



NCFI Euro Committee in Ede, Netherlands, April 2005
L – R: Steve Fouch (England & Wales), Mikala Winterø (Denmark), Irene Leino (Finland), Marian Deelen (Spain), Karen Hagesaether (Norway), missing – Barbara Parfitt (Scotland, Ingrid Lang-Pedersen (Denmark))

NCFI News

2005 was a difficult year for Nurses Christian Fellowship International. As you are probably aware, a difficult financial situation had led the International Board to take the hard decision to close down the International Office and make the Director, Harry Loudon, redundant at the end of 2004. This was a sad time for all of us.

However, God is good and gracious. After some time of uncertainty, the International Board met in Kilcreggan Scotland in early July. Out of this discussion, several key decisions were made.

The most significant decision made was to continue the NCFI office in the UK but within a different structure. Financially, NCFI is now stable, but unable to sustain any full time staff at this time, so it was agreed that the Headquarters Office will provide a Secretariat for the Board and the direction and leadership will come from the Board and the Regions, rather than employing a full time Director. The Secretariat is now operating from Lenzie, Scotland. David Parfitt, who had been involved as a Trustee with Pat Ashworth is now carrying out the administrative duties necessary to sustain NCFI on a part time basis. David's email address is nfci-admin@ntlworld.com

The leadership of NCFI will increasingly come from the Regional Committees and the membership themselves. This will require strong links to be maintained and further developed between the Board, the regional

committees and the member National Nurses Christian Fellowships (NNCFs). Three key strategic areas have been identified, these are:

- o Training & education,
- o Outreach & expansion
- o Practical caring activities.

It is planned that each Region in partnership with their NNCFs will develop a Regional Strategy incorporating these three elements. In the European Region that responsibility will fall to the Euro Committee and the eight member NNCFs across the continent.

Other plans include an online scholarly journal for which Bart Cusveller in the Netherlands has secured funding over the next two years, and an International Congress in Nigeria in 2008, which will incorporate celebrations of NCFI's 50th Anniversary.

Prayer and financial support are still very much needed, but in God's good grace, He has provided NCFI with the resources and direction for the future.

For NCFI's current prayer letter, go to the NCFI website at www.ncfi.org/prayer.html



Euro Committee News

In August 2006, four current members of the Euro Committee will be either standing down or will have completed their term of office and not be eligible for re-election. The committee can have up to seven members and we would like to see an increase in the overall number of committee members from a range of member NNCFs across Europe. A larger and more diverse committee will be better equipped to take forward the vision of NCFI in Europe.

Euro Committee members will be actively

involved in developing the Regional Strategy for NCFI Europe in close liaison with the eight member NNCFs across the continent.

Please consider and pray about this as a matter of priority. The elections will be held as part of the **European Regional Conference of NCFI in the Netherlands this August**, so please send your nominations to **Barbara Parfitt** [*see back page for contact details*] to arrive by the end of **July 2006**.

News from European NNCFs

Spain

We held two mini conferences in November in Galicia and Valencia. We are in the process of preparing the next magazine, *el Parte* (the Report) for distribution in February. Praise the Lord we have the speakers for the mini conference in Madrid on 11 March 2006. Please pray for the conference and the distribution of the magazine. We are already receiving requests for information on the Conference in Holland. This will go out with the magazine in February. We trust the Lord for the finances to get this out. *Greetings Marion.*

England & Wales

The major news in 2005 was that in November, Christian Nurses & Midwives (CNM) was accepted as a member of NCFI and as the official NNCF for England & Wales. In March, CNM opened to students, and our membership has grown by 40% as a result. Earlier in September there was a successful day conference for students on Christian approaches to Spiritual care at the University of Glamorgan in Pontypridd, Wales in which we were involved.

We also had a successful day conference in London in November on Biblical responses to suffering – over 35 nurses and students attended. On March 3 - 5 2006 we will be holding our National Conference and Annual General Meeting, near the border between England and Wales, and hope to see a large number of our members (and yet-to-be members) attend. Our Newsletter, *CNM News* is now going out four times a year to around 150 people, and has gone up to eight pages, and we have also re-launched our website, www.cnm.org.uk which now includes a range of new articles and papers geared at students. All on the CNM Council are working

at full stretch – but thanks be to God for all He is doing! Please pray for us. *Greetings, Steve*

Norway

Held a very successful professional day. They also report that they have a new Board with one student on the Board. They had also taken the opportunity to discuss the strategic plan offered by the International Board. *God's blessings, Karen*

Finland

Thanks to God for all the voluntary work and gifts that our fellowship enjoys. We hope to receive God's creativity in showing gratitude.

We hope that our board members will gain in wisdom and good cooperation. We plan that each board member will visit one group during this year to strengthen our relationships, improve communication and the sharing of information. We pray that God would guide our timetables and that this plan would make the aims and purpose of the fellowship more concrete and that new members would find and join us.

On March 24 we will be holding Morning Prayer at the Nurses Conference arranged by the Finnish Nurses Association. We ask that the Holy Spirit will touch and heal the nurses through the Psalm songs that musician Marcus Bäckman will be singing. The NCF members will take part in it and welcome the people by giving our magazine.

We pray that each planned gathering in every group would be blessed by God's presence.

We are planning our summer conference. The person in charge is Lahjamarjatta Korhonen. Her gifts are teaching, poetry, beauty, prayer and silence. We ask that God would help her to put these gifts into work together with other people's



[contd...] gifts and the conference would be well balanced and that all souls would be filled with gratitude and wonder at God's goodness. The conference will take place July 21 – 23 in Pieksämäki. We also plan some sessions especially for the group leaders.

We are looking for a new tenant to live in a room attached to our office in Helsinki. We are looking for a suitable Christian person who is able to share the common values and rooms and is able to stand the social life. We hope God would lead in finding this person.

We are praying for the Finnish candidate for the European Committee. Paula Laamanen is interested in it and we hope we could help her to get information, motivation, time, money and vision. We give thanks for Irene Leino our present Committee member and her work.

We are praying for our magazine and the editorial board and writers. *God bless your day, Riitta Sointu*

Germany

Andrea, Johanna and Uta are meeting regularly monthly.

Last November we dispatched about 900 invitation brochures (EURO Conference) to Christian (evangelical.) hospitals, nursing schools and individuals all over Germany; some also to Austria and Switzerland.

In our country now we have a vivid discussion about professional registration in nursing. We hope, that it won't be only an idea from "Deutscher Pflegerat" (national nurses association and other professional organisations), but that it might find the interest of the politicians. We think it is of high importance for the present development in our health system.

Increase of ethical dilemmas in nursing and medicine; often Christian nurses do not realise a situation as an ethical dilemma, because they are not prepared and anxious about voicing the own opinion.

Increased influence of multiple ideologies with esoteric background in nursing.

Prayer Points

We are praying that a minimum of ten colleagues from Germany may attend the Euro Conference this year in Ede (if you want, you can pray for more)

Pray for Uta's examination of her further study. It has been focused on a special social insurance in regard of care for people in need. Jan. 28th will be the first part: she has to write four test papers (9.00a.m. – 5.00p.m.); then she has to write an expert report based on given data till Feb. 8th. The last part will be April 1st: verbal presentation with colloquium.

Thanks to all of you – we are very happy to be a part of the worldwide NCF International family! Uta Andrea and Johanna

Scotland

The Annual Conference for NCF Scotland is 21-23 April 2006 at Atholl Centre, Pitlochry.

We are involved with continued joint working with other Christian organisations, particularly in relation to the matters of euthanasia/assisted suicide and palliative care.

Please pray for the opening up of contacts with chaplains in hospitals. *Greetings, Isobel*

NCFI European Regional Conference 2006

Ethics and spirituality: the heart and soul of nursing

The European Region of Nurses Christian Fellowship International invites Christian nurses and nursing students to the **7th European NCFI Conference**, to be held in **Ede, The Netherlands**, from **August 22 – 26, 2006**. The conference will be hosted by the nursing departments of the Christian University Ede, and the Reformed University of Zwolle, in cooperation with the Prof.dr. G.A. Lindeboom Institute, a Christian centre for medical ethics, in Ede, The Netherlands.

God's people, including nurses in Europe, often wonder what is required of their moral and spiritual life, including their professional life. In today's health care, many complicated issues face nurses on a daily basis. Issues surrounding life and death, responsibility and power, religious diversity and personal commitment, quality and facilities of care – the list goes on. Through His prophet Zechariah, the Lord God reminds his people of what He has told them: "*Judge fairly and honestly, and show mercy and kindness to one another*" (7:9) and again: "*Tell the truth to each other. Render verdicts in your courts that are just and that lead to peace*" (8:16). The conference explores the key themes of ethics, spirituality, and

their context in nursing from the perspective of these scriptures. The importance of Truth, Justice, Peace, and Care for ethics and spirituality in nursing will be addressed. Bible expositions on these themes will be led by **Dr Pablo Martinez**.

Program

In Bible expositions, plenary addresses, elective sessions, and ample "corridor time", participants will challenge and strengthen their Christian commitment as well as their professional knowledge base. Christian speakers (and writers) in the field of nursing contribute to this nourishing and stimulating event. Sessions in personal, clinical, academic and policy tracks will develop the main themes. Supported by the departments of nursing at the Christian University Ede and the Reformed University Zwolle, a wider audience of nurses and nursing students will be invited to join the conference delegates in an open conference day session on Saturday 26th.

Booking details and brochures can be obtained from the NCFI Europe website: www.ncfieurope.org or from the Conference Coordinator, **Bart Cusveller**: bcusveller@che.nl

Euro Committee Action Plan

Strategic Objective	Activity	Action/progress	Responsibility/
Leadership development	Leadership track in Euro Conference	Leadership integrated into conference programme	Conference planning group
Conference	Euro Conference 2006	Planning meeting in April 2006	Dates agreed for planning meeting
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euro News annually • Support Prayer letters to NNCFs • Web page • Address lists 	<p>Editor for Euro News</p> <p>Write to all NNCFs twice yearly</p> <p>Hakon Soldal approached and agreed to build WebPages</p> <p>Updated circulation lists to be sent to all members</p>	<p>Mikala Winterø, Steve Fouch, Marian Deelen</p> <p>Marian Deelen</p> <p>Barbara Parfitt</p> <p>SC</p>

Professional influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Conference Glamorgan October 2005 • ICN Conference 2005 	<p>Conference advertised and information circulated</p> <p>Conference went ahead in October as planned with good response</p> <p>No formal representation from NCFI But BP met with NCFI members in Taiwan</p>	<p>Committee members</p> <p>Barbara Parfitt</p>
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with NNCFs 	<p>Letters notifying all NNCFs of developments within NCFI and arrangements for the conference in August 2006 have been circulated</p>	<p>Barbara Parfitt</p>
Care giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to provide a supporting network for international nurses through NNCFs 	<p>This to be discussed in the context of the new regional approach of NCFI. Regional Forum to be the key meeting for the discussion.</p>	<p>Barbara Parfitt</p>
Financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship funding to be agreed for the Conference • NCFI financial situation • Donation of \$1,000 made to NCFI • Funding for Romania agreed 	<p>Update on current position Board meeting planned in July.</p> <p>MD to identify amount</p>	<p>Marian Deelen</p>



Contact Information

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Prayer and News Points

- o For new members to join the Euro Committee in 2006
- o For guidance in the development of a European Regional Strategy for NCFI
- o For the European Regional Conference in Ede, The Netherlands this August
- o For all member NNCFs – Denmark, England & Wales, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway, Scotland and Spain
- o For the NCFI linked Christian nurses groups emerging in Albania, Romania Moldova, Macedonia and other parts of Eastern & Central Europe

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ncfieurope.org

About Euro NCFI

The European Committee of Nurses Christian fellowship International has the following aims:

- **To support the Euro membership through improved communication**
- **To publish Euro News annually**
- **Arrange a Biennial Euro conference**
- **Promote the caring objective**
- **Promote financial support for NCFI**
- **Manage the financial affairs of the committee.**

