

THE LINK ATLANTIC NCFC NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

June 2017

Dear Friends,

Greetings of peace, hope, joy and love in the name of Jesus, our Christ. This is a wonderful time of year – evidence of new life is everywhere – the leaves are out – and blossoms on my crab apple tree are so beautiful - the flowers are coming up – everywhere we see that God is bringing new life. Birds are building nests and soon new little ones will be entering the great creation. We see 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. 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

In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree,
In cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity,
In our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity.
In our death a resurrection, at the last a victory,
Unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see.

GOD'S LOVING WORD

PSALM 119: 11-24 [from the New Revised Version]

11. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.
12. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.
13. With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.
14. I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.
15. I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.
16. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
17. Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word.
18. Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.
19. I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.
20. My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times.
21. You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments;
22. take away from me their scorn and contempt, for I have kept your decrees.
23. Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.
24. Your decrees are my delight, they are my counselors.

Study: Psalm 119: 11-24

Vs. 11– What does the psalmist say that he does with God’s word? Why? What should we do with His word? How do we do this?

Vs.12 – What is his prayer in this verse? How does he address God? What does he want God to do? Have we ever prayed a prayer like this?

Vs.13 –Do our lips declare God’s ordinances? If not, why not?

Vs,14 – Do we delight in God’s decrees? What is the evidence in our lives?

Vs.15– What does it mean to meditate on God’s precepts? Do we fix our eyes on His ways? What difference would it make?

Vs.16 – What promises does the psalmist make in this verse? Could we make these same promises? What difference would it make?

Vs. 17 – What does he request of God? Why?

Vs. 18 – What is the request here? This is a verse that is well used as a prayer before beginning to read or study scripture.

Vs. 19- What does it mean to live as an alien in the land? Do you sometimes feel like this? Where is our real home? What does the psalmist ask God to do?

Vs. 20 – Could we say that our soul was consumed with longing for God’s ordinances? What would that mean for us?

Vs. 21 – How does God react to those who wander from His commandments?

Vs. 22 – What does the psalmist ask of God?

Vs. 23 – What is the promise of the psalmist? Could we promise that?

Vs. 24- Are God’s decrees our delight? How can we make them our counselors?

Spiritual Assessment Workshop

Spiritual assessment? Isn't that something that clergy or pastoral care providers do? When would nurses ever find the time to include spiritual assessment in their provision of client care? Don't you need to have special training to carry out a spiritual assessment? What is spiritual assessment any way?

These and many other questions were probably on the minds of attendees at a *Spiritual Assessment in Health Care and Nursing Care* workshop held in Moncton, New Brunswick on May 27th at the Family Centre, Moncton Wesleyan Church. Throughout the day, speaker and author Doreen Westera ably fielded these questions drawing from over 30 years of teaching experience (University of Alberta, Queens University and Memorial University) and from her own personal experiences using spiritual assessment tools in nursing practice.

The workshop participants received a wealth of resources including a definition and description of spirituality, handouts on the “how” of spiritual assessment, rationale for its inclusion in health/nursing care, competencies and attributes for spiritual assessment, and principles and guidelines for spiritual assessment.

The day moved quickly with group activities, video presentations and a final exercise to create our own assessment tool. The participants from the three Atlantic provinces and from diverse areas of nursing practice left at the end of the workshop with a greater appreciation of the place of spiritual assessment in health/nursing care and a greater confidence in the use of an assessment tool. Hats off to Doreen for a great day!

Written by Jan Lockett

HEALTH UPDATE

In the last issue of the Link, I shared with you that my cancer had returned and was aggressive. Since then, I have had a right mastectomy and lymph node dissection, removal of a pelvic tumor, insertion of a power port for drawing of bloods and giving of chemotherapy. I am also to have kidney surgery for the cancer that is there. At this time I am doing chemotherapy every Thursday and having blood work every Tuesday along with numerous tests to assess what is happening. Life seems like a continuous round of tests, appointments, drugs, surgeries and treatments. However, God has been so good and has been meeting all my needs. It is amazing how so many friends have come forward to visit, phone, send cards and letters and bring an amazing amount of food and other items and even come on a regular basis to take my little dog, Benji, for a walk. What a wonderful experience of the outpouring of God's love! He cares for me more than I could ever realize. Last week I prayed before going to chemo and distinctly felt that God was assuring me that when I went for the treatment to remember that I would be taking Him into that chemo room. When I got there, there was a lady next to me that was telling the nurses that she had inflammatory breast cancer – one of the most aggressive kinds of cancer. I was able to share with her that that was the cancer I had eighteen years ago. She was so pleased to talk with someone who had had the same type of cancer. I knew then that our placement in the chemo room was no accident and thanked God for being able to use me even in the most difficult of circumstances. We don't have to look for opportunities to share His love, He will provide them!!

I do pray for His healing and know that my prayer will be answered. It may be in this life or in the next, but one day I will have a body free of cancer, free of surgeries and treatments, free of pain, and I will be able to run and jump and praise my Lord for His great love and care for me throughout this life and beyond.

Thank you to all who have contacted me with messages of love and hope. Your kindness is appreciated more than you could ever know.

Betty

Until Then

My heart can sing when I pause to remember
A heart ache here is but a stepping stone
Along a trail that's winding always upward
This troubled world is not my final home.

The things of earth will dim and lose their value
If we recall they're borrowed for awhile
And things of earth that cause the heart to tremble
Remembered there will only bring a smile.

This weary world with all its toil and struggle
May take its toll of misery and strife
The soul of man is like a waiting falcon
When it's released , its destined for the skies.

Chorus

But until then my heart will go on singing;
Until then with joy I'll carry on
Until the day my eyes behold the city,
Until the day God calls me home.

This old hymn was submitted by a friend and expresses thoughts about our time on earth and our attitude here while we wait for that day when God calls us home.
What a day that will be !!

NCFC [NCFCANADA] Atlantic Provinces

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 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., Markham, 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.

For those in Saint John and surrounding area – the retreat day that we have traditionally held each year will not be held this year. Hopefully we will be able to resume that next year. In the meantime, why not arrange your own day with God. Meet with Him and he will show you some amazing things. You will come away refreshed and renewed having spent some quality time with the great Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

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