

THE LINK ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

September 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I hope you have had a good summer with time to relax, renew and refresh yourself for the fall and winter season. I have been thinking of how God renews us daily for the tasks ahead – if we come to Him and spend time in the Word, He will feed us with the Bread of Life and prepare us for whatever is to come. The Scripture and study in this issue of the Link is based on Jesus as the “Bread of Life”. I trust this passage will be as meaningful for you as it has been for me, that God will speak to you through this passage and that you will experience the refreshment that only the Bread of Life can bring in a new and special way. May God richly bless you as you study His Word and continue to grow in the knowledge of His Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ.

Betty Hitchcock

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land:
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand:

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

John 6: 47-58

47: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

48: I am that bread of life.

49: Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50: This is the bread which cometh down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I give for the life of the world.

51: I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

52: The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

55: For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him.

57: As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58: This is the bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

Study on John 6: 47 to 58

This well known passage speaks about Jesus as the Bread of Life.

What do we learn about Jesus in vs. 47 and 48? What does that mean for us?

Vs. 49 and 58 speak about how God fed His people during their wandering for 40 years in the wilderness. Think about this feeding in the wilderness. Who provided the manna? How often? Why? What was the result of this special feeding?

Examine Vs. 50 and 51. What do we learn here about the Bread of Heaven? How does this bread contrast with the manna that was provided in the wilderness?

Vs.52 – What was the response of the Jews upon hearing what Jesus said about the Bread of Heaven?

Vs. 54 to 56 – How do we eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood?

Vs. 56 – What does it mean to dwell in Christ? What is the result of that dwelling?

Vs. 57 – What do we learn of the Father in this verse? What do we learn about ourselves?

Vs. 58 – What do we have to do in order to live forever?

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift! Let us rejoice and be glad in Him.

The message which follows was given by the National Chair of NCF, Judith Fanaken at the annual meeting in May. It is taken from the annual report and printed here to share with you as you think about the work of NCF in your area.

The NCF Canada Constitution which follows was also taken from the annual meeting booklet.

Message form the National Chair

The theme of this annual meeting is “to look back and thank the Lord, and look forward and trust in Him”. And Proverbs 3: 5-6 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight.” Even though there have been many winding roads of discouragement, uncertainty and complexity over the past years, God has proven that where there is determination, perseverance and willingness He will bless every effort and cause you to prosper.

My past year with NCF has been one of learning the history and value of this wonderful ministry in Canada. From the East to the West across this nation I found nurses from every stage in their career exuding the purpose of their calling to be ambassadors for Christ. If only they realized the influence and opportunity that God has given them in this profession, nurses have the divine capacity to take Jesus to the nations and introduce Him to a world that is in pain and despair. Committee members meet with students in the universities and hold retreats and bible studies in their homes. Workshops and seminars are used to bring nurses together to learn how to integrate faith into practice. Mentorship and personal prayer and fellowship assist newer nurses to face challenges and make progress in their career. Christian nurses share their stories and experiences spiritually and professionally through news-letters and publications. NCF members through the outreach program meet nurses and nursing faculty members at job fairs and career fairs as they introduce the ministry.

Over the past few years I had the chance to visit the NCF committees in the Atlantic region, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and realized that God had a plan for each one of these nurses. Their obedience and willingness to share God's love with their colleagues and pray that God will touch the lives of other nurses has carried this ministry forward. These nurses may or may not realize but they have talked, prayed and walked with many of their colleagues through happy and sad moments. Some they may not forget, yet through it all they knew even the smallest deed they did was with God by their side. Many others today have been lead to the Lord as well. You cannot put a price on the value of godly friendship.

So what now? We are still left to face what was started in the 19th century. Are we going to continue this chain effect of support to our sisters and brothers in the profession through prayer and fellowship or should we retire? Jeremiah 29: 11 says "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". If this is what the Lord is saying to us today, then we must look forward and trust that He will lead us and guide us in the future as we commit the future of NCF in His hands.

Yours in His service

Judith Fanaken

National Chair.

Editor's note: Support for NCF is still to be sent to IVCF and marked Atlantic NCF Committee if you wish it to be used in the Atlantic area. You will receive a tax receipt for all donations.

You will be notified when a new receipting process is in place for NCF.

NCF Canada Constitution

Vision: Christian nurses called and equipped to serve Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness within the nursing community that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Mission: Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) Canada exists to enable nurses to influence the quality of professional nursing practice through active expression of the love of Jesus Christ; to support colleagues in time of need; and to pray, educate and inspire others to have faith in Jesus Christ and help build a healthy, just and peaceful society.

Objectives:

1. Establish Christian nursing groups across Canada to come together for prayer, to fellowship and study the word of God to strengthen their personal and professional life.
2. Develop and hold professional seminars and workshops, led by Christian nursing faculty and nursing leaders, to equip and empower nurses to integrate faith into their nursing practice and to provide holistic care to their patients.
3. Be a resource and witness within the nursing community at nursing job fairs, conferences, etc. in various provinces 3-4 times a year.
4. Collaborate with faith-based universities that educate professional nurses (e.g. Trinity Western University, BC) to create and provide educational opportunities and resources for nurses to demonstrate Christian faith through volunteering and local missions, leading small group Bible studies, etc.
5. Provide spiritual mentorship individually and in groups for new graduate nurses.
6. Offer professional nursing support to local churches at events that advance religion, humanitarian activities, etc.

Prayer

This is the time of year that a new school year is beginning. Please pray for those that are entering or returning to nursing studies. Pray that they might adjust easily and find meaning and purpose in their chosen career.

Pray for nurses working in nursing schools, hospitals, nursing homes, the community and other areas of employment. Pray that they might bring the love of God to those they serve and might find joy in caring for others. Pray for nurses working overseas and away from home and loved ones.

Pray for retired nurses and those just beginning retirement – pray that they might find ways to reach out to others in their communities and feel fulfilled in what they are doing now.

Pray for those working on the national and regional levels to institute the new national NCF format. Pray for wisdom as they work and for ease of transition to the new structure. Pray for financial support for the work of NCF throughout our country.

We know that God hears and answers prayer. Let us come before His throne eagerly and with great confidence. Let us bring praise, thanks, requests, and all of our concerns – He will be there waiting for us. And let us quiet our hearts and centre our minds in Him. He will do great things. Why not spend some time just feeling His presence and resting in those strong and secure arms? There is no better way to begin and end our day than in the presence of our loving God.

Three things you will never hear when you approach God in prayer –

- all lines are busy.
- you are being placed on hold.
- we are not able to take your call now.

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