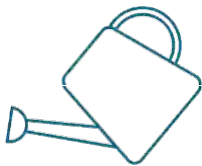




KATHY SCHOONOVER-SHOFFNER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF *JOURNAL OF CHRISTIAN NURSING*



## SEASONS OF GROWTH...



As we enter the Holiday Season, I want to say *thank you* for your support, and share what God is doing in NCF and with Richard and I.

## What's Growing?

Despite COVID, NCF ministry keeps growing. Last spring, we quickly moved **ministry online** with resources for Bible study, meetings, prayer gatherings, social media, videos, and more. God blessed these efforts with over **130 student and 40 nurse groups** meeting regularly. *Journal Club*, where we offer fellowship, prayer, and continuing education (CE) discussing a [Journal of Christian Nursing](#) article, has grown. Our publisher, Wolters Kluwer Health, was so impressed with *Journal Club* (unique among nursing journals!) they asked to post our recordings as CE for all nurses. Article submissions to *JCN* also have grown.

Due to COVID, nurses tell us they are the only one present with their patients in crisis. Often, they are the only one present when someone dies. Educators share the struggle of teaching students online. **NCF is working to support nurses** through Bible studies, an active prayer website, online meetings, COVID resources, and more. An NCF member, Whitney, and our Professional Ministries Director, Christy Secor, started a national weekly online prayer meeting; nurses from all over the country attend. A weekly prayer meeting for educators occurs on Fridays, led by NCF staff member, Skip. We meet with NCF leaders weekly to monthly to listen and offer support and prayer.

Recently a **nurse** wrote to us: *God calls us to come alongside our patients in their most vulnerable times and be the hands and feet of Jesus. He wants us to not only meet their physical and emotional... but spiritual needs. NCF encourages and equips us how to do this. Nursing allows us to care in times of crisis and give the hope that only Jesus can provide. An educator relayed: Through NCF we brought in baby believers and those beginning a reconnection with God! It is beautiful to see eyes opened to the joy of Jesus!*

## What's Not Growing?

What hasn't grown is donations to my staff account. By December 31, my personal budget deficit will reach \$33,000. My annual budget is \$101,000, which means I need about \$8400 monthly to meet budget which includes salary, benefits, office and other supplies, equipment, training, and more. Giving through the end of October averaged \$3000 a month. *Would you pray*

that God will provide what is needed to fund my work as National Director and Editor in Chief of JCN? Would you consider giving a [special gift](#) to my staff account, or increasing your monthly giving?

## Personal Growth



In this holiday time I find myself wistfully looking back at seasons of life. Not surprisingly, I think pre- and post-Richard's October 2018 brain injury. He and I continue to seek God's will for our lives. I'm hanging on, putting one foot in front of the other asking the Holy Spirit to help me with the ongoing ambiguous loss of my best friend who is *here* but *not here*. This is a long *long* journey. But like Joseph in his sojourn (Genesis 37-50), I believe God is doing something for *good*.

Recently I dug into the book of James, reflecting on James 5:14-15 about how the prayer of faith will make the sick person well. *Many* prayed for Richard's healing. On the day I studied James 5, Richard was doing his daily volunteer role at the Union Rescue Mission cleaning, moving boxes and food donations, and whatever they ask him to do. Out of nowhere, the thought came that before he was hurt, Dr. Shoffner was above all things, **a servant**. It suddenly hit me: *God raised up and restored my husband*, not in the ways I had imagined, but in ways dearest to Richard and to God. Although different, Richard *is the same*—a caring, faithful, reliable, servant. I shared this insight later that day with Richard and we cried tears of gratitude together.

It occurs to me that Richard's new life and work might be an example of the **great reversal** Jesus initiated making the "first last and the last first" (Matthew 19:30; 20:16, 27; Mark 27:28-9). What kind of impact is Richard making for the Kingdom of God as he serves among "the least of these?"

Keep praying for NCF's critical work among nurses and healthcare, and for the Shoffners that we will glorify God.

With all my heart, *thank you for your prayers and support!*

*Kathy*

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**Madison, WI 53707-7895**

(Enclose a separate note stating "for the ministry of Kathy Schoonover-Shoffner")

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