On International Nurses Day, May 12 2010, Archbishop Desmond Tutu led a special service at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s death. Over 2,200 nursing staff attended the service.

During the service, the Royal Mint presented Archbishop Tutu with a commemorative Florence Nightingale £2 coin. The Archbishop thanked the Royal Mint saying: “You … quite knocked me for a six when out of the blue so utterly unexpectedly you presented me with the first Florence

Nightingale commemorative gold coin. Had my complexion been different you would have seen how I blushed in being selected for such a distinct honour. Please convey my appreciation and deep gratitude to all concerned. God bless you.”

The commemorative coin, which was launched in conjunction with the FNIF/ICN publication of the modern edition of Nightingale’s classic Notes on Nursing: A Guide for Today’s Caregivers, can be purchased online at:

www.royalmint.com/store/BritishBase/UKFNBU.aspx


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Haitian nurses honoured by the International Committee of the Red Cross and given the Florence Nightingale coin

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is honouring three extraordinary nurses for their unwavering commitment to helping the sick and wounded. Michaëlle Collin, Germaine Pierre-Louis, and Jude Célorge will be presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest distinction a nurse or voluntary nursing aide working in armed conflict or natural disaster can receive, at a special ceremony in Port-au-Prince on 13 August 2010, the centennial of Florence Nightingale’s passing.

The Florence Nightingale Medal honours exceptional courage and devotion in caring for victims of these crisis situations.

In addition, the three nurses will receive a commemorative Florence Nightingale silver coin, shown here, which was launched this year by the Royal Mint in conjunction with the FNIF/ICN publication Notes on Nursing: A Guide for Today’s Caregivers.

Florence Nightingale Rose planted at Red Cross Museum

To commemorate the centenary of the death of Florence Nightingale and of Henri Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, a special planting of the Florence Nightingale Anniversary Rose was held at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum in Geneva on May 12, 2010. Shown above are Rosemary Bryant, President of ICN/ FNIF and Roger Mayou, Director of the Museum.
Danish Nursing students give generously to the Girl Child Education Fund

This year, the Danish Nursing Students (Sygeplejestuderendes Landssammenslutning SLS) made a generous donation to the Girl Child Education Fund through their student insurance company, Bauta Forsikring. For each nursing student who subscribed to the insurance company, Bauta committed to donate 100 DKK to a humanitarian cause. SLS chose the Girl Child Education Fund. The initiative was very popular and within a year had raised 68,000 DKK (US$ 11,526). We thank all those who participate in this fund raising initiative.

The Girl Child Education Fund continues to support more than 250 girls in the four countries: Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia. In total, 39 girls have graduated from the Fund since it began in 2005.

We were recently informed that one of the five GCEF graduates from Zambia has just entered nursing school. Another Zambian graduate kindly wrote us a letter to thank the GCEF for helping her to realise her dreams. We wish her, and all the GCEF graduates, the best of luck in their future endeavours and we extend her thanks to all those who have generously given to the GCEF and played a part in changing the lives of these girls.

Pictured here: Anne Granborg, CEO of the Danish Nurses Organisation (DNO), Grete Christensen, DNO President and David Benton, ICN CEO.
Washington National Cathedral Commemorative Service: Nurses donate to Girl Child Education Fund

On April 25, a Florence Nightingale Centennial Commemorative Global Service Celebrating Nursing was held at Washington National Cathedral to celebrate the 2010 International Year of the Nurse and the centennial year of the death of Florence Nightingale.

The organisers of this event, Sigma Theta Tau International, encouraged participants to make an offering to the Girl Child Education Fund. More than $4,000 was raised as a result.

Haiti to receive ICN Nursing Mobile Libraries in French - bibliothèques mobiles

On 12 January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the poorest country in the Americas, Haiti, and devastated its capital Port-au-Prince. The National School of Nursing in Port-au-Prince was completely destroyed, killing 200 nursing students. Many nurses lost their lives, were injured or lost their homes. ICN established the ICN Supporting Nurses and Nursing in Haiti Fund, whose aim is to strengthen nursing and education in Haiti.

More than 215,000 Swiss francs have been donated by nurses and nursing associations around the world. ICN has been working with several Swiss organisations including the Swiss Nurses Association to work towards the reconstruction of the national nursing school.

In addition, the Elsevier Foundation, a core partner in the ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library project, has granted ICN $15,000 to produce and deliver four French Mobile Libraries (bibliothèques mobiles) specially adapted for the post disaster situation in Haiti.

How to support FNIF

FNIF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving global health. It perpetuates Florence Nightingale’s legacy to nursing through its programme of expanding knowledge and practice and advancing care through research. FNIF complements and supports the objectives and work of the ICN. However, it needs funding to do so. We therefore count on our Friends’ support and the donations from individuals, corporations and philanthropic organisations. By becoming a Friend, you can contribute to global nursing and healthcare. Your donation will provide funding for initiatives such as the Girl Child Project, ICN Mobile Library, Leadership and continuing education for nurses.

If you would like to make a donation to FNIF, please go to:
www.fnif.org/friend.htm