

Dear friends,

*You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind—
both its inclination and its character—is stayed on You,
because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You.
So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever;
for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock—the Rock of Ages.
Isaiah 26:3-4 AMP*

What amazing verses! Isaiah's words challenge me to consider if my thoughts, attitudes, actions of my mind and life are really *stayed on God*. Do I trust in Him with all my heart, or do I lean on my own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6)? Does my soul *yearn* for God (Is. 26:8-9)? Isaiah goes on to describe how the people of God have been with child, writhing and in pain, but have brought forth only *wind* (26:18). I pray I can truly be focused on God, and that the work God calls me to will be his work and bring forth good fruit, not just "wind."

Here are updates on the work of ministry in Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) and the *Journal of Christian Nursing (JCN)*.

- While attending InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's (IVCF) tri-annual staff conference in St. Louis, Jan. 2-6, God impressed me that I am part of an *exciting* evangelistic ministry to college campuses. I began to ask God to show me what my part is in hands-on campus ministry. I felt the Lord saying, "Contact Wichita State University and ask if they need help with their NCF student group." I emailed a nursing faculty contact asking if they would like help and she responded with a resounding "YES!!!" I met with three faculty members who relayed they were discouraged as they tried every semester but never quite got the NCF group going. One said, "An incoming nursing student asked me about NCF and when we would start meeting. I didn't think much of it but she followed up and asked me again. I told the Lord he would have to provide help with this... then God prompted Kathy to offer to help us. God must want to do something or why would the student approach me and why would Kathy think she should contact us?" We sensed God saying, "Go for it!" Our first meeting was Feb. 18. Four students attended, saying others also wanted to come. In 45 minutes we introduced the students to NCF, did a bible study of Psalm 23, and prayed for each other and our concerns. When leaving, I "accidentally" ran into the chairperson of the department, introduced myself, and gave her a current copy of *JCN*. What a thrill to sense God's calling and to join in His work. We plan to meet twice monthly throughout the semester.



Oct/Dec 2007 JCN cover

- The ministry of *JCN* continues to grow. We are reaching more and more nurses through our partnership which began June 2006 with Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, one of the largest healthcare publishers in the world. Our subscriptions have slowly increased and we completed the 2007 fiscal year for the most part in the black. Complete issues of the journal are now online from 2002 to the present in two locations: www.journalofchristiannursing.com and www.nursingcenter.com. This allows us to reach across the world, helping nurses and nursing students practicing nursing from a biblically based, Christian perspective. Exciting! Producing *JCN* remains challenging. Partnering with LWW has opened up numerous resources, but producing the journal 4 times a year is *complicated*. I thank God for his daily ministry and guidance. Pray with me that I will stay in a place to hear his voice and direction.

- I continue to work 30 hours a week with NCF for no salary. Each staff member of IVCF must raise personal support for ministry expenses and salary. Although God has brought in donations to cover my expenses (office, internet, phone, travel), not enough is coming in to cover a salary. The sale of *JCN* subscriptions has not been used to cover any salaries or expenses, only past debt and production costs. Furthermore, income from *JCN* is not adequate to cover all NCF staff who produce the journal. After almost 4 years on staff, only 15% of what is needed to support my ministry is now being given. I am asking God to raise an additional \$3400.00 a month to complete my budget. If you feel led to contribute to this ministry, use the enclosed envelope or go online to www.intervarsity.org/ and click on “donate.”
- I am working 1-2 days a week as a staff nurse at Via Christi Good Shepherd hospital in Wichita. I thoroughly enjoy patient care and working in the *real* world of nursing. This is helping me understand the challenges of patient care and what nurses need in today’s healthcare environment, which helps me plan *JCN* and minister more effectively through NCF.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, partnership in this ministry, and your love. Do let me know how I can pray for you.

Onward!

Kathy

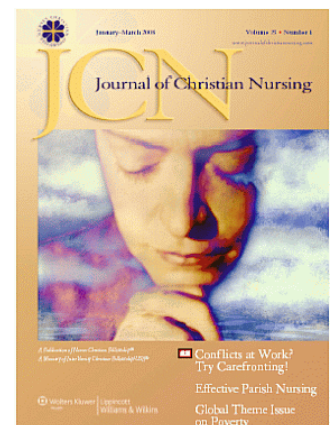
Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner, PhD, RN
 Editor, *Journal of Christian Nursing*
 Field Staff, Nurses Christian Fellowship USA
 1033 Patricia, Wichita, Kansas 67208
jcn.editor@cox.net
 316-685-0428 (home) or 316-687-9597 (office)

Prayer Requests:

- For ongoing wisdom and strength to continue planning and producing *JCN*
- That I would be a wise, loving wife and godly mother
- That I would hear Jesus in my quiet times of Bible study and prayer
- That I would live a balanced life of Sabbath rest and godly work
- That we would be effective witnesses to LWW staff who work with us on *JCN*
- That God would teach me and use me as I work as a staff nurse
- For me to be obedient in ministry fund raising
- For God to stir the hearts of the people he wants to give financially to IVCF, to reach 100% of needed personal ministry support. “*And my God will meet all my needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 4:19).

Upcoming Schedule:

- March 10 – WSU NCF group meets; I lead the bible study, take pizza!
- March 24 or 31 – WSU NCF group meets
- March 27 – Manuscripts due to LWW for July/Sept issue of *JCN*
- April 11 – One of 2 speakers for Wichita NCF Spring Conference, *Life on the Line: Issues in Advancing Biotechnologies*
- April 14 and 28 – WSU NCF group meets
- May 1-4 – National NCF staff / planning meetings, Chicago, IL
- May 9 – Late Departments due to LWW for July/Sept *JCN*
- Ongoing – Plan 2008 - 09 issues of *JCN* (themes, contact authors, recruit manuscripts)



Jan/Mar 2008 JCN cover