



February 2021

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Lamplighter



Bi-monthly Newsletter



The President's Perspective

by DEBBY AKERMAN

The BNF Summit was very purposely given this name! Your BNF leadership determined the annual gathering of BNF members must be one of excellence; excellent educational presentations, excellent opportunities for ministry; and excellent missionary speakers.

We determined this gathering must be a time that will take us higher and closer to the Lord through worship, prayer, and Bible study. And we determined the annual meeting would meet all your high expectations for fellowship through a mountain top experience on Missionary Ridge, home of Woman's Missionary Union.

We hope you will enjoy all the photos and the reports from the November 2020 BNF Summit.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the next BNF Summit

October 29-31, 2021
in Birmingham, AL

**"Touch Twice,
In Jesus' Name"**

The BNF is a professional organization whose expansion over the last several years includes therapists, audiologists, EMTs, paramedics, pharmacists, and other medical personnel. We need you and we need your help! Please share the word. We need many more laborers especially in these days of His Harvest. Connect with us at the following websites:

baptistnursingfellowship.com
or
www.wmu.org/bnf

BNF CALL TO PRAYER

by Charlotte Wyckoff

"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart and a humble mind."

1 Peter 3:8 ESV

SAVE THE DATE: The Mission and Prayer Committee will hold its first Virtual Prayer Meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2021 @8:00 p.m. EST. The theme of the prayer meeting will be "Unity and Prayer."

BNF'S On Line Prayer Network

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us whatever we ask we know that we have what we asked of Him."

I John 5:14-15

PRAYER CONNECTS: Connects prayer needs and requests of BNF members and missionaries with "BNF Pray-ers" by email. All prayer requests are treated confidentially. Prayer request emails will be forwarded to the Prayer Connects coordinator who will submit prayer requests to a team of "pray-ers".

BNF membership will be confirmed and you will be emailed with Prayer Connects prayer.

· **PRAYER REQUESTS** will be sent out to BNF "Pray-ers" weekly by email.

· **URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS** will be sent by email immediately.

· **PRAYER REQUEST UPDATES** will be considered answered at the end of one month if no update is received.

· **PRAYER REQUESTS FOR ANOTHER NAMED PERSON** must be accompanied by that person's written permission when submitted.

· **MISSIONARY NURSES** may submit prayer requests. Any missionary nurse request submitted through other BNF members must be accompanied by written/email authorization from the missionary nurse when submitted.

BNF members may become "pray-ers" or send in prayer request by emailing Mission and Prayer Committee Member, Jane Burrus; eburrus@sc.rr.com and Charlotte Wyckoff Chairperson, charlottedunnwyckoff@gmail.com

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL THRU TELEMEDICINE

by Pam Allsbrook, MSN, RN, NCSN
BNF Educational Committee Chair

God, in His infinite wisdom, knows all things. Because of His vast incomprehensible knowledge, He has planned out the future; a good, pleasing, and perfect future. Who could ever have imagined that telemedicine would ever be a "thing". Well, God did and knowing that one day it would play a huge part in reaching the lost, He set the wheels in motion.

On January 19, BNF and MedAdvance hosted a Zoom conference showing how telemedicine can be used to reach people, both physically and spiritually. The conference was attended by twenty-six people. Led by Dr. Rebecca Naylor, *Dr. Whitley, and *Dr. Little, we learned about the latest technology and specifically, how telemedicine is being used today to cross closed borders.

They shared with us the story of how a young girl with seizures, whose family had tried so many avenues to cure her. Her family finally went to a believing church asking for prayer as a last resort. After being presented the gospel message, they became believers. With the help of telemedicine, she was diagnosed with a seizure disorder and given medications to control her seizures.

What a wonderful tool for witness both physical and spiritual has been given to us. We need to take this gift and go forward. How can BNF make a difference using telemedicine?



MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE AT THE SUMMIT

Regina Mobbs, RN Past BNF President

This year's annual BNF Summit at the WMU Building in Birmingham Alabama did not disappoint. In spite of the "no touch" and 6 feet distance environment for the "Touch Twice" themed meeting, my heart was fully blessed. From the arrangement of the meeting places and breakout sessions, to the sanitary and "Covid" guidelines followed with meals, my heart was at peace that God was honoring our presence.

This year's worship and Bible study leader was Beth Greer and she was a true blessing. She led us in old fashioned hymns as well as more contemporary music. The Bible study offered us reminders from Psalm 139, Matthew 8, and Leviticus 13 that even when we feel spiritually dead, He is never far away but always near. She used her music and testimony to remind us that He is able to bring our hearts back into spiritual alignment again.

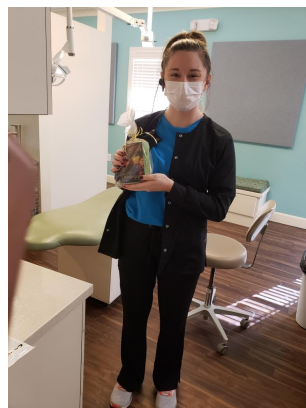
Missionaries Doug and Cheryl Derbyshire filled our minds and hearts with stories of healing, restoration, and salvation experiences as they work in Thailand. They truly seek to treat the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the Thai people as the Lord leads them.

Other presenters, Mark Whitworth and Kay Bender, Ph.D., RN offered encouragement and inspired self-evaluation of our place and purpose in this season of life. Myself and others were encouraged to do some soul searching and heart seeking to discover where we stand with our physical and spiritual well-being. We were reminded that when we seek Him he will help us in our unbelief.

Lots of smiles, laughs, tears, and joy were shared by all attendees. I personally went into the Summit with a low expectation of what God could do under the pandemic circumstances, however, BUT GOD. I was so encouraged by the new attendees that were present. He used Student Nurse Ministry, Pure Water Pure Love demonstration, World Craft Market, and Chaplaincy Ministry to remind me that He is always there to help me when I feel like I'm not useful or feel bound by all of the restrictions placed on the world during this season.

I pray next year you will join me for another mountain top experience. You will leave refreshed, inspired, comforted, and with your cup overflowing. Blessings in this Season.

"The employees LOVED the gift bags. The Muslim dentist at the Bham location told me today how much she appreciated the gift bag. They loved the masks and the snacks and everything really." **ANDREA MULLINS, BNF CHAPLAIN**



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BNF MEMBERSHIP AND IT'S BENEFITS?

By Judy Dillow, Resource Development Chair

I was many years into my nursing career when I became a BNF member and then learned about the scholarship money available to members. I must admit, I was impressed at the stewardship demonstrated by BNF. Did you know that the financial donations received toward each scholarship are invested through a Christian foundation? Or that annually a portion of the interest from each investment is made available to fund that year's scholarships? Do you know why the framework for the two scholarships available to our members is missional?

This is because BNF demonstrates what it believes in that one of the purposes for which it was established is "missional". This purpose is carried out when members lives are centered on being a witness for Jesus Christ. And within our profession of nursing, we have the great privilege of joining with God in His work in the world while serving those who have physical and spiritual needs. It is very humbling to stand on the shoulders of those who have demonstrated the wisdom and foresight to honor and serve God by being intentional. As a result, there are two "missional" scholarships, the Ellen D. Tabor Endowment and the Student Nurse Endowment, available to our members.

The Tabor Endowment provides monies for our Southern Baptist Missionaries to attend annual BNF meetings, acquire CEU's or additional training, and assists members to carry out healthcare ministry projects. The Student Nurse Endowment assists students who are dedicated to a career in missions with scholarship money toward the cost of nursing school or with ministry projects. The guidelines and applications for these scholarships have recently been reviewed and will be posted on the website in the very near future.

In the interim, should one wish to receive a copy of the guidelines and/or a scholarship application, please email Judy Dillow at jdillow@att.net with your request or question and I will ensure that you are sent what you need as soon as possible. Because of the pandemic causing delays in educational offerings, school schedules and potential mission opportunities, the deadline to apply for either of the scholarships has been extended from February 1st to March 1st. There will also be another funding cycle this year with application and supporting documentation due by July 15th. We encourage all who are interested to please contact us for assistance.

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AT A BNF SUMMIT

By Roberto Lugo

My name is Roberto Lugo. I am a Puerto Rican nurse based in the city of New Orleans for the past three years. Despite being a part of the Southern Baptist Convention for the past eleven years, it was not until two years ago that I heard about the Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

I made the decision to attend the Summit because I wanted to know more about BNF. This is the first time I have heard of a Christian nursing organization and I wanted to learn more about what it was about. During the time it lasted, I had the opportunity to share with other brothers and sisters in Christ, who, like me, are nurses and wish to put their profession at the service of the Kingdom.

When I was a teenager, I had a passion for serving Christ as a missionary. I had a very romantic idea that I saw myself dying for the Gospel's cause in some Islamic country. If it had been in my power, I would have dropped out of school and gone to serve as a missionary at the age of 14, but my father would not let me. However, he did not discourage me. On the contrary, he said, "Why don't you become a health professional? That way, you could serve people and practically demonstrate the Gospel of Christ." That was how from early in my adolescence, I was clear that I would serve people within the field of health. It was for this reason that I became a nurse.

Although life circumstances were not what I dreamed of in my teens, for many years, I was able to serve Christ as a church planter for the SBC and as an emergency room nurse in the city of San Germán, Puerto Rico.

As an ordained Southern Baptist minister, I am a fan of our iconic Christmas and Easter offerings, focused on sustaining missionaries from NAMB and IMB: The Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong Offerings. To my surprise, the Summit was held at the WMU headquarters. There, I had the opportunity to see some of these two women's belongings, which are on display.

What impressed me the most about the Summit was learning that BNF is the only mission-focused professional nursing organization globally. Knowing that our members are actively involved in missions revived a zeal like that I had as a child.

I am excited to be a part of BNF. I really want to get involved in short term missions where I can use my profession as an instrument of blessing to others. As a father and husband, I want my wife and children to get involved in missions. In the same way, I want to find ways in which the church I attend can be involved with BNF and together we can look for alternative ways to share the Gospel in New Orleans.

WELCOME 2021 BNF NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

By Marilyn Graves

New members are Jan Burton, Mary Floyd, and Marilyn Graves (chair). Our focus verse, *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10. Our first meeting was Thursday, January 18th via ZOOM. We began our work of looking for qualified BNF members who might serve as candidates for President-elect, Student Liaison, and Communication Chair. We used the interest surveys from The Summits from 2020 to match members with their interests. Pray that we will discover those that are "prepared to do good works," are current BNF members, and meet other qualifications for being a member of the National BNF Executive Committee. Please share with us names of BNF members you believe are qualified and willing to serve for these positions.