

## **THE LINK** ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

March 2011

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As I write this letter, we are emerging from yet another snowstorm – with shovels and snow blowers in use. We are often tempted to think only of the inconvenience of the winter weather – but let us look around and see the wonder of the trees heavy with the pure white snow and the wonderland of shining white and crystal formations that surround us. The children are happy as they try out their sleds, skis and skates. Think back to the time when you were heading down the hill on a toboggan, building a huge snowman or making angels in the new fallen snow. What a wonderful thing the seasons are. Each one is so diverse and beautiful. That is also true of life. Each season of our life brings new joys and opportunities to experience God in ways that are beyond our greatest imagining. The most wonderful of all is that Jesus accompanies us through each of our seasons. He is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Betty Hitchcock

Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight, and fair the twinkling starry host  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

All fairest beauty, Heavenly and earthly, Wondrously, Jesus is found in thee;  
None can be nearer, fairer, or dearer, Then thou my Saviour art to me.

## GRACE

Each January, nurses in the Saint John area gather for a retreat on a different topic. This year the retreat was on grace. At the beginning of the day, those present were asked to think about what they would list under the topic “grace” The group came up with the following –

Grace is –

- Forgiveness
- God considers even “me”
- Acceptance in the Beloved
- Unmerited favor
- God’s riches at Christ’s expense
- Peace
- Approachable
- Getting what you don’t deserve
- Kindness
- Love
- Hope
- Compassion
- Comfort

What an amazing list. We have all of that in our God!

The two definitions we used at the retreat were –

Grace is the unmerited but freely given love and favor of God toward man.

Grace is the divine influence operation in man to regenerate, sanctify, and strengthen him.

Every time a flower blossoms, God demonstrates His grace.

Every time a snowflake forms, God demonstrates His grace.

Every time spring comes around again, God demonstrates His grace.

Every time a baby is born, God demonstrates His grace.

Every time someone takes their final breath, God demonstrates His grace as well.

## STUDY – GRACE

These are some of the scriptures we examined during the January retreat.

How are we saved? Acts 15 vs.11., Romans 3 vs.24

When did this happen? Ephesians 2 vs. 4 and 5.

How is this possible? Second Corinthians 8 vs.9

What part did we play in this? Ephesians 3 vs.8.

What happened to us when we were saved? Titus 3 vs.7.

How much grace does God make available to us? Why? Second Corinthians 9 vs.8.

To think about –

What does it mean to walk in Grace?

What does it mean that our speech be always with Grace? Col. 4 vs.6

What does it mean that God's Grace is sufficient for us?

What difference would there be in the world if we all depended on God's Grace for our sufficiency?

Can you think of an example where someone has showed grace to you? Can you think of an example where you have showed grace to someone?

What does it mean to show grace as a nurse? As a family member? As a friend?

An example of the great Grace of God –

Read Luke 23 vs 39 to 43. - the story of the repentant thief

What did the thief do? What was the response of Jesus?

Remember – the thief was dying – he was fastened to his cross and could not leave to go and do good works from now on – his earthly life was about to end.

Can Jesus' response be anything but Grace?

May all of us know the Grace of God, grow in that Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Below is a hymn about Grace. Read it again and consider the meaning of Grace as you look at the message. What does it teach us about the love of God?

## MARVELLOUS GRACE OF OUR LOVING GOD

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.

Chorus:  
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.

Sin and despair like the seawaves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yea, grace untold,  
Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide;  
Whiter than snow you may be today.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe;  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?

## RESOURCE FOR NURSES WORKING WITH DEMENTIA

Scripture Union has a new and ground-breaking resource. It is a set of three Bible and prayer guides for people with dementia and those struggling with memory loss. Titles in the series are *Words of Peace*, *Words of Faith* and *Words of Hope*. Each guide has 31 daily devotionals, a "cues and clues" box to help engagement with the days's theme, an inspirational CD with a hymn or song for every day, and an "expert" introduction and "How to use" section.

I heartily commend this valuable resource, developed in consultation with experts in dementia care, to nurses who sit alongside patients and/or loved ones with dementia. I conclude with the foreword by Pam Rhodes, Presenter of BBC's *Songs of Praise* and Patron of Methodist Homes for the Aged:

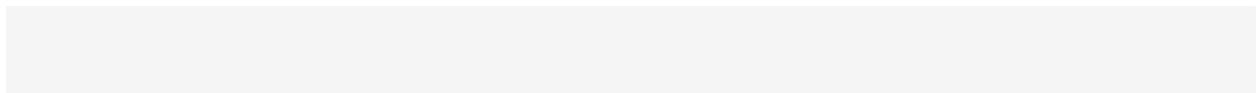
*Dementia is a cruel robber. It robs people of their memory, their personality, their ability to recognize and react normally even with partners and family they've loved for years. In short, it robs them of themselves and the life they've known. Confusion and strangeness replace the familiar and safe. They have a whole lifetime of experience and knowledge behind them - yet that knowledge is tantalizingly beyond their mind's grasp.*

*The knowledge which escapes may well include a lifelong faith in God and a love of his word in the Bible which has been a constant source of strength and reassurance during the challenging times in the past. However, with the onset of dementia, that comfort is lost to them as much-loved biblical stories, prayers and hymns are frustratingly hard to remember.*

*With its carefully chosen mix of familiar words and evocative music, this imaginative and practical resource is nothing less than a Godsend - a nudge to the memory which at its most obvious level is a delightful way to aid conversation and recall, but at its deepest, opens, for the person with dementia, a real connection to faith and the God who has never stopped loving them.*

The cost is \$17.95 each (tax and shipping included) or \$44.95 for a set of three. To order, call 1-888-478-4787 or go online: [www.scriptureunion.ca](http://www.scriptureunion.ca)

Submitted by Jan Lockett



## THE SPRING WORKSHOP FOR NCF

In April NCF will host a workshop for nurses – students and grads in the Atlantic area. It will be held April 16 at the School of Nursing in Moncton from 9:30 to 2:45pm. We would invite any nurses to come and meet with us and enjoy a time of fellowship, sharing and learning together. We will have two speakers – Lynda MacGibbon [from IVCF Staff] speaking on the value of small groups and Beatrice Milne, a physician speaking on our faith as motivation to help others. It should be a great day. The cost will be \$15, for grads and \$10 for students or retired nurses. The registration for is on the last page of the newsletter. There is also a page about the workshop at the end of the newsletter – we would ask that you print that page and post it wherever you feel nurses might see it. Please encourage your friends to attend and please uphold the day in prayer.

## ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for

-growth in the Grace of God, an increasing understanding of what it means to be saved by Grace and to walk in Grace.

-opportunities to share the Grace of God with those who are hurting, those in need, those who have never known the love of Jesus.

-students in nursing programs throughout our country – for joy in learning and ministering to others, may they find Christian fellowship and support in their places of learning.

-nurses working in hospital, home, community – that they may have wisdom and courage, patience and strength as they deal with daily issues – and that they may know the love of God in all they do.

-the Atlantic NCF Annual meeting to be held April 15, 2011 in Moncton, NB,

-the Atlantic workshop which will be in Moncton on April 16. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Submissions for 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](mailto:betty.hitchcock@rogers.com)

# **ATTENTION NURSES STUDENTS AND GRADS**

## **JOIN US FOR THE NCF SPRING WORKSHOP**

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the School of Nursing 100 Arden St. Moncton from 9:30am to 2:45pm (one hour for lunch on your own).

### Speakers

– Lynda MacGibbon [IVCF Staff] speaking on “Big Growth comes from Small Groups”

-Beatrice Milne – Physician speaking on How our faith motivates us to help others here and in the mission field.

Claudia McClosky will have information on Parish Nursing and an upcoming event.

Registration \$15 (\$10 for students/retirees) Please register by April 5.  
Sponsored by Nurses Christian Fellowship (a division of Intervarsity Canada)

A time to greet one another, share with each other and learn together.

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Please detach and mail form with registration fee to Judy MacQuarrie, 221 McSweeney Ave.

Moncton NB E1C 8T7 or email to [jackmacq@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:jackmacq@nbnet.nb.ca)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ RN/Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. Fee: \_\_\_\_\_