

Dear friend,

The year 2005 began with attending the InterVarsity National Staff Conference in St. Louis, January 5-9. The conference theme, *Missio Dei* (God's mission): *Called by God, Sent by God*, helped us focus on God's work in the world and the privilege of being part of God's mission. This ministry report highlights some ways God's mission has shaped my recent months.

God's mission involves...

- **Following Jesus in our work:** I enjoyed teaching an NCF seminar, *A New Look at Caring*, for nurses and students in St. Louis following the staff conference. Along with examining descriptions of caring in professional literature, we discussed Jesus' example of compassion and advocacy in Matthew 12:1-21. Jesus' leadership is the ultimate source of caring and hope, and it is exciting to be part of what He is doing in nursing and health care.
- **Addressing global concerns:** NCF supported colleagues in Madison who presented a conference, *The Church and the HIV/AIDS Pandemic*, February 19. Over 400 people from Wisconsin and other states attended. It was overwhelming to hear about the suffering and death among millions of people affected by HIV/AIDS around the world. But speakers also described the historic moment for the church when an outpouring of compassion and hope through believers can help the world see Jesus. I pray for nurses who will represent Jesus in this global "pandemic." A former NCF staff member and her physician husband attended the conference. They now are in Kenya, preparing to care for people with HIV/AIDS and to teach disease prevention through applying Christian principles for relationships.

- **Building partnerships:** I have appreciated being a member of the newly formed InterVarsity Strategic Ministries Team -- National Directors of Evangelism, Greek Ministry (fraternities and sororities), International Student Ministry, Staff Development and Training, and NCF.

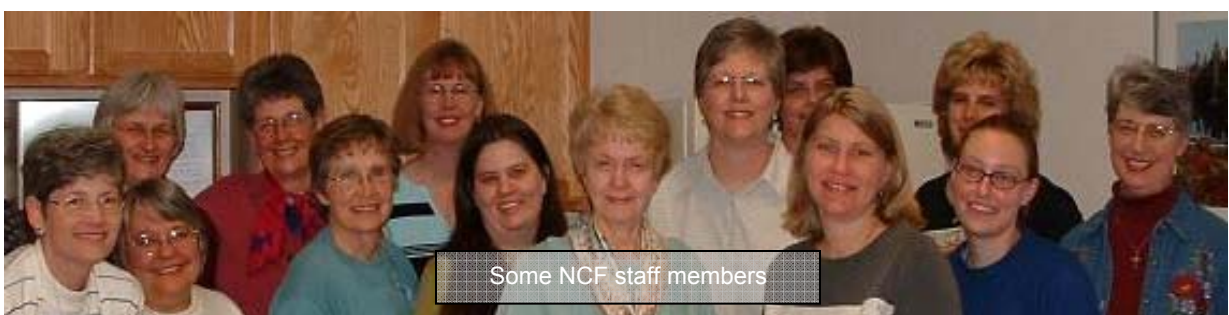


Strategic Ministries Team
with supervisor, Barney Ford and IVCF President, Alec Hill

Our individual and collective ministry reaches and equips people to fulfill God's mission to reach our world. I value weekly prayer times and other meetings with this team.

- **Developing communities that witness to Jesus:** I appreciated our NCF staff meeting March 30 – April 1, and experiencing our theme of growing in love for God and one another. My prayer is that NCF staff and groups around the country would be known by their demonstration of Jesus' love (John 13:34-35), including forgiveness and reconciliation that is the good news of the gospel.

The NCF National Council meeting April 1-3 focused on the theme, *Stewardship of Our Calling – Past, Present and Future*. It was exciting to interact with NCF leaders around the country to celebrate what God has been doing through NCF groups and to consider new ways to grow as a ministry and professional organization. Focus groups on different aspects of our work developed great ideas that are now being put into our plans for next year.



Some NCF staff members

I enjoy working with staff and volunteer leaders to develop people, ideas and plans that help to make Jesus known in nursing.

- ***Communicating God's Word:*** I appreciated the opportunity to provide Bible teaching (Mark 12:28-34) for the National Council Sunday worship service, as well as to teach Philippians 3 at a chapel time in the national office. My days often focus on administration, preparation for meetings, email and phone conversations with people around the country. It was helpful for me to also have an opportunity to teach the scriptures.
- ***Praying:*** God is teaching me new things about intercession and prayer ministry.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of my ministry with NCF. I am grateful!

Prayer topics for the coming weeks:

- ❖ Fund raising (our fiscal year ends June 30*) and preparation for our September National Council Exec meeting.
- ❖ On June 28 I'll fly to England to visit former NCF International Director, Harry Loudon and his family, and will attend the NCFI Board meeting in Scotland July 3-6. We need God's wisdom for future direction for NCFI in light of no longer having an international office due to lack of funds.
- ❖ I anticipate some vacation time in Europe too (Harry's wife and daughter and I are going to Paris for 3 days). I will have more vacation in Minnesota the end of August, as well as spending time with NCF colleagues in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

I pray that God will encourage you in your important place in God's mission.

Blessings,



Mary Thompson
NCF Director

** To help with the fiscal year-end challenge you may send a gift to Nurses Christian Fellowship. Box 7895. Madison, WI 53707-7895, or give on-line: www.ncf-jcn.org/donate.html*