

November 2008

Dear friend,



## Celebrate blessings from God this Thanksgiving & Christmas

As I reflect on the past months I am deeply grateful for God's faithfulness to me and my family, and meaningful work through my NCF staff role with retired nurses. Some specific blessings:

### August – Oregon

I enjoyed meeting with retired nurses in Portland. Our afternoon including learning about their legacy in nursing, being encouraged by God's Word, and praying for one another and NCF ministry.

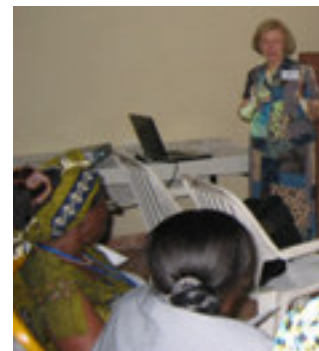


I anticipate the effects of retired nurses around the country who can help to expand the foundation of prayer and financial support for NCF and make a difference in the future of nursing. It is a privilege to work with them.

My sister Karen and I also visited our sister Lorraine and family in Astoria, OR – a reunion planned many months earlier. A week before we arrived my brother-in-law, Roger, suffered a stroke. It was helpful for all of us to be together at this difficult time. Then Roger had a second stroke and died. In NCF we teach about spiritual care, and I was thankful to be present with my family to receive and share Christ's love.

### September – Nurses Christian Fellowship International Conference in Jos, Nigeria

God spoke to us as 450 nurses from 24 countries were prepared to live out the theme, STRENGTHENED TO SERVE: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL HEALTH NEEDS. We also celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCFI, a reminder of wonderful memories in my work with NCFI. The Lord brought joy and encouragement to us through worship, excellent teaching and relationships with colleagues. I enjoyed teaching a seminar, *Strengthened to Serve: Renewing the Call to Care*.



### October – New home in Bloomington, Minnesota

In my last letter I requested prayer for wisdom about moving back to Minnesota to be closer to family and my home church. (My NCF work can be done from any location.) In July I learned that an apartment would open up in the building where church friends live. In August I packed boxes in Madison, WI before going to the NCFI conference, moved October 1, and now am settled in my apartment in a Minneapolis suburb.



I'm thankful to have an extra room for an office, and a new desk and chair. I also have room for guests, and you are welcome to come for a visit! I am grateful for God's encouragement, strength and joy in the transitions of the last months. Please thank God with me.

### **Prayer requests**

#### **Wisdom as I plan my priorities and schedule for the coming months**

I enjoy ministry via phone calls, but will also visit retired nurses in Chicago December 10-12, and nurses in several retirement communities in FL the end of January. Pray for God's guidance in details for the FL trip, and discernment about travel in the spring. I'll continue to develop the REASON (retirees encouraging and supportive of NCF) network.

#### **Communication about *Passing on Your Legacy in Nursing***

+ Retired nurses have wonderful expertise to share with others – legacy of knowledge. During the next weeks I am sending a survey to retired school of nursing chairpersons and deans to glean their wisdom that I'll pass on to current leaders in those roles. (NCF has been blessed by knowing leaders in 11% of nursing schools in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.) Pray that results of the survey will be a significant way to encourage nurses to develop as Christian leaders in nursing education.

+ The legacy of resources (through prayer and financial support, and including NCF in one's will/living trust) also is a vital aspect of legacy. Pray that God will call nurses to be involved in this avenue to make a difference in the future of Christian nursing.

#### **Financial update**

I continue to be employed by InterVarsity for my NCF staff role and receive salary and ministry expenses. Currently there is a \$3110 deficit in my ministry account. Pray that increased income in December will cover the deficit and provide funding for the future – for all staff. (Financial support may be sent to NCF, Box 7895. Madison, WI 53707-7895, or give online at [www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Mary\\_Thompson](http://www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Mary_Thompson) .)

### **Blessings to you**

I thank God for you and your partnership in my NCF ministry! May God encourage you in whatever you are facing these days. Let me know if there are specific ways I can be praying for you.

**Christmas blessings of peace, joy, hope...to you and your family.**

In Christ's love,

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