

May 2010

*We have heard with our ears, O God;
Our fathers have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago.
With your hand you drove out the nations and planted our fathers; you crushed the peoples and made our fathers flourish. It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.
You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob.
Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.
I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; but you give us victory over our enemies, You put our adversaries to shame.
In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever. Selah*

Psalm 44:1-8, NIV

Dear Friends,

These ancient words remind me with amazing clarity that God is the One who guides and empowers this ministry. It is not my “bow” or “sword,” my efforts, cleverness, or strength that brings victory...it is His power and intentions.

What are the “enemies” and “adversaries” we’re facing right now in Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) and the *Journal of Christian Nursing (JCN)*? The overwhelming work load and difficulty organizing and prioritizing comes to mind...the distractions that try to keep us from rich times with God in Scripture and prayer...looming financial concerns as we come to the end of the InterVarsity fiscal year... the difficulty of working apart all over the country, trying to communicate and love one another (John 15:12). At *JCN*, it is the ominous threat of maintaining and growing our subscription base and the bottom line...the whispers in my head about future articles that may not be submitted.

How delightful that God pushes back these enemies and puts our adversaries to shame! His plan and purposes *will be* accomplished!

Exciting ministry updates:



Opportunities abound to fulfill our mission to help students, nurses, and educators practice from a biblically-based, Christian perspective:

- ✓ **Our Web presence grows:** Check out www.journalofchristiannursing.com; look for new topical collections, full archives from Vol. 1 to the present, free access content, a new Blog “WDYT?”
- ✓ **JCN columns** offer focused content in appealing, concise packages. With release of the Oct/Dec 2010 issue we will have 12 columns. New additions include *In Retrospect*, helping nurses explore God’s unfolding story in nursing and our place in it; and *Christian Nursing 101*, offering insights on the essentials skills and biblical thinking important for Christian nursing.
- ✓ **Lippincott Williams & Wilkins**, our publisher, continues to offer us their best in our creative publisher, designer, and production staff. We are blessed.



I have been given opportunity to speak about a **Christian worldview for publishing** at two upcoming conferences:

- ✓ *Innovations in Faith-Based Nursing Education*, June 14-17, sponsored by Indiana Wesleyan University, Nurses Christian Fellowship, and Sigma Theta Tau (nursing honor society).
- ✓ *Thriving in a Changing World*, the 24th Annual Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium, in St. Louis, MO, September 17-19.



In the **College of Health Professions**, support among faculty grows and we continue working to establish a presence. I have a mounting sense that God wants to re-establish a full InterVarsity chapter at Wichita State University, allowing outreach to the *entire* WSU

campus.

- ✓ We will be offering cookies, drinks, and info [the first week of school](#), August 23, in the lobby of Ahlberg Hall where Health Professions is housed.
- ✓ Our [first meeting](#) for all Health Professions schools is August 30.



God continues to work through a [strong NCF Chapter](#) at Newman University. They have a committed faculty advisor, Amy, and around 20 committed students. I had the opportunity to speak at their last meeting about avoiding burnout in nursing from a Christian perspective.



- ✓ Veteran NCF staff *Jane Hall*, serving as Interim Director since Nov. 2009, will become our [new Director](#) July 1. We are awed at how God is knitting us together as a staff team.
- ✓ NCF Missions staff Grace Tazelaar and Connie Jarlsberg just returned from Uganda after making preparations for the [NCF-Uganda Global Missions Project](#) July 14 to August 7 with ten nursing students. Grace and Connie report God's amazing providence during the trip and see His hand in preparations for the project.
- ✓ [New NCF groups](#) are starting up at schools and in cities all over the country!

In summary, *God is using InterVarsity, Nurses Christian Fellowship, and the Journal of Christian Nursing!* Be encouraged knowing you support bringing the Good News to students, nurses, and educators through:

- ✓ Chapters at hundreds of schools around the country
- ✓ Nurse Fellowship groups (for RNs, LPNs) around the U.S.
- ✓ Continuing education for nurses through regional workshops and *JCN* (print and online)
- ✓ The *global* presence of *JCN* (36% of our strong web traffic comes from outside the U.S.!)

Our [fiscal year ends June 30](#) and we believe God wants to complete the year strong financially. Would you pray about giving a special financial gift *now*? Here are ways to give:

- ✓ Go to www.ncf-jcn.org and click on the word "Donate" in the green bar at the top of the page
- ✓ Mail your gift to NCF, P.O. Box 7895, Madison, WI 53707-7895
- ✓ Call toll free 866-734-4823 and ask for Donation Services
- ✓ Please indicate your gift is [for the ministry of Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner](#)
- ✓ All funds will go to meet the financial needs of publications and campus ministry work
- ✓ If you want to know specific items on the budget to support, please contact me.



Prayer Requests:

- ✓ Manuscripts due for the Oct/Dec 2010 *JCN* issue June 25
- ✓ Ongoing work of maintaining the complex Web presence of *JCN*
- ✓ Increasing subscriptions, NCF members, and revenues for *JCN* and NCF
- ✓ Presentations at Indiana Wesleyan June 15; Westberg Symposium September 18
- ✓ Uganda Global Missions Project July 14 – August 7
- ✓ Planning for meetings and outreach at WSU (August 23, 30) and NU
- ✓ That God will use NCF to reach students, nurses, and educators
- ✓ Wisdom and grace as a mom, wife, and staff nurse

Grateful for you,

Kathy

Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner, PhD, RN

Nurses Christian Fellowship, USA • Editor, *Journal of Christian Nursing*

jcn.editor@cox.net • 316-685-0428 • www.journalofchristiannursing.com • www.ncf-jcn.org