



Retirees Encouraging And Supportive Of NCF

INTERVARSITY
INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP/USA

REASON Report

A newsletter to encourage retired nurses and share ways to continue making a difference in nursing

May 2009

REASON Emerges

REASON began when Erna Goulding, retired VP for nursing at Philadelphia Children's Hospital and NCF leadership council member, recognized the potential of retired nurses to share their expertise, expand the prayer foundation and strengthen the financial base of NCF. Erna began Phase 1 of REASON: naming the concept, encouraging prayer groups of retired nurses, and sharing the opportunity to provide financial support for NCF and NCF International.



Phase 2 of REASON began in 2008, and it has been exciting to see the REASON network grow: Priorities from Erna's work continue. Expanded vision, *Passing on Your Legacy in Nursing – Making a Difference through Sharing Knowledge and Resources*, has been shared with 225 retired nurses around the country. We anticipate what God will do through retired nurses!

REASON News

- Retired nurses in the Cleveland, OH area meet for lunch every 4 months. Harriet Coeling states: *We enjoy the good food, fun and fellowship at these lunches. We share our prayer requests and celebrations in word and writing. We talk about the NCF work, and this helps us remember the specific prayers for the Cleveland area NCF in the coming months.*
- In February 09 Mary Thompson visited 56 nurses in 4 retirement communities in Florida. During group meetings we were *inspired* as nurses shared their stories (many were missionaries), *encouraged* through Psalm 71 (including the prayer, "do not cast me off in time of old age...when my strength is spent"), and *motivated* about ways to "proclaim God's

deeds to future generations" (Psalm 71:17-19) of nurses through prayer and current & estate gifts for NCF. Our time together culminated by praying for one another and ministry among students, faculty and nurses – a vital way to make a difference.



- In January 09, 25 retired nursing school chairpersons and deans were invited to complete a survey to share their legacy of knowledge with present and future leaders in nursing education. Pray for wisdom as their wise responses are communicated – a way to encourage on going Christian influence and make a difference in the future of nursing.
- Francis Greenlaw, retired nurse living at Covenant Village in Spring Valley, CA has a ministry of prayer. As well as participating in the weekly prayer meeting at the Village, Francis distributes the *NCF Intercessor* to 25 retired nurses at Covenant Village. She also enjoys fun with friends, including Dr. Margaret Stevenson, retired nursing dean at Point Loma Univ. who took Francis' picture during a "red hat day" at the Village.



Ideas for How You Can Make a Difference

(in addition to REASON News examples)

- **National Nurses Week** is May 6-12. Doris Brown from Lancaster, PA helped to plan a celebration to honor nurses working in the Care Center and retired nurses living in her retirement community.
For info about resources to plan a Nurses Week gathering where you live, contact Mary Thompson (608/395-5121).
- **The NCF National Summit, Nursing as Ministry: Caring in Context**, is June 28-30 in Dallas, TX. Students, faculty and nurses will be equipped to apply life-changing Christian principles empowering them to represent Jesus Christ.

NCF needs retired nurses to pray for this event that will make a difference in nursing! Will you help by praying? (Phone, write, or email Mary Thompson: mthompson@intervarsity.org.) See more about the Summit on the website: www.ncf-jcn.org.

Encouraging Words

Advice About Aging

- by Minda Graff, retired nurse living at the Veterans Home in Yountville, CA



- **Stay close to the Lord, and get to know Him better:** Plan for an “appointment” with the Lord in your daily schedule. Spend time in the Word and listen. Pray about application of the Word, and telling God what you are thinking and feeling. Remember that God really wants our fellowship -- a relationship, not only what we “do” for Him.
- **Be a representative of Jesus where you are,** and live as “salt and light” (Matt.5:13-14). Build relationships, care, share what God has taught you.
- **Be aware of spiritual warfare.** Recognize fears and “attacks” in your thinking. Don’t be afraid; Jesus has conquered the enemy. Come to Jesus, and receive His yoke and rest (Matt. 11:28-30).
- **Recognize the ministry God has given you.** God is not done with us, and will not forsake us. Listen for God’s priorities each day and week. Your life has meaning and purpose.

Ponder God’s Word:

Psalm 138:8: *The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.*

Psalm 27:4: *One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*

Make a Difference through Legacy Gifts

Thank you for the many ways you have passed on your Christian heritage in nursing: by sharing what you have learned, your prayers, and financial gifts for NCF ministry. We are grateful for your legacy!

As you think about your future legacy, remember students who will enter nursing after we are in heaven. We can help future nurses to be representatives of Jesus Christ through NCF’s ongoing ministry among students, faculty and nurses. Including NCF in your will, living trust, or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy will make a difference through providing vital Christian influence in nursing. NCF’s ability to continue its ministry during financial challenges is due in part to an earlier generation of nurses like you who have included gifts in their estate plans.

Becky, a retired nurse educator from California stated *why* she included NCF in her estate plans: *God has used NCF in my life in significant ways. Professionally, NCF helped me to develop a Christian philosophy of nursing. It provided resources to help our nursing program integrate Christian faith into curriculum and gave me tools both to teach and provide spiritual care. Personally, NCF was very instrumental in my spiritual growth through Bible studies, workshops, and literature during my student days and as a graduate. It is my hope that NCF will continue to be a strong Christian voice in the nursing profession until Jesus returns.”*

The enclosed brochure has additional information as you make and revise legacy plans. Would you return the response form?

Gary Kopan, InterVarsity Director of Gift Planning is available to serve you (toll-free: 1-866-734-4823 ext. 3685). I’m thankful for ways Gary helps us in NCF.

You Are Important to Us

Send or phone your prayer requests, questions about your legacy, ideas about future *REASON Reports*, interest in starting a REASON group in your area to:

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