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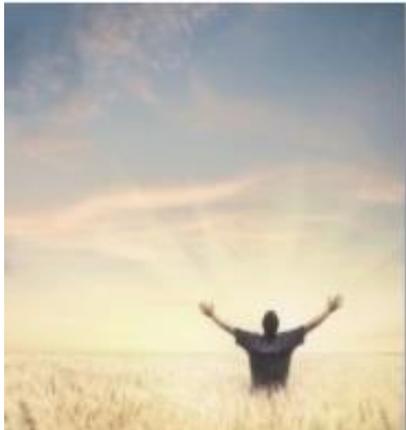
A Singapore Nurses' Christian Fellowship Newsletter

MCI (P) 031/04/2021 September - December 2021

SNCF NURSES' DAY 2021

Joyful in hope, Patient in affliction, Faithful in prayer

Romans 12:12



The Nurses Christian Fellowship Singapore (SNCF) have chosen a theme for the occasion of this Fellowship and Prayer meeting to celebrate Nurses Day. The theme 'Joyful in Hope, Patient in Affliction, Faithful in Prayer' is taken from Romans 12:12. The practical application of these phrases lie in our interpretation of the words and experiences of our life in Christ and moments of walking in Faith.

Joyful in Hope

The word 'hope' in a general sense is considered a positive attitude towards the future. It is as if we are expecting something to happen that is favourable. It can be equated to 'wishful thinking'. For instance, when we casually remark, "I wish it will be fine weather today" or "I wish you well in your endeavours", we are hoping that it will not rain or that there will be no bad outcome in the endeavour. So broadly it can include wishful thinking, whether well-grounded or not. However, Christian hope is a confident expectation in God and His purpose for our lives. It is not a wish or a dream.

The apostles Peter and Paul in their epistles give us a greater understanding of Christian hope.

The apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV) says, "*praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*" He is addressing the letter to the believers in churches in Asia minor such as Galatia, Cappadocia and others. He acknowledges the one who is responsible for their salvation- the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This salvation is because of God's great mercy. It is not the type of mercy that a judge presiding in a court trial may show by reducing a legally deserved conviction on a criminal. But God's great mercy gives us an undeserved new birth and life in Christ that will never perish, spoil or fade.

The new birth is an event or process of being 'born again'. Peter may have recalled the time when Jesus used the term in his reply to a member of the Jewish ruling council, Nicodemus, who acknowledged Jesus as a teacher from God. He had witnessed the miraculous signs that Jesus performed and he was seeking the affirmation as to how he could do such acts unless God was with him. Jesus in reply says "*I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God, unless he is born again.*" John 3:3. The new birth a believer experiences can only come about through the acceptance of a new life which he receives when he repents for his sins as Jesus has died on the cross for him.

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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We enter into a new life with hope, a living hope, on the basis that Jesus rose from the dead. He was resurrected from the dead, so He is alive, certain and real. So, hope lives. Peter goes on to describe in verse 4, *“an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade- kept in heaven for you.”* We all know what an inheritance means, it is an object or some possession that is bequeathed to one from a person on his death.

This heavenly inheritance is laid in store and is indestructible and cannot spoil. We know that a house can fall into ruins by the time one receives it, jewellery can tarnish, and a painting can fade. A never-perishing inheritance is *“kept in heaven for you”*, a believer, by a living God. Peter goes on to say that the recipients of this inheritance are alive under God’s care. *“You, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time,”* as said in verse 5. The word ‘shield’ always has an association with protective armament against attacks to the body. The shield of Faith, in Ephesians 4:16, protects us against the flaming arrows of the evil one. While we are living, we claim God’s power to protect us.

This does not mean that we do not undergo difficulties or trials. This can happen to any believer. Peter says in verse 6, *“though now for a little while you have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”* He is commenting on the forthcoming persecution of the believers in the churches which he is writing to. This echoes through our minds during the current period where we are living in the COVID-19 pandemic. There is always an end to suffering and there is God’s protection not- withstanding trials.

There is a last time when salvation is final, ready to be revealed. This is a prophetic statement in that it alerts us that the salvation of our souls will be completed in glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ when He comes again.

“The proven genuineness of your Faith may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed..... Though you do not see Him, you are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” vs7-9.

This inexpressible and glorious joy we have been blessed with is described as filling us. It is like a jar of water filled to the brim where if any more water is poured in, it will overflow. Such is Joyful in Hope.

Patient in Affliction

During the past few years, we have read of many natural disasters such as floods, forest fires, damages from extreme heat waves- some of which has been attributed to climate change. This is devastating for the communities affected. Presently, we have a common suffering that is worldwide- the COVID-19 pandemic. Singapore has also suffered greatly from the impacts of this pandemic. The rules, regulations and restrictions imposed on us in an attempt to control the spread of disease have brought many changes. There have been financial losses, disruptions to normal activities in education and working life. Much of these lead to stress, loneliness and mental depression.

In a letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul says in his exhortation in Romans 5:2-5, *“we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”*

Romans 5:2-5:

“we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

As believers suffer, they develop patience and there is need for perseverance or steadfastness in our faith. This patience develops a character which is undergirded by hope- the confident expectation in God and His purpose. In God's time and purpose, we will embrace hope and confidence that God will see us through.

In the nursing profession, we have seen the hope that patients under our care have - a hope to recover from illnesses and to go home. But those who do not recover quickly struggle to hold onto their faith and lose hope easily. The authorities and rules do not allow us to openly share the gospel with them in the wards. In our calling as nurses, we must respect the various professed faith of our patients.

But it is also in our calling that we as Christian believers are led to align ourselves in sympathy and care; to ask our Lord how He can direct us and lead us on. This is where the relationship with the person comes in as Paul says in verse 5. *"God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."* The Holy Spirit is the promise of Jesus to be our counsellor, and *"He lives with you and will be in you,"* John 14:17.

Faithful in Prayer

The SNCF has always had a regular call to prayer. I remember the many years that I have been associated with SNCF, that the first Monday of the month has a Group prayer and Fellowship time for the Central group in Singapore. It was a good time where during the Fellowship there would be joyful singing and an exhortation given by a member. We would sit in small groups to pray for various items prepared; the activities of the Fellowship, prayers for the government and prayer requests sent in ahead by members of the Fellowship.

Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 pandemic, this physical meeting had to be replaced by virtual meetings across Zoom. One of the senior nursing sisters, Ang Beng Choo, sent a prayer request to remember the COVID-19 pandemic and those affected. She did this on the 17 May, 2021, requesting that we also pray for her and her ailments. She continued to use her mobile phone to connect with NCF, and Janet Kong reminded her of the prayer meeting on the 4 July. She passed away on the 9 July. We are reminded of her faithfulness in prayer and her ministry of service to the nursing family.

Much as we are exhorted to be faithful in prayer, we are also reminded that we are in communication with a faithful God when we pray. Intercession is the act of praying for one another. Jesus Christ is the greatest intercessor. Hebrews 7:5 says, *"He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him. Seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* Christ's intercession is grounded in His sacrifice on the cross. The afflictions we go through allows times such as these to sharpen our relationship with God our heavenly Father and refine our character.

At the close of this, all of us are reminded by the apostle Paul's teachings in Philippians 4:6-7. *"Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your heart and minds in Christ Jesus."*

Yes, let us give thanks for all that He has bequeathed us through salvation, and His walk with us, till we see the end result of our faith in His glorious presence in heaven. Amen.

Dr Ivy Sng
SNCF Advisor
2 August 2021

Hebrews 7:25 says, "He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him. Seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

DEVOTION for SNCF LEADERS' RETREAT

Spiritual Maturity

*Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
that we may present everyone **mature in Christ**.
For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.
Colossians 1: 28 & 29*

Definition: The gradual process of developing healthy and life-giving ways of relating one to oneself, to others, and to the environment.

Straining Toward the Goal *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:12-14** ESV*

When we become Christians, we are given all we need for spiritual maturity. Peter tells us that “[God’s] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence” ([2 Peter 1:3](#)).

God alone is our resource, and all growth comes by grace through Him, but we are responsible to make the choice to obey. Peter again helps us in this area: “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” ([2 Peter 1:5-8](#)).

Being effective and fruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus is the essence of spiritual maturity.

Seen&Shot • Walking a round in Tampines

Step into a larger than life maze – right in the Tampines heartland.

Located near Block 944 Tampines Avenue 5, it is the perfect spot for a relaxing stroll and to snap pictures for your Instagram account.

The Maze Garden, a communal space that creates an opportunity for social and community interaction while being in touch with nature, was opened on Oct 12, 2012, and was created as part of a renewal programme by Tampines Town Council.

The maze is within walking distance of Tampines MRT station.



ST PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI

A labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool designed to foster contemplation and spiritual transformation. Walked by contemplatives and lay people alike for centuries, labyrinths are typically formed as a circle with a singular path leading to a center and constructed out of a wide range of materials.

Evidences of Spiritual Maturity : Key relationships-

1. With God - Trust and obey God in key decisions, at crossroads in our lives, willing to accept trade-offs (Matt 7:24-27)

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like ^aa wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like ^aa foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Cultivate intimacy with God through prayer (Matt 6:9-13) **Pray then like this:**

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

2. **With God’s people** – community – a more excellent way (I Cor 12:31b – 13:13; Serving for God’s Glory 1 Peter 4:8-11)
3. **With Abba’s mission in the world** – co-labour and missional – salt & light (Matt 5:13-16; the Great Commission 28:16-20)
4. **With stewarding resources** (Holy Spirit – 2 Cor 3:12-18, God’s Word – double-edged sword - Heb 4:12; Word & work James 1:22-25, 1 Peter 1:16-21 formational not informational; God’s people 2 Timothy 3:10-17 thoroughly equipped for every good work.

SNCF’s Key Needs

1. An edifying community - Edification occurs when Christ in me reaches out to connect with Christ in you. It happens when Jesus ministers through me to you, and through you to me. *We* do not do the fixing. Rather, we depend on Jesus to do the helping and the healing. Christ does the edification through Christians in relationships. (I Thess 5:11)
2. Role models who inspire, more than giving info (I Thess 1:5b-9, 1 Cor 11:1 -imitate Christ)
3. Safe space for life processing (Luke 10:1-24 the seventy sent out...return with joy)
4. Accountability development (Heb 10:23-25 hold fast your confessions)
5. Encouragement (1 Thess 5:11 comfort each other and edify one another)

Conclusion Prayer:

Instruct, demonstrate, experience, be accountable– Jesus’ model. God is in charge.

Tan Wee King (Ms)
President, SNCF
23 October 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SNCF Thanksgiving Celebration 2021

DATE: Monday 6 December
 TIME: 7pm
 Zoom ID: 814 3156 3554

SNCF 63rd Annual General Meeting

DATE: Saturday 15 January 2022
 TIME: 3.30pm (Fellowship)
 4pm (AGM)

Zoom details will be provided nearer the date.
 Kindly note that this is a member-only event.

SNCF READY TO JUMP (RTJ) Support Group

DATE: 3rd Saturday of Every Month (till further notice)
 TIME: 9.30am to 11am Via Zoom

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



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 (Salt & Light)

(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

SNCF CONTACT DETAILS

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Work-base Address

Fairfield Methodist Church
 Rm 201, 1 Tanjong Pagar Rd,
 Singapore 088437

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)

SNCF Editorial Team

Ms Tan Wee King
 Ms Ng Kim Choo
 Ms Janet Kong Kwai Fong
 Ms Chia Mui Sim
 Ms Lee Swee Heng

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 to achieve 'herd immunity' unless contraindicated. God bless.