



PRESCRIPTION

A Singapore Nurses' Christian Fellowship Newsletter

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SNCF MOTTO

One In Christ

SNCF MISSION STATEMENT

SNCF seeks to bring Jesus Christ to nurses and nursing, helping them to find meaning and purpose in their work, and to see their workplace as a mission field.

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Equipped for Christ in Nursing

Someone I spoke to recently commented that "there is a trend of being pushed into a 'system'... be it Kaizen or Toyota, you either develop a passion for such systems or you discipline yourself to and follow it. Either way, it is a prescribed method and ideology of how things should work, or how you should think...."

Who determines the daily work of our hands or the pleasures and goals in our life? Dead lines, the outbreak of antibiotic resistant bacteria, the organization's vision and mission, crisis relief to disaster stricken countries, paper chase, demands from our families, our church involvement?

Some of us are on top of things, some of us under the pressure, and some just going with the flow. Some of us have grown closer to God in dependence on Him, some of us have grown further in dependence on self and some are in denial in our relation with God. Which category do you fall into?

For me, I'm busy juggling between my Bible College assignments, projects in SNCF, spending time with NYP students and the recent batch of RN's in the hospitals and church activities. I pause and ask myself, "what in the world is happening to Nurses and Nursing?" Where does God appear in all these? Are we the influencers (salt and light) whom God has sent out into the world or are we the influenced?

I am reminded of the conversation between Elisha and his servant in 2 Kings 6: 15-17 where Elisha's servant could only see the army of the king of Aram surrounding the city. Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes be opened to see the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. Are our eyes open to both the physical and the spiritual? Are we like the men of Issachar (1 Chron 12:32) who understood the times and knew what to they should do? **Do we see that God has placed each and everyone of us strategically where ever we are in this season to do great exploits for Him as Esther (Es 4:14) did? Are we doing battle on our own or are we watching over each other's life?**

This first newsletter for this year brings in the theme, "Equipped for Christ in Nursing" from Eph 4: 11-16. This is a three part series where we **Relook** at nurses and nursing, **Refocus** and **Realign** our lives to God, and **Rise** up and accept the Responsibilities for our designated positions in the Kingdom of God. The questions posed were meant to help us think and reflect on who we are in Christ as much as what we have been doing recently or even the past few months or years.

☞By Joanna Teoh, Staffworker

Editor's Point of View

In the process of being equipped for Christ in nursing, we need to be very careful lest we get stuck in this whole system thinking of "doing". The purpose of gifts was to "train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, full mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ (Ephesians 4: 11-13, The Message Bible). The theme "Equipped for Christ in Nursing" is set in the context of the Book of Ephesians chapter 4 after Paul the writer reminded the believers their position in Christ in chapter 1,2 and 3. If we forget or are not clear about our position in Christ, how could we see ourselves as being equipped for Christ? Not just individually but corporately.

NCF does not exist to get nurses primarily to do work, whatever form that may take. Otherwise nurses may feel "used" when doing committee work or projects. If we focus on the being, it will result in the doing, the doing that pleases God. Why am I a nurse? What does it mean to be a Christian nurse? Why NCF?

NCF International, playing the role of equipper, has been organizing conferences (regionally and internationally) to equip nurses to relate faith to profession. In 2003 and 2005, PACEA NCF region organized leadership training for staff and leaders. Of course, equipping is more than just conference or leadership training. It involves an ongoing dialogical process among Christian nurses, locally and internationally.

Let us not put the cart before the horse. Let us feed and nurture the horse and the cart will move.

☞By Goh Swee Eng

Creating Space for God to Act and Speak

PACEA Staff/Leaders Training (7-9 March 2005, Malaysia)

"I came and left comforted that there is a ministry for NCF. When nurses are willing to come together before God, the presence of God is there, and His ministry begins."

20 nurses, comprising of Staff and Leaders from PACEA NCF region, gathered together from 7- 9 March 2005 at Gotong Raya, Genting, West Malaysia for the PACEA Staff/Leaders Training. Three nurses from Indonesia NCF (Perwankin) joined the meeting for the first time. The number of participants was double of the number of the last training held in Hong Kong March 2003.

Members from the region came to share their NCF unique experiences as well as their personal stories. Through their enriched lives, I see the hands of God molding and preparing them for His purpose. Though this was not the first NCF Staff/Leaders Training that I attended, this meeting, however, was one in which I felt most ministered and encouraged personally and ministry wise.



Perhaps it was because of the lovely setting of the Mawar Apartment amidst the backdrop of the Malaysian mountains, the overwhelming hospitality of our Malaysian hostesses from Malaysian NCF and the marvelous programme put together by the PACEA Regional Committee. Maybe for the first time, pastoral care was rendered....and we felt so "valued" and "loved" not only by God but by NCF community of nurses.

Topics such as "Strategic roles of NCF" challenged us to come together to listen, reflect, share, forgive, celebrate and above all, pray for each other. The session on "Vision and Missions of NCF" helped participants to articulate the values we cherish in NCF such as: Unity in Diversity, Caring for each others, International Fellowship, Strong emphasis in Biblical Nursing. After some brainstorming, members affirmed the need for a Strong Leadership Programme,

Resource Development, Pioneering NCF ministry, and Strong Partnership among member countries as goals for PACEA NCF.

I confessed I went with mixed feelings of "Is there a ministry for NCF among nurses? Is NCF relevant or irrelevant in today context?" So what are some of the "goodies" that I can receive to convince me to continue in the ministry of SNCF? I need to hear from God and from the Christian community of nurses gathered together.

I came and left comforted that there is a ministry for NCF. When nurses are willing to come together before God, the presence of God is there, and His ministry begins.

As *Henri Nouwen said, "Solitude, community, and ministry are disciplines by which we create space for God. If we create space in which God can act and speak, something surprising will happen. You and I are called to these disciplines if we want to be disciples" By coming together in Malaysia, we were creating space for God to act and speak.

Shared by Ng Kim Choo, Staffworker

*Quote from Henri Nouwen's article "Moving from solitude to community to ministry" published by Leadership Spring 1995. For full article, contact Editor.

Pacific East Asia NCF Region Update

9th PACEA Regional Conference 2006

Date: 24-27 May, 2006

Theme: Caring for the Whole Person in a Broken World-Again

Bible Exposition: Mrs Leong King Ting

Venue: Not Confirmed

St. Luke's Hospital Update

Calling For VOLUNTEERS

St Luke's Hospital Flag Day
on 23 April 2005 (Saturday)

Please note that SNCF
will be taking charge of
Collection Centre at Toa
Payoh MRT Station for the
above on 23 April 2005.

The Centre will be open
from 7.30 am to 6.30 pm

There will be 3 shift namely
7.30 am to 11.30 am, 11am
to 3 pm, and 2.30pm to
6.30 pm.

Duties : Distribute the bags
to school children and to
collect them back. Two lots
of students will come, one
in the morning and another
lot in the afternoon.



The candle which
represents the life of
the elderly is sheltered
by the hand extending
protection and care.
The hand also points
to the cross, affirming
that God's love will
be shown through our
caring.

MISSION: We are a
Christian Community
Hospital committed to
provide holistic care to
the elderly sick.

Energetic ones can go out
and get donations

Member/friends/
supporters who are
interested to participate,
please contact:

Co-ordinator for SNCF
Ms Ng Kim Choo
Mobile: 97379041
Office: 65533530

Finance Corner

Budgeted Expenditure 2005

<i>General Fund</i>	\$32,474
<i>Staffworker Fund</i>	\$50,750
<i>Headquarter Fund</i>	\$15,700
Total	\$98,924

Income Up to date (March 2005)

<i>To-date</i>	\$30,107
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Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

*"Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able
to stand against the wile of the devil "* Eph 6: 11

Such PATCHED and RAGGED Christian nurses we are,
sometimes!

Somebody's unkindness tears a whole in our self-respect,
and we patch up the place with a BIG piece of BITTERNESS.
INJUSTICE and UNFAIRNESS wear a threadbare place in
our love for others, and we sew it up with great stitches of
GROWLING, SCOLDING and UPHAPPINESS. We mend
the seam someone's thoughtlessness ripped; we use CROSS
WORDS and ANGER, and it makes a rough unsightly edge.

Overtime and fatigue fade the colours in the shining happiness
we once wore, and we put on a false dye of brittle fun and
laughter at the expense of others or wear our old tired colours
until people say, "If that's a Christian, I don't want to be one!"

Jesus Christ should be our dress as KING'S
DAUGHTERS(SONS), our armour as His soldiers. Every time
we are hurt or offended or weak or tired, every time we fail
or are tempted to irritation or lack of love, that is the time to
take CHRIST as ours just that need. Since "in every way you
were enriched in Him", there is no need to dress like paupers
in rags.

For your uniform today, "PUT ON THE LORD JESUS
CHRIST"



We nurses won't be necessary

*We nurses won't be necessary, over there in Heaven
The people there are healthy and there isn't any death
The pains that we are easing now will all be gone , in Glory
And nurses can take off their shoes and stop to catch their breath*

*There won't be any nursing care that we can give in Heaven
We won't be giving intravenous fluids there, or pills
Inhabitants of Heaven, we shall run and not be weary
But thy won't be needing nurses, for there won't be any ill*

*We nurses won't be necessary, over there in Heaven.
If you want to serve God as a nurse, this earth's the only place
The only time we're needed is today, while folks are suffering,*

For they won't need any nurses when they see the Saviour's face.

From : ON CALL- daily devotional readings for nurses

By Lois Rowe

Snapshots of Kalimantan Project

In 2003 SNCF joined partnership with Girls Brigade and MIKA, a Christian humanitarian agency based in Jakarta, to set up a clinic in a Christian school, Ngabang Kalimantan. This region is underserved in terms of health services. Since setting up the clinic, NCF Pacific East Asia region has moved on to offer community health teaching focusing on primary health care.

Since 2003, 4 trips have been done and the project will continue till 2006. NCF PACEA had since invited NCF Indonesia to be partners. Teams had been blessed working together.

The focus of the community health teaching is health promotion and primary health care. Basic stuff on how to manage simple ailments to using herbs available in the community as well as on how to manage the environment were some of the topics taught.



Alicia demonstrating how to make oral hydration "This is the formula"



Assessing waste disposal "Should this rubbish be burnt?"



Team rehearsing and having fun

Believe me, the aspect on teaching the participants on the importance of managing their rubbish is an ongoing challenge.

Do you know that diabetes is also a health problem in this community? Wonder what the contributing factors are? What can we do to prevent diabetes in this community? Health promotion among students at Makedonia School is another challenge. There is plenty to do.

NCF invites you to pray, support and/or be part of a team. If you like to join the community health project program, **please contact Swee Eng at prayerp@pacific.net.sg**

The next trip dates are set for October 8-14, 2005. Estimated cost is \$550 inclusive of airfares, food and accommodation.

SNCF CONTACTS

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Staffworker:

Joanna Teoh
(98303694)
Ng Kim Choo
(97379041)

Gifts through cheques to be made payable to:

Singapore Nurses' Christian Fellowship

SNCF Calender of Events

◆ A workshop to prepare graduating nurses

Theme : Called to Care

Date : 30 April 2005,
Saturday

Time : 9am - 5pm

Venue : Chapel, Salvation Army Headquarters,
20 Bishan Street 22,
Singapore 579768
Cost : \$20.00
Contact : Joanna Teoh for detail at 98303694

SNCF EDITORIAL

Ms. Goh Swee Eng
Members:
Ng Kim Choo
Joanna Teoh
Hannah Liew YH

SNCF Ministries

◆ Monthly Prayer Meeting

Every 1st Monday of the month
Time: 7.00 pm Venue: SNCF Workbase
Prayer items can be submitted to Suet Lan at sncf@ncf.org.sg

◆ Hospital & NYP Ministries

Contact: Joanna Teoh at 98303694

◆ Foreign Nursing Students & Mentoring Programme

Contact: Ng Kim Choo at 97379041

◆ Caring for Members

Contact Kim Choo at 97379041 for visitation needs

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