

Celebrating
NCF CANADA **10** **YEAR**
ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for all you do!

Meet the Board of Directors



Lii Baxter



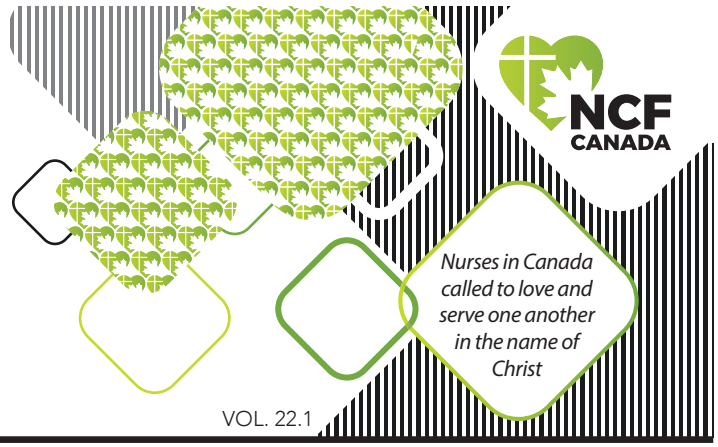
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God is steadfast and faithful. He is unchanging and all knowing. We praise God for His gracious provision to NCFC in the past 10 years.

NCFC was founded and is run by nurses committed to serving Jesus Christ through their work, and within their personal lives. Thank you to all volunteers and leaders of NCFC who diligently witness for Christ, offering their talents and time to enable the ministries of NCFC. May the Lord richly bless you!



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Nursing by its nature is a consuming profession: physically, mentally, emotionally and even spiritually stressful. Yet by God's grace the Spirit can renew, heal and give wisdom in our everyday work, especially during these very challenging times. Everyone will meet a nurse or midwife in their lifetime. Many will agree that nurses and healthcare workers are God's hands extended to them. Nurses need encouragement too as we care for others.

NCFC exists to support nurses and colleagues in their time of need through prayer, and to encourage one another through the Word of God. This happens effectively in local small

groups, with friends and mentors. In our work, and in our lives, we will meet and endure suffering; and we will help to alleviate the suffering of others, because of the love of Christ. Meeting virtually during CoVid offers Christian nurses frequent and regular opportunities to meet together while still observing any distancing, masking or stay-home guidelines.

*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God
(1 John 4:7).*

Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada welcomes all nurses and allied healthcare workers to join NCFC for fellowship and prayer across Canada. We work in collaboration with other

Christian organizations such as Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, NCF International, Christian Medical and Dental association, Healthcare Christian Fellowship USA/Canada; etc. We enlarge our horizon and enrich our knowledge and resources by linking with Christian organizations that espouse the same Christian purpose.

As an added bonus, if you join NCFC as an associate you will be able to access resources and opportunities provided by NCF International. You can also obtain a subscription to the Journal of Christian Nursing (JCN) at a reduced cost. The associate fee for joining NCFC is \$40 per year for actively working nurses and allied health workers, and \$25 for students and retired nurses.

Please visit NCFCanada.ca for more details.

An Encouraging Word for 2022



Dr Ruth Brown

*Director for Spiritual Formation and Prayer
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Canada*

"Please give me strength!" was my desperate prayer, as we entered COVID's sixth wave. Remembering a few months back we were entering the dark cold months of winter, 2021. The fourth wave of this pandemic had taken hold across the country and ICU beds were filling up again; our InterVarsity

triennial national staff conference had been delayed for another year; more graves of children from residential schools were being discovered across Canada revealing tragedy at the hand of God's church; and people around me were struggling with depression and anxiety more than ever. I wanted to offer help and hope. Knowing my own weaknesses, though, I wondered if I could make any difference. What are your disappointments, weaknesses and places of exhaustion as you read this?

Is there any hope?

My morning Bible reading drew me to the familiar words "the joy of the Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10b. I began to ponder what was God inviting me to notice in answer to my desperate prayer? The context of this word surprised me. This is not a happy platitude to cheer



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An Encouraging Word for 2022



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us up. In the story from Nehemiah, the people of Israel have gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the completion of the new temple and the building of the wall around Jerusalem. Ezra the priest stands up before them and begins to read from the Law of Moses. As people come to understand themselves before God they begin to weep and grieve at their losses and failures. God speaks to them as he does to us today reminding us that he knows who we are: full of disappointment and weakness, yet belonging to him as his people, his children whom he loves and works through. God says: "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The miracle of Christmas and Easter is that Jesus, God's beloved Son, was born into this world, was crucified and

resurrected, to make peace with God for us – not because we deserve it or earn it, but because God loves us and has made a way for us to be restored to God in spite of our failures and behavior. The joy and strength that God offers to us today is not something that we stir up, earn or create. By God's grace we partner with him for the healing of others, for justice and for peace; but the work is God's and not ours. Believing we are known and loved, we then have the courage to acknowledge our failure and return to Jesus' welcome. But how do I live in God's joy and find strength?

This morning I asked God's forgiveness for thinking it was all up to me. Then I asked God to help me receive his joy and live into the strength that he would provide. I looked out the window

and saw a bright red cardinal perched on the tree in the lawn below. I took a deep breath and gave thanks for my ability to walk, see, breathe and reflect. As my day unfolded I was surprised by wisdom that God gave to me in conversation. I made a decision to stop condemning myself for things I had forgotten; and when looking into the mirror I smiled and said "hello beautiful" instead of wishing I had gotten my hair cut! When my freezer broke, and I was tossing out ruined food, I was tempted to despair, yet God reminded me that today I had enough food to eat. God's joy is not dependent on life going easily. God's joy lives inside of us with his spirit. As I breathe and walk and smile and pray, his joy can bubble up in the middle of some very difficult places. As you look forward, remember that Jesus is praying for you: "that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15:11

Looking Back In Atlantic Canada NCF

By Jan. Lockett

Have you noticed the importance that all Scripture, from beginning to end, places on recalling God's Hand at work in our lives and in the lives of others? The Patriarchal Fathers, prophets, priests, Apostles and Jesus Himself all repeatedly reminded their listeners of God's past dealings with His people. Why is this? I believe it is for our encouragement, instruction and edification. And that we would give God the praise, honour and glory due His Name.

Now, with the same purpose, with the passing of seven decades since the beginning of NCF in the Atlantic provinces; and with the upcoming 10th anniversary celebration of NCF, it seems especially appropriate to pause and look back at God's Hand in birthing and growing our Fellowship over the years.

So, "Let's start at the very beginning. A very good place to start." (Sound of Music). In Atlantic Canada, in the early 1950s a group of Saint John nurses attending a

Bible study at a local church asked the minister if he would be willing to come to the Nurses' Residence for a weekly Bible Study with the nurses. Rev. A LeDrew Gardner agreed that he would gladly do this if the Director of Nursing agreed, even if only two or three nurses came. The first meeting drew about 50 enthusiastic nurses and students! After a few weeks, he told the nurses



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they should start a Nurses Christian Fellowship group through IVCF, and gave them the address of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in Toronto. Contact was made and an Atlantic NCF committee was formed with networks soon established across the Maritimes. This ministry has provided encouragement and support to nurses and nursing students on many levels since its inception. And now nationally Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada has come of age, independent of IVCF since 2012 while maintaining their warm working relationship.

On a more personal note, some of my recollections of NCF over the years

include camp fires, corn boils, special times of prayer for the healing of ailing colleagues, invitations over a number of years to lead services in the hospital chapel for Nurses Week, caroling at a country church, dessert gatherings with singing and speakers, wonderful retreats, workshops/seminars on social/ethical issues encountered by nurses in the workplace. The personal mentoring and support that I received was a great blessing, as I began my nursing career, and as I went out with Overseas Missionary Fellowship to serve as a school nurse for the children of OMF missionaries in Japan. Knowing that nurses across Canada were praying for my family when my father, my sister and my niece's husband battled cancer was a strong comfort. And it is a privilege to rejoice with nurses on their wedding day and on the birth of their children and, most importantly, it's been a joy to see, experience and share how so many members of NCFC live daily as faithful witnesses of Christ.



It has been a privilege to act as Chair of NCFC in New Brunswick, serving Atlantic Canada for many years and I am so grateful for the bounty of blessings I have received from this fellowship of Christian nurses across the country. I have learned much, benefited both personally and professionally and been humbled to be the recipient of the love and prayers of so many Christian nurses. Now, it is a special joy to pass on the baton of leadership on to a new Chair and Vice-Chair for New Brunswick,

Charlotte and Sarah Jane, and ask for your prayers for them and for the ongoing ministry of NCFC in New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada.

A WARM WELCOME!



Sarah Jane

Charlotte

Charlotte and Sarah Jane have stepped into the role of New Brunswick chair and vice chair this past month.

Charlotte and Sarah Jane served together in IVCF at UNBSJ while studying nursing. Upon graduating they participated in an IVCF alumni group for several years and are now looking forward to working together with NCFC!

Sarah Jane has been nursing for eleven years, starting first in hospital nursing and now working part-time in long-

The Board of Directors of NCFC welcomes Charlotte Conley and Sarah Jane He as Chair and Vice Chair of NCFC New Brunswick! We want to share a little bit about our new provincial leads.

term care. She is a mother of two little girls aged three and one. She enjoys time spent with family, friends and a good outdoor hike. She is passionate about nursing and loves to lend a helping hand.

Charlotte has been working as a nurse for ten years. Her first years were on a Family Medicine unit, the same unit her late mother once worked on as a registered nurse. More recently, she has been working on a Labour and Birth unit. She returned to a part-time position following a maternity leave with her youngest daughter. Her girls are ages three and one. She enjoys time spent with her many nieces, nephew and family. She appreciates the diversity nursing offers

as a career and the many ways we can touch lives through our care.

From Charlotte and Sarah Jane: "Greetings, fellow NCFC-ers! We are very much looking forward to this new position and getting to know everyone as we support and serve along side one another as Christians in this great calling of nursing."

We'd love to hear from you

Contact us at www.ncfcanada.ca or nationalchair@ncfcanada.ca