



December 2006

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people... (Luke 2:10)

Dear Friends,

The message announced to the shepherds continues to bring joy to us. I've experienced Christ's joy the last months through...

Speaking on "Renewing the Call to Care" at an October NCF Retreat in Arkansas

God's word in Isaiah 61:1-4 and Isaiah 42:6-9 has shaped my call to ministry, and it was a joy to talk about these passages, and ways nurses can receive God's resources and represent Jesus in nursing. There were 50 nurses and students from 5 states at the retreat, many new to NCF.



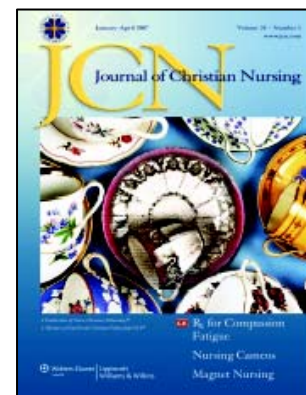
Passing on what I've learned to a new generation of nurses



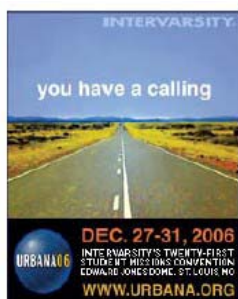
During a November pot-luck for nursing students from UW Madison, I enjoyed sharing good news from Isaiah 9:10, and examples of God being *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. We discussed vision for Christ's authority growing in nursing, and the difference Jesus makes. I anticipate how the Lord will imprint His character in the lives of these students who will be future leaders.

Celebrating new opportunities for NCF to bring good news to nursing

NCF colleague, Harriet Coeling, and I were in Memphis November 16-18 for the Nursing Organizations Alliance Summit. We saw results of plans for NCF becoming a professional membership organization and for *Journal of Christian Nursing* production being outsourced to Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW), a leading health care publisher. NCF vision for being a Christian voice in nursing has risen to a new level of opportunity as we are now "at the table" with leaders of 60 nursing organizations. *JCN* was displayed with other nursing journals on the LWW exhibit table. Conversations at meals and sessions allowed Harriet and I to communicate God's care and perspective with nursing leaders.



Anticipating serving at InterVarsity's 21st Student Missions Convention in St. Louis



Over 20,000 students and young professionals will gather December 27-31, and I'll work with NCF staff and volunteers serving at the NCF exhibit, health center and health care seminars. It is wonderful to be part of what God is doing to prepare the next generation to *bring the good news of great joy to people around the world*. Enjoy web casts during the convention on www.urbana.org.

Prayer requests for coming weeks:

- *Pray for the Missions Convention December 27-31:* that God will speak through study of Ephesians, worship and each presentation. Pray for good health and safety of all participants, and NCF's ministry among students and health care professionals.
- *Pray for the coming NCF Director transition:* In my last prayer letter I shared that we believe it is the time to prepare for the future and search for the next NCF Director. (I have been in this role over 22 years.) I am thankful for wisdom of my supervisor, Barney Ford and the Search Advisory Committee implementing the search process. The plan is to have an interim director beginning March 1 and prepare NCF for a new director. I will continue on staff in a "special assignment role" to work on various projects, and to be available to the interim, Barney, and the newly appointed director upon request.

People have inquired how I'm doing with this coming change. I acknowledge that this has been an opportunity to trust God in new ways as I prepare to release a role I have had for a long time and anticipate what God is preparing for the future. Timing is in God's control. I have had prayer retreats for reflection and journaling where God's Word has wonderfully spoken into my thinking and emotions. I am experiencing peace and joy because of Jesus' presence with me.

- *Pray for fund raising in December and the coming months:* I continue to need financial support for salary and ministry expenses.* I'm also working on funding for our National Office and JCN editorial ministry. Please pray that God will call people to provide prayer and financial backing for NCF's ministry of bringing the good news of Jesus and Christ-centered nursing to students, faculty and nurses.

I thank God for you and your partnership in my ministry over the years and in the future. I pray that Jesus will fill your heart with joy this Christmas season, and in the new year.

In Christ's joy,



Mary Thompson
NCF Director

* Financial support may be sent to NCF, Box 7895, Madison, WI 53707-7895, or given on-line at www.intervarsity.org/donate (put Mary Thompson, NCF in search box). Thanks for your partnership.

