

## **THE LINK** ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

June 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. What a wonderful time of year – everything is fresh and we see new flowers each day. God’s nature is so amazing. As I think of the “lilies of the field” and how God clothed them – and all of His other special flowers – I am reminded how much He cares for us too and will do no less for us. Why should we worry – God will care for us as He cares for all creation. Let us praise our Creator and give thanks that we are so precious to Him. Let us rest in His care and just know that He will give us what is best for us – now and always. What a privilege to know the Creator and be able to rest knowing that He is in charge. May He bless each of you this summer and give you His peace and joy in all that you do. If you are travelling this year, do take time to really look at God’s creation wherever you go and know that He will be with you and wants to share each moment of every day with you.

Betty Hitchcock

O worship the King, all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing His power and His love;  
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

## Scripture Study – John 15: 1 to 9

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.*

*Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.*

*If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

*In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you, continue ye in my love.*

This passage has a clear message for each of us – Jesus is relating a story that is important for us to understand and follow.

In the Old Testament, Israel was referred to as a vine. – the vine of God.

Who does Jesus say is the “true vine”? and who is the gardener?

What are we?

What does the gardener do? Why does He do this?

How does this apply to us? What does it mean to be purged? Can you think of an example of how you have been Purged?

Jesus speaks of abiding in Him. What does that mean? How do we abide in Jesus?

What happens when someone does not abide in Him?

What happens when we do abide in Him?

Note the branches can do nothing of themselves – they can only produce fruit when they are abiding in the vine. All they can do is to hang in there and by so doing receive the nourishment from the vine which will produce the fruit.

What fruit are we producing? Is it an abundance of fruit? What is the result of producing much fruit?

## BEFORE OUR MAKER'S THRONE WE POUR OUR ARDENT PRAYERS

“Before our Maker’s throne we pour our ardent prayers”. This line was part of one of the hymns we sang in church last Sunday.

As we sang these words, I began to think about my prayers and what they would look like if they were placed before the Maker’s throne. Would I be able to pour them? Pouring implies that there is a lot of material – in fact an abundance of material would be required to keep the stream going. Would my prayers be able to be poured - or would it just be a sprinkling? Would what should be a river – be diminished to a trickle?

Then I thought about the word “ardent”. Ardent means passionate, zealous or intense. Are my prayers like that? Or are they uttered with less intensity and almost routine?

When I think of what my Maker has done for me, and know that He wants me to meet with Him and communicate with Him daily, I feel that my prayer life is lacking in so many ways. The time that I spend with God is a small fraction of the time that I should devote to Him – the ardency of my prayers is less than He deserves. And what about me? I am missing out on the richness of this time – my pathetic attempts at communicating with God are lessening the fullness of grace that could be mine in this precious time.

Yes, all prayer is important and God hears all our prayers – even those that are unuttered but only in our heart. However, I feel that our time of communing with Him should be the most important time of the day and needs to be given our top priority. It is a time when we can pour out our prayers – everything that is in our heart – and sit at His feet feeling His presence and delighting in it. I believe that prayer includes just waiting on God as well as communicating verbally. Sometimes that time of waiting in silence – or centering on our Maker brings a joy and peace that can be found nowhere else.

As we each think about our prayer times, let us approach God with a heart that is open to His leading, a desire to know Him more fully, and a commitment to pour our ardent prayers before His throne.

## THE ATLANTIC NCF COMMITTEE

The Atlantic NCF committee met last month. We need the help of Christian nurses throughout the Atlantic area to continue this vital work. The committee asks that you pray about what God might have you do to support the work of NCF in your local area. If you would like more information, please contact Marg Winchester at 506 8482112, Jan Lockett at 506 847-7629 or Betty Hitchcock at 506 648-9794 or email [margwinchester@rogers.com](mailto:margwinchester@rogers.com), [j.lockett@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:j.lockett@nb.sympatico.ca), or [betty.hitchcock@rogers.com](mailto:betty.hitchcock@rogers.com).

Following is the budget set for the coming year.

### Atlantic NCF Budget for April 2012 to March 2013

National NCF Canada	\$1400.00
Literature Link	\$150.00
Office	\$100.00
Conference	\$200.00
Travel & other expenses	\$500.00
Scholarships	\$150.00
Total	\$2500.00

We really appreciate all who donated to this work last year. We would not be able to continue this work without your contributions. Thank you so much.

Please pray about what God would have you do in the coming year. When you feel led to support the work of NCF, Please send contributions to

Atlantic Division Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada

64 Prince Andrew Pl PO Box 41424 Stn BRM B Toronto, ON M7Y 7E1

**Please indicate that your donation is to support the work of the Atlantic NCF Committee.**

You will be sent a receipt for income tax purposes.

## NATIONAL NEWS

The National AGM took place in May with representatives from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Atlantic. Our main goal is to advance Christianity in the nursing community and set up small groups for prayer and fellowship. We have our non profit status and are awaiting charitable status, hopefully by the year end. The NCFI quadrennial conference will be in Chile Nov. 5 to 9. Please pray for this event.

## **ATLANTIC NCF PRAYER CALENDAR 2012-2013**

**MONDAY: ATLANTIC NCF 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.. Pray for the building of witnessing communities in our region, the development of servant leaders and faithful stewardship of the NCF mission.

**NATIONAL NCF COMMITTEE:** Pray for the national NCF Committee, the executive and divisional representatives. Pray for Judith and Fronica as they provide leadership at this crucial time. They are in the process of forming a new National NCF organization and need our support and prayers. Pray for NCF 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.

**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 NCF Committee. Pray for student nurses at UPEI.

**THURSDAY:** Pray for students and graduates in Newfoundland/Labrador. Praise God for Doreen Westra and her presence at Memorial University. 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 NCF 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 NCF 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.

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](mailto:betty.hitchcock@rogers.com)

