

**WMU**® God's mission.  
Our passion.

## TOUCHING TWICE IN JESUS' NAME BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP ANSWERS THE CALL.

**NATIONAL NURSES  
WEEK IS MAY 6-12.**

High on the shelf in my mother's closet was a pair of perfectly polished white shoes beside a white starched cap with a black velvet band. They signified a life committed to nursing skills, and they called me to follow. Other career opportunities opened to me during my teen years, but the shoes and the cap continued to beckon me forward.

Nursing is a calling. It is a calling to develop skills to minister to those who suffer and struggle physically and mentally and to those who strive to live a healthy lifestyle amid a world of disease and infirmities. Nursing is a calling used by God for touching others in Jesus' name.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) was organized in 1983 to bring together Baptist nurses who answer this call to nursing and God's call to serve Him through nursing. BNF nurses are those who Touch Twice in Jesus' Name, BNF's 2019-21 theme.

BNF takes seriously the words of Christ in Luke 10:9, "Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" As we care for our patients, we pray over them and are alert for Spirit-led conversations. Never in our times has this mandate been more critical than now. Just one year ago, nurses answered a new call: a call to gown, glove, and mask for the daily battle against the highly contagious coronavirus sweeping the world and claiming lives. This came in the midst of the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, a designation by the World Health Assembly to honor the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth and advance the vital role nurses play in transforming health care around the world.

All nurses have read about tuberculosis sanatoriums and leper colonies and learned about the eradication of diphtheria and smallpox. Some remember the threat of poliovirus outbreaks and stories of iron lung machines. Many nurses faced the new epidemic of HIV/AIDS and the fear it generated. And every nurse today has been in the battle against COVID-19. By the time National Nurses Week, which is celebrated every year May 6-12, arrived on the calendar in 2020, thousands of people were infected worldwide, and the number of deaths from the virus was rising.

It is a new year as National Nurses Week arrives once again. It is my hope and prayer it would be a week when our world is safer because of vaccines against this virus and the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths is lower than any other week to date. I pray it would be a week to celebrate the heroics of nurses who have worked longer hours, longer stretches of days and nights, and longer times without vacation to refresh and refuel.

During National Nurses Week, celebrate BNF nurses in your church with special recognition, and thank the nurses in your doctor's offices, schools, clinics, and hospitals in tangible ways for answering the call. This is your opportunity to touch nurses twice with appreciation and thankfulness.

We would love to help you begin a BNF chapter for nurses in your church or association. Contact me at [bnf@wmu.org](mailto:bnf@wmu.org) to get started or select "Read More" under the "Start a BNF Chapter" heading at [baptistnursingfellowship.com/get-involved-1](http://baptistnursingfellowship.com/get-involved-1).

# Baptist Nursing Fellowship ministers to health-care professionals in many ways.



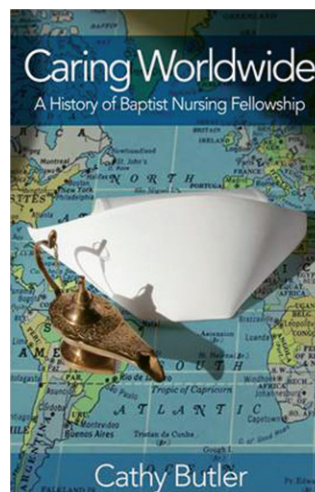
**Equipping**—Earn continuing education units at each of our annual meetings.

**Praying**—Give and receive prayer through our BNF birthday prayer calendar. Pray corporately around specific themes, including nurses who serve in full-time missions.

**Supplying**—Learn how to use your specific medical skill set to further God's kingdom. Learn how to start or continue ministering in your community and around the world.

**Connecting**—Encourage and be encouraged through this fellowship of believers who have similar passions and gifts.

**Sending**—Use your medical platform to care for the sick and share the gospel. Your platform enables you to go into places where spreading the Word is difficult. We want to help you imitate Jesus' ministry by serving people both physically and spiritually.



## **CARING WORLDWIDE: A HISTORY OF BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP**

*Caring Worldwide: A History of Baptist Nursing Fellowship* recounts the story of the founding and history of Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) and the visionary leaders who formed and shaped the organization for Baptist nurses to use their professional skills and gifts in Christian service. Author Cathy Butler traces the first 30 years of this vital ministry organization through its growth in numbers and influence while recounting tales of missions efforts around the globe.

**X132107 • \$5.99**

Visit [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com) or call customer service at 1-800-968-7301 to purchase.