

THE LINK

NCFC NEWSLETTER
from the Maritime Provinces

DECEMBER, 2015

Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

December 2015

Dear Friends,

Greetings of peace, hope, joy and love in the name of Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Today is Christmas Day and we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, the coming of god in the form of a tiny human baby.

We cannot truly celebrate the fullness of Christmas without an understanding of Good Friday and Easter. The tiny baby born that first Christmas day would become a sacrifice for us, carrying the weight of all our sins, would die, and be raised again, opening the way for all who believe to enter a new and everlasting relationship with God.

Emmanuel, God with us. For those who believe He is with us now and for evermore. I pray that we might all know that relationship in a deeper way this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child/

Blessings,

Betty Hitchcock

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room
For thy holy nativity.

O come to my heart Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for thee!

STUDY FOR DECEMBER

Galatians 4: 4-7 [from the New Revised Version]

4. When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

5. in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

6. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

7. So you are no longer a slave but a child and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Study: Galatians 4: 4-7

Vs. 4.– What is meant by “the fullness of time”? Do we ever question God’s timing regarding our lives? Why? Do we not trust God’s timing? How would our lives be different if we truly committed the timing of events to Him? What happened when the fullness of time had come? What do we learn of the birth of Jesus from this verse? Why did this birth happen? What does it mean to us?

Vs.5 – What does it mean to “receive adoption as children”? Have you received this adoption? What does it mean to be redeemed? How would you explain this to a non Christian?

Vs. 6 – What happens when we become his children? What does His Spirit do within us? Consider the meaning of the cry “Abba, Father”.

Vs. 7. What is the result of this? What is the change of our status before God? What is the difference between a slave and a child? What does it mean to be an heir?

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

The Meaning of Christmas

2 Corinthians 8:9

Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Jesus was from the beginning. He was God and was living in heaven, before the creation of the world. He created the world. Imagine what he gave up when He entered humanity as a tiny baby. The great creator of all was born a helpless infant in appalling conditions in a stable [because there was no room for them in the inn]. He was born into a poor family, lived an humble life of poverty, was a child refugee and grew up in a lowly carpenter's home, experienced misunderstanding and rejection. Even his closest friends deserted him. He travelled the lonely road to Calvary, where he was arrested and crucified, bearing the sins of all humanity. Why?

He did this so that we might experience the riches of God. Through acceptance of His sacrifice, we become children of God and inherit all His riches. We have a restored relationship with God, who lavishly gives to us of the riches of His heaven, we walk hand in hand with Him through this life and into eternity. How awesome is that!

That is what Christmas means to me.

Betty

Thou Who Wast Rich

*Thou who was rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becomest poor:
Thrones for a manger didst't surrender.
Sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who was rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becomest poor.*

*Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becomest man:
Stooping so low but sinners raising
Heavenward by thy eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becomest man.*

*Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King we worship Thee,
Emmanuel, within us dwelling
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love, beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.*

A Special Day Together

On Saturday September 26, a group of graduate nurses gathered together for an annual retreat in Saint John, NB. It was a day of looking at the topic of discipleship.

In the morning we were privileged to have Anne, a Canadian nurse who has been volunteering overseas, with us. In her presentation, Anne spoke about the Saline

course and gave us an understanding of the content.

We explored why faith is important in health , research in this area, clinical relevance of patient beliefs, and best practices. Matthew 5: 13-14. We then considered opportunities for and barriers to fulfilling God's call looking at salt [Col:9:6], light [Matthew: 5:14-16] and witness [Acts 1: 8]. We looked at barriers in ourselves and in our patients.

Our role is to avoid creating barriers [Colossians 4: 2-6], pray for God to remove barriers, maintain spiritual vitality and influence, and keep a safe environment. We must remember that we are still growing.

Spiritual influence requires Christ like character [Gal. 5: 22-23], professional competence [Col.5: 23], compassion [2Cor. 1: 3-4], wise communications [1Peter 3: 15], and courage [Joshua 1: 9], Creating a safe environment is important, use words people understand, give opportunities for questions and discussion.

We considered what tools would help us – prayer, questions, spiritual healing, faith flags, faith stories, truth prescriptions, gospel presentations, spiritual referral team. It was an excellent morning of learning and growing together. May God help us all to be Salt in our workplace, but also in our families, our relationships and all that we do.

In the next issue of the Link, we will include a summary of the afternoon session where we considered the life of the disciples of Christ.



The Maritime Provinces of NCF Canada

The Maritime provinces (NB, NS, PEI & NL) of NCFC will have a planning meeting in May in Moncton. If you have ideas for future workshops or seminars please let us know so we might consider them. In Atlantic Canada there is a committee to assist with the work of NCF. Please consider prayerfully 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], 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 board members are Hope Graham and Patricia Mitchell. The Secretary & Treasurer is Fronica Yiu. Please pray for these nurses as they share the leadership 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 when it is >\$20 per year.

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