



Nurses in Canada  
called to love and  
serve one another  
in the name of  
Christ

NCFC

pulse

The Hope of Eternal Life. Titus 3:7

VOL. 17.1

## To Engage, Equip and Empower Nurses in Christ

### President's Message

Philippians 4:6 says,

***“do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”.***

Besides many other inspiring verses in the Bible, I feel this verse helped us navigate those difficult decisions as we worked our way to becoming an independent ministry to the nursing community. We give all thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for continuing to sustain Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada. It is so exciting that we are celebrating five years as a not-for-profit, charitable organization.

NCFC wouldn't exist without the work of its dedicated members. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the excellent leadership provided by the Board of Directors and Provincial Chairs over this past year. NCFC was blessed by the exceptional contributions made by our Editor Julie Desjardines, our Accountant David Zhu, and Sarah Chung for representing NCFC on the planning committee for the Bi-annual Prayer Summit. We continue to be blessed through ongoing collaborations

with Nurses Christian Fellowship International under the leadership of Phyllis Ferrier. Where would we be if didn't have designers like Wendy and Dora Yiu. The sisters make us look very professional with the NCFC Pulse, postcards, posters, etc. I would also like to recognize the staff at Paperland who gracefully accept our custom prints for posters, flyers, etc. I'm thankful to all our donors and volunteers who have supported the work of NCFC through financial contributions and their precious time.

The last AGM in May 2016 was a celebration of many successes including the addition of two new provincial chairs. As changes in leadership occurred this year, God was gracious and added new member to the national committee. 2016 introduced the opportunity for Associate (non-voting) and Membership (voting rights) enrollment in NCFC.

As we continue to strive toward achieving the vision, mission and goals of NCFC, our goals for 2017-2020 should focus on:

1. “Being visible, Being accessible” to the nursing community;

2. Stabilizing our financial position so we can adequately support the work of NCFC across the provinces;
3. Recruiting to fill leadership positions;
4. Collaborating with new Christian ministries beside NCFI & Prayer Summit;
5. Developing evangelistic material for outreach programs.

NCFC sincerely appreciates your prayers and financial support as we continue to encourage Christian Nursing in the workplace.

All praise and thanks to our God and Father who has called us to serve Him!



In His Service,

Judith Fanaken  
President, NCFC

**Have comments or suggestions for NCFC Pulse?**

Drop us a line at [ncfcares@gmail.com](mailto:ncfcares@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you!

## Certainty – None: Fear Not!

By Hope Graham

The Nursing Registrar at the Ministry of Health Nurses Board in Freetown, Sierra Leone, assessed my credentials, then signed and stamped a certificate to legalize my use of the designation “State Registered Nurse” (SRN). She expressed a surprised pleasure as she noted my BScN. Good beginning! This was my first full-time employment as a Registered Nurse.

While travelling the seemingly never-ending, pot-filled dirt road to Kamakwie

in northern Sierra Leone, despite physical exhaustion, I noticed amazing elephant grass flanking the road. It seemed ten feet tall. So much to learn! There are NO elephants (or other world renowned big game life) in Sierra Leone and the grass grows very quickly during the rainy season.

Four years of living and nursing in Sierra Leone afforded me the privilege of language fluency in the lingua franca<sup>†</sup>, Krio. Fluency allowed me an intimacy of

conversation and understanding that has continued to profoundly shape my appreciation of difference and other. In Sierra Leone, I was nurtured into a life-long commitment to not live my life in fear; to evaluate risk with due care and consideration yes, but then take the next step forward.

Looking farther back: As a high school student, I discovered InterSchool Christian Fellowship. This group of students did not belong to my church but were sincerely interested in following Jesus’ teachings. A weekend retreat was where I discovered

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Save the Date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quadrennial Conference hosted by NCFI CANA Region

## Infusing Hope in Nursing: A Christian Perspective

July 19-21, 2018 • Azusa Pacific University



### Plenary Speakers include:

**Dr. Kamalini Kumar**  
Former Educator & International speaker with NCFI

**Dr. Sonya Grypma**  
Dean of Trinity Western School of Nursing in Langley, BC

**Dr. Kathy Schoonover Shoffner**  
Senior Editor of the Journal of Christian Nursing & Director of NCF USA

### Workshops include:

**The Art & Science of Spiritual Care Leadership Training**

**Saline Process**  
How to share one's faith respectfully through practice

...and more!

There will be praise & worship, time to network, rest, and have fun!

Stay tuned. We will keep you posted regarding Registration information and procedures. We hope that YOU can join us. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Blessings,  
Phyllis Ferrier, NCFI CANA Regional Chair

<sup>†</sup> Lingua Franca: “A language that is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different.” [https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/lingua\\_franca](https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/lingua_franca)

# A New Grad Story

An interview with Abigail Chu by Julie A Desjardins

A year has passed since Abigail Chu started her first job as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at a local community hospital after finishing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University Of Ontario Institute Of Technology in November 2015. A Christian since the tender age of four, Abigail grew up in a Christian home and

attended a Christian school where she was immersed in the Word of God. The Lord put a desire in her heart to serve and revealed to her that she would answer her calling through the profession of nursing. Abigail graciously agreed at the last minute to be interviewed by our editor, Julie Desjardins. Her story provides a glimpse into the life of a young Christian

nurse today, inspiring hope for the future and the knowledge that the Lord has reserved for Himself many who still bow the knee to the one true God.

**JD:** *Congratulations on completing your first year as a Registered Nurse! Working in an Emergency Department must be challenging and rewarding. Do you have any thoughts about what you would like to do in the future?*

**AC:** I fell in love with emergency nursing during my consolidation and God gave me

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## Certainty – None: Fear Not!

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other high school students experiencing a depth of knowing God for which I longed. I learned skills to help me develop my relationship with God. This sparked an ongoing desire to know God better.

During my first post-secondary education I lived in the nurses' residence attached to a local hospital. Despite a scary initiation, I discovered nursing students who were Christians too. One of my fondest memories of those years as a student nurse is the daily early morning Bible reading and prayer before running off to breakfast and a "day shift". Those times were invaluable in my spiritual formation.

As a first year nursing student, I received a "scholarship" to attend an Urbana Student Missionary Conference in Illinois. I had never been so far from home but my Big Sister (in nursing) was going too! With next to no money, I boarded the train that Christmas night for the journey of a lifetime. University and nursing students kept joining us along the way to the

conference. Extras train cars had to be added! Singing, laughing, reading, quietly conversing, sleeping; all were happening simultaneously.

Urbana hosted challenging speakers of renown, while songs of praise to God transported my soul heavenward! A missionary from the Congo told of rebel soldiers who had taken her "purity". I felt confused. I had been so sure that being a Christian meant that something like that could never happen. I was stretched spiritually, intellectually, socially, and emotionally. I wasn't certain what my future would hold, but another step forward had been taken.

Fast forward to the present: I am now a retired nursing faculty member preparing to teach nursing at the Wesleyan University of Haiti on La Gonave Island, starting this Fall term. My oral French skills are abysmal despite several semesters of university French courses. I will need an interpreter to teach. Plus, I need to gain fluency in Kreyol, the lingua franca. Currently, I'm reading a scholarly history of Haiti and have Haitian novels waiting. Another step forward but still no

certainty, now or ever!

"Fear not": two words that are peppered throughout the biblical narrative. Over the years, the stories of others, and my own stories, offer the assurance, "We are not alone". I step forward. No certainty... but "Fear not" rings in my ears and fills my heart. I pray that I can help facilitate Haitian nursing students in their desire to serve others with excellence, physically, socially, intellectually, and spiritually. Please join me in that prayer.



*Ever since Hope retired from her faculty position in the School of Nursing at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, she has been enjoying*

*the luxury of being a fulltime student. Her career as a Registered Nurse has been mainly in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia but has included cross-cultural work and volunteering in several countries in Africa, in Haiti, and in Canada's Arctic.*

## A New Grad Story

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the opportunity to pursue this specialty right away. I would like to continue my education and be more competent and confident in the acute and critical care settings. One of the reasons why I chose nursing as a profession is because I knew that it would open doors for missions. Since emergency nursing is so diverse and comprehensive, I believe it is the best place for me to prepare for medical missions.

**JD:** *How exciting! It is so thrilling when we feel God directing us and then opening the doors and giving us opportunities to fulfill the dream He has placed in our hearts. Tell us a little bit about how you first became involved with NCFC.*

**AC:** While I was in nursing school, I was looking for devotionals with a nursing background to use for my personal devotions and to share with the Christian nursing student fellowship we had at my university. I came across NCFC's website while searching and saw that they had a mentorship program, so I contacted Fronica (Yiu) to see if she could connect me with a Christian nurse. After losing touch due to the busyness of my program, I was reintroduced by my friend Mary and joined a monthly Saturday fellowship group.

**JD:** *What about during this season of your life; is there a Bible verse, a song or a book that God is using right now to speak into your life.*

**AC:** I belong to a Bible study group and we are currently studying the book of Acts. I find it encouraging seeing God's sovereignty and how He fulfills His promises through Jesus and His disciples.

In chapter 11, Peter is explaining to his fellow Jews why he fellowshiped with Gentiles and how the Holy Spirit revealed to him that God shows no partiality. I have to ask myself, "How am I showing partiality?" I want my nursing practice to be reflective of Christ's life, which is unconditional, unselective love.

**JD:** *What a challenge! It is amazing how faithful God is when we seek Him; I love how He will work in and through us when we humble ourselves before Him and seek to be more like Him.*

*What do you think is particularly challenging for Christian nurses today.*

**AC:** Personally, I find medical/ethical cases challenging as a Christian nurse, such as the legalization of abortion and assisted suicide. They are very sensitive topics, but I believe the Bible is very clear about issues regarding life.

**JD:** *Yes, those are very sensitive and challenging issues. I am thankful that Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth (John 16:13).*

*Have you had any close nursing colleagues, friends or mentors that impacted you and if so can you share a little bit about that relationship.*

**AC:** I still keep in touch with my nursing school friends. I found it very helpful and encouraging to have had fellow Christians in my program. We would share how God worked in our clinical experiences and now we share about how God is working in our jobs. One of my friends is a public health nurse, so exchanging our stories and challenges have been really helpful in my developing practice and walk with God.

**JD:** *That sounds like a wonderful living example of 1 Thessalonians 5:11.*

Have you faced any challenges or difficulties in nursing and if so, how has God brought you through it.

**AC:** My current challenge is adapting to the shiftwork schedule. I'm trying to find the best time in my day to dedicate to the Lord and when I can schedule fellowships. I find that the drives to work/home are the best time to listen to devotions or audio Bible readings. I am still trying to add fellowships to my schedule, but the Lord has allowed me to join a Bible study this season that has really been encouraging in my walk with God.

**JD:** *Thank you so much Abigail for your willingness to share your journey with NCFC. We pray that your heart and mind remain open and sensitive to what God is doing in and through your life. May your words, and your hands and feet, continue to be a vessel for His love and grace to your patients and colleagues. God bless you!*



Abigail graduated from the BScN program at UOIT and has been working at a local community hospital ED for the past year. She is interested in primary health care and Lord willing, plans to utilize it for medical missions in the future.

### Contact Us

**Judith Fanaken**  
visit [ncfcandada.ca](http://ncfcandada.ca), and click on  
[nationalchair@ncfcandada.ca](mailto:nationalchair@ncfcandada.ca)

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**Editor:**  
Julie A Desjardins  
**Layout & Design:**  
Dora Yiu

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