



July 2006

Dear friend,

I thank God for you and your partnership in my ministry with NCF!

The NCF Staff Meeting and National Planning Retreat June 6-11 was a highlight of the last months. God blessed the 30 staff and volunteer leaders who gathered in Chicago to wait on God and plan for the future.



Some NCF staff at the meeting

GOD ENCOURAGED US THROUGH THE WORD:

Focusing on Isaiah 42-44 during the meetings gave us wonderful reminders from God, such as...

- *I have called you, taken you by the hand and kept you (42:6)*
- *I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations... (42:6-7)*
- *New things I now declare (42:9, 43:19)*
- *I will pour water on the thirsty land, my spirit upon your descendants (44:3)*
- *Do not fear, or be afraid (44:8)*
- *You are my witnesses (43:10, 44:8)*

We applied God's word to our current ministry – *highlights* below:

GOD IS HELPING US WITH TRANSITIONS:

During the meetings I gave a Power Point Presentation on *God's Work Among Us*, highlighting both celebrations and opportunities to trust God in transitions.

■ *Beginning the search for a future NCF Director*

Planning ahead is good stewardship. It is our belief that it is the right time to look for the future leader of NCF. See more information on the website: <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/info/directorsearch.html>. I'm thankful for my InterVarsity supervisor, Barney Ford, and the Search Advisory Committee implementing the search. My focus is on my present responsibilities and opportunities right before us. Please pray that God will prepare and call the next NCF Director, and guide in the timing of the transition. It is encouraging to reflect on the ways *God has called and led* us in NCF, enabling us to be *Christ's light in nursing*. I anticipate the *new things* God is preparing for NCF, and for me.

■ *Journal of Christian Nursing will soon be published by a renowned health care publisher, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW)*

NCF maintains all editorial control. This change will result in a wonderful opportunity to reach thousands more nurses and students, as well as be God's witnesses among the LWW staff who are reading the *JCN* content about Christ-centered nursing. Our partnership allows us to be a brighter Christian *light and witness in nursing around the world*. During the last months I've served by coordinating communication regarding the contract and plans; now I'm supporting NCF staff in the many changes in this transition.

■ ***New ways to serve the NCF constituency around the country***

In earlier letters I've written about the NCF Leadership Council Network. I thank God for each person who has been involved. During the June Planning Retreat we discussed *new ways to expand opportunities* for people to be involved in NCF, including forming electronic networks of nurses to provide leadership for Christian influence in topics such as ethics and spiritual care. NCF sends email communication to over 6700 nurses and students, and has over 7000 visitors/month on our website (www.ncf-jcn.org). The opportunities are great. During the staff meetings we also planned for new resources on our website, including *witness through engaging seekers with the good news of Jesus* and the difference He makes in our lives.

We also are encouraged by growth of ministry among students and young nurses - our future. There were 25 new groups that formed last year and a 10% increase in numbers of students involved. God is fulfilling His promise to *pour water on the thirsty land, my spirit upon your descendants* (Isaiah 44:3).

Join me in thanking God for blessing us. Personally, I am experiencing peace and joy, and awareness of *God's hand guiding and keeping us*. My prayer is that throughout NCF God would pour out His love and peace to counter fear and anxiety that is part of change.

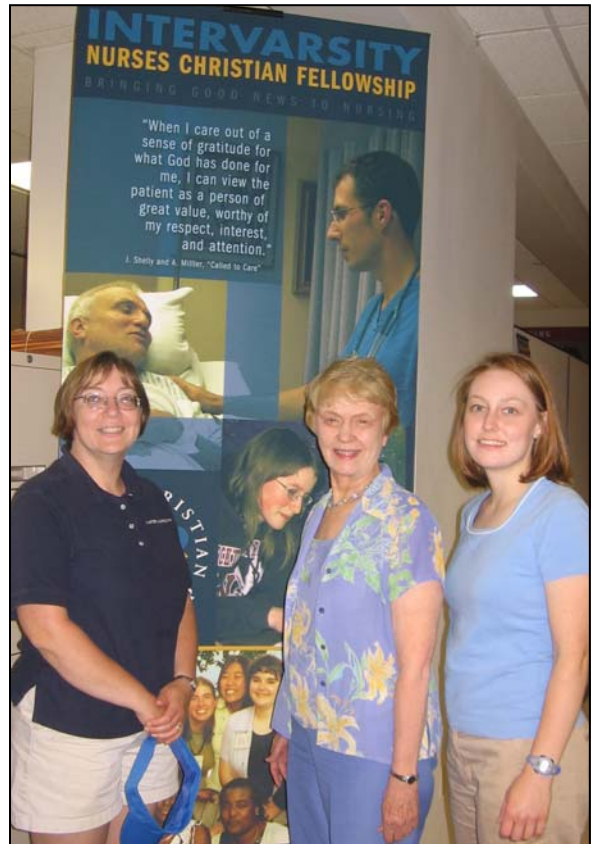
I'D APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD:

- I'm focusing on fund raising for NCF ministry. I continue to need personal support too.
- We need wisdom to follow through on the plans made at the June Planning Retreat. There will be a September 13-17 meeting for the Staff Leadership Team and volunteer leaders to continue planning.
- July 13-15 I'll represent NCF at the bioethics conference, *Neuroethics: The New Frontier*, held at Trinity International University in Chicago.
- August will include vacationing in Minnesota; my sister Karen and I will also visit family in Astoria, OR. I'll enjoy being with NCF people in MN and OR, as well.
- Preparation for NCF's ministry at the InterVarsity Urbana Missions Conference December 27-31 will be a priority in the fall. We anticipate what God will do as 25,000 students, faculty and alumni gather in St. Louis. See www.urbana.org.

Blessings,



Mary Thompson, RN, MSN
NCF Director



With Bonnie Hann and Renee Lick, staff focusing on student ministry