



ATLANTIC NCFC NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

June 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings of peace, hope, joy and love in the name of Jesus, our Christ. This is the time of year when students are finishing their studies and many will be starting new careers. Pray that new nurses may find welcoming Christian friends as they begin to practise in many locations. Others are thinking of holidays and are planning trips and times of rest and relaxation. Pray for safety in travel and that they might return refreshed in body and spirit. Help us all to remember that wherever we go or whatever we do, God goes with us. He is with us in all circumstances and it is God that gives true refreshment, day by day and moment by moment. Pray that we may always be aware of His presence and that we would enjoy spending time with Him and growing in our relationship with Him daily.

Blessings,

Betty Hitchcock

My faith has found a resting place, Not in device nor creed;
I trust the Ever living One, His wounds for me shall plead.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, And that he died for me.

My great Physician heals the sick, the lost He came to save.
For me His precious blood He shed, For me His life He gave.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.

GOD'S LOVING WORD

Philippians 4: 4-9 [from the New Revised Version]

4. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice.
5. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
6. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
7. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
8. Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
9. Keep on doing the things you have heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Study: Philippians -4: 4-9

Vs. 4– What does Paul ask the Philippians to do? What does it mean to rejoice? He asks them to rejoice ‘always’. What would change in our lives if we were to rejoice always? Are there some situations where it might be more difficult to rejoice? What could we do to make it easier to rejoice in difficult situations?

Vs.5 – Paul talks about gentleness. What does gentleness mean to you? How might one show their gentleness? Is there someone you admire for their gentleness? Can you think of an example of gentleness being shown? How might things be different if we all showed gentleness in dealing with each other?

Paul also tells them that the Lord is near. As Christians, we know that the Lord is with us always. What does that mean to you? Do we always act as if the Lord is with us? How would others know that the Lord was with you?

Vs.6 –Paul tells them not to worry about anything. Do we worry? Why? What does Paul tell them to do instead? Do we talk to God about all our concerns? If not, why

not? What condition does Paul say should go along with our requests to God?

Vs.7 – What does Paul say will be the result? How does he describe the peace of God? What will it do for us? How does the peace of God differ from peace in the world?

Vs.8– What does Paul tell them to keep in their thoughts? How much of what we think about in a day would meet these criteria? What difference would it make if all of our thoughts met these criteria?

Vs.9 – What do you think they had learned from Paul? What is the promise if they keep doing these things?

HEALTH UPDATE

I am at home, and so thankful to be here. There are still regular medical appointments and tests. I am still on about 20 drugs which are taken daily. My nephrologist says the last biopsy of the kidney cancer did not give enough detail so he has scheduled another cat scan and then will decide about treatment. I expect the kidney surgery will be in the early fall. The neuropathy in my hands and feet is still bad and I have no feeling in my fingers or toes. I am blessed to have a wonderful girl that comes twice a week to do the housework and laundry. I am also blessed to have wonderful physicians [7 of them] who work with me and are so dedicated. I walk with a walker and wear gloves or mittens all the time, even in bed. I tried using a cane but sprained my shoulder putting too much weight on it as I couldn't feel my feet. Ended up doing 5 more weeks of physio for the shoulder.

Thank you to all who have contacted me with messages of love and hope. Your kindness is appreciated more than you will ever know.

Betty

Not long ago, a friend sent me a card based on Isaiah 40: 31. “ *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength .They shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.*”

Inside the card was a prayer- *God of life, I reach out to you for help. On my own, I cannot walk through the days, and I need you to hold me up and keep me from fainting. Renew me in Your strength. Breath Your Hope into my spirit, that I might believe that my heavy heart will again run and even rise up and fly on eagles wings. Let the light*

of your healing love shine into the deep hurt and the dark paces in my heart, in the name of Jesus the Lord of love, I pray.

TESTIMONY FROM A STUDENT NURSE

Hi, my name is Clare Howe. I am 25 years old and am currently in the Advanced Standing Nursing program at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. My journey up until this point has been diverse. Like some, I have had overseas exposures that have shaped my life and prompted my passion for international missions. My arrival at this desire has been built on a culmination of unique life experiences. In my grade 12 year (2010-2011), it was a popular topic amongst my teachers and peers to discuss what university and program each of us was planning on pursuing. Personally, I didn't have a strong desire to go to university and hadn't a resolute pursuit in mind. After lots of reflection and dialogue with my parents, I chose to take a gap year to travel. My gap year ended up being five years in total. Throughout that time, I completed a Youth With A Mission Discipleship Training School, backpacked Europe twice, lived out of a tent for three months from Alaska to Hawaii, and went on the World Race (WR). It was on my recent trip: the WR from July 2015-May 2016 that I deepened my faith, maturity, and passion for the global community. The WR is a Christian organization where individuals aged 21-35 go on an eleven-month mission trip to eleven different countries. On the WR we are committed to serving the "least of these" (Matthew 25: 40-45) by living amongst the indigenous community and partnering with local ministries for a month at a time. Each month ministry looks different; for example, it could be running a VBS, working in orphanages, construction/landscape maintenance, teaching English, prayer walks and street evangelism, etc. We live out of our 60L backpack, have a 4\$ USD per day food budget, sleep out of our tents, church floors, or in people's homes, and have very limited access to A/ C. The countries I went to were India, Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Botswana, South Africa, Swaziland, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica. Through the WR experience, I had the opportunity to grow in fellowship with believers, therefore, increasing my intimacy with the Lord. It was also through honest feedback, inspiring teammates and the consistent Christian community that I was able to focus in on my strengths and weaknesses, thus promoting growth in these areas. An example of this includes the feedback that I doubted the Lord's financial provision thereby portraying him as untrustworthy. The Race also gave me the opportunity to realize unknown fears,

increase in my prayer life, listen to the Lord's promptings, and to let go of pride and unforgiveness.

Additionally, the WR allowed me to see the international need for basic healthcare. It was by witnessing such disparities, dialoguing with indigenous and expatriate health professionals, and having lots of time to reflect, that I decided to pursue Nursing school.

When I arrived home, the Lord continued to open doors to strategic people that would help guide and explain University requirements and its competitive application process. From September 2016 - July 2017 I attended Saint Mary's University in Halifax, taking all the pre-requisite courses (Physiology 1000, etc.) so that I could apply for the accelerated two-year Nursing program at Dalhousie. Through lots of hard work, prayers, tears, frustration and most importantly trust, the Lord blessed me with my acceptance into Dalhousie's September 2017 program.

In comparison to last year, my first year in the Nursing program has been incredibly intense and challenging. At certain points, I have felt discouraged and an unbearable weight on my shoulders, however, in those moments, I am reminded that adversity produces character, to separate myself from the idolatry of marks and that joy is essential in serving the Lord. Colossians 3:2 reminded me that I could overcome the temptation to pursue a life of comparison and acquisition by setting my mind "on things above, not on earthly things." This is liberating as we can realize our self-worth rooted in our identity in Christ.

In conclusion, I will leave you with quotes that remind us to acknowledge the Lord's involvement in our lives and His resolute power:

"God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called." Rick Yancey

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

I hope my testimony and the inclusion of quotes encourage you to trust in the Lord's greatness and His loving pursuit of us so that we can realize unimaginable blessings.

With sincere love and gratitude,

Clare

The above article was submitted by a nursing student in Halifax.

ATLANTIC NCF PRAYER CALENDAR

MONDAY: ATLANTIC NCF COMMITTEE: Please pray for Chair Jan Lockett and Committee members Betty Hitchcock, Judy MacQuarrie, Flo Burke, Hope Graham and Faith Stiles. Pray for the building of witnessing communities in our region, the development of servant leaders and faithful stewardship of the NCF mission.

NATIONAL NCF COMMITTEE: Pray for the national NCF Committee, the executive and the provincial chairs. Pray for Board members Judith Fanaken, Pauline Martin and Patricia Mitchell and Secretary Fronica Yiu as they provide dedicated leadership. Pray for NCF committees across Canada.

TUESDAY: Pray for students and graduates in Nova Scotia that they may be nurtured and grow in faith as they face stresses at work and in their lives. Pray for students at Universities and satellite locations.

WEDNESDAY: Pray for nurses in Prince Edward Island. Pray for a real sense of God's presence as they work in hospitals, homes and the community. Pray that a contact may be found on the Island for our NCF Committee. Pray for student nurses at UPEI.

THURSDAY: Pray for students and graduates in Newfoundland/Labrador. Praise God for Doreen Westera and her presence at Memorial University. Pray for student nurses at Memorial University and affiliated campuses.

FRIDAY: Pray for nurses in New Brunswick. Pray for Christian faculty and students at UNBSJ UNBF, U of M and affiliated sites. Thank God for David Busolo who is on the nursing faculty at UNBF. Pray that nurses would be very aware of God's presence as they meet together

SATURDAY: Pray that the Atlantic NCF newsletter, "The LINK" will continue to be an effective means of communication for nurses throughout the Atlantic area. Pray for input from Christian nurses for the Link. Pray for direction for future activities in the Atlantic region.

SUNDAY: Pray for NCF across the nation. Pray for more prayer partners and financial support. Leaders in the nursing profession also need our prayers, that they will maintain priorities with a real concern for the sick and for their colleagues. Pray for new graduates as they begin their career in nursing.

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

NCFC [NCFCANADA] Atlantic Provinces

Please visit the national website at www.ncfcanada.ca Browse around and get to know our organization. Join the prayer list, read back issues of newsletters, see what exciting things are happening!

The national chair is Judith Fanaken, nationalchair@ncfcanada.ca

The secretary treasurer is Fronica Yiu.

Please pray for these nurses as they share in ministry.

Donations for the work of Nurses Christian Fellowship and should now be sent directly to

**Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada c/o Fronica Yiu
38 Clydesdale Rd., Markam, ON, L3R 3S9**

Cheques should be made out to Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada [not NCF]

You may also contribute directly on line at the national website.
Either way, you will receive an official tax receipt for donations.