

The Ontario Link



Issue 52
Fall, 2008

The Newsletter of the Ontario Nurses Christian Fellowship

Father Knows Best

I'm just back from 38 years in the Middle East. I didn't want to go there. I just wanted to stay in Canada and enjoy nursing sick people. But God had different plans and because I decided to follow His plan (after much coercion), my life has never been the same.

Does nursing allow for variety? Wow! I started out in a rather primitive situation doing a bit of everything – working in outpatients, delivering babies, caring for premature infants, assisting in the OR, treating scorpion bites . . . you name it. Then as the hospital developed, I began my most favourite role; that of patient teaching. This gave me opportunity not only to do health teaching but also to relate as a Christian nurse to my Arab clients.

Through those years there were challenges because of the location – wars, anti-West feelings, some major health issues but, scary as they might have been, they also brought BIG opportunities to show that faith in Jesus makes an everyday difference. The hard things really did turn out for good. The country developed at break-neck speed and health care and general living changed immensely.

Then I made a major move (after 35 years). Back to primitive living and working, for me, in a new location and an entirely new area of nursing. This was in a facility which cared for, along with other chest diseases, multi-drug resistant TB patients from all over the Middle East. Patients stayed for a minimum of 3 months and often a year. Talk about bonding with patients – we were with them in the ups and downs of their disease and treatment 24/7 and had opportunity to share 'good news' with them often.

Now I've made another major change and that's back to Canada. I've exchanged the dusty and poor for the green and affluent; the religious for the secular and the deep friendships with co-workers to the "Hi, have a good day" surface conversation in the elevator of my apartment building. But God hasn't left me without my beloved Arabs. I've begun participating in a congregation made up of Arabs from 3 different Middle Eastern nations. As a lactation consultant (IBCLC) I plan to hang out my shingle (in Arabic only) to see what people God has for me in this city. The only thing I can say to summarize my past is "Great is His faithfulness". He took my reluctance and taught me that He really does know what's best for me. He took my feeble gifts and used them for His glory. What more can a nurse ask for?



Nancy Brock

Nancy is a graduate of Nursing from the Victoria Hospital School of Nursing. She is also a Graduate from Moody Bible Institute. Nancy has been working in the Middle East for 38 years.

Bridging

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says... "encourage one another and build up one another..." and that's what Preceptorship/Mentoring is all about.

As some of you get ready to start your first nursing job and others begin a new position in a new place, I want to first of all say 'Congratulations'. You now have the opportunity to make nursing your career or

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Please Pray...

For the nursing students at Brock U, Western U, Fanshawe College, McMaster U, Mohawk College, Ryerson, and University of Toronto. Please pray for all nursing students in Ontario as they begin their new academic year.

Please pray for NCF's presence at the job fairs across the country. For the nurses who share their time volunteering at the booths and for those who stop and learn about NCF.

Praise and prayer for the new NCF groups in Hamilton/Halton area and in the Scarborough area. Pray for their leaders and the nurses who attend.

Please pray for the NCF Ontario Committee as we make plans for the coming year. If you are interested in being part of the committee please contact jackie.schmidt@sympatico.ca.

If you are interested in praying with and for the nurses around the world, please go to our website and click on the NCFI link www.ncfcanada.ca.

the Gap...

profession. You are finally free from tons of assignments and presentations and group work etc., and are free to relax. The pressure is off! Give yourself a pat on your back! You did a good job! Now what's next? What do you do with your education? Where do you start? Then comes the pressure and waiting after applying for a couple of jobs. When you finally get the call to come

[To be continued on page 2]

Being a Witness at Nursing Job Fairs

"Are you hiring?" Asked a student nurse looking at the NCF banner curiously.

"Have you heard about NCF?" I asked.

"I've never heard of this organization before... can you tell me more about it?" She asked. I explained "Nurses Christian Fellowship is a volunteer organization that equips Christian nurses to share their faith with their colleagues and patients. It also provides a safe place for nurses to support one another through small groups and activities. Nurses experience life and death, joy and sorrow daily...we need a place to reflect and nurture one another.

The student nurse picked up a newsletter and asked for more details.

"I used to go to church...I think I like the idea of getting together for support and prayer".

Picking up a Daily Bread and writing her name on the mailing list a nurse shared her story.

"Oh! I'm so glad to see Nurses Christian Fellowship here!" Some nurses exclaimed. They explained that their shifts were so hectic they didn't have time to pause and focus on spiritual care. I was happy to provide a listening ear and resources to help them.

[Continued from page 1]

for an interview, the excitement and anxiety are still there. Just as you thought you had finished with school, you still feel some pressure. It is not what you thought it would be like. Congrats again...you got the job and were asked to attend the general orientation starting in the next couple of days. You meet other fellow grads/new nurses. Time goes by and you have lots of information to process now. The GO ends and then you start to work on the unit. Your educator/manager tells you something about having a preceptor. You think...what's that all about? In my opinion you are blessed to have that program.

Preceptorship- It's one of the best ways to transition/integrate new nurses into the nursing workforce. It is a great way to decrease stress since you feel protected and you are being coached in a non-threatening environment. You now have a good role model- the preceptor-who helps

These are just some examples of the conversations that go on while attending the NCF booth at a job fair.

These great opportunities happened because the Marskell group invited NCF to their job fairs. They wanted a Christian witness as an exhibitor and NCF was happy to be there to share our faith with our fellow health care workers.

This marketing group has invited NCF to participate in job fairs not only in Ontario (London, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, and Windsor), but also in other major cities across the country, such as Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Montreal, Halifax, Fredericton, and St. John's.

As we participate in a job fair, we have the great opportunity to reach out to young nurses who do not know about NCF and its values and beliefs. We do this through meaningful conversations, sharing our newsletter or giving out website magnets. We witness by giving out devotional materials, Bibles and Gospel resources.

We thank all the nurses who have been prompted by the Holy Spirit to staff the NCF booth. The benefits of being at the booth are two-fold: you learn both people skills and active listening skills while being blessed by witnessing Jesus' love to others. You are also rewarded by seeing their positive responses.

God works in mysterious ways. Long before

enhance critical thinking and career development. I have heard the saying that "a mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be ignited" and the outcome gives the preceptor great satisfaction. I was precepted and have been a preceptor myself and can brag about the benefits. Having been in both positions I just want to say "don't worry" everything will be alright. Just remember that everybody is different, every place is different, plans change and things do go wrong sometimes, but every thing you do will be under guidance until you are able to fly on your own. I work at The Hospital for Sick Children [Sick Kids] and I got a little feedback from my colleagues on precepting. They say that it gives them great job satisfaction and provides life long lessons.

As an encouragement just remember this, preceptorship will help you;

Discover- your calling, gifts, and purpose;

Equip- you with the practical skills for your personal and professional development;

we were invited to the job fairs, God had led me to a company called Jilca where the President committed to donate free banners to us. God's timely providence shocked the whole NCF committee in Ontario. It taught us that God has a plan for NCF and He cares for all our needs...in a way exceeding our expectations. These great professional NCF banners are being used in job fairs and NCF events from Vancouver to the Atlantic provinces. If you would like to participate in a job fair or learn about other events please contact me at nationalchair@ncfcanada.ca or your local group leader.

Fronica Yiu

RN, BScN, MTS

Fronica is a Public Health Nurse for York Region. She is presently the Chair of National NCF Canada.



Upcoming Events...

**Experiencing Shalom
in Life and Work**
Speakers: Carol & Ross Bailey

Saturday, November 1, 2008
9am - 3pm
Royal Botanical Gardens
Burlington, ON

Value- your unique identity as a future Christian nursing leader;

Empower- you to encourage fellow colleagues and patients with sound character, confidence and competence;

Lead- others in-turn by mentoring and personal coaching;

Optimize- your abilities and knowledge to interface and network with your peers;

Prepare- you to be a leader through the integration of your personal, spiritual and professional life.



Judith Fanaken

RN, SANE

Judith works at the Hospital for Sick Children as a charge nurse and has been with NCF for the past 2 years. She is now the national NCF secretary and treasurer.