



June, 2008

Thanks for your prayers! God has brought joy to me in my new role with NCF that focuses on ministry among retired nurses.

### *Some Sources of Joy*

***Ministry visits in California*** where I started my work with NCF in 1969: It was wonderful to spend quality times with retired nurses, ministry partners, former staff, and nurses just learning about NCF...for 2 weeks in January (S.CA), and 2 ½ weeks in April (N.CA). I met with 103 people in California, and it was fulfilling to see God bring together the past and future. For instance, Judy (friend and former staff) and I met with Julia (young nurse at Stanford Medical Center who leads a prayer group), and we were supported in prayer by Marjorie (retired Director of Nurses at Stanford who I visited that morning).



*With Minda Graff in Yountville, CA*

I also enjoyed sharing the good news of an October NCF conference near Santa Cruz, CA where Pat Emery, NCF Director, will speak. I believe God is preparing a new season for NCF ministry in California, and it is a joy for

me to encourage prayer support for the conference. God calling Pat to NCF also brings me joy.

***Vision for a prayer network of retired nurses:*** January 08 began with an InterVarsity staff conference in St. Louis, and I also met with retired and other nurses in St. Louis who later began to meet for monthly prayer times. In San Diego, nurses I met at the Covenant retirement community have also continued to pray for NCF ministry. During my phone calls to retired nurses around the country I also share the vision for increasing prayer support for NCF, and during the coming year I'll encourage additional prayer groups to begin as part of a REASON network (**retirees encouraging and supportive of NCF**). I invite you to pray with a nurse in CA: *My prayer is that those to whom you minister will grow in their sense of valuing the extraordinary gift of prayer they can offer for you, NCF and His work through nurses everywhere.*

***Sharing God's Word:*** When I've spoken to groups of retirees (in California, at a seniors' outreach at my church in Minneapolis in March) I've used Psalm 71, and prepared a handout with the text and reflection questions that I've also shared with others I meet. A prayer request in the Psalm: *Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation...*

As I meet and phone retired nurses about "Passing on Your Legacy in Nursing" I'm praying that God will communicate His love to each nurse (she is not forsaken), and that her legacy of knowledge (what God taught her) and resources (prayer and financial support) will communicate God's presence and power to the future generation of nurses.

### ***Prayer Requests:***

1. ***Thank God with me!*** Last year at this time I was completing my NCF Director role and preparing for transition. God has encouraged and guided me. I'm enjoying working out of my apartment (particularly in the record snowfall in Madison last winter). I'm working full time, but my pace is not as intense as in prior years and I sense God's peace and joy.

2. ***Ministry priorities:*** Pray for wisdom as I plan travel for the fall and the next phase of my work with retired nurses. This will include interviewing nurses about wisdom to share with others in the nursing role they had. I'm also partnering with a work group of retired InterVarsity colleagues in Madison to prepare resources to serve colleagues approaching retirement. I also need wisdom about timing for a future move back to Minneapolis.

3. ***Fiscal year-end June 30:*** First of all, thank God for calling people to give in December; this took care of my ministry deficit. Pray that God will wonderfully provide financial support for each NCF staff this month. \* Also pray that God will prompt many nurses to include NCF in their will and estate planning.

4. ***NCF International conference in Nigeria September 14-19***, including the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of NCFI. I anticipate this "taste of heaven" when God's global family comes together for worship and learning, and seeing colleagues I knew when I was NCFI president. The conference theme: STRENGTHENED TO SERVE: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL HEALTH NEEDS. I'll lead a seminar, *Strengthened to Serve: Renewing the Call to Care*. I'd appreciate your prayers for safety and health. I leave Madison 9/9 and return 9/23 (will have time in England after the conference).

May God encourage you in whatever you are facing this summer. Let me know how I can pray for you.

In Christ's joy,

Mary Thompson  
2324 High Ridge Tr. # 201  
Fitchburg, WI 53713  
608/273-8568; cell: 608/395-5121  
Email: mthompson@intervarsity.org

**P.S. Another source of joy** happened at my home church in Minneapolis March 8-9. I helped to help facilitate a meeting described on the InterVarsity website:  
<http://www.intervarsity.org/news/fruitful-harvest-from-a-small-seed>

\* *For information on giving:* <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/donate.html>. Or mail to NCF: Box 7895, Madison, WI 53707-7895.