

December, 2008

Dear Friends,

What a whirlwind of events have occurred since the last time I wrote you! I have traveled from east to west and back. God has been so good and faithful to keep me safe and healthy during my travels. Let me give you a glimpse of where I have been and what He has done.

On September 12th a group from the USA traveled to Jos, Nigeria to participate quadrennial Nurses Christian Fellowship International Conference. There were 450 nurses from 24 countries meeting together to learn from one another and to worship the Lord. The theme was: *“Strengthened to Serve: A Christian Response to Global Health Needs.”*



What a wonderful experience we had! Eight of us stayed for an additional two weeks to experience Nigeria with the help of the Fellowship of Christian Nurses. (Nigeria’s NCF) During that time we visited 3 hospitals, 2 Colleges of Nursing and several villages. Though there is much material poverty, we saw how rich they are in their walk with the Lord! I have many stories to share but not enough time here. But we saw the Lord work in miraculous ways as we witnessed many Nigerians come to Christ through the ministry of FCN.

Here I am in my African dress with a group of great dancers that participated in a fun evening of celebrating African culture! The dress was a gift from Ibu, a Nigerian student studying nursing in Chicago. NCF/USA was able to provide financially for her to attend the conference. (She is in the picture above) The Lord met us in so many ways. When people ask how my experience in Nigeria was, I just have to say **it was “soul” changing.**



I returned from Nigeria on October 2nd and hit the ground running. During the next two months I traveled from Ohio to Wisconsin, California, Pennsylvania and New Mexico. I had a number of wonderful conversations on the ground and in the air. The Lord is so good to put people in front of me that need to hear about Him, His love and comfort. I have so many stories I could share. Just ask!

In October 13th, I traveled to Northern California to speak at an NCF conference. The topic for the conference was *“Thriving or Surviving: Making a Difference in Your Workplace”*. What a wonderful time I had sharing with the 26 nurses and 4 nursing students that attended. I am reminded over and over that healthcare isn’t what it used to be and that many nurses work in very toxic/secular environments. **Please pray for them.**

On October 25th, I was in Cleveland, Ohio to speak at an NCF brunch. This time my topic was *“Light Your Candle: A Christian Perspective to Workplace Challenges.”* We examined the relevance of being a Christian in a secular environment and strategies for integrating a Christian worldview into the everyday practice of nursing. I was delighted that we had 6 students attend along with 14 nurses. At the end of the morning I was visiting with two of the students and one of them shared with me how grateful she was that I had shared so much Scripture. She said “I am trying to understand about all this and now have some things that I go look up in the Bible so I



can learn more.” As we visited it became apparent that she is truly seeking the Lord and I had the opportunity to share with her more about what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus. **What a delight to my soul to see young people eager to know the Savior!**

Kathy SchoonoverShoffner, editor of the JCN and I attended the Nursing Organizations Alliance annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM November 20-22nd. The Alliance includes all of the professional Nursing organizations in the USA. NCF is the only “Christian” professional member organization. Kathy and I had many good conversations sharing with people about NCF and the Lord. However, **we were also reminded that the name of Christ offends** some because there were a few times when we simply shared the name “Nurses Christian Fellowship” and people would walk away, not wanting to hear anymore. **Pray for courage.**

The stories above are just highlights of what has been happening. So what’s next? Well, my travel schedule has slowed considerably and I am grateful. I will spend time monthly in Madison and here is a **brief itinerary** of other places I will be for the next couple of months:

- January 12-13 I will be in Atlanta as we begin working on the Urbana Leadership track for Urbana 2009
- February 16-20 I will be in Atlanta for Strategic Ministry meetings and to visit donors in the area
- March 25-28th we will have our annual National NCF staff meetings in Atlanta.

One would get the idea that going south in the winter is a good idea, so do I! 😊

Prayer Requests:

- That the Lord will continue to give me opportunities to share His love with others
- That we will be able to continue to recruit new staff for key positions within NCF
- For our staff meetings in March. This is a valuable time for all of us to be together and look to the future of ministry.
- That funding will continue to increase for the ministry as well as for my personal support in spite of a difficult economy
- For wisdom and strength to carry out the work the Lord has given me to do

I want you to know how much I appreciate each one of you and the prayers and gifts you have supplied for me during my first year as Director of Nurses Christian Fellowship/USA. Without you, all of this would not be possible.

“Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. AMEN!” I Timothy 1:17

Join with me in praising the eternal, immortal, invisible, only wise God as we celebrate the coming of our Lord to earth!

Because of His grace,

Director, Nurses Christian Fellowship/USA
pemery@intervarsity.org