



NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CANADA  
Nurses In Canada Called To Love And Serve One Another In The Name Of Christ

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

December 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings at Christmas. This is the Christmas season – the time when God took on human form and was born as a tiny infant, who would grow and become our Saviour, that we might have a restored relationship with our God. The study in this edition focuses on the story of the wise men and their gifts to the child born on the first Christmas. How we can best respond to the 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. How can we say thank you for that most amazing gift?

Betty Hitchcock

*As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold  
As with joy they hailed its light  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.*



## STUDY FOR DECEMBER Matthew 2 - 1 to 12 the visit of the Wise Men

1 – In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2 – asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed a star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

3 – when King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

4 – and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 – They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 – ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

7 – Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

8 – Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

9 – When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 – When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

11 – On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 – and having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



Study: Matthew 2: 1 – 12

Read again this familiar passage.

What was happening in this passage?

What do you learn about Jesus?

What do you learn about the wise men?

Vs. 1 – What do we learn of Jesus in this verse?

Vs. 2 – What do we learn of the wise men? What more do we learn about Jesus?

Vs.3 – What do we learn about Herod? Why was he frightened?

Vs. 4 – What did Herod do? Why?

Vs. 5 and 6 – What was Herod told? What had been the prophecy?

- What is the meaning and significance of this prophecy?

Vs. 7 and 8 - What did Herod do then? What did he tell the wise men? Why?

Vs. 9 and 10 – How did the wise men find Jesus? What did they feel?

Vs. 11 - What gifts did they offer to Jesus? What was the significance of these gifts?

Vs. 12 – What did they do after the visit? Why?

Overall, consider the part that the wise men played in the life of Mary and Jesus . What difference does this make for us today? What example do they give for us to follow?

*As they offered gifts most rare  
At that cradle rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasurers bring,  
Christ , to thee our heavenly King.*

Once a month I conduct a worship service at a local nursing home. There are usually about 20 that attend but this month [December] there were over 30 and there was a large Christmas tree in the room – so the residents were tightly squeezed in together. Most were in wheelchairs or came with walkers. We sang some of the beautiful Christmas hymns and then I read the scripture about the Birth of Christ. I explained about this great gift that God had given to us. We talked about how Jesus would grow up and after a time of teaching, healing and ministry, how He would die for us so that we could have eternal life. I spoke about what we might give to God this Christmas. I said that I understood how most of them were unable to walk very far or do the things that they might like to do for others. I then talked about how one of the greatest gifts that we could give to God and to others was to show how happy we were for the gift He had given us and to reach out to others with a smile. Suddenly the most wonderful thing happened. Smiles began to appear on faces throughout the room. Soon everyone was smiling at each other and went to lunch in a happy way – the Spirit leading and rejoicing. Praise God for smiles in the nursing home! Can we give that same gift to God this Christmas?

### THE ICE STORM

As I write this newsletter, we are in the midst of the ice storm. So far we have had three days of freezing rain. Before that there was snow and for the last two weeks Church has been cancelled because of the weather. I doubt I will get to service this evening [Christmas Eve] as the bottom of the driveway has been plowed full of large chunks of ice. However, I am grateful to still have heat and electricity and as my little dog, Benji, and I sit comfortably and look at the well lit tree, I think of so many that are without power, without heat or lights. Father, protect them. Then I think of those that are without the power of Christ in their lives, without the warmth of knowing the love of God, and without the light of the Spirit to guide them. Father, reveal yourself to them this Christmas and help me to do my part in sharing your love with so many that are lonely and do not know you. Let us take time this season to think of those that have problems, those that are without the love of God in their lives. Let us prayerfully place each one in the arms of God.



## NEWS FROM HOPE

One of our Atlantic nurses, Hope Graham, from Antigonish, NS, is in Genema, Equator, teaching premed students [in a different language even] – epidemiological and demographic health info, healthy sexuality, ethics and legal issues. In an email the end of November, she described her travel adventures in getting to this place – one of the poorest provinces in the country. She had travelled from Kananga to Kinshasa with Dr. Cecile and Dr. Jean. Dr. Jean will be accompanying Dr. Cecile to Belgium where she has a medical appointment for treatment of macular degeneration.

Hope travelled from Kinshasa to Genema with Sheldon Gilmer, the CIDA project director of World Hope Canada. She will stay in Genema until Dr. Cecile and Dr. Jean return from Belgium in December. Hope asks for our prayers and describes the BIG needs for prayer as –

*“Dr. Cecile’s overall health,*

*The travel of Dr. Cecile and Dr. Jean*

*The surgery and follow up of Dr. Cecile*

*Dr. Jean, as he accompanies Dr. Cecile – for wisdom, language skills, ability to grasp the knowledge and technical skill needed for Dr. Cecile’s follow up*

*Sheldon and I to have wisdom, strength, and grace regarding immediate priorities as time seems to accelerate*

*Me as I interact in a new language and culture that I may consistently walk in the wisdom, grace and strength that our Lord makes available to His followers*

*Me for wisdom as I prepare to teach that I might be clear, respectful and helpful in all my communication”*

Thank God for nurses like Hope who are willing to travel to areas of need and who bring their faith and teaching ability. Remember her in your prayers. May God use her mightily in this new adventure and bring her safely home when this mission is complete.

Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada

We now have official status as a charitable organization. Please visit the national website at [www.ncfcanada.ca](http://www.ncfcanada.ca) Browse around and get to know your organization. Join the prayer list, read back issues of newsletters, see what exciting things are



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happening! The national chair is Judith Fanakan [judith.ncfc@gmail.com](mailto:judith.ncfc@gmail.com) , secretary treasurer is Fronica Yiu [ncfcares@gmail.com](mailto:ncfcares@gmail.com) , Patricia Mitchell (Chair of AB NCFC) [pmitch69@shaw.ca](mailto:pmitch69@shaw.ca) has stepped in to help out as Geri Rodman stepped down as one of the directors. 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 Road  
Markam ON L3R 3S9**

**Cheques should be made out to Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada [not NCF]**  
You may also contribute directly on line at the NCFCanada 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 NCFC. 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 Locket [506 847 7629 ]or Betty Hitchcock [506 648 9794]

Give thanks for Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada and pray that God would raise up His servants to minister in this organization and those that would support the work with prayer and financial donations.

#### 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)

#### JANUARY RETREAT

Our January retreat will be held on Saturday January 18 from 10am to 3 pm at Betty Hitchcock's home – 29 Bedell Ave. Saint John, NB. 648- 9794

This year we will explore the topic of “Gifts – Our gifts from God and our gifts to others” Please plan to join us for this time of fellowship and learning together. Lunch will be provided. If you are in the Saint John area or can come for the day, we would love to have you join us.

Betty