



76 May Drive  
Dillsburg, PA 17019  
(717) 432-0228  
May 2008

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

How well these words written millennia ago, apply for students, faculty, and yes, even NCF staff. Across the country students are completing papers, projects, and exams that faculty will then read and assign a value. Graduating seniors are anticipating their first *real* job while seasoned faculty prepare to retire. Commencement speakers and reflective students ponder

**global challenges,  
the value of their education,  
the possibility of changing their world**

While the academic calendar continues year around, it is natural in the spring to reflect on data from the past year as basis of planning. Christian nursing faculty have been responding to questionnaires and writing letters as they reflect on the end of the academic year. Recently Jo, with whom I have corresponded throughout her graduate education, shared positive feelings about the important calling of Christian faculty:

*I feel very strongly that Christian men and women must aspire to lead in the field of nursing. And it is crucial that they provide that leadership in part as nurse educators as well as shaping the profession in other areas of involvement.*

At the same time many faculty are disheartened and exhausted. Bonnie, NCF campus liaison, shared the following from one faculty advisor:

*"No, I do not plan to keep trying in the fall; I plan to leave nursing education (unless it is online) so, sadly, you should probably remove me from your list for now. It is possible I'll return to education after a "recovery season" and would certainly try again. I need to invest my time and energy in a place where I can see a more immediate benefit and where I can make a difference in people's lives.*

An 8.8% faculty vacancy nationally with an expected wave of retirements in the next 10 years could foster more discouragement, I believe it is *just the season* when God wants to work in a powerful way to bring **HOPE and a renewed sense of HIS CALLING to nurse educators through the ministry of Nurses Christian Fellowship**. Please join NCF staff and volunteers committed to seeing Jesus transform nurse educators and education in praying for the following:

- Large registration, good times of networking and fellowship, meaningful devotional times at *Innovations in Faith Based Nursing Education* Conference June 16-19, Marion, IN
- One, two or more staff to join in NCF ministry to faculty and graduate students; also a strong volunteer network is needed
- Development of ideas for regional faculty workshops and regular newsletters
- Rest and renewal in body, mind, and spirit for Christian faculty
- Sensitivity to God's guidance and patience

On the other side of this page, I will share with you more about the changing seasons of my life and how God has been guiding my activities in them. I invite you to read on

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

This past year I realized I was entering another season of life when after two major surgeries I could not rebound as I had in the past. Because of many surgeries in the last ten years, I had too much pain and too little energy to pour myself into the ministry to faculty and graduate students despite my desire. Further I was unable to raise adequate financial support for the work. Simultaneously God was showing me that He **loved me** and wanted me to **trust Him** in a new way. I stepped out in faith to explore various options.

God faithfully guided me to the present situation. I am on short term medical leave. As a full time employee of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship I have short term medical leave benefit at full salary for a maximum of 6 months IF my funding is current. This is where I need your help. The fiscal year ends June 30 and I still have a significant deficit.

Before I elaborate, let me tell you my future plans. I anticipate transitioning to IVCF's Long Term Disability (LTD) in October. When I move to LTD, I will no longer have the burden of raising a large budget but I will be permitted to work with NCF for an hourly wage. **Most importantly**, I will still be able to answer God's call to ministry among nursing faculty but with much less stress. In October when I start receiving income from LTD monthly stipends and any hourly work I do, the support I receive from donors will be used to pay ministry expenses such as travel, conferences registrations, office costs (mailing, internet access, printing.)

I am very grateful that there is a way that I can continue serving faculty and graduate students in a more limited way. (When I was a "young" teacher going to grad school and instructing students in the hospital and lab every day I never imagined being *slowed down* – certainly not by having 9 surgeries in 10 years!) Yes, there is a time for everything

For those of you who **CAN and WANT to contribute**, the easiest way is **to do so is to write a check to Nurses Christian Fellowship and mail it to NCF, P.O. Box 7895 Madison, WI 53707-5895.** DO NOT put my name on the check BUT RATHER include a note indicating that it is to the account of Sandra Jamison. For information on other ways of giving you can go to <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/donate.html>

Thanks so much for considering my need and praying that it will be met. I am confident both that

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*  
and that

*Our heavenly father who provides for the lilies of the field and the birds of the air will provide for those who seek his kingdom and his righteousness. (Mt. 7:31-33 modified)*

One birthday card I received last month had three words on the front which captured my heart – GOD ENJOYS YOU. No text was given but Zephaniah 3:17 could have been. In closing, I thank you for the special place you have in my life, especially for supporting me in sharing Jesus love and hope among nursing faculty and students.

Praying for you a deep certainty and delight in knowing *GOD ENJOYS YOU,*



[sjamisonncf@comcast.net](mailto:sjamisonncf@comcast.net)

76 May Drive

Dillsburg, PA 17019-9423

(717) 432-0228