



INTERVARSITY

Greetings from Grace

March 2012

Engaging students and nurses with the Good News of Jesus Christ to bring God's love and healing to nursing

Counting the Cost

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

James Elliott, martyred missionary to Ecuador.



NCF Exhibit at Urbana 12

As a Wheaton College alumna, I've heard this quote many times. Jim Elliott along with two other alumni became missionary martyrs in Ecuador. The story of their murder and subsequent establishment of a Christian church among the Waodoni people has been retold many times, most recently in the movie *The End of the Spear*. Bringing the gospel message to those who have not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ requires total life commitment. Jim Elliott paid the ultimate sacrifice in that effort.

When I attended Urbana 76, which was directed by David Howard, Jim Elliott's brother-in-law, I heard Dr. Helen Roseveare tell her story of being beaten and raped during the revolution in the Congo. She pointed to Philippians 3:10, "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" and said of her experience, "He was actually offering me the inestimable privilege of sharing in some little way in the

fellowship of His sufferings."

Each Urbana conference offers participants the opportunity to examine their level of commitment to following Jesus. At Urbana 12, 96 participants made first time commitments to Christ and 3,740 reaffirmed their commitment to Jesus. 6,434 committed to leading and evangelistic Bible study on their campus and 4,224 participants committed to at least 2 years of mission service. Sometimes mission service is viewed as glamorous and adventurous; but mission service is costly. Jesus requires that we take up our cross to follow Him. It is costly to follow Jesus.

My dear friend and colleague, Dr. Dan Fountain, had led healthcare seminars at the past two Urbana conferences. He had attended one of the first Urbana conferences as an InterVarsity student and committed to being a medical missionary at that time. For over 30 years he and his dear wife, Miriam, who was a nurse, had faithfully served at Vanga Hospital in the DR Congo.

Miriam had grown up in the Congo near where I served in Uganda. I discovered that she knew many of the missionaries from Arua and that we could both count to ten in Lugbara. Miriam went home to Jesus two years ago. Dan had wanted to be at Urbana 12, but at age 82 his health was fragile. He joined his Lord and Savior, Jesus, and his beloved Miriam on February 12. Dan and Miriam had counted the cost of following Jesus, served Him faithfully, and never looked back. They modeled for me,



Dan and Miriam Fountain

Spring Schedule

March 17-20, 2013

NCF Leadership Meetings, Madison, WI

April 3-6, 2013

Westberg Parish Nursing Conference, Memphis, TN

April 7-9, 2013

Visit Friends in Vicksburg and Cary, MS

April 10-12, 2013

Speak to Global Health Ministries graduate nursing students at Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH

May 17, 2013

Trinity Christian College Board meeting, Palos Heights, IL



Praise and Prayer



Praise — Thank God for:

- ◆ Meeting us at Urbana 12. — For the 96 who decided to follow Jesus during that time, for the many who committed to leading a Bible study on their campuses, for those who are considering long term mission service. NCF made several contacts with participants interested in beginning groups on their campuses, who are interested in volunteering for NCF, or who might consider joining NCF staff.
- ◆ Lives of senior saints who are now home with Jesus. — My dear Uncle Ray, the patriarch of our family, who went home to Jesus on January 30 and my dear friend and colleague Dan Fountain who joined the saints in heaven on Feb. 12.
- ◆ Miriam Robinson who is joining NCF staff to serve nursing students at the University of North Carolina Greensboro.
- ◆ 30 years of publishing the *Journal of Christian Nursing*, a resource to help nursing students and nurses integrate their faith and practice.

Prayer — Ask God to:

- ◆ Bless the efforts of the leadership of the Center for the Study for Health in Missions (CSHIM) as it seeks to launch a new international, open-access, on-line journal, the *Christian Journal for Global Health*. Mike Soderling is providing leadership for CSHIM and Doug Fountain and Dan O'Neill are heading up the work on the journal. My part is to help with networking and provide necessary feedback from a nursing perspective.
- ◆ Provide direction to the NCF leadership team as we meet this month. As a strategic ministry within InterVarsity we are looking at ways that we can expand our student ministry as well as provide Christian leadership within the nursing profession.
- ◆ Bless my time with a young nurse who has asked me to be her mentor as she seeks to serve God in missions
- ◆ Give me the wisdom to discern His priorities for what efforts he would have me commit my time, energy and resources to.

and many others whom they mentored over the years, what it meant to follow Jesus. I'm grateful that we were able to capture two of his presentations from Urbana 09 on audio which can be used to challenge future generations of healthcare missionaries.



Over the past 13 years, I have collaborated with the Global Missions Health Conference (GMCH) sponsored by Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. GMHC is developing a website, MedicalMissions.com, to assist students and healthcare professionals in making commitments to mission service. They had an exhibit at Urbana 12 to introduce students to the ways that the

website can serve them – links to mission sending organizations, matches between goer and sender interests, stories of mission experiences, resources from past conferences and papers that have been presented. One of the participants called it the Facebook of healthcare missions. It was a popular exhibit.

Nurses Christian Fellowship partners with Global Health Outreach (GHO), the short term missions arm of Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA). For the first time at Urbana 12, CMDA and GHO had an exhibit. Two CMDA staff also led healthcare seminars. At our annual GHO advisory committee meeting in January we discussed ways of including more healthcare students on GHO trips, providing mentors for the students who participated,

and perhaps find ways that students might receive some academic credit for their experiences.

But it is costly to follow Jesus. For healthcare professionals, it means giving up a lucrative practice to live in places where resources are limited. For academics, it may mean giving up prestige that accompanies research and publication. For Christians it often means opposing political correctness to stand up for Biblical truth. Sometimes following Jesus means going to locations considered unsafe, where there is violence or war. Other times, it requires sacrificing personal preferences in dress and diet in order to incarnate Christ to people who have not heard about him. Some like Helen Roseveare, suffer beatings and rape, while others like Jim Elliott

give their physical lives. It's all part of counting the cost.

Full time mission service always requires a team of people who are committed to funding and praying for their missionary. Thank you for being on my team, for praying for me and for contributing to the cost.

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Gifts for the ministry of Grace Tazelaar can be sent to Nurses Christian Fellowship P.O. Box 7895, Madison, WI 53707-7895

Or given on-line at https://donate.intervarsity.org/donate/to/NCF-Grace_Tazelaar