

THE LINK

ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2013

THE LINK ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

March 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are now in the Lenten Season, the time of preparation for Easter. As we journey with Christ on the road to the cross, let us spend some time thinking about how He faced that journey and why He had to walk that road to Jerusalem. What does it mean to us that Jesus took that journey? How can we be part of that with Him? What will we learn this Lenten season? Will we draw closer to Him and His suffering for us? Will we be better prepared to celebrate the joyous Easter resurrection? Every time we experience some of what Jesus did for us, we become richer in our understanding of the Easter message. May you all have a blessed Easter and may you experience the grace of the risen Lord in a new and marvellous way.

Betty Hitchcock

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, Grace, God's Grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, Grace, God's Grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin.

STUDY FOR MARCH

Luke 24:1 to 12 [from the New Revised Standard Version] a story of the resurrection

1 – But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

2 – They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

3 – But when they went in, they did not find the body.

4 – While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

5 – The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

6 – Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,

7 – that the son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

8 – Then they remembered his words,

9 – returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest,

10 – Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

11 – But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

12 – But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, stooping and looking in, he saw the linen clothes by themselves; then he went home amazed at what had happened.

Study: Luke 24: 1 – 12

Read once again this familiar passage, the story of the resurrection.

This time concentrate on the women – Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. Think about their actions and their feelings.

Vs. 1 – Why did they go to the tomb? Think about what they must have been thinking and feeling as they went to the tomb.

Vs. 2 – What did they find when they arrived?

Vs. 3 – What did they do? What did they find when they entered the tomb?

Vs. 4 – What were they feeling? What happened next?

Vs. 5 – How did they women react?

Vs. 5 to 7 – What did the angel say to them?

Vs. 8 to 10 – How did the women respond?

Vs. 11 – How did the apostles react to the message of the women?

Think about how someone who had never heard the Christian message might react to the message of the resurrection,

How do we react to the resurrection message? Has it become so familiar that we miss the wonder, the awe, the amazing thing that happened? What does it mean to us that Jesus rose from the dead? How would you explain the concept of “grace” to a non believer? How might we experience more of God’s marvelous Grace this Easter?

PRAYER BENEATH THE CROSS

My God, My Father, help me to pray with Jesus on the cross.

By praying for any enemies who wish me hurt;
and more, for thine, who do injustice and cruelty on earth.
Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

By praying for the guilty and condemned, with Jesus on the cross:
for all facing trial or in prison, and all captives of sin:
bring them to look up to his holy cross: and, hand in hand with him go free.

By praying for the grace of love in human homes:
for heavenly concord in thy household, the Church, born of Christ's blood;
praying with Jesus, with his Mother, with St. John,
for love, for holier love, on earth.

By holding fast to thee, my God, my God, who holdest fast to us,
in the black and desperate day and in the hour of death.

By praying , O Eternal Compassion, for all in pain of body or mind;
for souls that thirst for thee; and souls that wander in dry places,
seeking rest but not seeking thee.

By praying for the present help of thine own Spirit,
that all thou givest me to do may be fearlessly begun,
and faithfully finished.

So help me God to pray with Jesus on the cross
and to commend my body, mind and spirit,
O Father, into thy hands, for life, for death, for time without end.

Poem by Eric Milner-White

NCF CANADA IS OFFICIALLY HERE!!!

NCF Canada is now an official organization. We now have official status as a charitable organization. Please visit the national website at www.ncfcanada.ca Browse around and get to know the new organization. Join the prayer list, read back issues of newsletters, see what exciting things are happening! The national chair is Judith Fanakan, nationalchair@ncfcanada.ca The secretary treasurer is Fronica Yiu. Please pray for these nurses as they share in ministry. **Donations for the work of Nurses Christian Fellowship and should now be sent directly to Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada c/o Fronica Yiu**

38 Clydesdale Rd., Markam, ON, L3R 3S9

Cheques should be made out to Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada [not NCF]

You may also contribute directly on line at the national website.

Either way, you will receive an official tax receipt for donations.

In Atlantic Canada there is a committee to assist with the work of NCFCanada.

Please consider whether God is calling you to consider working with this committee. The present committee would welcome inquiries from interested nurses. Please contact Jan Locket [506 847 7629], Marg Winchester [506 6936555] or Betty Hitchcock [506 648 9794]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Give thanks for Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada and pray that God would raise up His servants to minister in this organization and those that would support the work with prayer and financial donations

The Atlantic Committee will be meeting on April 26 in Moncton at the home of Faith Stiles. Please remember this meeting in your prayers.

Our workshop on the Connection between physical, psychological and spiritual health will be held on April 27 at the Faculty of Nursing in Moncton [see ad in this issue]. Please pray about coming and for the workshop. Please spread the word to those you know.

JANUARY RETREAT

Our January retreat in Saint John was held on Saturday January 12 from 10am to 3 pm This year we explored the topic of “Casting Your Care”

In the morning we explored the verse “cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you”

We discussed these questions –

Do we have cares? Why?

What are our cares? What things are we anxious about?

Have our cares changed over time?

Do we try to handle things ourselves? Why? What is the result?

When do we involve God?

What does it mean to “cast” our care on Him? How do we do this? What is the result?

We also looked at the following verses – Philippians 4:6 and 7, Matthew 6: 25 to 34, 1 John 1:4, Hebrews 13:5 and 6.

We looked at Luke 8:22 to 25 and then thought about what storms are in our life and whether we call on Jesus to calm the storms of our life.

We examined Matthew 11: 29 and 30 and noted in particular how Jesus was described in this passage . What are His instructions to us?

We also looked at Luke 21: 34 to 36 What weighs us down? What are we instructed to do?

In the afternoon we explored how Jesus dealt with care. We discussed the questions – Did Jesus have cares and anxieties? How did Jesus deal with His cares? We looked at the life of Jesus – born into a lowly family – born in a stable because there was no room for his family in the inn, a cattle feeder for a crib, only turtledoves for an offering, living in an occupied country in harsh conditions, a refugee at a very young age, fleeing to Egypt, travelling in very difficult circumstances, homeless at a young age. Then we looked at His ministry – choosing the disciples, an itinerant ministry, at times nowhere to lay His head, His disciples not understanding the meaning of His teachings, crowds pressing in on Him, lack of rest, His own disciples deserting Him, denying Him at His time of trial, while He endured false accusations for them and for us, the lashing, the spitting, the mocking, the physical, emotional and spiritual pain of the crucifixion,

separation from the Father. – Yes, Jesus knew care and anxiety. How did He deal with it. We looked at Mark 2:35, Luke 22:39, Luke 9:18

We discussed Matthew 26:36 to 46 and noted – How He was feeling, what He did, who was with Him, What were His instructions and what we learned from this passage.

May we always turn to Jesus with our care, casting it on Him, for He careth for us. He is always ready to hear us, to be there for us, and to walk with us through every storm of life. Thanks be to God for the gift of an ever present Lord.

Lessons From the Animals

Job 12: 7 to 10 from the Good News Bible – [Today's English Version]
Even birds and animals have much they could teach you, ask the creatures of the earth and sea for their wisdom. All of them know that the Lord's hand made them. It is God who directs the lives of his creatures, everyone's life is in his power.

How much we could learn from the animals, the birds, the fish – all creatures that God has created. They do not worry – they know that God who created them will look after them. How wonderful if we did not worry but were able to rest securely in the knowledge that God will provide.

Have you listened closely to a bird singing in the early morning? How great it would be if we could wake up singing praises to our God.

Have you seen how all nature seems to instinctively move to a beat that has been orchestrated for them. We too have a plan that has been designed for us by our heavenly father. How grand it would be if we were all in tune with that plan. What beautiful music we could make together.

Submissions for The Link

Submissions are always welcome. If something has been meaningful to you, please think of sharing it with others –

submit it for inclusion in the Link. You are invited to submit articles, letters, poems, etc. to be included in future issues of the Link. Please send submissions to Betty Hitchcock, 29 Bedell Ave. Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1 or email to betty.hitchcock@rogers.com

NURSES & HEALTH CARE WORKERS

You are invited to attend

The Connection between Physical, Psychological and Spiritual Health

Speaker – Michel Drisdelle, Christian psychotherapist

**Saturday, April 27th at the Faculty of Nursing, UNB, Moncton 100
Arden St. from 9:30am to 12:30pm**

Registration \$25 (\$20 for students/retirees) Please preregister by April 15 with Judy MacQuarrie at 506 855 4261 or jackmacquarrie@nbnet.nb.ca or write to Judy at 221 McSweeney Ave. Moncton, NB E1C 8T7

Sponsored by Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada (Atlantic committee)

MIND

BODY

SPIRIT

Editor's note: Please prayerfully consider attending this workshop and help us spread the word to anyone you know might be interested. I have heard Michel speak several times and he is one of the best speakers I have ever heard. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear him and fellowship with other Christians.

Also – please pray for this session – that God would guide our final preparations and that He would speak to those that He would have attend.

Betty