



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

**To Engage, Equip and Empower
Nurses in Christ**

**Celebrating Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada's
5th Anniversary!**

A Message from the Board of Directors

*"Every time I think of you,
I give thanks to my God. Whenever
I pray, I make my requests for all
of you with joy, for you have been
my partners in spreading the Good
News about Christ from the time
you first heard it until now. And I
am certain that God, who began
the good work within you, will
continue his work until it is finally
finished on the day when
Christ Jesus returns."*

Philippians 1:3-6

This special edition of the Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada (NCFC) Pulse is published to celebrate our 5th Anniversary after NCFC's independence as a charitable organization in 2012. The Board would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all those Nurses who were in the forefront of realizing the importance of NCFC in its' formative years and contributed in many ways with their talents and time. NCFC today wishes to acknowledge those Nurses that volunteered to lay the groundwork, and continue the Mission, that has culminated in today's Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada.

The Board of Directors of NCFC has made it their Mission this year to meet

with as many Nurses as possible - who formed part of the initial NCF in Canada - and personally acknowledge and thank them for their outstanding years of Volunteer Service. It has been our very great privilege to present plaques and certificates to honour those Nurses, and others, who helped build NCFC today. Thank you for giving us that opportunity to meet and talk, and also listen and learn. Hearing your stories, and sharing a cup of tea, or a special lunch has provided wonderful feedback to the current Board of NCFC. Thank you.

Many Nurses that we honoured this year, have expressed how NCF has been of value to them through the years. Here is one comment - "NCF was such a huge part of my development in Christ! Serving Jesus in the mission of Nursing has constantly blessed and motivated me!"

At this time, may we please throw out a challenge to you, our Readers. Have you, or someone that you know, ever been involved with NCF or IVCF, either in High School or at University/College, within Canada in the past? If so, the NCFC Board of Directors would love to hear from you, regarding your experiences, and any

expertise you might be willing to share with us. Your input will be invaluable to the Board as we go forward, into the future, with this Ministry for Nurses and Healthcare Workers in Canada.

At this time, Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada wishes to thank all volunteers in Nursing and Healthcare positions who have served in the past years, and those who continue to serve in Christian love to the present day. God Bless you and yours always.

Revelation 2:19 - "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience, and as for your works, the last are more than the first!"

Respectfully,

NCFC BOD

Judith Fanaken (President)

Fronica Yiu (Secretary & Treasurer)

Patricia Mitchell (Director)



Have comments or suggestions for NCFC Pulse?

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

How did it start growing?

Jan Lockett

The seeds of the Atlantic Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) were planted when a group of nurses in Saint John, New Brunswick began to meet for Bible study in the late 1940s with Rev. A. LeDrew Gardner, then rector of St. John's (Stone) Anglican Church. Although willing to do the studies if only two or three came out, the first meeting in the nurses' residence on Waterloo Street drew some 50 enthusiastic students and nurses! After a time, Mr. Gardner told them, "You should have a Nurses Christian

Fellowship group." He gave them the address of the organization in Toronto (NCF was a ministry of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at the time) and a staff member came down and met with them. This was the beginning of NCF in Saint John with Lois Floyd agreeing to be the sponsor for the group and Jean Kimball leading the singing. Betty Hitchcock (the former chair of Atlantic provinces) was one of the first students who came to the group, attracted by the singing and the difference she saw in the

lives of these nurses. Soon an Atlantic NCF committee was formed with national representation. These three nurses, Lois, Jean and Betty, have been an integral part of our heritage in the Atlantic. We have been blessed.

Jan Lockett is the chairperson of NB overseeing the PEI and NS provinces. She would love to connect with any nurses in the Maritimes provinces to start small groups and Christian fellowship. If you would like to chat please contact her by email: Jan Lockett (jlockett@nb.sympatico.ca)



Picking up the Baton

by Karla Weiss



I have been a part of Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada (NCFC) for the past 3 years. Initially I attended a NCFC workshop in Alberta where I was quite impressed

by the speaker Doreen Westera from Newfoundland on Spirituality in Nursing. I knew that there were no other groups in Grande Prairie, so I inquired on how I could begin a NCFC group in Grande Prairie.

My first experience was meeting Patricia Mitchell in Grande Prairie where she came down with another member of her Bible study group. They both came to visit me at home to get to know me more and

how I could start a group. Small group for nurses are great opportunities to build fellowship and spiritual growth. The year after, I was invited to attend a NCFC annual general meeting (AGM) to get a taste of how I could impact those around me as a Christian Nurse. I always wanted to utilize my nursing skills along with my Christian faith but didn't know how.

I was then invited to come to the National AGM in Toronto where I went as an observer and saw the intimate details on how NCFC works across Canada. I also had the privilege of meeting other Christian Nurses from different provinces and how they are serving in their individual province. When I returned the next year in 2015, I was asked to consider becoming the Provincial Chair for Alberta with Patricia as my mentor. A great opportunity was also presented to me to attend the NCFI congress in Tagaytay, Philippines in 2016. It was an incredible experience and one I will never forget. I learned so much about myself and my faith. I saw many other Christian nurses from various countries

sharing their experiences and challenges. This also offered me to come in contact with many Christian brothers and sisters across the world with whom I continue to have fellowship and pray for.

When I was in high school I do remember vaguely being a part of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, in which we met at school and were able to hang out with the other Christian students. This was my only involvement with Christian groups.

In May 2017 with the help of Patricia Mitchell and many volunteers, a NCFC workshop in Grande Prairie was held for the first time. Doreen Westera also came to speak at this event. She was on a Canada wide tour and was able to fit some time in to share her experience, knowledge and expertise with us. There were over 12 people in attendance. I also had other vendor booths set up so that the attendees could have more resources to utilize in their practise. The event was successful and well received.

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God is the Gardener

Anne (Workman) Hawes



Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada (NFCF) - a bit of history

I served as the National Nurses Christian Fellowship Coordinator from

February 1, 1992 until March 31, 2006. It has always been inspiring for me to look back at the history of NCF in Canada and although this is a limited report, I trust it will give you some insight into the ways God has used this ministry to help nurses know Christ and make Him known over many years.

As I met with many nurses who had been part of NCF (former name) since their student days, I discovered that some were meeting together for Christian Fellowship as early as 1936. Because the student groups played such a large part in the spiritual growth of these young nurses, they often continued to meet after graduation. Reasons cited for the existence of NCF groups included:

- Long working hours, shift and weekend work often prevented nursing students from regularly attending church services
- Nurses encountered suffering, death, grieving, etc. and wanted an opportunity to discuss these topics in light of God's Word
- The goal of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF), "to know Christ and make Him known" fit with their

desire to grow in their relationship with Christ and to share their faith with their colleagues

- Recognition of the need to integrate faith with nursing practice
- Need for graduate involvement with student groups as mentors, role models and to provide continuity

NCF in Canada began as a student movement, but over the years, graduate groups continued to grow. Changes in nursing education made student work more difficult. Some of these changes included shorter, more intense programs; a move away from residence living; and a lack of available space and time to hold meetings. When I was a student in the 1960's, we lived in residence and held weekly meetings. Provincial events such as ski weekends with a speaker, Campus in the City (a weekend discovery of Toronto with Bible Studies, discussion groups, etc.) exposed us to students from other parts of the province. Staff workers helped plan and implement these events. They also visited our groups, met 1:1 with students and were available to advise and counsel.

I, for one, came to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus through my student NCF group.

Eventually, there were more graduate groups than student groups. Integration of faith and vocation is a lifelong process and NCF groups were one vehicle which helped to facilitate this process.

Nurses saw a need to connect the groups that had sprung up across Canada. A National Committee formed in the 70's or early 80's and met once a year. In the late 1980's this group prayed about the possibility of hiring a National Coordinator. Leslie VanDover was chairing

the Committee at that time and after much prayer and the encouragement of Jim Berney, President of IVCF, they began to ask God to call someone to that position. That person turned out to be me – with a very direct call from God in the book of Deuteronomy 11:10-12. He showed me that at that time, the land of nursing was very dry but He promised to water and nourish it and I was privileged to watch Him do just that. I had an opportunity to encourage networking among groups and individuals from all across the country and around the world through NCF International. Monday night prayer was modeled after a practice by NCF Fiji.

Activities included Bible Studies with an application to nursing, professional workshops, weekend retreats, displays at professional conferences and an NCF sponsored breakfast at CNA and RNAO, and opportunities for networking with nurses from other countries through NCF International.

IVCF, under Jim Berney, was very supportive of the ministry with nurses, but over time, the parent organization felt that their movement was geared toward students and NCF was working more with graduates. I am thankful to God for the continuing presence of NCF Canada (current name) and I know that He will use it to continue to refresh and restore nurses in all parts of our country.

I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable nurse, mentor and friend – Miss Terry Martens of Regina. Terry was the National NCF staff worker back in the days when I was a student. To this day, she continues to be a supporter and encourager and has touched the lives of countless nurses. If there were an NCF Hall of Fame, Terry would most certainly be in it!

Picking up the Baton Con't

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We are hoping to host another workshop next fall in Southern Alberta. More details to come.

My position as the Provincial Chair entails overseeing all the activities that

are happening within the province, planning future events of engagement, welcoming and engaging new associates, and networking with other staff in health related fields to advance the ministry of NCFC. But I cannot do it alone and God loves nurses in Alberta. If God has laid in your heart to get involved with this exciting work of God, please feel free to chat with me.

Karla Weiss is the Chairperson of Alberta province since 2016. She grew up in Alberta, being a Christian all her life. Karla has been in nursing for 23 years. Now she is a faith community nurse and a holistic health coach. Currently working in Public Health as well as working on growing my coaching business -Radically Transformed Coaching. She loves scrapbooking, reading, gardening, and the outdoors. You may want to contact her by email: christhas1@gmail.com

What is NCF International?

Phyllis Ferrier



NCFI is a Professional and a Missional organization connecting Christian Nurses globally and equipping them to live out their faith in practice. There are more than 38

member countries in 6 regions. During the past 5 years, I have had the privilege of representing NCF Canada on the NCFI International Board, and as the NCFI Regional Chair of CANA; North America and the Caribbean. This journey began during an annual NCF National Committee meeting, which I have been part of since 1997. The current initiative of the hour, was the choosing of a new Canadian representative to sit on the NCFI International Board. I had whispered to God "If You want me to go, I am willing". Within several minutes the question was posed by a Committee member "Phyllis would you consider this?". Having attended the NCFI International Conferences in Seoul, Korea (2004), and Nigeria, Africa (2008), I had been so impressed with the level of scholarship and the strong commitment to Gods Word. I realized this was a unique opportunity to serve Jesus. Notwithstanding, I felt

somewhat overwhelmed considering responsibilities in Toronto Public Health, a private Counseling practice, and PhD studies at Liberty. However, with the strong reminder of Gods Call during the subsequent two weeks, I concluded that I needed to follow and leave all the consequences in God's Hands. What a journey this has been! God has been so faithful! Within 2 years I was able to take very early retirement from Toronto Public Health as well as modify my PhD completion deadlines. I am grateful for Gods ongoing provision for my studies; His wisdom and strength.

Have there been challenges? Absolutely! However the blessings of following Jesus, being "in His grip", far outweigh the struggles. I have had the privilege of journeying with very committed and gifted leaders on the NCFI International Board and on the NCFI CANA Regional Committee. Monthly I meet through ZOOM technology with other Regional Chairs across the world. The privilege of spending 'CANA Days of Prayer', praying with devoted leadership across the region and beyond, and traveling to Haiti to speak at their first National Conference in 2015, are several of many initiatives. Several of the many lessons learned on the journey are as follows.

Following Jesus means at times, obeying His Words even when it does not, from a human perspective, make

sense. He is God, and sees a much bigger picture. Nor does following Jesus preclude times of deep struggle as Paul indicated in 2 Corinthians 4.

But Our Awesome God is faithful. He provides the encouragement to lead and sustain as we submit all decisions and challenges into His Good Hands. This may mean, modifying prior plans and timelines; God's timing is critical. I love the phrase "God's will is what we would choose if we had all the facts". As Hudson Taylor stated in the exchanged Life: "It is not what we can do for God, but rather what God can do through us" that is defining. In the mix, God is accomplishing His work in us, as much as through us.

Finally, I have been both encouraged and inspired through the words of the apostle Paul; "Now all glory to God, Who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think". (Ephesians 3:20) What an Awesome God! What an incredible journey!'

Phyllis Ferrier BScN, RN, MDIV (Counselling), RP, RMFT; NCFI CANA Regional Chair, Honorary Advisor to NCFC.

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Layout & Design:
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