

THE LINK ATLANTIC NCFC NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

June 2014

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Today in church we examined once again the wonderful story of Creation. As we look around us we see evidence of His creation – the beauty of the earth, flowers, trees, the birth of new animals and renewal of life in the animal kingdom, the singing of birds, - everything seems new and fresh after the long winter season. God is truly amazing. His handiwork is awesome and causes us to stop and ponder the great plan that He has for our earth. Take a walk in a quiet place – walk slowly and stop to admire what our God has created. Think about who it was that created each plant, each tree, each little bird and all other creatures. Venture out in the night and look up at the sky – look in awe at the host of stars. Visit the ocean and sense the power of the waves. Each aspect of creation was made perfect by Him. We too are part of His creation, made in the way He chose. We are His workmanship. We were each created for a purpose – ask God to reveal more of that purpose to you each day. Enjoy your day as you marvel in all of His creation and commit yourself to His service in whatever way He wills. Catch a glimpse of heaven in all creation and give Him the praise and glory.

Betty Hitchcock

God, all nature sings thy glory, And they works proclaim thy might;
Ordered vastness in the heavens, Ordered course of day and night;
Beauty in the changing seasons, Beauty in the storming sea;
All the changing moods of nature - Praise the changeless Trinity.

Scripture Study – John 14: 15-21

In this passage, Jesus is speaking to his disciples in the upper room at the last supper.

15: If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.

17: This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him, nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18: “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

19: In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live,

20: On that day you will know that I am in my Father , and you in me, and I in you.

21: They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me: and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.



Study of John 14: 15 to 21

Think about the setting. What would the atmosphere have been? These men have spent the last 3 years following Jesus, they have left families, jobs, homes – and now Jesus has told them that He is going to leave them. How would they have felt?

15. Jesus tells them they will keep his commandments if they love Him. What are His commandments? What is the summary of the Law? Keeping commandments will never earn us a place in Heaven – it will not give us salvation. What will? God has provided a way for us to have salvation through the gift of His Son. When we have accepted that gift and have a relationship with Him, we will want to keep His commandments – through love.

16. Jesus knew that we could not keep His commandments on our own. So what is He going to do for us? Who is this advocate? How long will He be with us?

17. What does Jesus mean by ‘the Spirit of Truth’? Why can the world not receive this Spirit of Truth? How is it that we can receive the Spirit of Truth? What difference does it make to us? Could people see the difference in us? How would they know that we had this Spirit?

18. Jesus tells them that He will not leave them ‘orphaned’. What connotations does that word bring to mind? What will He do to assure we are not left as orphans? How will He do this?

19. How will they see Him? Jesus will live. What does that mean for us? How will we live also?

20. What will we know? When will we know it?

21. What is the proof of love for Jesus? What are the benefits? How will Jesus reveal Himself to us? What difference should it make to us?

GIFTS – PART 2

In the April issue of the Link we included a section on the first part of our January retreat which was on Gifts. The first part was on God's gifts to us. This month Part 2 on 'Our Gifts to Others' is included.

God has given so much to us – the gift of life, eternal life, the Holy Spirit to help us in this life and so many blessings every day.

God's love and gifts to us should lead us to want to give to others. What can we give?

- We can give of our time.
- We can give love.
- We can give prayer.
- We can give the gift of presence.
- We can give obedience.
- We can give resources.

We all have the same amount of time each day. How do we spend it? Do we pray first about what we are to do that day? Do we decide what we will do or do we ask God to show us where we can be of greatest benefit to Him and His people? How do we know the needs of others? God will show us, if we ask. He will help us to be His hands and feet. He will lead us to those who have a need that we can meet and he will equip us to meet the needs of others. He will give us the gifts that we can pass on to others.

In Matthew 25: 35 to 40 we read what Jesus said about helping others and reminds us that when we give a cup of water to the thirsty, clothe those that have nothing to wear, visit the sick or those in prison, take in someone who needs a place to be, it is as if we are doing it to Him. Would we not want to do those things for Jesus? Then let us start doing them for those in need. Think about what each of these things mean and how we could be used to help others. Could we give of our time, our resources, the things that we have to meet the needs of those around us? What would it mean to us and to those receiving our gifts?

Colossians 3:12 to 17, Paul addresses the people on Christian living and relationships. He tells us to put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness and longsuffering. He tells us to forbear one another and forgive others. He talks about showing real love to others. He speaks of our calling. And what undergirds all of this? God's Word must be the basis for all of our giving. God's Word must dwell in us richly in order for us to do His will. Does God's Word dwell in us richly? How can we have that richness in our life? Only when that happens, will be able to truly reach out to others with the gifts God wants us to give. We need to commit not just to reading God's Word but to studying it daily. The Holy Spirit will guide our study and teach us what the Word means. We only have to ask.

2Corinthians 1:3-4 speaks about how we can comfort others. We are told that when we have tribulations and feel the comfort of God, we are then able to comfort others with that same comfort. That certainly gives us a purpose to our tribulations. When we have experienced difficulty, we can then understand how others feel when facing the same issues. It is a very special thing to be able to bring comfort to others.

Jesus said "it is more blessed to give than to receive". What are some of the special blessings of giving? Have you experienced some of these blessings? Have you seen the smile on someone's face when they realize that you care about them? Have you sensed the thankfulness when someone receives something they need but did not ever think they would receive? Have you known the happiness of providing for someone, of giving of yourself, of offering you presence and the love of Jesus?

God says "I AM". And God wants us to be all that we can. He wants us to know the joy of giving – of passing on the love He has given to us. In loving others we will be richly blessed.

Financial contributions - If you feel led to support the work of NCFC financially, please send a cheque to Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada and mark it for use in Atlantic Canada. You should send it to the national treasurer Fronica Yiu, 38 Clydsdale Rd., Markham, Ontario, L3R 3S9 or go to the website www.ncfcanada.ca

ATLANTIC NCF PRAYER CALENDAR 2014-2015

MONDAY: ATLANTIC NCFC COMMITTEE: Please pray for Co Chairs, Marg Winchester; Jan Lockett and Betty Hitchcock Secretary-Treasurer, Judy MacQuarrie; Committee members, Flo Burke, Hope Graham, Faith Stiles, Edith Gilman, Joy Vernon. Pray for the building of witnessing communities in our region, the development of servant leaders and faithful stewardship of the NCF mission.

NATIONAL NCFC COMMITTEE: Pray for the national Committee, the executive and divisional representatives. Pray for Directors Judith, Fronica and Patricia as they provide leadership at this crucial time. Pray for NCFC committees across Canada.

TUESDAY: Pray for students and graduates in Nova Scotia that they may be nurtured and grow in faith as they face stresses at work and in their lives. Pray for students at Universities and satellite locations. Pray that we may find additional contacts from NS willing to serve on the Atlantic NCFC Committee.

WEDNESDAY: Pray for nurses in Prince Edward Island. Pray for a real sense of God's presence as they work in hospitals, homes and the community. Pray that a contact may be found on the Island for our NCFC Committee. Pray for student nurses at UPEI.

THURSDAY: Pray for students and graduates in Newfoundland/Labrador. Praise God for Doreen Westra and her presence in Newfoundland. Pray for student nurses at Memorial University and affiliated campuses.

FRIDAY: Pray for nurses in New Brunswick. Pray for Christian faculty and students at UNBSJ UNB, U of M and affiliated sites. Pray that nurses would be very aware of God's presence as they meet together.

SATURDAY: Pray that the Atlantic NCFC newsletter, "The LINK" will continue to be an effective means of communication for nurses throughout the Atlantic area. Pray for input from Christian nurses for the Link. Pray for direction for future activities in the Atlantic region.

SUNDAY: Pray for NCFC across the nation. Pray for more prayer partners and financial support. Leaders in the nursing profession also need our prayers, that they will maintain priorities with a real concern for the sick and for their colleagues. Pray for new graduates as they begin their career in nursing that they would find God's place for them and find joy in service to Him.

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