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National Director's Quarterly Prayer Letter August 2007

Dear Friends

I trust that you are enjoying your summer as there is opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends and experience the beauty of our land! It is with much joy that I write to you to provide you with an update about all my happenings and to ask for your prayers for me as National Director for Nurses Christian Fellowship in Canada.

These first few months have been rather hectic as I have attempted to become familiar with my new role and responsibilities and to begin speaking with those who have been a part of NCF for some time. I have also begun the tremendous task of raising support for this important ministry. This has meant many calls to inform and educate those who have never heard of this ministry - about what NCF does and what the hopes and dreams are for making a difference in the nursing profession in Canada. A new NCF brochure was designed and you received a copy of this in the first mailing I sent to you. In the last few weeks, a great effort has been made to redesign and redevelop the NCF Website so that more contacts can be made both within the nursing profession and with those who wish to support this ministry. Look for our new site to be up and running by September 1, 2007 at www.ncfcanada.ca.



NCF participants in attendance at the AGM in Montreal

At the end of May, I had the opportunity to meet with NCF delegates from across Canada, in Montreal, for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of this ministry. This event allowed me the pleasure of learning about the ongoing work of NCF across Canada and around the world and to spend some time listening to the needs of nurses. A visioning exercise was part of the agenda. I so appreciated Quebec NCF hosting this event for us.

In June, I moved from the apartment where I had resided for the last four years, into a lovely home in a quiet residential area of Stratford. Although, I have had little time to devote to the task of unpacking, it is a blessing to have more room for a home office and a place for all my books! When the movers were moving me, one commented, *"You must be a minister. Every minister we have moved has lots of books and a piano."* I smiled and admitted that I was a minister but that many of these books were also related to my work as a nurse educator and now as National Director for NCF Canada.



At the end of June, I traveled to Minneapolis to attend a National Summit organized for the NCF USA ministry where Mary Thompson was being celebrated as past National Director (having served for 29 years) and where Pat Emery was being introduced as the incoming National Director. I had the pleasure of spending some time with Pat whom I will greatly value as a colleague and friend. As well, I was privileged to hear Dr. Sonya Grypma speak at the opening session about her research regarding the Canadian nurses who served in China for the 1880's to late 1940's. She has produced an inspiring DVD. Sonya has been an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Lethbridge with a vested interest in nursing history and has recently accepted a new position at Trinity Western University in British Columbia. As we conversed together, I was encouraged and excited to see what God is doing in the lives of nursing faculty.



Sonya and I enjoying a time of fellowship together



Pat Emery and I at the National Summit for NCF USA

By the time you receive this letter, I will be returning from the United Kingdom, having spend some time visiting with family and friends but also meeting with David Parfitt, General Secretary for NCFI, and with colleagues working with both the Scottish and English NCF ministries. There are many people to meet and much to learn as I prepare to lead this ministry into a new place of influence. However, at the end of the day, may it be God who receives all the Glory!

I greatly value your willingness to pray for the ministry of Nurses Christian Fellowship in Canada and to pray for me. Listed below are four specific requests.

- ◆ Pray that God will provide the necessary financial resources for NCF in Canada. At present, the need is great. Also pray for Geri Rodman, President of IVCF, as she guides me through these beginning days of ministry with NCF.
- ◆ I would appreciate your prayers that I would have health and strength to complete the many tasks associated with this position and to have the wisdom in prioritizing the many commitments directed to me.
- ◆ Please pray that as I participate in a special Service of Recognition, hosted by the Presbytery of Huron-Perth, on September 30 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Stratford at 7:30 PM, that this will be a significant evening for me and for the ministry of NCF in Canada.
- ◆ I will be traveling to Saskatchewan in mid September to meet with NCF staff, attend their annual retreat, and speak about this ministry in churches and to small gatherings. I will also be the keynote speaker addressing the topic of *Nursing Leadership* at a workshop being held in Hamilton, Ontario on October 20 hosted by Ontario NCF. Your prayers for me as I travel and as I speak would mean so much. My greatest desire is to bring a sense of God's care, love and power to all whom I meet.

I have so appreciate the encouraging letters of welcome that I have received from many of you and I look forward to our times of continued conversation. Thank you also to those of you who have been supporting this ministry for many years and for those who are new to this ministry.

Someone asked me recently, *"Why does NCF exist?"* My answer was, *"If NCF does not exist, who will care for the nurses of this country? Who will listen and support them as they work daily with the harsh realities of their jobs or listen as they express the joys they encounter in making a difference for others? Every citizen in Canada will one day need a nurse to care for them. We need to care for nurses in this country!"* There is much work to do be done. With God's help, NCF will continue to be the hands and feet of Christ to the nursing profession in Canada.

Blessings to you in abundance!

Carol L. Hamilton RN, CPIC, BScN, MDiv
National Director – NCF Canada

PS: I would be delighted to come and speak to your home congregation about what God is doing within the nursing profession in Canada. Please speak to your minister or pastor about inviting me to speak. My contact information is on the front of this letter. Thank you!