

INTERVARSITY  
NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



# The History of Nurses Christian Fellowship



## Beginnings

- In Chicago, three nurses met to pray at Children's Hospital. By May 1935 the group had grown and spread to other hospitals.
- A committee met to consider establishing an organization to meet the spiritual needs of nurses under the name Christian Nurses Fellowship.
- By 1947 Christian Nurses Fellowships were meeting in eight metropolitan areas including Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.



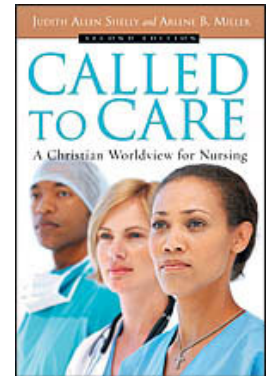
# A National Movement

- A national movement formed in 1948, when CNF united with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.
- Alvera Anderson became General Secretary for CNF and Tressie Myers, a head nurse and instructor at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, became the first traveling staff member. Tressie became General Secretary in 1951 (later to be retitled Director) of CNF, a post she retained until her retirement in 1968.
- By early 1951 the National Committee of CNF questioned if the name Christian Nurses Fellowship implied that the organization was only for Christian nurses. They wanted all nurses to feel welcome at the CNF meetings. After thoughtful discussion and prayer, they changed the name to Nurses Christian Fellowship in 1952.



# Publications

- In July of 1951 the first official publication of CNF began as a mimeographed four-page quarterly entitled the *CNF Bulletin*. Over the years the name changed to *The Lamp* and then *The Nurses Lamp*.
- In September 1984 *The Nurses Lamp* ceased with the advent of the quarterly magazine, the *Journal of Christian Nursing*. This was first edited by Ramona Cass, then in 1990 by Judy Shelly. Kathy Schoonover- Shoffner became editor beginning with the Summer 2004 issue.
- NCF also has published books and Bible studies, including *Called to Care*



## Professional Focus

- A unique dimension in NCF ministry among students and nurses has been the integration of our faith and nursing.
- Through Bible studies, conferences, and printed resources, we equip students and nurses to represent Jesus Christ in our profession.
- In 2002 the NCF National Council voted to become a professional organization, as well as a ministry. A membership fee of \$65, which included a subscription to the *Journal of Christian Nursing* was established. By 2005 over 1000 people joined as members. We became a member of the Nursing Organizations Alliance in 2003.



## Conferences

- NCF held summer conferences in North America for many years.
- NCF currently partners with several organizations as conference sponsors, including Innovations in Faith Based Nursing and the Global Health Missions Conferences, as well as hosting [regional events](#).
- In addition, as part of InterVarsity, NCF is involved with the [Urbana](#) Missions Conference, which has workshops and exhibitors who focus on healthcare missions.



# Resources

- Continuing Education Credit -  
The *Journal of Christian Nursing* began including CE contact hours in 1994 and now offers two CE modules in every issue that are American Nurses Credentialing Center certified through a publishing partnership with Wolters Kluwer Health Lippincott Professional Development.
- NCF staff have developed papers on a Christian philosophy of nursing and defining spiritual needs of patients. Some of these resources have developed into curriculum, workshops, and books.



## Global Reach

- Concern and involvement in world mission have been among NCF's purposes from the beginning.
- In 1953, an American nurse, Rebecca Glanzer, went to India to establish the Evangelical Nurses Fellowship of India, with Lily Bonner, an Indian nurse, as director. In 1976, Chieko Fukushima, a Japanese nurse, attended an NCF informational meeting in Philadelphia and felt God calling her to establish NCF in Japan.
- Currently there are 6 worldwide regions that are a part of Nurses Christian Fellowship International ([NCFI](#)). The next [World Congress Conference](#) will be held in 2020 in CO.





# Current Ministry

- NCF continues to be both a campus ministry and professional nursing organization
- On campus there are 90+ NCF chapters nationwide in addition to nursing focused Bible studies that are part of InterVarsity undergrad chapters.
- NCF Director is Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner and Student Ministries Director is Tim Lin.
- There are around 1500 members of the professional organization
- JCN is now available both in print and online, with access back to 1984