

Nurses Christian Fellowship International



NCFI

connections

November 2021

P2. A Parish Community
Health program Pakistan.
P3 JNCF Conference



Exploring Opportunities and Challenges in Nursing



Virtual World Congress for Christian Nurses

In her closing speech at the NCFI virtual world congress in July, Dr Anne Biro, the new NCFI President acknowledged that “There are many differences in the situations we face in the cultures and customs that surround us; in political and academic opinions, and in the languages we speak. But despite these differences there has been joy in our unity in Christ, and the community we have shared online these past few days”

The Congress did indeed bring us together from all corners of the globe. Over 400 Christian nurses and midwives from 37 nations shared the challenges and the opportunities that confront them in nursing today, and especially in this time of the Covid pandemic, political turmoil, and natural and human made disasters.

On the NCFI YouTube channel you will find a selection of Congress videos that include the greetings from National NCFs (full and condensed versions), congress theme song, President’s address and a selection of speakers. <https://www.youtube.com/c/NCFInternational>

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY

From Dr Anne Biro’s closing message at the NCFI World Congress.

There are many Christian nurses and midwives who feel alone, whether they are young, retired, or working full or part-time, whether they are over-worked, stressed, struggling with health issues themselves, or are working in places hostile to Christians. We are not meant to be alone. We have been created for community. In the Bible we are reminded that we are part of a body of believers, with different parts of the body specializing in different functions. It is by being together that we function well. It is in being together that we find support and encouragement.

I believe that NCFI and the country NCFs are important communities for Christian nurses and midwives. This is because there is a shared understanding of our work ministry, and many of the situations we face day to day. Whatever situation you are in there are opportunities for us going forward together.

You can listen to Anne’s full message at: <https://youtu.be/r4c6GZkaBxg>

Visit the NCFI and International Institute of Christian Nursing website: www.ncfi.org

A Parish Community Health Visiting Program in Pakistan



We learned during the NCFI Congress, that there are many opportunities for Christian nurses to share their expertise and skills internationally. Professor Barbara Parfitt a past Board member of NCFI and former CNI Editor, has been working on a project in Pakistan.

I am delighted to be able to share with you some details about the Parish Community Health Visiting Project that we have set up in collaboration with NCFI and PRiME International and a Parish in a poor, persecuted and deprived area of Rawalpindi, Pakistan. This parish is a community suffering from the many health problems associated with poverty and from spiritual depression. Following an invitation from the parish priest we began the project in 2019.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the parish with a visitation programme provided by Parish Community Health Visitors (PCHV). They will give health promotion, health education, early intervention and monitor the health status of families.

They will also give support through counselling for both spiritual and mental health problems. We aim above all to equip the PCHV's to develop as change agents within their own community.

We selected 10 young people in 2019 from the community who had completed their studies at school but for several reasons are unable to progress to higher education. We sent these young people to study for one year as Nursing assistants to a Christian hospital in Pakistan. Meanwhile we prepared a course with a curriculum of 100 hours that they have studied before starting the visiting program. This curriculum covered all the basic knowledge needed for the PCHV's to be effective in the community. Continuing education is given as they now carry out their home visiting program.

A key requirement of the project is to identify if introducing PCHV's into the parish will have any impact on the local community. We carried out a survey, prior to commencing our visits, to identify the main problems faced by families within the parish and we are monitoring trends of change over the next two years.

These changes are being observed through the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data. The data is being analysed continuously through the use of tablets on which the PCHV's record their visits and their interventions. The PCHV's also maintain diaries of their experiences visiting the homes. Currently approximately 500 homes are being visited in the community.

We are seeking an experienced Christian qualitative researcher who would help us analyse the qualitative data we are collecting. We have a principle researcher who is overseeing the research but we need someone to work with him to verify the qualitative findings. If you have this kind of expertise and you are able to help us please get in touch.

Supporting our Christian brothers and sisters in a country, beset with problems, but also in a context where they suffer persecution and poverty is something we believe God has called us to do. This project seeks to reach out and help this community and support the parish priest as they hold up the light of Christ in this dark place.

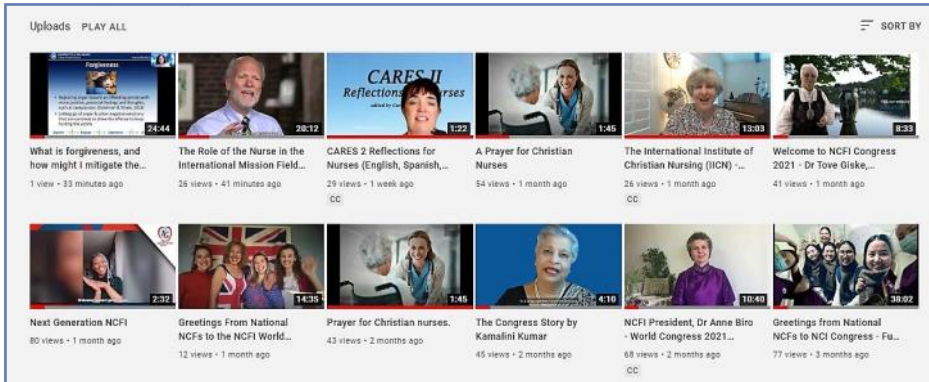
We have sufficient funds to pay the PCHV's a nurse assistants' salary for the next two years. This will help them and their families. We are hoping to raise sufficient funds to extend the project for at least a further year, but it is totally dependent on volunteers and donations. We value your prayers as we seek this funding so we can continue to reach out to those in need. If anyone wishes to learn more about the project please contact Professor Barbara Parfitt or the PRiME office.

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Subscribe to NCFI YouTube and never miss a new video



<https://www.youtube.com/c/NCFInternational>

Watch for new releases of Congress videos - concurrent and plenary sessions, special features, country greetings, music, book promotions, Bible talks, course descriptions and more.

CARES 2: Reflections for Nurses

The second compilation of NCFI Cares devotions for nurses expands on a devotion with the insight and application of a Bible study. Each reflection begins with a central scripture and a brief teaching or insight. Unique to CARES II is the inclusion of an accompanying passage of scripture, reflective question, and a simple prayer. They can be used for a personal prayer/devotional time or part of connecting a nursing fellowship group. The reflections are written by diverse authors from around the world that inspire peace, strength, and hope amidst the challenges of Christian nursing. They include practical advice on staying calm, responding to conflict, and rekindling our joy while opening our hearts to how Jesus can guide our nursing practice. Whatever area of nursing they are in, all Christian nurses will be encouraged professionally and personally.

Download a copy: www.ncfi.org/resources/cares-reflections-for-nurses

JNCF National Conference

Our virtual conference made it easy for the 36 attendees to participate from North Hokkaido to South Okinawa. We shared some NCFI Congress material to give a taste of international events and atmosphere to a wider group of nurses. We hoped that they would get interested to attend the 2022 PACEA NCFI Congress. The Bible talk gave us encouragement in being called a Christian Nurse by God to be a salt and light in the non-Christian world of Japan. The mentoring: Revitalizing Your NCF seemed a great need for the 14 NCF groups.



Our conference is still burning among us. I see Next Generations growing in servant leadership in our committee. We are going forward to grow in trust and obey the Lord, and willing to serve nurses and students in Japan. **Cheiko Fukushima**

NCFI REGIONAL CONFERENCES 2022

Next year most NCFI Regions are planning conferences that will bring together nurses from the countries in their regions.



Owing to the uncertainties of the Covid 19 pandemic, with travel restrictions, border closures, and other factors, most regions are



planning virtual events. NCFI will have a digital platform, plus technical help or training available to Regions who wish to utilize this. Watch for further news and dates of these events.

A Milestone for IHS Global

Last month the Saline Process World Leadership conference was held as a virtual event. It marked the 25th Anniversary of IHS Global. Leaders testified to the Lord's faithfulness, provision and guidance through the past quarter of a century. The Saline Process started in Hungary, and has now reached 120 nations, and more than 40,000 healthcare workers have been equipped to be witnesses of Jesus over that time.

NCFI was well represented by nurses. Attendees included Martha Fernandez Moya, Anne Biro (NCFI President), Ganga Massey, Georgina Hoddle, Stacy Saha, Juniata Sinaga, Wee-King Tan, Martha Mwendafilumba, Rosa Lopez and Tove Giske (past NCFI President).

IHS Global is a Partner organization with NCFI.

NCFI Member Country: A FOCUS ON JAPAN



Japan NCF National Conference attendees



Next Generation NCF with Chieko



PACEA Leaders Conference Taiwan



NCFI World Congress, Philippines

Chieko Fukushima who reported on this virtual national conference, has a long history with NCFI. She went to Chicago, USA as an exchange nurse in 1972. While there she connected with Christian nurses who listened and prayed with her for God's guidance in her life. She was introduced to NCFI through serving at the NCFI display both at the International Council of Nurses Congress in 1977. She was the only nurse at the booth who spoke Japanese.

God led Chieko back to Chicago for NCF discipleship and training before he called her back to Japan in 1982 with a desire to serve nurses and students. A small group of Japanese nurses began meeting as Japan NCF in 1983. 14 JNCF members attended the NCFI Conference in India, then JNCF applied and were accepted as the 31st member of NCFI in 1992. Chieko served as a full time staff member for many years, and is the current President of JNCF.

Virtual Conference photo: Saki Sakakieda