

*E-Newsletter of Christian Nurses & Midwives—February 2012 Edition 2*

What does it mean to live for Jesus in our professions? Sally-Ann Jenkins looks at this question from her own experiences in our main article this month.

As she points out, in many ways it has never been harder to be a Christian and a health professional, and the need to support, encourage and advise one another is greater now than ever.

Our conference on 10 March in

Nottingham (see below) will be looking at this theme in more depth.

This is also why we would like to urge you to consider encouraging your Christian friends and colleagues to join CNM. In our next postal mailing we will be sending every member a new membership form to give to a colleague. Think about who you could invite to join, but also about how you can encourage them in their faith and witness at work.

## In the News

CNM AGM, March 10 2012, Beeston, Notts  
 see <http://goo.gl/48G6e> for details

Should Christian health professionals be involved in industrial action?

<http://goo.gl/OYaE2>

Elderly Care: Do we care?

<http://goo.gl/OYaE2>

**Nurses Christian Fellowship International** Quadrennial International Conference will be held in Santiago, Chile, **Monday 5th to Saturday 10th November 2012.**

For further details see [http://www.ncfi.org/ncfi\\_conferences.php](http://www.ncfi.org/ncfi_conferences.php)



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### Prayer Requests

- For the joint conference on March 10 and for Giles Cattermole who will be speaking
- For all nursing and midwifery students, especially those qualifying soon in a time of uncertainty over jobs,
- For those organising the NCFI Conference in Chile, as they seek to get Christian nurses from across the world together

## Upcoming Events

23 February 2012—Refreshment Evening—for nurses, midwives and students in **Greater London**, at 18:30, 6 Marshalsea Road SE1 1HL, with time for food, fellowship, prayer and studying the Bible together. Contact [annie.leggett@cmf.org.uk](mailto:annie.leggett@cmf.org.uk) or ring **020 7234 9667** for more details.

March 10 2012—'Heart of the Matter: Keeping a pure heart in professional practice' - day conference for nurses and allied health professional, Beeston, Notts. Details at [www.cnm.org.uk](http://www.cnm.org.uk)

25 April 2012 'Where Spirit Meets Bone' a day conference on spiritual care in the clinical setting. Medical Education Centre, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield

May 12 2012—God Loves the NHS. A day conference for all Christians working in the health service. Aintree University Hospital, Liverpool. Booking form and details at <http://bit.ly/uXbfOC>

**See the CNM Notice Board for details of these and other upcoming events**  
[www.cnm.org.uk](http://www.cnm.org.uk)

## Living Counter-Culturally for Christ in Nursing & Midwifery

As I write this I am uncomfortably awaiting the arrival of my second son in 2 days' time and regard with fondness – and rose-tinted glasses – those days when at the end of an exhausting shift I could flop into bed, snuggle down and sleep soundly until the alarm woke me next morning / afternoon / evening!

When Christian Nurses & Midwives was launched I was working for the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) as their Staff Worker for student nurses and midwives. Since then I have worked in a central London church as their women's worker; got married; seen a little of missionary work in Latin America; been privileged to study theology for a couple of years at Oak Hill Theological College alongside my husband, and have spent the last three years getting to grips with being a mother to a lively little boy.

During this time I think the question that has been looming ever larger in my mind is what does it really mean to say *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men*, (Colossians 3:23). What difference does the gospel really make to the way we live and think, to our priorities and values on a day to day basis?

When I took up the post of Staff worker for CSNM I inherited the organisation of a conference entitled Counter-Cultural Living. I don't think I realised then the enormity of this phrase, or the astute diagnostics behind its selection as a conference theme; In particular in my three years as a women's worker I saw on a daily basis the way in which the gospel had become something we added to our lives instead of the thing that transforms every bit of our lives.

It is all too easy to begin with the situation we find ourselves in and then ask how does the gospel apply? How do I act as a Christian faced with these set of circumstances? But in truth Jesus says to us *seek **first** his [God's] kingdom and his righteousness* (Matthew 6:33). Instead of saying "I am Christian in a place where I cannot talk to my patients about Jesus, so how then should I conduct myself?" we should be saying "**Can** I be a Christian in a place where I cannot talk to my patients about Jesus?" This will inevitably mean making the kind of sacrifices that we're unused to making (for example are there jobs that Christians ought not to be doing?), and trusting God in a way we're unused to trusting Him (how will people in those places come to faith without us there to witness to them?).

CNM has tried to support and encourage its members in this task of counter-cultural living within the workplace. I pray that it has been of help to its members over the past ten years, but sadly we have always struggled to increase our membership and so our impact on the profession has been minimal. Given the current anti-Christian environment, the need for CNM has never been greater because it has never been harder to be a distinctively Christian nurse or midwife.

One thing I think CNM can do is to encourage our churches to help us more specifically in this task of approaching our work Christianly and then to be ready to support us when we face serious trouble at work as a result. This will help CNM members lead the way in restoring the gospel to the heart of healthcare and should encourage other Christian nurses and midwives to join the vision of CNM and count the cost of discipleship.

*Sally-Ann Jenkins*