

locaust History Museum. The Israel Museum holds the Shrine of the Book and a copy of the Isaiah Scroll inside, and a large model of the 66AD second temple outside. Two evenings were spent at church services. The first was an RC service at Notre Dame Cathedral to support one of our members and the second was an Anglican Evensong at the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr, the front of which was a gift from Queen Victoria, with a full emersion baptismal font.

To enter Bethlehem, we needed special permission since it is Palestinian territory. We visited the Church of the Nativity, also built by St. Helena, and restored by the Crusaders. A star marks the spot below which Jesus may have been born and a manger sits where he may have been laid. There is a wall mural of the second Nicene Council in 787 AD which gave us our Nicene Creed. Another church in

Bethlehem is St. Catherine's RC Church.

The last day, we visited the Garden Tomb, with its tranquil gardens, which is another site of Jesus' burial. On the way to the Tel Aviv airport, we stopped at the Elvis Diner but it was closed.

For me, the best part of the trip was walking in the foot steps of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. My love of history was also satisfied as each site visited was memorable. My camel ride was a thrill. Rev. Eleanor says, "Each time you visit Israel, you will feel like you are coming home". The only things I can add are Jesus' words, "Come and see" (John 1:39 NRSV).



Martha Cosan is a retired Canadian Forces Nursing Officer who resides in London, Ontario.

Nurses Christian Fellowship Weblinks

- www.ncfcanada.ca - NCF Canada's official website
- www.ncf-jcn.org - website for NCF USA and Journal of Christian Nursing
- www.ncfi.org - website of NCF International
- www.urbana09.org - intervarsity's 22nd student missions conference
- www.facebook.com - National Nurses Christian Fellowship of Canada - a great way to connect with other Christian nurses and nursing students
- www.rnao.org - Registered Nurses of Ontario
- www.rpnao.org - Registered Practical Nurses on Ontario
- www.capnm.ca/index.htm - Canadian Association for Parish Nursing Ministry
- www.biblesociety.ca - Sowing God's Word - that heart's and lives may be changed
- www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec34601/index.htm - a good website to keep up to date on topics such as the H1N1 virus

FROM THE ONTARIO CHAIR:

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

BY JACKIE SCHMIDT



"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil, it came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty or even a hundred times."

Mark 4:3-8 (NIV)

NCF is here to support Christian nurses as they share God's love with their fellow workers, patients/clients, friends and family. Just as the farmer's seed fell in many places, God's love will be received by people in different ways. Some will not accept it and others will be changed and blessed by it. That is ok. We will celebrate with those who find Jesus and continue to pray for those who haven't. NCF would like to hear your stories. Was your life changed by a fellow nurse sharing God's love? What experiences have you had when sharing Jesus with others? Your sharing experience may be as simple as a smile and a listening ear or as big as a mission trip around the world. Nurses love stories and we would like to hear yours. Send your submissions to Jackie Schmidt at ontario@ncfcanada.ca or via our website: www.ncfcanada.ca.

WE LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK ABOUT ONT-LINK, PLEASE MAKE TIME TO COMPLETE THE CULL SLIP.

The Ontario Link



Issue 55
Spring, 2010

The Newsletter of the Ontario Nurses Christian Fellowship

Ontario SEMINAR DAY REFLECTIONS LIFE AT WORK: LIVING YOUR DESTINY

BY LINDA HAACK



On the weekend of October 23, 2009, a group of Christian nurses gathered to hear Dr. Barbara J. White speak at the Royal Botanical Gardens, just outside Burlington, Ontario. Dr. White is the President of Nurses Christian Fellowship International. She is also a professor, and Dean of the Colorado Christian University Division of Nursing and Sciences in the United States.

A pre-seminar gathering was held on Friday evening. Approximately 20 fellow nurses gathered at a restaurant where we shared supper while networking with each other. While we were eating dessert, Dr. White described the structure of Nurses Christian Fellowship International in addition to the organization's future plans and goals.

In her address Dr. White made a connection between certain books of the Old Testament (e.g. Nehemiah and Gen-

esis) and our work as nurses. She pointed out that the midwives who tended to Moses when he was floating in the basket as a baby, were nurses. She said that like Nehemiah, we need to have a vision. We need to pray specifically and wait patiently as God develops the vision He has given us, for each of our lives, especially our work lives.

On Saturday, at the Botanical Gardens, Dr. White introduced the theme of the seminar. She focused on nursing leadership, particularly servant leadership at work and pointed out the difference between a leader and a manager. While a leader is a visionary person who takes risks, encourages others, and is an agent of change, a manager is a cautious person, who organizes, coordinates, and enforces policy. We might not necessarily find a leader and a manager in the same person. She also said that a good servant leader asks for feedback. Toward the end of the afternoon, Barbara White described some ways in which nursing practice may be different in the future with less practical bedside nursing; with nurses acting more as advocates for their patients, and increased use of comput-

Designed by Wendy Voss
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Editor: Dora Yiu

Please Pray For...

...the nurses and health care workers in Haiti. For their safety and health.

...NCF: that our presence at job fairs and RNAO will be a blessing to the Christian nurses who attend these venues.

...the student nurses who signed in at the NCF booth at Urbana. That their hearts would be opened to missions.

...NCF Ont. committee as they make plans for spring and fall seminars.

If you are interested in being a part of NCF please contact:
jackie.schmidt@sympatico.ca

If you are interested in praying for nurses across Canada please go to the NCF website and check Monday Night Prayer.



Linda Haack lived in Africa as a child from 1965 to 1974 with her parents and sister. She accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour in January, 1982. Between 1989 and 1997, Linda worked for health care employers in Germany and England. She has been a Registered Practical Nurse in Ottawa for the past 10 years.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NCF IN ROMANIA?

BY DANA NICULAS



Romanian nurses first heard about NCFI in 1990. The chair of the organization at that time, Ruth Liechtenberger, visited my hometown of Cluj-Napoca (a city located in the western part of the country, in the region of Transylvania) and got in touch with a group of Christian nurses. She invited the group leader to attend the 1992 International Conference in Fiji.

The idea of gathering as Christian nurses and praying for a Christian impact in our workplaces was very welcome after the communist revolution. People were more open to God and needed direction and something to cling to. We, as nurses, were very enthusiastic because we realized we could be a significant force if we stuck together; we could learn and be encouraged from one another's experiences.

Since then, there has been a relationship between NCFI and the conduct of local prayer meetings, bible studies and discussions related to how Romanian

nurses can better manifest a Christian attitude in our workplaces. We invited some of our colleagues, nurses who believed in God but belonged to non-protestant denominations, to challenge themselves towards a deeper Christian behaviour and engage in closer relationships with God.

As a group we have had our ups and downs, our failures and successes, but now, with God's help, we will host the European NCF Conference. It will be held in Valea Draganului, a beautiful place located just 70 km from Cluj-Napoca.

Here's a bit of our history:

- 1994 - several nurses from our group participated at the European Conference held in Helsinki, Finland (the theme: "Nursing at the crossroads");
- 1996 - our leader and another nurse from a different city were invited to the International Conference in Hong-Kong;
- 1998 - the opportunity to build relationships and get to know Christian nurses from different parts of the country presented itself within a large group of Christian nurses from 3 main Romanian cities (some of whom were Christian Baptist nursing college students);
- 2000 - despite a lack of participation by nurses from my hometown, nurses from Bucharest and Timisoara attended the Intl. Conference held in Scotland;
- 2002 - a considerable number of Romanian nurses were invited to the European Conference in Norway and we began to think about establishing our own national association;
- 2004 - very little attendance by Romanian nurses at the conference in Seoul, South Korea;
- 2006 - nurses from 3 main cities (Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest and Timisoara) were invited to the European Conference in Holland. The idea of linking all the regional groups into a national association was

brought back on the table. Our group in Cluj-Napoca organized a national meeting with Christian nurses from 12 Romanian cities, creating better contacts and linking the groups.

- 2006 - Romania and Bulgaria officially joined the European Union. With the borders to the rest of Europe wide open, a large number of nurses moved out of the country to seek higher salaries elsewhere. This process of immigration has been ongoing since then;
- May 2009 - the NCF European Board, represented by Steve Fouch, Sue Allen, Marion Deelau, Paula Laamanen, Ingrid Lang Pedersen and Utah Bornschein visited Romania. Together with the Romanian board, they outlined the agenda of the 8th NCF European conference. The event was organized and will take place May 31st and June 5th, 2010 in Valea Draganului.

The theme is "Caring Across Boundaries; The Challenges of Nursing in a Globalized World". Teachings from the book of Daniel will be presented during the conference.

Our prayer is that God will bless this special event. May He help Romanian nurses improve their unity and communication with one another. May He give them the wisdom and the strength to persevere and overcome all obstacles!



Dana Niculas was born in Cluj-Napoca, within the heart of Romania's Transylvania region. She is a member of the Romanian Nurses Christian Fellowship, having been with the group since its beginnings. Prior to immigrating to Canada a year ago, she worked as an RN in Surgical, Rheumatology, and ICU (Open Heart Surgery) Department.

ASH WEDNESDAY IN ISRAEL

BY MARTHA COSAN



My pilgrimage to the Holy Land was a dream come true. We flew overnight from Toronto to Tel Aviv by El Al Israel Airlines. Our bus tour covered 25 places in Israel plus sites from the Old and New Jerusalem. Over those 8 full days I took 526 pictures.

From the start we were plunged into history. We visited Jaffa (Joppa in the Bible) and St. Peter's RC Church, Caesarea with its Roman Theatre and Pontius Pilate inscribed stone, Mount Carmel where the prophet Elijah fought the 400 false prophets of Baal, Megiddo which was one of King Solomon's walled-fortified cities and contains the ruins of 20 levels of civilization, Mount Tabor where Christ's Transfiguration occurred, and Yardenit, the baptismal site on the Jordan River.

Ash Wednesday fell on February 25th this year. The day marks the beginning of the penitential church season of Lent. We had an Ash Wednesday service led by our two leaders, Anglican ministers, Rev. Eleanor Caruana and Rev. Sue McCullough, on a boat on the Sea of

Galilee. It was awe inspiring. We saw a 2,000-year-old fishing boat that Jesus could have sailed upon, the Greek Baniyas pagan temples and Caesarea Philippi, the place where Peter made his confession of faith in Christ. Our St. Peter's fish dinner of Talapia was at a beach-side restaurant by the Sea of Galilee. Rocks and shells were collected here. The Church of the Beatitudes with its natural amphitheatre is where Jesus gave His Sermon on the Mount. The Church of the Hep-topegon, with its mosaic floor of loaves and fish, in Tabgha, is where Jesus is said to have laid the bread and fish before He fed the five thousand. Capernum contains the site of the synagogue where Jesus taught and the remains of Peter's house under the modern Church of Capernum.

After taking one last look at the Sea of Galilee, we visited the Cana Catholic Wedding Church over the synagogue and site of where Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine. In Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home, we toured the church of the Annunciation, St. Joseph's Church, and the living Nazareth Village. We also visited Bet She'an National Park, a Roman town destroyed in 749AD in an earthquake. The movie "Jesus Christ Superstar" was filmed there and the Judas tree still stands.

We viewed Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives and visited Dominus Flevit (the Sanctuary of Jesus Weeping over Jerusalem), the Church of All Nations with its altar over the rock Jesus leaned on in Gethsemane, and the Garden of Gethsemane with its 2,500-year-old olive trees. In the Old City of Jerusalem we saw the Archeological Park with the stairs Jesus would have taken to the Temple, and St. Peter's in Gallicantu (French modern church) where Peter denied Christ three times and the cock crowed. The base-

ment of this church has the ruins of High Priest Caiphas' house and the original Sacred Pit where Jesus was imprisoned. The Dormition Abbey is a modern church where Mary, the mother of Jesus, is said to have fallen asleep and ascended into Heaven. The Room of the Last Supper is similar to an upper room of a house in the vicinity and of the same time period as the original. King David's tomb lies underneath. Santa Anna Church is where Jesus healed the paralytic. In the rain, wind, and cold, we followed the 14 Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa where Jesus walked to His crucifixion. It ended at the Holy Sepulchre Church where Jesus is said to have died and been buried. The first church was built by St. Helena (Emperor Constantine's mother) in the 4th century AD. During excavations in the 1990's, a 2,000 year old grave was found in the basement.

On the Jewish Sabbath, we left Jerusalem for the fortress of Masada, originally built by Antipas, King Herod's father, where 967 men, women, and children killed themselves rather than become Roman slaves. Qumran was an Essene kibutz where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written, hid in 68CE, and found in 1947. They are the oldest scriptures ever found. At the Dead Sea we were not allowed to enter the water due to unusual three meter waves. In the desert we rode a camel.

In New Jerusalem, we walked the tunnels, underneath the Western Wall, on an ancient street that Jesus may have walked, past a praying wall which is the closest wall to the Holy of Holies of the now gone Jewish temple. Vad Vashem, a monument to the 6,000 Holocaust victims, has three parts: (1) the Children's Memorial, (2) the treed avenue of the Righteous of the Nations, and (3) the Ho-

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