



PRESCRIPTION

A Singapore Nurses' Christian Fellowship Newsletter

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Nursing As a Vocation

I was told that the common reasons young recruits nowadays give for joining nursing is that it is a "good career" and the "job prospects are good." Very few say that they want to "help the sick" or that they feel "called to nursing". Unlike the days of Florence Nightingale when girls joined nursing to answer a call from God, nursing to most, is now another job. When nursing is viewed as just a job, a means to earn a living, attitudes and motivation would somehow be different compared to viewing nursing as a vocation, a calling from God to serve mankind.

What is a calling?

A calling is a direct invitation or commissioning by God for a specific task or assignment that God wants us to do. For example, Jesus called twelve men to be his disciples (Matt. 4:18-22). "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." First, he called them to himself: follow me and then to a special task: to be fishers of men. Notice that Jesus also promised that he will give power and strength to do the task: I will make you. The response of the disciples to Jesus' call was immediate obedience.

As Christian nurses, there are two aspects of our calling: firstly we are called to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and secondly, to do God's work in nursing. The first must of necessity precede the second. Unless we follow him, we will not be in a position to do what he wants us to do.

i) Called to be.

From fishermen to fishers of men. This was how the lifestyle of the disciples changed after following Jesus. They had a new direction and a new purpose in life. So it is with us. When we became Christian, we were given a new life. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corin. 5: 17-21). Our new relationship with God brought new goals in life- to love, serve and obey him. We develop new values- eternal rather than earthly. We have a new perspective in seeing things from God's viewpoint.

ii) Called to do

Moses was called to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Joshua was called to lead his people into the promised land. Nehemiah was called to supervise the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and Paul was called to be an apostle. Each has a specific task to do according to God's plan. Each had a mission to complete. So it was with Florence Nightingale when she obeyed an inner command of God to serve the sick and injured in the Crimean War ... and so it is with us. It is as if Jesus is saying to us, "**Follow me, and I will make you nurses of men.**"

The work of nursing

Nursing is a unique human service: it brings benefit to the community; it brings satisfaction and fulfillment to us, especially when we see people getting well; and it brings glory to God as we offer services as a form of worship and praise to God. A Christian government official once said that "**nursing is a full time Christian service fully paid by the government!**" Many of us do not realize that nursing provides an excellent opportunity to express our Christian faith. When we think of what nursing is, we will realise that it is a tremendous privilege to be a Christian in nursing. Let us now look at the opportunities that nursing gives for us to obey God and to express our faith.

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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.

Continue...

i) Nursing is doing good deeds.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph. 2:10). The hallmark of the Christian faith is love and good works; and the nature of nursing is good deeds. When we are nursing, we are doing good to people. So nursing provides us with the opportunity to obey God by doing good works and to follow the footsteps of Jesus who "went about doing good".

ii) Nursing is people-oriented.

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus gave us the great commission, "Go and make disciples of all nations." We do not have to go very far. People come to us. In nursing, we meet people from all walks of life. We are in the mission field. People who come to the hospital are in need. Most are facing crisis in health matters and searching for hope, meaning and answers to issues of life and death. Therefore nursing gives us the opportunities to fulfil the Great Commission and to help people find meaning and purpose in life.

iii) Nursing is character building.

We spend most of our waking hours at work, so it is logical to say that nursing gives us daily opportunities to express and develop the attitudes, behaviours and characteristics as a Christian. "Train yourself to be holy. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." (1 Tim.4: 7-8).

In the nursing unit, we interact with colleagues and other hospital personnel besides patients and relatives; we face different situations that cause us to respond in different ways. Sometimes we forget ourselves and behave in an ungodly manner especially under stress. Our workplace is therefore a training ground used by God for the building of a Christian character.

The nursing world

Some of us may think it would be ideal to work in a Christian hospital- an environment where God is honoured. We will then be in the best position to serve God and witness for him freely. But for most of us, God has positioned and scattered us in different hospitals and health clinics throughout the country. He wants us to be in the world but not of the world. The Bible describes the world as being ruled by sinful nature shown by such behaviours as hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage and envy (Gal 5: 19-20). How aptly

it describes the world in which we live and work. God does not want to shield us from such a world; rather, he chose to position us at strategic places in nursing service and nursing education to shine for him.

I believe the Lord wants to encourage those of us who are thinking of escaping from the world to let us know that our calling is to be in it, to be the light of the world and to be involved in the lives our patients at a point where they need our compassion, kindness and service most. Let us be engaged in giving quality patient care, motivated by God's love so that people will say, "they are people in whom is the spirit of the living God."

From : A chapter from the book
"The Christian in Nursing"
 by Ms Chan Kum Sum"

**WHAT GOD HATH
 PROMISED**

*God hath not promised skies always blue,
 Flowers strewn pathways all our lives through;
 God hath not promised sun without rain,
 Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.*

*God hath not promised we shall not know
 Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;
 He hath not told us we shall not bear
 Many a burden many a care!*

*God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,
 Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;
 Never a mountain rocky and steep,
 Never a river, turbid and deep.*

*But God hath promised strength for the day,
 Rest for the labour, light for the way,
 Grace for the trails, help from above,
 Unfailing sympathy, undying love.*

Annie Johnson Flint

Announcement...

NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

50TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

14th to 18th September 2008

STRENGTHENED TO SERVE:

A Christian Response to Global Health Needs

Hill Station Hotel, JOS, NIGERIA

FEE- US Dollars - 350

Notice board...

Volunteer Nurses Needed for Health Screening for 2008

(An SNCF and The Salvation Army Project)

WHEN : On every 1st Wednesday of the month
from 9 to 11 am

WHY : to do Blood Pressure and Glucose
Monitoring for the elderly

WHERE : The Salvation Army Territorial
Headquarters at 20 Bishan Street 22.

CONTACT : Kim Choo at 97379041
Email : kimchoo.ng@ncf.org.sg

SNCF THANKSGIVING DAY

Date : 1 December 2007, Saturday

Time : 3.30 – 5 pm

Venue: Auditorium, Peace haven Nursing
Home (after their Carnival, 8-2 pm)

Contact: Joanna at 98303694

Email : joanna.teoh@ncf.org.sg

SNCF HAS BEEN INVITED TO ASSIST WITH THE HEALTH SCREENING

St. Luke's Hospital Update

Calling for **VOLUNTEERS** for the
Hospital 's Flag Day on
12 December 2007 Wednesday.

SNCF will be taking charge of a Collection
Centre and assisting with the selling of flags.

Members/ friends/ supporters who are
interested to participate, please contact :
Ms Serene Kang at 91390154.
Email: tulips1810@yahoo.com

A Franciscan Benediction

*May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships
So that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer
pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach your hand to
comfort them and
To turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make
a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness to all our
children and the poor.*

Amen

(From Prayer- Does it make any difference (Philip Yancey)

Mentoring of Nursing Students

Singapore Nurses Christian Fellowship 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 nursing students from China. A new batch of nursing students will arrive in December 2007. Their average age is 20 years and they will spend about 9 and half years in Singapore. They will undergo English language training followed by 3 years of nursing training in School of Health Sciences Polytechnics. A Welcome Party will be held for mentors to meet the students on 1 January 2008, Tuesday.

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

SNCF Calender of Events

❖ Briefing Meeting for Mentors

Date : 26 November, 2007,
Monday

Time : 7.30 pm

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

Contact : Kim Choo at 97379041

Email : kimchoo.ng@ncf.org.sg

❖ Welcome Party for Nursing From China and Myanmar

Date : 1 January, 2008, Tuesday

Time : 4pm

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

Contact : Kim Choo at 97379041

Email : kimchoo.ng@ncf.org.sg

SNCF AGM 2008

Date : 5 January, 2008, Saturday

Time : 3.30 pm - Refreshment
4.00 pm - AGM

Venue : #02-03, SNCF Workbase,
The Salvation Army
Territorial Headquarters
20, Bishan Street 22,
Singapore 579768

Contact : Joanna at 98303694

Email : joanna.teoh@ncf.org.sg

SNCF Prayer Meetings

❖ Monthly Prayer Meetings

Central Region:
Every 1st Monday of the month
Venue : SNCF Workbase

Western Region:
Every 2nd Tuesday of the month
Venue : Member's home

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"

Psalm 46:1

SNCF CONTACTS

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Gifts through cheques to be made payable to:

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Christian Fellowship**

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