will lead the retreat and my husband Jim will join us for the closing Communion

service. The retreat will provide worship, prayer, extended time in the Scriptures and fellowship with other nurses who love the Lord so we can know the joy of the Lord as our strength.

Let me know if you want more information. ✠

**The joy of the
Lord is your
strength.**

Nehemiah 8:10

Looking Ahead

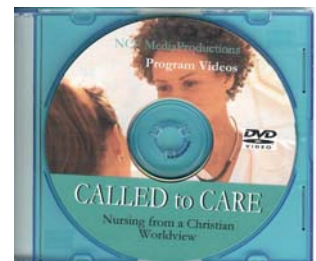
Two exciting upcoming projects will involve most of my time this fall. Mary Elizabeth O'Brien's delightful book, *The Nurse with an Alabaster Jar* moves into the production stage now. Also, the second edition of *Called to Care* will be released in

February. Along with the book, Arlene Miller and I are working with a team of nurses to develop a DVD video discussion series based on the book.

Please pray with us as we work with InterVarsity's Media Department (“2100”)

to film and edit the DVD's and produce discussion guides through NCF Press.

This will involve several trips to Madison, finding “actors” and writing scripts. Pray for all those involved—and for the impact of the finished product on nurses. ✠



NCF DVD series will include video clips, a discussion guide, and program resources.