



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

To Engage, Equip and Empower Nurses in Christ

Knowing God is at Work

By Jenny Na

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to participate in my third medical mission to the Dominican Republic as a triage nurse with the Light Presbyterian Church. We worked in collaboration with a Korean missionary couple who had requested a medical mission team visit their community three years ago.

Our team was made up of a family physician, a gynecologist, a medical resident, a radiologist, an optometrist, an acupuncturist, two dentists, three nurses, a pharmacist, several non-medical members, and local college students who assisted with translations. We served the community of San Jose del Puerto Villa Altagacia by running a clinic for four days at the Centro de Mision Cristian Eden Presbiteriana (Christian Missionary Centre). Primary medical care was provided to over 900 patients ranging from infants to the elderly. Each day, locals visiting the clinic would assemble in the church with our team to begin the day by worshipping God through praise. A sermon of the Gospel would be shared. We presented body worship dances, personal testimonies, and prayed together. Afterwards, patients were assessed, triaged, and seen by various medical specialties.

One evening, we organized a community prayer walk. We visited families in their homes to invite them to the clinic, to share the good news, and to pray for them. In the middle of the week, we attended an evening service at the missionary pastor's church and worshipped together with their congregation. On the final day of our mission, we visited a Korean church in a different city and ran a one-day medical clinic for their members.

This mission was very special to me as it was the final medical mission to the Dominican Republic. The missionary couple we worked with was completing their ministry in the spring. As I reflect on this past missions trip as well as the previous two, I give thanks, praise, and glory to God for ALL He has done.

Firstly, I thank God for the privilege to use my nursing profession and skills as a tool to share God's love and the Gospel by providing physical care. It was one of my dreams and I deeply thank God for fulfilling my desire.

Secondly, I experienced God's faithfulness in how he brought each person to the team and the beautiful harmony and teamwork

with which we worked during all aspects of the mission. Our team was multi-disciplinary, multi-generational, and multi-ethnic. Each member had an invaluable role and served each other with selfless humility and love. I experienced joy-filled and Christ-centered fellowship as we were united in one purpose in everything that we did, which was to share God's love and Good News to those we visited.

Thirdly, I experienced our Father's heart for the lost. Seeing how the missionary couple had sacrificed their lives to invest in people of the Dominican Republic, so that many will receive salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, pointed me to God's immeasurable love for the lost. I was reminded of how God relentlessly pursues the lost, like the shepherd who searched for the one lost sheep until it was found, because He loves them so much. I see God's compassion and patience in waiting for the lost to return to Him, like the father of the prodigal son. Experiencing God's heart of love for the lost in this fresh way reminded me of God's great love for me as well, for which I will ever be in debt to Him.

After returning to Canada, I learned a breakthrough lesson about missions when reading Acts 8. I was struck by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in leading

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Do you have a testimony to share for NCFC Pulse?

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

Christian Nurses: God's Hand Extended

By Raymond Lam

It was shocking news to my family and I when I was diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease. I had been healthy my entire life until then. I was only 17 and in so much pain I could hardly move. I initially suffered from acute nephritis and was treated with antibiotics with some improvement. I thought I was getting better until I developed heart murmurs and was sent to the hospital for immediate treatment.

Because of the cardiac problem, I was mandated "complete bed rest" for an extended period. I was not allowed to leave my bed and everything was done there. That five months in the hospital felt like decades. However, to my surprise, the nurses were friendly, caring, and smiley. This hospital in Hong Kong was founded by missionaries – did that make a difference? My family and I would not have expected this kind of loving hospital environment. Nurses were working hard and often didn't have time to take their breaks. I wondered what made the difference and soon had the answer: they belonged to Jesus.

Getting to Know Jesus

Jesus is not new to me as I attended a Catholic school, but how He began relating to me was completely new. One evening, a nurse came to visit me. It was a pleasant surprise. I could not understand why a nurse would visit her patient during her day off. We chatted for a while and then she handed me a Bible and read Psalms 34:8

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

To be honest, I didn't really know what it meant, but this verse stayed in my heart for a long time. I took the Bible and promised that I would start reading it. A month or so later, I was discharged by the hospital. A few days before I left, another nurse encouraged me to go to church after I was discharged. Coincidentally, she lived close to me, so we stayed connected and that's how I started going to church.

God's Word has Power

After I got home from the hospital, I read the Bible on a regular basis. I started reading the four gospels and jotted down questions for anything I had difficulty understanding. I would write to the nurse who gave me the Bible. For months, she

patiently answered my questions through letters. Looking back on it now, I really appreciate her tireless efforts in helping me understand God's words.

Now that I know the Lord, I truly understand the meaning of Psalms 34:8. Over the years I have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, especially during hardships and life transitions. I am really blessed in knowing Him.

My Mission

Sharing the Gospel with others has become my passion. I immigrated to the U.S. and recently started an outreach ministry

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Knowing God is at Work

and guiding Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch sharing the good news that resulted in his salvation. Moreover, I was challenged by Philip's humble submission and obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading, step by step. Acts 8 helped me see that missions are truly ALL about God. Whether it be in the Dominican Republic or in the workplace, God is powerfully at work, according to His purpose. I experienced freedom and joy in being shown that like Philip, I need only submit wholeheartedly to God, depend on the Holy Spirit, and faithfully share the Good news, through word and deed with anticipation that God is at work.

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Jenny Na has been part of NCFC since graduating from McMaster University's accelerated nursing program in 2013. She lives in Oakville with her family and has

a twin sister who is also a nurse. They are currently engaged in a NP program at the University of Toronto together.

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called "Good News Cafe" in our church. It is a less formal, relaxed, but gospel-centered gathering. We sing, watch a gospel movie, and hold discussions, prompted by the movie, of what Jesus has done in each of our lives. We mingle with non-believers, get to know them, and share delicious food together. We meet every Friday for the purpose of making Jesus known. The Lord has blessed this ministry greatly. Many have come and continued to attend our gatherings regularly. They join our Sunday worship as well as the gospel class. In addition to Good News Cafe and Gospel Sunday School, we also use Evangelism Explosion as a way to share the Gospel with others. Over the last few years, many have come to know Jesus. God's blessings

do not stop there. According to our Pastor, those serving in the Good News Cafe have become mission-minded and their love has increased in serving together as part of this outreach.

My Dedication

A few years ago I dedicated my life to serve the Lord. I attended seminary on a part-time basis and in May 2018 completed my Masters in Christian Leadership (MACL). Please pray for my wife and I as we wait on how best to serve Him.

I treasure the moments when those Christian nurses in that hospital made Jesus known to me. They were God's hand extended. No one wants to be sick, but what I have gained from my experience there transformed both my physical and spiritual life. I deeply appreciate their love

of God, their loving care to me, and their courage to share the precious news of the Gospel. Their sacrificial love to the Lord, that I encountered, did not just bring me back to health, but set my soul free from darkness. Today, sharing the Gospel with others is my passion. I want others to also "taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him". May God's grace continue to be exemplified in me.



Raymond Lam resides in New Jersey. For years he lost touch with the nurse who visited and gave him the Bible, but God miraculously reconnected them in Canada.

NCFC and I

By Pauline Martin

In February 1992, a renewed Quebec Nurses Christian Fellowship (QNCF) was formed in Montreal. It was under the leadership of Romie Horseman. I was intrigued by part of an article about QNCF in the Quebec Nursing magazine:

"The QNCF invites nurses to examine the teachings found in the Bible. Nurses are encouraged to pray for our national leaders and our MPs as they enact laws that directly affect the quality of life in our society. The Quebec NCF is now developing a network of nurses which will ideally reach into all Quebec's hospital with the following goals in mind:

1. *To provide emotional and spiritual support for nurses.*
2. *To promote discussions of concerns and issues inherent to nursing using words of God as the basis of our beliefs.*
3. *To encourage nurses to share their faith.*
4. *To get to know Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour and hope to share Him with those in need.*
5. *To broaden nurses vision of themselves as men and women of excellence, in the service of our Lord, in our respective field of nursing."*

I immigrated to Canada in 1975 and discovered NCF in 1990 when one of my colleagues at the Montreal Children's Hospital invited me to one of their events. I was impressed. The nurses were friendly and accommodating and the food was delicious. I suddenly had that same feeling of a "family away from home" I had when I was with NCF in Jamaica.

I entered the School of Nursing program in Jamaica at the University Hospital of the West Indies in 1965. I didn't have my family and friends with me and felt very lonely. On the third day of orientation, my new student nurses group was introduced to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF). From there we were informed of the existence of NCF.

We were told that NCF is a group of professional and student nurses who

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practice from a uniquely Christian worldview and are dedicated to helping their patients and all humans as they integrate their faith in their practice and rely on God's strength and permeate their work with prayer.

This news brightened my spirit and I learned there were four other Christian student nurses besides me. This was my first contact with NCF in Jamaica, and I gladly signed up for the bi-weekly Tuesday meetings. Throughout my 3 years of training we had regular Bible studies, prayer, picnics, conferences, and even retreats with the IVCF group. As a result of my involvement in NCF, I felt I had a family away from home. NCF offered me the opportunity to build positive interpersonal relationships, gain personal and professional support, engage in fellowship, participate in social activities, and most importantly, grow spiritually.

My Commitment to NCFC

After attending the event with Romie, in Montreal I decided to join QNCF. I began regularly attending the Bible study group in my area which was held at the home of Janice Hawes. After Janice's passing the group dwindled significantly but the faithful few continued to meet at alternate locations in other nurses' homes. We continued Bible studies over the years leveraging books like *The Purpose Driven Life*, *Woman of Excellence*, *Journey to Wholeness*, and *God's Fingerprint* to guide our discussions.

Romie invited me to be her successor in 2006. It was a busy time for me. I was close to completing my Masters degree and was planning to get married in a few months,

but in 2007 I obediently assumed the role of Interim Chairperson and patiently waited on the Lord to call the Chairperson of QNCF.

I completed my Masters in Counselling Psychology in 2008 and gladly had the privilege of presenting at the NCFC workshop on mental health: "Understanding the Nature of Mental Illness".

In 2010, QNCF established a partnership with Cote des Neige Presbyterian Church meeting once a month with nurses and health care workers attending the church. We had a family retreat together with the church that Fall and held a seminar about "End of Life Care and Euthanasia" with Jane Chambers-Evans as our speaker. We celebrated and praise God for her 150th anniversary in 2014.

In 2017 I had the opportunity to once again speak at a NCFC workshop and shared my experiences on "Intercessory Prayer & Depression".

God's Grace is Sufficient for Me

2017 was a very challenging year for me. I had some health issues and my son, who was diagnosed with a kidney disease at age 15, developed complete kidney failure and need dialysis. I prayed about my situation and role in NCFC. The Lord graciously led me to Edita Poenaru (Dita) who agreed to pick up the baton to lead with support from her husband.

I am content in the Lord and would rather count my blessings than focus on the difficulties. I am comforted by the nurses who often remind me that they never cease to pray for my son and I. Dita

especially would call and pray together with me over the phone. After the General meeting in 2017 she was appointed as the new Chair for QNCF. I am excited for her leadership as she is organized and thorough in administration.

The NCFC ministry is vital and I will make myself available to work closely with Dita. At the moment, I continue to facilitate the South Shore Bible study group. This year, I have joined the Board of Directors and will further God's ministry with other sisters in Christ.

I plan to serve the Lord and pray that He will keep me physically and mentally well to carry on His ministry. May He use me to contribute through NCFC in Quebec, a province inclined to be non-religious, is politically unstable due to a separatist minority, and is somewhat intolerant of cultural and religious differences.



Pauline resigned from nursing in 2010 and professionally focuses on Psychological Counselling at the Isaiah 40 Foundation. In this capacity, Pauline is blessed

with the opportunity of working with God in healing the souls of the emotionally and spiritually wounded.

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