

THE LINK

ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2014

NCFC NEWSLETTER for the Maritimes provinces

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

December 2014

Dear Friends,

Greetings at Christmas. We are approaching the Christmas season – the time when we remember how God took on human form and came to live among us. The tiny infant, the baby born in Bethlehem would grow, minister, teach, heal, suffer and die that we might have a restored relationship with our God. The study in this edition focuses on The Word, His existence from the beginning, the earthly coming of Jesus and His gift of life – eternal life that is now available to all who believe. . As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us take some quiet time to reflect on the meaning of Christ’s birth and how we can best respond to that unspeakable gift that God has given to us. God gave us His son – the baby born in the manger that would grow to become our example, the one who would teach us, show us the Father’s love, and give himself for us that we too might know that love in our lives and might never be alone. Thanks be to God.

Provincial Chair for New Brunswick

Betty Hitchcock

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

STUDY FOR DECEMBER

John 1: 1-18 [from the New Revised Version]

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. He was in the beginning with God.
3. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
4. in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
8. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
9. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
10. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
11. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
12. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the power to become children of God,
13. who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
14. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
15. [John testified to him and cried out 'this was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me"']].
16. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

17. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Study: John: 1- 18

Read again this familiar passage, concentrating on Jesus.

Vs. 1-2 – Who is the Word? What do we learn of Jesus in this verse? How long has Jesus been in existence?

Vs. 3 – How did everything come into being? What part did Jesus play in creation?

Vs. 4.– What do we learn of life from this verse?

Vs.5 – What do we learn about the light?

Vs. 6-8 – What do we learn of John in these verses?

Vs. 9. Who was the 'true light'?

Vs. 10-12 What do these verses tell us of Christ? What does it mean to 'receive' him? What happens when we receive him?

Vs. 13-14 – What do we learn of Jesus and of John?

Vs. 16-18 – What is the difference between the law and grace? How has God been made known to us?

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

Christmas Prayer

**God give us eyes this Christmas
To see the Christmas star,
And give us ears to hear the song
Of angels from afar.....**

**And, with our eyes and ears attuned
For a message from above,
Let “Christmas Angels” speak to us
Of Hope and Faith and Love...
Hope to light our pathway
When the way ahead is dark,
Hope to sing through stormy days
With the sweetness of the lark,
Faith to trust in things unseen
And know beyond all seeing
That it is our Father’s Love
In which we live and have our being.
And Love to break down barriers of color, race, and creed,
Love to see and understand all of those in need.**



This poem by Helen Steiner Rice shows us some of the things that we need to consider this year. What do the symbols of Christmas mean to us?

What does the Christmas star mean to us? Does it remind us of how God led the wise men to the blessed child born that first Christmas day? Have we ever really considered their journey and the way in which God led them? How does God lead us? There

may not be a star that is used in our journey, but He leads us just the same. Do we recognize His leading? Are we receptive to it – do we follow it? Sometimes? Every day?

Do we hear the angel's song? What is it saying to us? God speaks to us in so many ways? Do we hear him? Are we really listening? What is lighting our pathway? How do we face the storms of life? And there will be storms in all our lives. It is often in these storms that we can grow the most. God want to be with us at all times and He knows what each storm means to us and longs for us to lean on Him. His strength, His courage, and His peace is available to us in all situations. We do not have to face anything alone. God's love is available to us always. "more secure is no one ever – than the loved ones of the Savior"

God wants us to feel that security and only then can we sing through the storms of life. What an amazing concept! We can actually live and move and have our being in God.

NCFC [NCFCANADA] Upcoming event:

NCFC is planning a workshop on May 9th, 2015 in Moncton at the University of Moncton. The workshop will address the topic "Surviving or Thriving – in Good Days or Bad Days" with Carolyn Westin a Christian counselor from Saint John. More details will follow in the March issue of the Link – but please reserve the date now. We want to see you there. And please pray for this workshop and the preparations.

Please visit the national website at www.ncfcCanada.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@ncfcCanada.ca The secretary treasurer is Fronica Yiu. Another director is Patricia Mitchell. 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 online 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 NCF. 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], or Betty Hitchcock [506 648 9794]

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

JANUARY RETREAT

Our January retreat will be held on Saturday January 12 from 10am to 3 pm at Betty Hitchcock's home – 29 Bedell Ave. Saint John, NB. 648- 9794 This year we will explore the topic of "Casting Your Care" Please plan to join us for this time of fellowship and learning together. Lunch will be provided. If you are in the Saint John area or can come for the day, we would love to have you join us.

Betty

