Sikkim the Abode of the Angels

The significance of this title in the 21st Century is a challenge to the peoples, in particular the Health personnel, of Sikkim, and India.

While the accepted origin of the name Sikkim is that it is a combination of two words in the Limbu *Su*, which means "new", and *Khyim*, which means "palace" or house, in reference to the palace built by the state's first ruler, Phuntsok Namgyal. The Tibetan name for Sikkim is '*Denjong*, which means the "valley of rice"; so why is it thatSikkim is consistently referred to as the 'Abode of the Angels'?

This strategically placed, thumb-shaped, landlocked, least populous Indian State nestled in the Himalayas. is the third smallest in area after Delhi and Goa. Bordering Nepal in the west, Tibet (the People's Republic of China) to the north and east, and Bhutan in the south-east, with the Indian state of West Bengal to its south, was ruled by the Namgyal monarchy until 1975, when it became the twenty-second state of India withGangtok its capital and largest town.

While the official languages are English, Bhutia, Nepali, Lepcha, Limbu and Hindi, almost all written transactions are in English. Hinduism and Vajrayana Buddhism are the predominant religions.

Designated a 'Protected Area', with strict controls, it is not surprising that the peoples of Sikkim refer to themselves as peace loving quiet people. Saying no more, this indicates that the need for security is imposed by 'those across the borders'..

The terms **'New'**, '**Palace or House'** and **Valley of rice'** are identifiable and apt . However the commom reference to **' Sikkim the Abode of the Angels'** warrants a litte more consideration, because of its very great importance to Nurses and their families as well as to all Health personnel.

Abode or dwelling place - Angels are known to be heavenly beings 'created by God and sent forth as ministering spirits to minister to the heirs of salvation.' Hebrews 1:13-14.

But we also know that 'Lucifer, known as son of the morning, fell through pride and being cut down to the ground, weakened the nations.' Isaiah 14:12-20.

Therefore it is inevitable that, Sikkim will be the abode of both the 'heavenly angels ministering to the peoples' so that each one is equipped with love and compassion to execute true justice and mercy to his brother, as well as of 'fallen angles sent by Lucifer to weaken the nations'.

While on the one hand constant border problems, along with both covert and overt tensions within the political and religious sectors reflect the reality of the above e.g., areas recently opened with goodwill to neighbouring nations have been closed; a devout Buddhist family wanting their son and grandson blessed by their Karamapa were forced to go to another state in India for the ceremony because this revered gentleman's presence was unacceptable to the other 4 branches of the faith in Gangtok. Thus a small but most beautiful state is weakened having a direct negative affect on the whole nation.

References in the main body of this resume, reveal the truth and reality of God's great love and compassion for all people and the wonderful way in which He sends forth His Angels as ministering spirits ministering through peoples in all walks of life. They also highlight something of the negative effects that can be attributed to the work of Lucifer and 'fallen angels'.

It is worth noting for the benefit of those who may not be aware, that

'When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

All the nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats…

'Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ' Depart from Me, ye cursed, into the ever-lasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal. Mathew 25:31,32.41,46

Hope
- **is integral to life,**
- **is relevant to all,**
- **has different outcomes.**

In every state and in every nation people, and not the least Nurses, are faced with the reality of living a life of conflict in:

A fallen world under the influence of the evil one, that is materialistic, seeking as its primary goal, earthly riches, success power, recognition, status and authority, where much time and energy that includes the risk of life, is spent in relentless pursuit of these things for personal gain..

And the Kingdom of God, which is a moral and spiritual kingdom characterized by righteousness and peace, where every person has access, to the wisdom, counsel and encouragement of the Holy Spirit. A kingdom wherein reconciliation is central and therefore achievable.

With this background may each Nurse reading, and through discussion, be encouraged and inspired as the different facets of the Sikkim experience unfold.

The LORD Jesus Christ made it clear when praying to God His Father and ours {recorded in John 17}.

That Nurses, and any one who so desires, can live a victorious life and not be overcome by the negative things of this world .

"I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one".

May the Kingdom Power become an exciting reality in each Nurse's life.