



NCFI

connections

April 2024

FEATURING...

NCFI Regions:  
Latin America  
CANAm & PACEA

# CIDEC AL The Latin America Region of NCFI

In the four years between 2020-2024, much has happened in Latin America. The work continued among the Christian Nurses, and progress was made in the search for the new generations who will take up the torch of the NCFI. In July 2020, the first meeting of the Next Generation (NG) for Latin America was held, with very positive results.

Masthead photo:  
Congreso Nacional de Argentina (2023)  
One of a number of national conferences held in Latin America during the past four years



In August 2020 an online conference was held for all of Latin America, with four presentations given by colleagues from Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. The title of this Conference was: "CHRISTIAN NURSING IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC". There was very good attendance and reception by all.

**Topics presented:** "Leading Nursing Teams in Times of Pandemic" by Cecilia Rivas Cerda (Chile), "Challenges of Christian Nursing in the context of Telework and Telenursing", by Oscar González Hernández (Columbia), Use and Abuse of Medical Supplies..Stewardship..Nursing Auditing", by Jenny Peñafiel (Ecuador), "Vocation in Nursing – Serving in Times of Crisis". Martha Fernández, President of UCEA, Argentina. We were grateful to God for his direction, assistance, and positive feedback about the conference.

Other activities have included: a Regional Forum, Mentoring course for the leaders of the Region in Spanish. Led by Anne Biro, President of NCFI, Worship and thanksgiving to the Lord for all the work done.

In 2022, the XI Regional Conference was prepared, but due to the fact that it was still impossible to travel due to the difficulties generated by the 2020 Pandemic, it was held virtually. It was attended by a good group of colleagues, eager to participate and share experiences and enjoy the topic, which was presented by Dr. Amelia Morillas Bulnes from Peru.



## NCFI in Latin America Continued.



Another topic of that year was the one presented to us by our sister Rosa López from Spain, which was a very pertinent for nursing today, the legal aspects of CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION.

### Courses and workshops held by the región between 2020 and 2024

- "Values-Based Teaching": taught by Dr. Kamalini Kumar and Phyllis Ferrier for the members of the NCFI International Board. Our NCFI representatives in Latin America were able to participate in this Course.
- "Salina Process": presented for Latin America by Rosa López from Spain and Lic. Martha Fernández from Argentina, during April and May, for nurses and students, who longed to learn new tools to be salt and light, and witnesses of Christ in their workplaces.
- "Mentoring", presented by the president of the NCFI, Anne Biro, as a guide to carry out the generational leadership transfer in our beloved region.
- Workshop: Balancing work and personal life, taught by nurse Ulrique Taubman.



The colleagues of CUBA, UEMEC: Union of Evangelical Missionary Nurses of Cuba, held in the month of November in Cuba. Miriam Sterli is in attendance along with Gladys Altamirano, from Chile, Latin America representative at NCFI.

In 2023, prayer and fasting meetings were organized with the countries that make up the region, culminating the year with a workshop, Balancing work and personal life

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless the work of the Region, that he will add laborers to the harvest; that more students and young nurses may be reached to continue the work with the Next Generation (NG); and that he will bless nurses who help colleagues understand the vision and mission of NCFI every day, thus fulfilling Christ's command. "Witnessing in our workplaces." Acts 1:8

**CIDEC-AL has national groups of Christian nurses in Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Cuba, with contacts in Peru, Uruguay, Bolivia, Mexico, Venezuela, Paraguay, Costa Rica and Trinidad Tobago.**

Contact Cidec El by emailing the Regional President Miruam Sterli [miri\\_sterli@hotmail.com](mailto:miri_sterli@hotmail.com)



## NCFI CANA Region

The CANA Region consists of 3-member countries, the USA, Canada, and Haiti. Jamaica and the Bahamas are also represented on the CANA Regional leadership Committee. To date, many initiatives have been celebrated across the region.

During 2023, NCFI and NCF Canada partnered together to host a Booth during the July 1-4 CNI at the Convention Centre in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. This was a unique opportunity to raise awareness and promote the mission of both NCFI and NCF Canada; inspiring and equipping Nurses and Midwives to live out their faith in professional practice and beyond. Many Global leaders, educators, and practitioners visited the Booth over the four days. There were opportunities to listen to stories and to share the resources available to professional Nurses. This included promoting the upcoming 2024 NCFI Congress in Malaga, Spain and the pre-Congress IICN Course offerings. There were meaningful conversations about current challenges and opportunities to integrate faith in Jesus with practice, and in all of life. Many attendees left their contact information, requesting follow-up. (Continued next page).



By Phyllis Ferrier.  
IICN Program Director

## NCFI CANA Region Continued

NCF Canada seized this unique opportunity in partnership with CAPNA (Canadian Association of Parish Nurses), to host a pre-Congress event on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lorraine Wright, professor at University of Calgary, spoke on “Suffering & Spirituality: Clinical Practices that promote Healing “. This workshop was well attended, providing a great opportunity for connection and networking.

Looking back, we are grateful for such God given opportunities to connect with Nurses, encouraging them to connect with other Nurses, encouraging them to live out their faith through practice, for such a time as this. God is at work, and calls us to join with Him.



## NCFI PACEA Region

The Pacific and East Asia was the first NCFI region, established in 1970, and currently the largest, comprising 13 members (Hongkong, Taiwan, Mongolia, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, Fiji Islands, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea). Each has its unique cultural practices, traditions, and belief systems. We thank God for our unity in diversity as all are anchored in one vision, one mission, and the core values of NCFI and its strategic initiatives, along with all members of the other five regions.

The PACEA committee holds virtual meetings on the Zoom platform every other month and uses WhatsApp as a channel to share experiences, discuss NCF issues and challenges, and provide support for one another, through praying for each other and audio/video communications. The 2022 PACEA Regional Conference took place virtually with deep involvement from its members.

## PACEA: A New Initiative

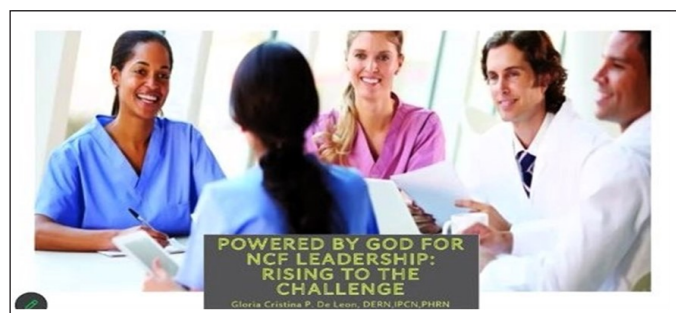
The PACEA Regional Committee members unanimously agreed there is urgency to equip and empower the Next Generation (NG) for leadership and mentorship development. PACEA is currently piloting a 6-session NG Leadership Development Forum to nominated participants for future leadership

leadership roles in NCF in their own country, in their region, and hopefully internationally

Several members of the PACEA region are truly blessed to attend almost all the IICN training programs. Japan NCF has embraced FCN as a flagship ministry, and is exploring how it can become useful and relevant in their churches.

I am filled with awe, praise, and thanksgiving for being a part of a Christ-committed and love-filled fellowship. We are called and challenged to serve the Lord and make Him known through Christian Nursing worldwide. May we serve the Lord with joyful hearts and gladness through NCF.

ALICIA T. BANAS  
Chair, PACEA Regional Committee



### NEXT TIME...

In the next issue of NCFI Connections we hope to feature the other three NCFI Regions, Africa, Europe and South Asia and Middle East (SAME).

For all NCFI World Congress 2024 information go to:

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