



Nurses in Canada
called to love and
serve one another
in the name of
Christ



The Hope of Eternal Life. Titus 3:7

VOL. 16.2

To Engage, Equip and Empower Nurses in Christ

From the Editor: Mission Minded

When I was a child I thought of missions as something that happened in far flung places like deepest darkest Africa, the jungles of Peru or Tuktoyaktuk. I was thrilled and fascinated by the young Amy Carmichael who prayed for her brown eyes to be blue not realizing that God had made them brown because of her very special calling to serve in India. And while I was secretly terrified that God might call me to one of these places, I also thought that a calling to foreign missions was a mark of favour from God because to be called as a missionary meant that you were chosen. I also remember in my teens when I first heard that if you were not called to overseas missions then you were called to be a missionary right where you were, in whatever job or place you found yourself. Inwardly I scoffed at such a notion. It sounded to me like a consolation prize for the unworthy, the unaccepted, the ordinary, everyday run of the mill Christian. Because while I was terrified that I might be called to overseas missions, I was more terrified of being unnoticed, or as I perceived it, unchosen, by God.

Over the decades since then – through the years that I spent running from God and on into the years I now spend running to God – I have begun to see

that it is not our location or our role that defines our calling as Christians but rather it is the context of our hearts. A heart longing for significance and recognition – as mine is so apt to do – by anyone or anything other than the Master, is a heart that cannot be mission minded no matter where he or she is geographically. And so it is for any heart longing for anything other than Christ first – money, possessions, accolades, children, spouses, careers; such a heart is not in right relationship with the Lord (Matthew 10:37-39). We are, truly, all called to missions wherever we might be, for that is the great commission, to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19,20a) Yet each one of us will struggle with the context of our hearts – whether we are in the deepest, darkest jungle or at the epicentre of culture and sophistication – because each of us has longings, hurts, fears and other things that would seek to distract and divert us from our calling; a calling to surrender our lives, hearts and desires to the will of the King of kings and Lord of lords. We are indeed most mission minded when we seek to identify with

Christ by laying all these things down and saying “nevertheless not my will but Yours be done”. (Luke 22:42)

As you read through this edition of the Pulse, I invite you to be encouraged and inspired by the stories of Christian nurses who have spent time in service overseas and here at home. Perhaps you feel God drawing you to serve in short or full time missions outside of Canada; let these stories speak to your heart. Perhaps you have served in missions as well and have a story to tell; we would be delighted to hear from you. Perhaps you are right where God is calling you to be; we pray you receive strength and hope from the testimony of others. Whatever your story, wherever you find yourself, may you be challenged to examine the context of your heart and to live out your God-given purpose with each new day. We are blessed to be a blessing.



Yours in Christ,
Julie

Have comments or suggestions for NCFC Pulse?

Drop us a line at ncfcares@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

What?! Crucify My Career???

By Bonnie Thamm Evans

Do you have a picture of how you'd like your life to unfold? Maybe some combination of school, travel, career, marriage, family, retirement, grandkids. All of these are blessings from God, that He joyfully grants His children. But sometimes amidst these "typical" stages of life, He navigates our path in an unexpected direction.

I had worked in Public Health Nursing for 16 years to promote healthy living and prevent injury and illnesses. Along the way, I completed a Masters degree and attained a management position. After our two children arrived, I proposed a few part-time options to my boss. I was really disappointed when they were shut down, and (quite honestly) angry that this organization couldn't be more innovative. I had worked so hard at a job I loved, and then was forced to choose between career and family. (Hadn't society made any progress in this area?!)

I struggled. Maybe it was pride or a desire for financial security. Or when you've been so ingrained in a situation, it can seem easier and safer to maintain the status quo. But I kept feeling God impress on me that we only had our kids for a short time. After a lot of wrestling and prayer, and some pointed circumstantial developments, my husband and I felt we had to trust God and move forward. I handed in my resignation.

We knew we were making the right decision for our family, but I really grieved the related losses; my sense of identity and accomplishment, feeling like I was helping provide for my family. I felt like I had crucified my career. Would that part of how God designed me ever be resurrected again?

"Interestingly", on the day I resigned, I

came across a job posting for a part-time administrative position at The Shop, a skills and mentorship program of Youth Unlimited (Toronto Youth for Christ). I applied and ... they hired me. At least I was bringing in a bit of income, and it felt good to be contributing to our community, while being more available to our kids.

I was excited when a door started opening for me to use my nursing skills right at The Shop but I hesitated when

I found out the organization would structure this as a missionary role, funded by donations. Was I really "called" to be a missionary? I didn't want to "make this up" or enter into this lightly. My husband and I consulted with The Shop's manager, and with our pastors. My prayer was, "God, I will continue looking into this, but please close the door if I'm heading in the wrong direction!"

The doors kept opening: the proposal was approved, others began to catch my vision to pour God's love into local youth, and prayer and financial support slowly came together. It was a wild ride of really

...continued on page 3

Rwanda: Fear & Faith

by Esther Knoll Teal

Rwanda, known as the land of a thousand hills, is a country once torn by massacre and genocide, a country still burdened by poverty yet strengthened through a living faith and shared hope. From April to October 2016 Esther Knoll Teal and her husband Grant had the privilege of volunteering in Rwanda at the Kibogora Mission guesthouse and maintenance services where the Kibogora Hospital (1942) and Kibogora Polytechnic Institute (2013) have been established by the Free Methodist Church of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Rwanda. This was the first time Grant has lived overseas and been able to connect with Esther's past life in Rwanda. They praise God for this unexpected opportunity to serve at Kibogora and for the wonderful health He gave them relationally, spiritually and physically during those six months.

Poverty is everywhere but it is hidden.

Paved main roads, motorcycles whizzing by, shops filled with goods, fresh produce

at the market, and large houses in this mission community mask the hunger, the unemployment, the broken walls that are a reminder of a recent earthquake, and the crushing burden it is to send your children to secondary school let alone to university. Fear of malaria and other illnesses haunt you because you cannot afford \$3.00 per family member per year for medical insurance.

Yet God makes His people resilient. God restores people to Himself; even in terrible times and in the aftermath of terrible times when homes were looted, family members murdered, husbands disappeared, and people were emotionally traumatized not by their own actions and decisions but by their own government.

How are people restored after these terrible times? What resilience carried them through this massacre? Prayer,

...continued on page 4

What?! Crucify My Career???

...continued from page 2

challenging but faith-building moments! I'm so amazed that the funds for this "health ministry" have come together, and I'm now moving into my second year of a home missions role, which gives me the part-time position and flexibility I was looking for.

This next stage of my nursing career looks very different than what I was originally petitioning God for, but His leading has opened a whole new world of possibilities I may have never otherwise considered! I'm excited to see what God will do (both in and through me) as I continue to follow Him on this new adventure.

So is God calling all women to leave their full-time jobs? Not at all. Each family needs to discern what God would have for them, and many children thrive just fine when mom works full-time. Is God calling all Christ-following nurses to fulfill His greater purposes? Most definitely. What is He asking you to crucify today?



Bonnie Thamm Evans is a Registered Nurse who has developed a health ministry for at-risk youth, as a new dimension of The Shop's skills and employability mentorship program of Toronto Youth for Christ. She meets each youth one-to-one to review their self-care practices, offer health promotion teaching and prayer, and link them to resources. She is pleased to bring her nursing skills to a Christian organization where she has freedom to introduce the hope and love that can be found in Christ. To read more about The Shop and Bonnie's health ministry, check out: www.4health4hope4future4youth.wordpress.com.

Giving Thanks in Zambia

by Nova Gayle

"Ah, time is not with us."

This is a fairly common phrase heard around here. It usually causes me to chuckle inside when someone says it because I find myself saying it in my mind more and more these days because I can't always get everything done that I set out to do. newsletters are a great example, I say sheepishly.

So here are some snapshots, literally and figuratively, of what has been happening these past few months here in Mukinge, Zambia.



The new year at the Nurse's Training School began at the end of July. I have a new group for my student Bible study, much smaller this time, so we meet at my house every Thursday. You might be able to glimpse from the photo that we are a diverse group with many different perspectives and unique characters! The focus of our Bible study this year is: understanding the salvation that God offers to us all as we learn about who He is to us and who we are to Him.

Give thanks for the enthusiasm in this group. Pray that we would be changed by the Truth we encounter in the Scriptures each week.

Since I don't have a vehicle and public transport can be rough, I have only been able to visit my language learning village



once since the first time I was there in February this year. It was a lovely time seeing the usual gang of kids and hearing how they are doing at school, church, etc. I was pleased with my Kiikaonde language skills because I was able to understand more of their excited chatter than ever before.

The best part of that outing though was seeing an orphan who had been placed in a new family being cared for by the church.

Praise the Lord for the love He has lavished upon us! Thank Him for the care He shows us when we are vulnerable!



Last year, the nursing school at Mukinge transitioned from a two-year enrolled nurse (EN) program to the three-year registered nurse (RN) program. This past June, the first graduating class completed the new program. Of the nearly fifty students, 100% of them passed the

...continued on page 4

Rwanda: Fear and Faith

...continued from page 2

prayer and more prayer; anytime of the day: prayer! The local church scheduling days of prayer every month, heads bowed upon entering the service and the sound of deep powerful prayer even in

homes. Invitations extended to "come to our house to pray!" and then truly having a time of worship before or after a meal.

Riches are not in having money and a good pension but in relationships: loving, laughing, hugging, eating together, singing praises or worshipping together, going to market together, visiting in each

other's homes. Jesus was our example in this. He ate with people and called them by name, just as my husband and I tried to do by speaking the language even if it was broken! We called them by name,

"Give, but don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."

Matthew 6:3

Giving Thanks in Zambia

...continued from page 3

national registered nurses licensing exam, so it is a very exciting time for us as a school and the graduates as well.

Our school continues to grow and now includes a distance learning stream for ENs who want to upgrade to RN. And that's not all; students who are pursuing nursing at the university level (a four year program) are coming to our nursing school for their clinical placements. As a result, there are many more students to supervise, and more assignments to hand out and grade.

Give thanks for the success of our graduates; pray for them as they await job postings from the government.



As a team of medical missionaries here at Mukinge, we have been rethinking our mission and vision for the past few months. We have been brainstorming, emailing and praying as we reshape the overall ministry to give greater emphasis to the spiritual needs in our community while continuing to work at a high standard in

the hospital and nursing school.

Discipleship is one of the key areas where we sense God leading us to change and improve. At this early stage, our goals and plans remain rather vague but we are pressing through to where God is calling us because we are excited about it. There is a very precarious foot bridge that leads to a beautiful lodge on the opposite side of the river (see attached photo). The scene reminds me of this visioning process actually: I know the destination will be great but the journey seems anything but easy!

Please pray that our team would be wise and discerning as we serve the LORD.



Originally from London, Ontario, Nova Gayle is a registered nurse working as a clinical instructor at the Mukinge Nurses Training School in Mukinge, Zambia.

In 2014, Nova became a member of SIM, an international mission organization with more than 4,000 workers serving in more than 70 countries. She moved to Mukinge in February 2015 and started serving in a variety of roles at the Mukinge Mission hospital and received her Zambian nursing license in September 2015.



all 29 staff at the mission; we smiled (seka) and greeted them (mwiliwe).

Esther Knoll Teal graduated in 1971 from Roberts Wesleyan College

in Rochester, New York with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She served in Rwanda at the Kibogora Hospital between 1976 and 1983 as Kwashiorkor RN as well as performing various other medical duties such as nurse anesthetist under physician supervision, triage nurse at clinics in the hospital and on the hills, as well as with International Childcare Ministries (FM) before returning to Canada. From 1985 to 2015 Esther worked in various programs for the Niagara Region Public Health Department. Her husband Grant is a former elder and pastor of the Free Methodist Church in Canada and a Greyhound of Canada coach operator. They married in 1983 and raised 3 wonderful children; they are now blessed with 9 grandchildren.

Contact Us

Judith Fanaken
visit ncfcanada.ca, and click on nationalchair@ncfcanada.ca

Visit Us

www.ncfcanada.ca

Editor:
Julie A Desjardins
Layout & Design:
Dora Yiu

Copyright © 2016 NCFC