



THE LINK

ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2018

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29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

December 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings at Christmas. We are now in the Christmas season – the time when God took on human form and was born as a tiny infant, who would grow, minister, teach, heal, suffer and die that we might have a restored relationship with our God. The study in this edition focuses on the story of Joseph and his response to the angel's message about the coming of Jesus. As you celebrate Christmas this year, try to take some quiet time to reflect on the meaning of Christ's birth and how we can best respond to unspeakable gift that God has given to us. God gave us His son – the baby born in the manger that would grow to become our example, the one who would teach us, show us the Father's love, and give himself for us that we too might know that love in our lives and might never be alone. Thanks be to God.

Betty Hitchcock

Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,

He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the Ending he,

Of the things that are, that have been, And that evermore shall be,

Evermore and Evermore

## STUDY FOR DECEMBER

Luke 24:1 to 25 [from the New Revised Version] a story of the birth of the Messiah

18 – Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 – Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

20 – But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 – She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 – All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 –“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

24 – When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

25 - But had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son, and he named him Jesus.

Study: Matthew 1: 18 – 25

Read again this familiar passage, this time concentrate on Joseph.

What was happening in his life?

What did he see? Hear? Feel?

What was his response?

Vs. 18 – What do we learn of Joseph in this verse?

Vs. 19 – What was Joseph's initial thought? Why?

Vs. 20 – What did he do about his thought in verse 19?

Consider the appearance of the angel. What were the angel's first words to Joseph?

Vs. 20 and 21 – Why did the angel tell Joseph not to fear?

- What do we learn of Jesus in these verses?

Vs. 22 and 23 – What had been the prophecy?

- What is the meaning and significance of the word "Emmanuel"?

Vs. 24 and 25 – What was Joseph's response to the dream?

Consider the part Joseph played in the life of Jesus before and after the birth. What difference does this make for us today? What example does Joseph give for us to follow?

Now try the same exercise, this time focusing on Mary.

O that birth for ever blessed!

When the virgin full of grace,

By the Holy Ghost conceiving,

Bare the savior of our race.

And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,

First revealed his sacred face.

Evermore and evermore.

## BROKEN FALL

I received the following story by email from Dawn Peters Scribner from the class of 60 of the Saint John General Hospital School of Nursing – The reflection is my response. Sharon A OBrien

### Broken Fall

A number of years ago, a lighthouse was being built on the rock-bound coast of Wales. When the lighthouse was nearly completed, one of the workmen stumbled and fell back through the scaffolding to the rocks below. The other workmen, shocked at what had taken place did not dare to look down, for fear of being unnerved at the sight. Heavy hearted, they backed down the ladders. But to their surprise and joy they saw their fellow workman lying upon a tuft of grass, shaken and shocked, bruised to be sure, but not seriously harmed. Beside him lay a dead lamb. A flock of sheep had been wandering by and a lamb had broken his fall. What a vivid reminder that the True Lamb has broken our fall and has defeated death for every one of us. The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

### My Reflection

WOW!! What a vivid picture ...How many times have I had a similar experience when something or somebody has broken a fall for me?

This also poses a challenge to me. Am I in tune with God's plan for me when I am being asked to break a fall for a fellow traveler along the road of life? What happens when I consciously decide I do not want to be involved? Or I brush the thought aside thinking someone else will do it?? I believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, places people on our hearts, and asks us to make a call, write a note, send an email, send a flower, offer a meal, intercede in prayer, or visit. We may not be aware of the need of that person, but God knows and asks us to make the connection,

Once again I find myself reading the Old Testament Book of Jeremiah and am struck with his faithfulness in responding to the task God has given to him of warning the people of God that they are heading for destruction, He is beaten and cast out of their midst as he carries God's message to them, he was God's instrument to break their fall,

God has placed many people in my life and each played a role in my walk with God – parents who set high standards/.family members who offered love and acceptance, to Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, camp, nursing mentors, NCFC leaders, nursing educators, university professors, special friends, - all have 'broken the fall'. Through their expression of concern, through invitations to be involved in NCFC, through listening to my questions when I was resisting

God's way, by just sitting with me in silence, when the pain was more than I could handle, through the reminders by fellow Christians of my need to stay close to the God who loves me more than I can ever fully understand! I do not believe it was an accident that they came into my life and led me by example to the Lamb of God!  
by SAO Oct, 2018

## GIVING BACK FOR GOD'S GREAT GIFT

God's greatest gift to us is His son, Jesus Christ. When we receive a gift, the natural thing is to want to give something back. Many of us give an extra gift to the church at Christmas time and many gifts are given to charities at this time of year as well.

The national website for NCF Canada is [www.ncfcanada.ca](http://www.ncfcanada.ca) Browse around and get to know more about NCF, read back issues of newsletters, see what *exciting* things are happening, 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., Markham, ON, L3R 3S9**

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

You may also contribute directly online at the national website.

Either way, you will receive an official tax receipt for donations.

In Atlantic Canada there is a committee to assist with the work of NCF. Please consider whether God is calling you to consider working with this committee. The present committee would welcome inquiries from interested nurses. Please contact Jan Lockett [506 847-7629] or [jlockett@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:jlockett@nb.sympatico.ca) or Betty Hitchcock [506 648-9794]

Submissions for The Link

Submissions are always welcome. If something has been meaningful to you, please think of sharing it with others – submit it for inclusion in 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](mailto:betty.hitchcock@rogers.com)

