



PRESCRIPTION

A Singapore Nurses' Christian Fellowship Newsletter

MCI (P) 031/04/2021 May - August 2021

NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (NCFI) CONGRESS 2021 – 9 – 11 JULY



[Summary](#) [Agenda](#) [Speakers](#)



Virtual World Congress for Christian Nurses

Opportunities and Challenges in Nursing Today - A Christ Centred Response

This was the first time ever that the NCFI world congress went VIRTUAL – totally online! The COVID-19 pandemic compelled organisers to accept the inevitable after cancelling the scheduled event in Denver in July 2020. God provided the needed resources for the rough six-month journey – money, people, technology, and most of all – HIS WISDOM AND GRACE!

The Word is alive and always relevant. I can apply some lessons from the *Bible Exposition* by Donald Sweeting on Ephesians to my privileged involvement in the event. I share just one here: **facts supersede feelings** – the work of God in and through us is an objective fact that is more important than the subjective feelings which come and go. We are all ordinary Christians saved by an extraordinary Saviour. I want to respond by rededicating my life to be salt and light for our Lord, no matter the external circumstances.

Truth be told, the first day of the Congress was a disaster by worldly standards. Less than half of registered were logged in when we started at 12N. The platforms were not functioning as expected. As host, I had to make decisions on the fly, assisted by the rest of the team working in the background, getting as much help from the event organiser as they could. Those attending waited so patiently. The saving grace was the reassurance that all sessions are available for viewing on demand for 90 days after the Congress – phew! Whatever was able to get across till the close at 4pm became a celebration! God's reassuring presence was so real throughout the four hours! He was the one at work – and what a privilege to join Him to bless!

SNCF MOTTO	One in Christ	SNCF MISSION STATEMENT	SNCF seeks to bring Jesus Christ to nurses, equipping and helping them find meaning and purpose in their work.
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The Opening Ceremony inspired many with a compilation of beautiful country greetings that replaced the physical Parade of Nations, and address by outgoing NCFI president Dr Tove Giske. Full versions of longer videos of Country Greetings shown during the Closing Ceremony were immensely delightful! These are available for 90 days to those who have registered.

The truly international flavour of the whole Congress came through in the universal message from Ephesians and the challenges and opportunities presented to Christians nurses and midwives or student nurses in all six regions of NCFI: Canada and North America (CANA), South America, Europe, Africa, South Asia and Middle East (SAME) and Pacific and East Asia (PACEA). Many of the presentations addressed current concerns, from personal equipping for spiritual care of self and patients to sharing of real encounters in healthcare, e.g., clinical topics of behavioural health problems associated with crises, dementia, medical teams responding internationally during crises, Covenant Theology, and other more theoretical topics at the intersection of faith and practice in various settings.



Social distanced viewing group in Bangladesh!

A reminder of the grim times during which the Congress was being held. Covid-19 continues to create much suffering through its rampage around the world, irrespective of geography or economic status. But we remain steadfast in our belief that God is in control.

The power of prayers was clear when the second day went smoothly for almost all aspects, although the low attendance remained a mystery to be solved. The workers, as much as the attendees, were jubilant! The Congress concluded on such a high note on the third and final day, there were tears of gratitude as all mingled in warm fellowship in the virtual rooms - for more than an hour for the Eastern Hemisphere and two hours for the Western Hemisphere - afterwards!

NCFI Virtual World Congress NCFI Virtual Congress

My Event All Sessions

Caring for the Caregiver (Workshop) **LIVE**

Bringing pain to the cross

Lamenting Forgiving

Grieving Rebuilding

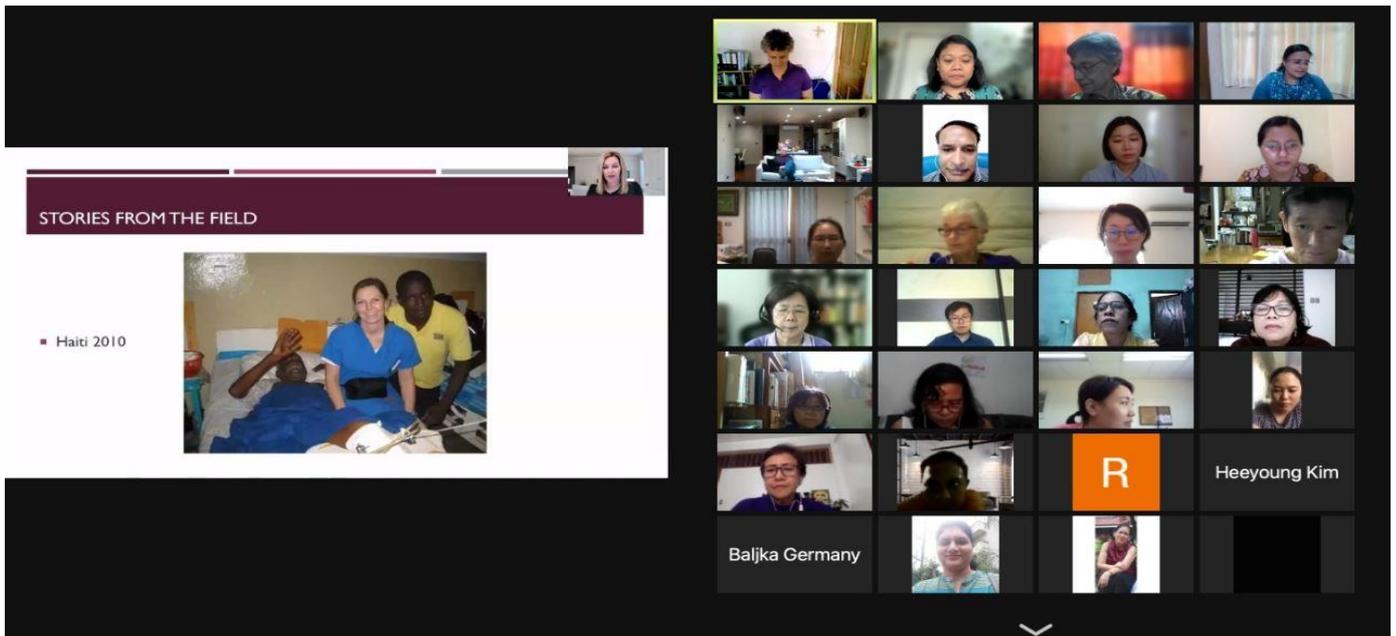
Being heard Resilience

Suffering



Dr Sharon Thistlewaite's workshop on Caring for the Caregiver during the Concurrent segment on Day 2 was hugely popular.

Dr Donald Sweeting who did the Bible Exposition on Ephesians, has seen among the attendees. His appreciation of nurses' work was most heartwarming!



The nursing students and young nurses (up to six years post-graduation) of the **Next Generation (NG)** in both Hemispheres were able to interact in a breakout room on the first and second day. It is my prayer that those in Singapore can soon join this vibrant group to encourage and be encouraged on their rewarding nursing journey.



Congress Convenor Ms Margaret Hutchison (top left) and NCFI administrator Donna Spronk (top right): With Virtual hosts for NCFI Congress 2021: Dr Stacy Saha (Bangladesh), Wee King (Singapore), Dr Anne Biro (Mongolia; President, NCFI 2022-2006), Ms Juniarta Sinaga (Indonesia; new Vice-president, NCFI 2022-2006), Dr Carrie Dameron (USA; Director, Prayer) and Ms Patricia Cañizares Aguirre (Spain). Photo on the left is a NG member from Indonesia.

TRIBUTE TO MISS ANG BENG CHOO (10 APRIL 1952 – 9 JULY 2021)



Humility and fear of the Lord bring wealth and honour and life. Proverbs 22:4

Beng Choo feared the Lord, walked humbly in reverence to God, honoured God and sought His ways in all her undertakings. The Lord gave her the wisdom and knowledge to be a special nurse to show forth His glory. Beng Choo was intelligent, diligent and had exceptionally good nursing skills. Mr Khoo Peng Kiat, one of our Nursing Tutors commented the highest marks in exams and tests were usually scored by Beng Choo. She was an excellent practical nurse, especially in midwifery. The House Officers on night duty loved her as she helped them to insert cannulas for intravenous therapy. She had an excellent reputation among nurses, even as a Director of Nursing. She would go down to the wards to help to clean and bath patients when they were short-handed.

When Beng Choo was Chief Nursing Officer, Ministry of Health, I had the privilege to be her deputy in 2002 and 2003. As Chief Nursing Officer she was also the Registrar of the Singapore Nursing Board. She was always conscious of God's presence and goodness in making decisions on Nursing Education, Standards for Nursing Practice and Nursing Manpower. Beng Choo was humble and unassuming but was a strong advocate for nurses' rights. During her tenure as Chief Nursing Officer, the Masters of Nursing for preparation of Advanced Practice Nurses in various clinical specialities and the Bachelors of Nursing were started in NUS. She knew her strengths and limitations and always attributed success to her team and took the blame for any mistakes.

After I left the Ministry of Health we hardly met, only at a few gatherings and at the first SNCF Conference in 2015. At this Conference Beng Choo conducted lively case studies on law and ethics. It was in early May this year that I met her on the SNCF Prayer Meeting on the Zoom. Beng Choo prayed for the Covid 19 situation in Singapore and for the 4G leaders.

When she became house-bound, a couple of friends helped her with her daily necessities and occasionally she would order Grab food. She said that she was very fastidious and preferred to clean the house herself. She proposed a "PTS 63: A Walk down Memory Lane" for their 50th anniversary and conscientiously edited it. It was recently launched virtually via zoom by the special guest-of-honor, Mr Khoo Peng Kiat on 3 July 2021.

In the midst of her suffering and pain, she remained steadfast and maintained a close relationship with God by studying the book of Job. She sought to learn the truth from Him, believing that if God is for us who can be against us. In her obituary, I learnt that the Lord has called her home and she gave directions to her new home by referring to John 14:6. Jesus said "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." She said that she had fought a good fight, finished the course and kept the faith. (2 Tim 4:7). Beng Choo's life speaks of being a faithful servant of God, salt and light to the unreached, to the end.

I thank God upon every remembrance of Beng Choo: her humility and fear of the Lord, her work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope in Jesus Christ.

Ms Lim Ee Lee Elizabeth (currently a SNCF Advisor, SNCF President 1973)

I remember Beng Choo fondly. She is my great encourager professionally who became a friend. When I took on the overall role of managing the nursing department at St Andrew's Community Hospital, she became a mentor to me and my team. During my hospitalisations at Changi Hospital, she visited me before surgery and was the first face I saw when I recovered from general anaesthesia. No frill lady, she's "straight to the point". I can still remember her as she shared about her decision she made regarding her life. I will miss her very much. A truly humble and sincere person.

Ms Low Mui Lang (currently a SNCF Advisor, SNCF President 2001 - 2011)

In the course of our conversations over the last two years, I learned that Beng Choo had harnessed her culinary skills and invited pre-believing friends to meals with the intention to share the Gospel. Her passion and commitment to obey the Lord's Great Commission was underpinned by a deep hunger for God's truths and great faith in the Lord. Her life reflected the Fruit of the Spirit. I'm sure she would have heard the Lord say to her, "Well done, good and faithful servant..."

Ms Rosalind Lien L.C. (President, SNCF, 1971 – 1972, 1978, 1980 – 1981)

We have indeed lost an intelligent and capable Nursing Leader. Beng Choo was a humble, kind, helpful and unassuming person. I knew her as a friend when we were both young Staff Nurses in the 1970s.

As a Chief Nursing Officer in MOH, she gave me a lot of encouragement and advice. When I took over the Primary Healthcare Institution at SingHealth Polyclinics (SHP) as a Director of Nursing in year, 2000, 50% of the nursing workforce was made up of senior staff. Many of them were due for retirement soon. Beng Choo, after having studied the demographics, was concerned. She advised me to recruit more younger nurses for development in SHP, which I did.

In 2007, through her encouragement and wise counselling, I was able to send 8 Senior Staff Nurses for the Master in Nursing course. They are now the invaluable asset, the Advanced Nurse Practitioners (APNs) in SHP.

One day in 2012, my Indonesian Domestic Helper told me a Pastor in his 40s in Indonesia suddenly lost his vision in his left eye. Drs there suspected he had Detached Retina but unable to perform the operation. I contacted Beng Choo and shared with her the Pastor's condition. She consulted her elder brother, Dr Ang Beng Chong, a renowned Eye Surgeon and his instruction was to get Pastor to arrive in Singapore as soon as possible. He arrived on the 5th day of the incident and Dr Ang confirmed the Detached Retina. That same evening Pastor Dr Ang conducted the operation successfully. Pastor was grateful to God, Dr Ang and Beng Choo. Praise the Lord for his mercy and grace. Pastor's vision was fully restored. Thank you Beng Choo, we are forever grateful. Till we meet again on the beautiful shore.

Ms Gwee Pek Hoon (SNCF Member, Chief Nurse, SingHealth Polyclinics, 2000 - 2015)

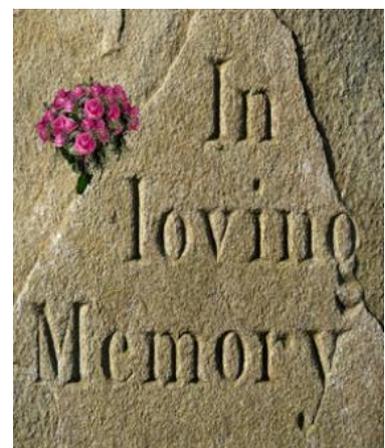
Miss Ang Beng Choo was a friendly nursing leader and an encourager. At a Diabetes Education event, she encouraged our team (Association of Diabetes Educators) to continue to raise the standard of care for patients with diabetes.

Ms Brenda Woo (SNCF member)



Ms Ang Beng Choo joined SNCF in 1976

She was actively involved in vibrant activities such as Fellowship meetings, Bible studies and Prayer meetings carried out in various hospitals' hostels and in Neil Road Gospel Hall, Kandang Kerbau Hospital, Tan Tock Seng Hospital and St Andrew's Mission Hospital in the 1970s.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SNCF Nurses Day Celebration 2021

DATE : Monday 2 August

TIME : 7.30pm Via Zoom

SNCF Ready to Jump (RTJ) Workshops 2021

DATES : Saturday 25 Sept, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct, 6 Nov

TIME : 9.30am to 12.30pm Via Zoom

Look out for details of the teaching topics and registration!

SNCF READY TO JUMP (RTJ) Support Group

DATE : 3rd Saturday of Every Month

TIME : 10am to 11:30am Via Zoom

Please Whatsapp Ms Janet Kong Hp: 93925800 to register or make enquiry.

SNCF Spiritual Retreat on 12 August 2021 is cancelled in line with MOH's advisory on 20 July 2021 on the shift to heightened alert to minimise transmission.



MONTHLY PRAYER MEETINGS

CENTRAL and EASTERN REGION (combined on Zoom till further notice)

Date : First Monday of Every Month

Time : 7pm

Zoom ID : 814 3156 3554

WESTERN REGION

Date: 2nd Thursday of Every Month

Time : 7.30pm

Venue : Blk 106, Bukit Batok Central, #04-221, (S650106)

St. LUKE's HOSPITAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING (stopped till further notice)

Date : 4th Thursday of Every Month

Time : 3pm – 4pm

Contact : Ms Joy Lim Tel: 91548850

KHOO TECK PUAT FELLOWSHIP MEETING

(on Zoom till further notice)

Date : 3rd Wednesday of Every Month

Time : 8pm – 9pm

Contact : Ms Toh Hai Moy Tel : 92375935

Zoom ID: 875 3029 7209

IMPORTANT NOTICE :

Please note there will be no meetings at our workbase at Fairfield Methodist Church premises and our office will also remain closed until further notice. We will continue to work from home.

Meanwhile, stay safe, stay healthy and stay at home as much as possible. Prayerfully consider receiving the vaccinations offered by the government unless contraindicated. God bless.

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FOR CONTRIBUTIONS to SNCF

1. CHEQUE

Pay to "Singapore Nurses Christian Fellowship"

Write your **full name, phone number** and payment **purpose** on reverse side of the cheque.

Post to: Toa Payoh Central,

PO Box 468, Singapore 913116

2. INTERNET BANKING*

Enter DBS Current Account No.

033-022161-4. Please forward

message of transaction to 91370972

3. PAYNOW*

Enter UEN **S60SS0018F** or scan QR

code with your mobile banking app



*Please enter your **full name**

<space> **phone number** <space>

purpose in the Reference field.

E.g. Lee Li Li 98765432 Mbr

Abbreviations may be used:

Mbr (Membership)

GF (General Fund)

SF (Sinking Fund)

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