

Becoming More

By Marg Hutchison, Australia NCFI International Board Member

As this new year began, I reflected on two words – change and growth. These are not the same. **Change is something new** - an idea, a discovery, an insight, or maybe something out of our control, such as external circumstances. We can benefit by change, though some welcome it more than others. Yet the second word is arguably more important, both for us as individuals and as a community, church, or organisation. **Growth comes from something that is already there.** In the spiritual realm that can be faith, obedience, godly character, knowledge of God, wisdom and many other things that are already part of our lives.

A Bible verse that speaks of this kind of growth is Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)

*"...Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will **grow** to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."*

Another verse speaks of gospel growth through the church. *"In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and **growing** throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace."*
Colossians 1:6

Churches and organisations can also *experience **growth*** and will typically seek it in more than mere numbers of members, or assets. They can grow to become *more* of what they were meant to be in fulfilling God's purpose for them.

Applying this to NCFI, IICN and our national NCFs. We may not be required to change our God given purpose, our mission, values, structure or philosophy, but we are always meant to **grow** in ways that will better fulfil our God given mission. Identifying our strengths is often a way to focus on that. I see included in those, our global reach through the NCFI Regions, the participation and partnership of each member country NCF in the future of NCFI, through international forums, the International Board, and the unique ministry of NNCFs around the world.

I have no doubt that NCFI and each of our member countries will be praying and considering this year how we can **grow** in the ministry God has entrusted to us – using the strong foundations that have already been laid. What an exciting mission we have as partners in growing God's kingdom among nurses and through nurses worldwide.. Let us ask God to guide and inspire us in the growth he wants to see in our personal lives and in Nurses Christian Fellowship globally.

“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

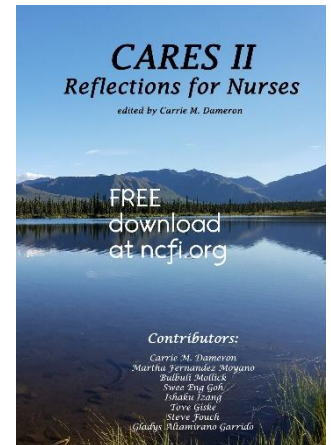
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