

## August 2019 Prayer and Praise



Recently, I was caught by surprise after reading a statement by Oswald Chambers, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century evangelist and teacher, who shared:

*Am I getting nobler, better, more helpful, more humble, as I get older? Am I exhibiting the life that men take knowledge of as having been with Jesus, or am I getting more self-assertive, more deliberately determined to have my own way?*

***It is a great thing to tell yourself the truth.***

*~ from The Place of Help*

How open are we to telling ourselves the truth? Often when I share with individuals and groups, I describe myself as a firstborn of a firstborn. It's part of my "early warning system" to let others know my strong-willed, independent nature is still a part of who I am. It's all too easy for us to make excuses for our behavior. It's just as easy for us to blame others.

Doing things in our own strength? That's a game we play inside our heads much like those times when we tell ourselves we are in control. It's doomed to fail no matter how much energy and planning we put into the situation. Believe me...I've tried.

It's only when we yield to his spirit, we find the strength, courage, peace, and compassion we need for ourselves as well as for others. His spirit leads us in truth and works within us to reflect Jesus Christ in the choices we make. His spirit allows us to be open and vulnerable about our own needs and failures. It leads us to deeper connection with Jesus Christ, each other, and with the individuals and communities we serve. And his love is there to walk alongside us in the messiness of whatever we are facing.

Nurses Christian Fellowship exists to provide opportunities for honest conversations with each other and through the study of the Word of God. May we continue to support and encourage each other to always walk in the light of his truth at home and in our practice.

Christy Secor DNP, RN, CDWF  
NCF Professional Ministries Director

## August 2019 Prayer Calendar

- **August 1** - We praise God for the work and efforts of our Marketing and Communications team as they've been updating our website at [ncf-jcn.org](http://ncf-jcn.org)! May the website be used to draw more students and nurses to the ministry and resources of Nurses Christian Fellowship.
- **August 2** - We ask God to be with Skip McDonald who works with campus staff and individuals in Georgia and the south as she conducts a Mental Health First Aid training for Florida staff August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **August 3** - We praise God for the leaders of our professional nurse groups! We ask for strength for those who have been facilitating groups throughout the summer. May God also provide wisdom, insight, and unity for those who are planning a fall kick-off. We ask for ways to draw more nurses to these groups. May there be a willingness and commitment to participate within these communities and a hunger for the Word of God.
- **August 4** - We praise God for what He has been doing in the life of Sharon Hinton, a contributing editor with the *Journal of Christian Nursing*. Spring and summer have been difficult, but she is finally healing from pneumonia! Thank you, Lord, for the incredible way you worked through all those who were a part of her care. Thank you for so many who were also praying for Sharon.
- **August 5** - Thanks to God for an excellent [NCF Journal Club](#) in July where nurses learned about ethical evangelism in spiritual care.
- **August 6** - We ask God for wisdom and discernment as our staff develops new spiritual care resources for students and nurses in their professional practice.
- **August 7** - We ask the Holy Spirit to lead the 130 student chapters and Bible studies starting to meet on campus this month.
- **August 8** - Ask God to bring in the manuscripts He wants for the *Journal of Christian Nursing*; ask Him to clearly lead the authors that write for *JCN* and the reviewers who analyze manuscripts.
- **August 9** - May God continue to be with Skip McDonald as she facilitates healing, insight, connection, and deep understanding for a "Sacred Listening" group of female InterVarsity staff in Georgia.
- **August 10** - Prayer for the safety and wholeness of body, mind, and spirit for our children and families. We long for them to walk in the light of God's truth.
- **August 11** - NCF continues working to build infrastructure and technology that will support ministry to students, nurses, and publications. We ask God to use the technology and give wisdom to those who trouble shoot and design our computer systems.
- **August 12** - We thank God for an excellent meeting for the NCF Marketing team that was held in late July. May God order our time and steps to continue to create resources to support ministry and outreach.
- **August 13** - May God be with our nursing grads who are completing their Boards and beginning their work in nursing as new graduates! We ask for peace, clear thinking, and success in their efforts as well as for support and encouragement by other Christian nurses along the way.
- **August 14** - We ask for endurance for NCF staff to get through the busyness of the last of summer and as we prepare for the kick-off activities for the fall in our marketing, student, and professional ministries.

- **August 15** - We ask God to clarify strategies for connecting with nurses and students through the NCF and JCN Facebook pages as well as the blog on the NCF website. May staff working on this area of communications have unity in decisions and planning.
- **August 16** - Intercede for all [NCF staff members](#) - pray for protection, for ongoing deepening of relationships with God and with each other, and for staff with special family needs.
- **August 17** - Praise God for the [2020 Nurses Christian Fellowship International Congress](#) which will be held in Denver, Colorado in July 2020. We ask the Holy Spirit to make a way for nurses from all over the world to obtain visas and come. Pray also for the conference leaders as they continue to plan.
- **August 18** - We thank God for those who are currently supporting NCF's staff and ministry through their prayers and financial gifts. We could not do this without you! May God continue to bring new donors to support our staff and ministry as we work with Him to establish and advance in nursing, within education and practice, witnessing communities of nursing students and nurses who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- **August 19** - Pray for nurses who are struggling in difficult work situations. Ask God to give great wisdom and mercy.
- **August 20** - Pray for nursing students and educators as they return to school this month. We ask Jesus to create opportunities for new relationships. Pray for joy, strength, and endurance in their efforts.
- **August 21** - We praise God for our new professional nurse groups! We are seeing new groups begin in states where there's never been an NCF professional nurse group. Two new groups are starting in Massachusetts (Boston / Worcester area). We also have a new group beginning in the Chicago area! Pray that God would use these groups to support and encourage nurses in their faith and practice.
- **August 22** - We thank God for the prayers and work of retired Christian nurses and ask the Holy Spirit to use them for His Kingdom work!
- **August 23** - Praise God for the JCN team: Kris, Cathy, Karen, Mary, Sharon, Beth, and Kathy. Pray that God blesses their work for His Glory.
- **August 24** - We ask for openness and clear communication for Skip McDonald as she shares today at a mental health seminar for international students at Emory University.
- **August 25** - Pray for nurses who are facing personal physical, mental, and emotional challenges. We ask God to be present with them in each situation. May they be surrounded with the resources and support they need for each day.
- **August 26** - We ask God to be glorified in all that we do as nurses.
- **August 27** - Pray for our staff who are writing new Bible studies for the fall. May they lean deeply into the Holy Spirit for the words that will be shared:
  - Skip McDonald will be writing mental health Bible Studies.
  - Christy Secor and Jen Wojtysiak are completing Bible studies for nursing students.
- **August 28** - Pray for nurses who are exploring the possibilities of beginning a professional nurse group and seeking others to be a part of their leadership team. Pray for wisdom for Christy Secor, NCF's Professional Ministries Director, as she is currently working with nurses from Oregon, Florida, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Georgia, Ohio, Texas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, and Arkansas.
- **August 29** - Pray the Lord's prayer for NCF and JCN, that the Father's will would be done just as it is in heaven, that God would provide for every daily need, that we

would always extend grace and kindness to all, and that the Holy Spirit would deliver us from evil.

- **August 30** - We pray for clarity of thought, wisdom, and clear communication as nursing programs complete their accreditation process. May God provide surveyors who are open and use their expertise to provide encouragement, insight and support to these programs.
- **August 31** - Pray for NCF members; ask Jesus to bless their time with him and to speak to each one out of His Word.