



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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On Being a Christian Leader in the Marketplace

Part One – The Christian leader's harvest

One of the best, and definitely shortest, definitions of leadership I have found consists of one word: influence. If you influence a person to do something, you have led them. In this simple definition lies the essence of being a Christian leader in the secular marketplace today. Christians must be influencers. The workplace is where most of us spend at least one-third of our time, and where we engage with the most people. It naturally follows that this is where we can exert the most influence.

But how can Christians exert their influence in a secular workplace with its tensions, rules and restrictions. How do we follow Paul's direction, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23) and still meet our corporate obligations? And is it not more complicated when we hold a leadership position? Are we not held to a higher standard of accountability by our employers, thus facing more difficulties in sharing our faith?

Such questions could immobilize us, and neutralize our Christian influence, if we fail to remember our primary purpose in life – to "go into the world and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:13). Christian leaders cannot hide behind the banner of secularism. There is no liberty to separate work life from spiritual life. Instead, we must get ourselves into the harvesting business. Jesus said, "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35). Whether your marketplace is a hospital, nursing home, office, school, factory, does not matter. Christians must be harvesters, and Christian leaders must show the way.

Let me suggest seven characteristics that Christian leaders must develop to effectively reap a **H-A-R-V-E-S-T** in today's marketplace.

Humility – The hallmark of a Christian leader is to think more highly of others than yourself. Today's secular society admires winners, those who rise to the top quickly and have a confident, self-awareness. Contrast that with what John the Baptist said about Jesus, "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30). The truly

humble leader chooses "the hidden path of sacrificial service and approval of the Lord" (Spiritual Leadership, J. Oswald Sanders, p.61). We would do well to note that humility is a personal choice.

Authenticity – To be an authentic Christian means to live a life that is unimpeachable. We must be beyond reproach in everything we say and do. Authenticity is transparency, being honest and full of integrity even when no one is looking. And authentic Christians can be trusted implicitly – their word is their bond. As Jesus commanded, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'" (Matthew 5:37).

Respect – In the marketplace, the Christian leader must earn the respect of his or her superiors, peers and employees. This means putting in the hours, doing the work, taking the blame when things go wrong, and giving the credit where its due when they go right. It takes time, humility and authenticity. As Paul said, "Work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders ..." (1 Thessalonians 4:11,12).

Value – Christian leaders should value the contributions of those they work with. They should also value their people. Paul said, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Value can be demonstrated in kindness, rewards, promotions, etc.

Excellence – By setting and maintaining high standards in the workplace, the Christian leader will inspire followers to do the same.

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My First PACEA NCF Conference experience

Being a first timer at 9th PACEA NCF Regional Conference 2006 was quite a new experience for me, even though I had attended many conferences since my polytechnic days. Nurses all over Asia Pacific came together with one objective: to worship God and encourage one another towards the work for God in our own individual countries. It was truly a much-needed reminder that we are not alone; surviving in our individual work area, while trying to make a difference in the lives of our patients.

The theme “Caring for the whole person in a broken world”, is a good wake up call to all of us that, we as well as our patients today are not just looking for physical recovery, but also spiritual and emotional recovery. According to the Conference Speaker, Mrs Leong King Teng who shared, the conditions for caring in a broken world involved 3S:

1. Sharp/ sharpened minds to perceive and comprehend needs and problems – Attention & Resources
2. Sensitive/ sensitized hearts to respond in love – Empathy & Compassion
3. Stamina/ strengthened physique to render practical care

These are the three important conditions that we need to have before we can care for our patients. They can help us be prepared to receive each day’s work with open arms; enable us to handle anything during our shift, while knowing the Lord is in control. I felt that the theme of the conference was a timely reminder that I really need to take good care of myself and stay focus on quality patient care.

Mrs Leong also shared the “Components of caring”, which offers a more positive and holistic approach to caring for my patients and colleagues. Using the acronym **NURSE**, they are:

- Nurse and Nourish
- Understand and Unburden
- Relieve and Restore
- Stabilize and Strengthen
- Encourage and Edify

Indeed, they are qualities that are needed; so that we can



Ms Loo Min Min with foreign delegates

bring peace to where there is conflict, hope where there is despair, healing where there is hurt, and life where there is death. Let’s enter this journey together to bring a difference into our workplace! J

I enjoyed the last two sessions of the workshops on ‘Spiritual Care Resources’ and ‘Holistic Care, A Partnership Ministry’. During ‘Spiritual Care Resources’ session, a Japanese sister reminded me that a smile can help to brighten the day of my patients, and reflects an important message of Christian joy, that is often lacking. As for the partnership ministry, I enjoyed the testimony, on what was done by the Philippines NCF to help out an unreached people group in a neglected island. Through Ms Alicia Banas’s sharing, I learnt about the process of implementing changes to the community, in order to improve their daily living, in areas of health, hygiene and providing sources to create financial income.

I thank God for the new friendship made with people of different nationalities, and the opportunity to take some of them for a quick trip to visit places of interest like Merlion Park and Esplanade-theatre on the Bay. Not only that, but I also appreciate the testimony shared by sisters who tried really hard to raise funds just to come for this conference. Indeed, our God is really our provider!

☞ *Loo Min Min, Registered Nurse, TTSH*

On Being a Christian Leader in the Marketplace *continue...*

Paul told Timothy, “Those who have served well gain an excellent standing” (1 Timothy 3:13). Performing our tasks with excellence reflects the glory of God in our lives.

Service – Servant leadership is such an overused phrase that we might be tempted to avoid it. But in context, Christians cannot lead any other way. Good leaders must first learn to be good followers, and good masters must first be good servants. In one of his famous songs, Charles Wesley wrote, “To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill, O may it all my powers engage, to do my Master’s will.” In God’s service, there is no alternative to servant leadership.

Testimony – Finally, the Christian leader must be ready to share his or her faith at every opportunity. The incarnational

lifestyle may communicate the gospel, but this is not enough. We must tell them. The Bible says, “How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?” (Romans 10:14 - CEV).

If Christian leaders are willing to put the time and energy into understanding and developing these seven characteristics in their daily working lives, they will become harvesters. As Paul said, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

☞ *Ian Robinson, Captain, Executive Director
Peacehaven Nursing Home, Singapore*

A Big Thank You from the Chairperson of Local Organising Committee

Dear Members and Friends,

I rejoiced that the Lord had blessed us tremendously throughout the 9th PACEA NCF Regional Conference 2006. The success of the event was made possible through prayers and support of our members and friends. There were 12 nations that were represented including representative from non-member countries of Laos and China All our financial needs were met.

We praise God for the 159 delegates. It comprises of the 65 local and 94 foreign delegates that were present. 42 delegates were sponsored comprising of 25 locals and 17 foreign. The expenditure incurred was covered by the conference fee and love gifts. SNCF was

able to return the seed money that was given to the organizing committee for the start up cost of planning the conference. We thank God that we could bless the PACEA fund for future conference by not spending their already limited cash flow.

Thank you all for your encouragement, physical support and presence throughout the conference. Please refer to our website <http://www.ncf.org.sg> on some the highlights of the conference

Ms Low Mui Lang



Mrs Kumalini Kumar , President of NCF International (4th from the left)with delegates



Local Organising Committee of 9th PACEA NCF Regional Conference

St. Luke's Hospital Update

CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating a journey of FAITH, LOVE and HOPE, St Luke's Hospital celebrated her 10th Anniversary on 23 October 2006.

CONGRATULATIONS

Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes to Management and Staff of St Luke's Hospital

Theme Verse

"We continually remember before God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus "

1 Thessalonians 1 :3

Mentoring of Nursing Students

Singapore Nurses Christian invites you to prayerfully consider being involved in Mentoring of Nursing Students from China and Myanmar.

Since 1993, SNCF has been involved with mentoring of students from China. A new batch of Nursing Students will arrive in December 2006. Their average age 20 years and they will spend about 9 years in Singapore. They will undergo English language training followed by 3 years of training in School of Health Sciences Polytechnic. A welcome party will be held for mentor to meet the student on 27th December 2006, Wednesday.

Please see below for detail in regard to Briefing Meeting and Welcome Party. We look forward to your partnership in this work initiated by the Lord.

SNCF Calender of Events

❖ Welcome Party for Nursing Students from China and Myanmar

Date : 27 December 2006,
Wednesday

Time : 6.30pm

Venue : Auditorium, The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 20, Bishan Street 22, Singapore 579768

Contact : Kim Choo for details at 97379041

❖ Briefing meeting for Mentors to be

Date : 27 November 2006,
Monday

Time : 7.30pm

Venue : Social Hall, The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 20, Bishan Street 22, Singapore 579768

Contact : Kim Choo for details at 97379041 or kimchoo.ng@ncf.org.sg

SNCF Ministries

❖ Monthly Prayer Meeting Every 1st Monday of the month

Time : 7 pm
Venue : SNCF Workbase

Prayers items can be submitted to Clarice Tan.

Email : claricetan@pacific.net.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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