

I want to thank God for the salvation of my soul. God saved me when I was 8 years old and He said that I will be one of His end time army.

My Journey to Nursing

My mother told me when I was young that she wanted to become a nurse, but my daddy refused because he believed that nurses tend to become promiscuous along their career journey. This was the same belief long held by most of my family members to the extent that three of my Aunts were also prevented from pursuing a nursing career by their respective husbands for the same reason. However, my personal love and interest in nursing kept growing despite all odds. Also seeing my Mum daily demonstrate her natural healing skills strengthened my resolve to pursue nursing. Mum was good at treating various local ailments. She was an expert in wound dressing, using locally available materials to accomplish incision and drainage (I and D), for family members and friends. Mum was a nursing care-giver par excellence.

In spite of many such obstacles and hurdles, I was admitted to ECWA School of Nursing, Egbe Kogi State, Nigeria in West Africa. At first as I learned more about the school, I asked God why He would send me there when we would be “caring for the total man”. But then I was invited to the Fellowship of Christian Nurses (FCN) and I was shocked as I read their Bible study outline to find their mission statement written as “Caring for the total man, spirit, soul and body”. Suddenly it was so real, so clear; and I said “wow!” God truly is calling me into this work.

I was fully “sold out” to Christ as I served as a worker in the FCN, and later became the President. God used the school, zonal, and national meetings as tools for lasting spiritual investment over my life. I am a debtor of His grace. Since graduating, wherever I find myself, I always seek to join or establish a local Christian nursing group like FCN because I know from experience the value of such groups.

I came to Canada in 2013, with my husband who came for graduate study. Having heard of Nurses Christian Fellowship International (NCFI), I looked for the Canadian body – NCF Canada (NCFC). I told myself even though I am not yet a registered nurse in Canada, I will register with NCFC as a point of contact with the belief that one day I will become a Canadian registered nurse. God eventually satisfied the yearning of my heart when I graduated as a Canadian RN. At first, living and working in Quebec I joined the Quebec chapter. After my relocation I linked in with NCFC Ontario, with the Kitchener small group. It was there that the Lord placed a burden for the younger generation upon me. By God’s grace we have started the NCFC small group where I presently work, at the Grand River Hospital, Freeport.

Bringing Jesus to others

I have learned over the years that the best approach to bringing others to Christ is to display the life of Christ in myself. You can’t give what you don’t have. Luke (the presumed author of Luke and Acts) wrote in *Acts 1:1* “*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and*

to teach until the day he was taken up". As we do our best to imitate Christ, we are first and foremost called to be doing and obeying His commands, and living Christ's life wherever we are placed. As people see Christ in us, patients and colleagues will notice the difference and will be intrigued to ask what is the secret of our changed life. They can then be introduced to Christ Jesus. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good work and glorify your father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Developing the passion to care for student nurses

I realized many are coming to the nursing profession for the money. But many have no passion, nor a caring heart. All that is motivating them is the amount of money they will bring home regularly. Gone are the days when only people with passion and caring hearts were coming to nursing. Things are different now and seeing this negative trend has developed a strong burden in me to care for student nurses. If student or young nurses can be taught early, to understand that nursing is a career choice that is beyond monetary benefits but is instead a calling and ministry, then they will do exploits for the Lord when they start working!

My faith and nursing

Nurses need faith to work and need to pray for anointing to heal. We are doing one of Jesus' ministries - the ministry of healing. We need to carry Jesus to the bedside as we do ADL's, medication, and nursing procedures. Jesus is the one doing the Nursing jobs at the bedside through us. Patients will testify they sleep better when you are on duty. They feel better when you care for them. Their wound heals faster when you dress it. They see differently. If you realize it is not about you but it is Jesus. You will see Jesus blessing souls that you care for daily. Such spiritual blessings cannot be hidden. You will see patients testify to this and that can open the door for witnessing about your faith. Remember you are carrying Jesus. Be conscious of Him and the anointing upon your life always. Obedience is the key. Listen to Him always. Jesus has helped me to prevent errors as the workload has increased. Holy Spirit prompted me to check on a patient and I found that patient just before a fall. At such times, I do feel so happy and full of thanks to the Holy Spirit. My beloved Nurses, let the Holy Spirit be your best friend.

I know that God has an assignment for me in Canada. I believe He is present to help me fulfill His purpose for my life. I have a special burden that God will raise the younger generation in Kitchener Waterloo for the Lord. I am trusting God to open doors of opportunity among student nurses in Conestoga College and beyond. Nursing is a ministry and a calling. As you welcome a soul to the world in childbirth, or you bid farewell to a soul in palliative care, you can change that person's destiny. Be a vessel unto His honor at bedside. God bless you.

About the author

By God's grace, Olubusola Testimony Adegbenjo, an internationally trained Nurse (RN, RM, Public Health Nurse BScN.) A child of God with passion of raising disciples for Christ through nursing profession. I am also a Christian Drama Minister. I enjoy acting, producing Christian movies and watching Christian movies. I am married to Adeyemi and blessed with Godly model, Godly character and Godly virtue.