

The Ontario Link



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The Newsletter of the Ontario Nurses Christian Fellowship

Blessings from Mwanza

By Erin Carter

Mwanza has proven to be a city of new experiences, new emotions, and new adventures. The last few months have been a growing time in my relationship with friends, family, and the Lord. I am currently living on the African Inland Church of Tanzania compound in Mwanza. Learning how to live in another country has been exciting, as much of my time and effort goes into merely living! New neighbours have moved in (a volunteer couple from the US) and they have become like my African parents. They provide wonderful friendship and are only a short walk away. The compound that we live on also is the home of the local Makongoro church, the busy National office, a welcoming guesthouse, and the health centre where I work. Taking trips to the local market has been a highlight as this is when Kiswahili (the local language) comes out the most. Learning how to pick out good produce, pay the right amount, and not step in puddles of mud have been things I have gotten to enjoy over the past few months.

I have arranged to eat lunch with an African family that lives right behind the clinic where I work

“I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from Him ... He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.” – Psalm 62:1, 7

each day. Getting to know the Bundala family has been a wonderful experience, and I have been able to connect with all of their nine children! Eating the traditional ugali (a cornmeal porridge cooked by all Tanzanians) and mchicha (the local spinach cooked with tomatoes and onions) with some type of meat, samki or kuku (fish or chicken) has been wonderful. I spend most of my time in the AICT Makongoro Health Centre, where I am able to help treat and care for several patients. The ward is a 30-bed inpatient unit where staff treat people who are sick with malaria, dehydration, malnutrition, and urinary tract

infections. Learning about new medications and treatments has been challenging, but I am starting to become more involved in daily rounds and am now a familiar face. I have been encouraged by the welcoming attitude of all of the staff, including the Matron Nursing Officer. It has been a blessing to go to work each day, because we start off with half an hour of devotions in Kiswahili. Being able to pray and to dedicate the



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Please Pray For...

- ...the new graduates of the RN , RPN, and PSW courses; for guidance as they start their new careers.
- ...the nurses in the military – for nurses stationed in Canada and around the world; that they may feel God’s love and safety no matter where they are.
- ...missionary nurses both short term and long term; for safety as they venture into unknown territory.
- ...nurses who are working and feeling the pressure of these uncertain economic times; that their families may experience God’s blessings.

day to the Lord with other staff has been something that I will come to cherish, as I know that this may not be a reality in other workplaces. Surrounding our workplace in prayer and worship is crucial to the work done here.

One day, I was struck by something that happened on our way back home from a walk. A young African woman was returning home after working in the field. She was walking in the same direction as we were, but a few fields over. After a few minutes, her path ended up connecting with ours. I thought about how incredible that was – at the beginning I didn’t think that our paths would connect, but eventually they did. It wasn’t something that I could have anticipated.

I am beginning to realize more and more that God works in these ways all the time. He knows and plans ahead of time, how we will interact with and connect with others. He has a divine plan for each and every one of us. What a blessing! As the young woman came in front of us, I could hear a quiet but clear song coming from her lips. It made me think about joy. It is my prayer that as I connect and interact with many different people, I will have joy in my life. I will be “singing” a song that is so full of praise that they will want to experience the same thing and step out in faith. I pray that I will share that song with all of those that I meet. As my path intertwines with new people and old friends, I pray that I will be encouraged to sing loud, sharing my heart with others. It is incredible how the Lord uses times in our lives, or small experiences like this, to speak to us. I know that the Lord is working in my life and I am open to Him.

“Jerican,”

By Beatrice Kavere Osome
Ottawa NCF Chairperson



Ever since moving to Canada 37 years ago, I have always wished to take clean water to women and children in villages and various communities throughout Kenya. This would make a big difference for many who often walk miles only to bring contaminated water home. Families could focus on performing other essential chores and, most importantly, the children could study instead of spending so much time carrying these “jerican” – tins, each of which hold about ten litres of water, which are normally carried on the head.

I spoke with and visited WaterCan, CIDA, and many other NGOs,

but received no positive responses. I decided to speak to friends about my water project. Many of them were extremely happy to hear about it and were eager to come on board. I returned to the village where I was born and shared my plan to build wells with the community church. I informed them of what duties would be required to maintain the well once it was completed. The villagers were more than happy and ready to work on sustaining the project. With the help of friends, two wells (or boreholes) have been completed in the village where I grew up. Another well is currently being built in Western Kenya, at Mumboha Primary School. Hopefully this well will be completed before the year ends.

I want to thank each individual friend who has contributed financially towards this project. Thank you very much to INIG and many dear friends for making a difference in Kiritu Village and Mumboha Village in Western Kenya. May God bless them all!



Keeping In Touch

from Belinda Hartsliel
(former NCF Ontario staff worker)

My name is Belinda Hartsliel, and I was a part of the Ontario NCF Committee from 2000-2005. I worked with the student ministry; mentoring student nurses, guiding them to integrate their faith into the practice of nursing, and coaching them to become nursing leaders. In the fall of 2005, I left Ontario NCF and moved with my fiancé, Brian Owens, to his hometown of Bellingham, Washington (USA), where we were married in October 2005.

I am now working at St. Joseph's General Hospital (the only local hospital in the area) within the Short-Term Observation Unit. It is a 72-hour unit dedicated to taking care of patients with psychiatric and pain control needs, as well as those requiring a few days observation. I have had many opportunities to provide spiritual care to patients in physical, mental, and/or spiritual distress.

Brian and I have been attending a very missions-oriented church called Northlake Commu-

nity Church and I have found my ministry there to be of encouragement and hospitality. I have been involved with cooking for the college ministry, and preparing meals for sick or expectant families. I also meet with a ladies Bible study that is not a part of our church, but is local to the area that we live in.



My marriage is going very well, and recently I became an aunt for the first time as my brother and his wife welcomed a baby girl in February. Besides enjoying the pleasures of being an aunt, Brian and I like to travel the Pacific Northwest to see the beauty of the area. We have mountains, volcanoes, the Pacific Coast and islands – a true variety of sights. Brian knows the area really well, and enjoys showing it off. If anyone is interested in visiting, we would love to have visitors and to be your tour guide.

The Annual NCF Seminar

By Jackie Schmidt
Ontario NCF Chairperson

“Shalom in Hebrew means...wholeness, completeness, peace, perfectness, soundness, safety, welfare, tranquility, fullness, prosperity, rest, health, harmony, absence of agitation or discord.”

- Strong's Concordance

Last November, we enjoyed a wonderful day of learning at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. In the midst of those beautiful surroundings, Ross and Carol Bailey shared with us how we, as nurses, can experience Shalom in self-care, worship, and prayer. The seminar allowed us the opportunity to fellowship with fellow Christian nurses, to learn to listen to God, and to spend time reflecting on His words. It was an extremely educational and spiritually enriching day for the 32 nurses who attended and a most enjoyable experience for the Ontario NCF committee members who organized the seminar. Our prayer is to see all the nurses of Ontario become fully committed followers of Christ.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we have several copies of the seminar booklet ‘Experiencing Shalom in Life and Work’ remaining. It is full of insightful notes from our speakers as well as practical exercises on how to apply the information to daily living. If you are interested, contact Fronica Yiu (nationalchair@ncfcanada.ca) to pick up a copy for \$10.

Hope to see YOU next year!