

THE LINK ATLANTIC NCFC NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

June 2016

Dear Friends,

Greetings of peace, hope, joy and love in the name of Jesus, the Christ. What a wonderful time of year – everything is new – the leaves are out – the flowers are coming up – everything is so fresh. We marvel in the beauty of new birth all around us. How marvellous our God is. The new birth seen in nature is awesome but even more awesome is our new birth in Jesus. That which is old becomes new and is a promise of our new birth at the time of resurrection. We know that our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made and each one of us is created perfect for the work that God has for us to do. What a wonderful thought! And how much more wonderful will be the time when at last our work here is done and we shall see Jesus face to face in our new and risen body.

Blessings,

Betty Hitchcock

God, all nature sings thy glory, And thy works proclaim Thy might;
Ordered vastness in the heavens, Ordered course of day and night;
Beauty in the changing seasons, Beauty in the storming sea;
All the changing moods of nature Praise the changeless Trinity.

God of glory, power, mercy, All creation praises Thee;
We, Thy creatures would adore Thee, Now and through eternity.
Saved to magnify thy goodness, Grant us strength to do Thy will;
With our acts as with our voices, Thy commandments to fulfill.

PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS AND FOR US

EPHESIANS 3: 14-21 [from the New Revised Version]

14. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15. from whom every family in heaven and earth takes its name.

16. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his spirit,

17. and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

18. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19. and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

21. to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.



Study: Ephesians 3: 14-21

Vs. 14– Paul is entering into prayer for the Ephesians. As you read this let us think of this prayer as being for us. What is his position of prayer? What is our position when we pray?

Vs.15 – What does Paul say about God in this verse?

Vs.16 –What does Paul pray for the Ephesians and for us? Where are we to be strengthened? How? What does it mean to you that this strengthening is to be “according to his riches in glory”? Could there be any stronger?

Vs,17 – Who is to dwell in us? What does that mean to you? What is the significance of the word “dwell”? How is this to happen? What does it mean to be “rooted and grounded in love”? What difference would strong roots make in the storms of life?

Vs.18 and 19 – What does Paul pray for us here? Who are the saints he is referring to in this passage? What does he want us to comprehend? What words does Paul use to describe the way he wants us to know the love of Christ? He wants us to not just know about this love but to actually “know” or experience it. What is the difference between knowing about and actually knowing something? Why does Paul say that he want us to know the love of Christ? What does it mean to be filled with all the fullness of God? If we are filled with the fullness of God, will there be room for anything else?

Vs.20 – Paul ends his prayer with reference to God. How is God described here? Have you experienced a time when God worked within you to accomplish far more than you could ask or imagine?

Vs. 21 – All glory be to our great God!

What a wonderful God we have! Praise to God and to His Son, Jesus!

PRAYER

Positions you in the arms of God

Real answers to all life's important questions

Access directly to the heart of God

Your opportunity to bring others into God's presence

Ever available at any time in any place

Radically changes lives as nothing else can

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Unuttered or expressed,
The motion of a hidden fire That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh, The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye, When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech That infant lips can try;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice, Returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice, And cry "Behold he prays!"

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death, He enters heaven with prayer.

O Thou by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod; Lord, teach us how to pray.

Soul Survivor: How my Faith Survived the Church¹
My Response (a book review by Hope Graham)

I was at the local public library. Chronic lack of time had been oppressing too long. I tentatively slid this book from the shelf. "I know this author has written lots of books." I'm puzzled. "I never knew anything about Yancey's story of surviving the church". I thumbed to the index, then the first page. I read, "I have spent most of my life in recovery from the church." Hmm. I knew Yancey as a "Christian" writer of some renown, highly respected by some wonderful Christians in my life. My interest

¹ Yancey, Philip. (2001). *Soul survivor: How my faith survived the church*. New York: Doubleday.

was piqued.

Yancey, former editor of *Campus Life*, weaves autobiography with the biographies of thirteen people who made significant contributions to his walk of faith. Some of the men, he actually interviewed; others were deceased and can only known by their legacy, found mainly in their literature.

Yancey was a reader. His autobiography describes a youth enthusiastically participating in his racism-embracing church. After high school, he attended a Bible College that “believed in rules, many rules, sixty-six pages worth in fact”. (p. 2) Then one day, a small sort of window appeared. As he continued to read, the vision through that window started to take shape. He read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Black Like Me*, and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. There was a different world than the one he had known so far. The vision came slowly, even dimly, at first. “I especially came to value the freedom-enhancing quality of the written word,” he writes. (p. 3)

I was riveted as I read these biographies that Yancey selected. From the index page, I roughly calculated that I was familiar with more than half of them. I knew so little. Each chapter held more inspiration than I could have dreamed. [*Hint: tissue at hand is recommended.*] The remarkable chosen are: Martin Luther King, Jr., G. K. Chesterton, Dr. Paul Brand, Dr. Robert Coles, Leo Tolstoy and Feodor Dostoevsky, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. C. Everett Koop, John Donne, Annie Dillard, Frederick Buechner, Shusaku Endo, and Henri Nouwen.

Yancey acknowledges warts and all. You may already know some warts of “the chosen”. Yancey doesn’t shrink from them; he acknowledges them in a redeeming light. For me, the reading of this book was: Observing through a window the blossoming grace of God in fallen, human creatures.... Awesome!

A Special Day Together

On Saturday September 17, a group of nurses will gather for an annual one day retreat in Saint John. The topic will be on “Living through times of Blessing and times of Stress, with Joy”. The retreat will go from 10 am to 3pm. There will be two separate study sessions – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided between the sessions. There is no cost for these sessions. We invite you to come along and join with us in a time of fellowship and study – learning more of what it means to trust Jesus in times of blessing and in times of difficulty. In past years we have all benefitted from this time of discussion and sharing together and we would welcome other to join with us. The retreat will be held at my home at 29 Bedell Ave. in Milledgeville. Please let me know if you plan on coming, just so we can have the proper amount of food for everyone. Call 648-9794. Thanks. Betty Hitchcock



Report on NCFC Annual National Committee Meeting (ON)
May 19-21, 2016

It was my privilege once again to attend recent NCFC Board meetings as provincial chair for New Brunswick. Praise God for His leading of and provision for NCFC as we anticipate celebrating our 5th year as a Corporation next year.

The meetings with eleven other like-minded nurses from across Canada (Provincial Chairs and the Board of Directors) were busy and, by God's grace, very productive. In President Judith Fanaken's words, "2015 saw the development of new leadership with much of the efforts directed towards the development of infrastructure, policies, best practices and the growth of small groups, especially in the west."

The following are some of the highlights from those meetings:

- Hope Graham (Antigonish, Nova Scotia) has agreed to continue as Director from May 2016 until the next AGM in 2017.
- A nominating committee was appointed for the new Directors for 2017-2019. Committee members are Fronica Yiu, Jacoba Antwi and Jan Lockett.
- We rejoiced in the appointment of two new Provincial Chairs: Jacoba Antwi (Ontario) and Karla Weiss (Alberta).
- The Position Statement Committee reported on their ongoing work.
- Planning is underway for a Workshop on Spiritual Care in Moncton to be held Saturday, May 27, 2017.
- In 2015, donations from NB were \$2118.50. Donations from NS and NL were \$75.00 and \$100.00, respectively.
- Pins and event discounts for becoming an associate of NCFC will ensure

recognition for this support and strengthen the relationship with the associate.

- Phyllis Ferrier, Honorary Advisor to NCFI, gave an update of their major initiatives this past year. Phyllis, Hope Graham, Patricia Mitchell and Karla Weiss will be attending the 2016 Congress in the Philippines June 6-10. Karla and Patricia will also attend the pre-conference for the Saline training by NCFI (Anne Biro) from June 3-4 and will then be able to provide training to the rest of our members.

Jan Lockett New Brunswick Chair to NCFC

NCFC [NCFCANADA] Maritimes Provinces

ADVANCE NOTICE - The Atlantic NCFC will have a workshop on Spiritual Care on Saturday May 27, 2017 in Moncton. Please consider prayerfully if this is an opportunity you should include in your schedule. Doreen Westra from Newfoundland will be leading this workshop. This same workshop was offered in other provinces in the western part of Canada this year and was well received. Please let others know about this upcoming session and plan now to join us next spring for a wonderful experience. Please contact Jan Locket [506 847 7629], or Betty Hitchcock [506 648 9794]

Please visit the national website at www.ncfcanada.ca Browse around and get to know our 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 other two directors are Patricia Mitchell and Hope Graham. Our 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.

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