

NURSING WITH A DIFFERENCE

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

"Let Each Day Be Your Masterpiece" Galatians 6:9

Background Paper on People Groups in Assam and the North East.

Entering the Garden of Suffering and Fragrance in Nursing.

1. 'The Shadow'!

- What is lurking in the 'Shadows' that insidiously works to destroy Nurses and Nursing ?
- Nurses families and Communities?
- Have we lost our way?
- Fences everywhere! Jungle everywhere!

There is a collective lesson we learn from the 'Moon Men' (Astronauts)

"Whatever they took with them, they brought back ten-fold, like coals crushed to diamonds. Through Apollo, the Moon did what it has always done: it shone fresh light on what was already there."

To crush the coals, to find the diamonds, to get fresh light, was essential and had to take time, if what follows is to help, at least ten-fold, to meet the request of the Deputy Director Nursing of Assam, for some practical suggestion.

Inner Logic that Holds the Structure of Meaning Together

- Both similarities and differences can provide fuel that burns until all is consumed.
- A fresh look at the key factors which fracture, break and destroys society and Nursing.
- Without this, people differences can be horribly distorted by differing frames of reference.
- Confirmation of the uniqueness, beauty and fragrance of each Nurse in Assam as a Masterpiece of God's creation, is essential, to bring deep healing and *reconciliation to society through Nursing*

Language Lessons From Assam

Truly the gateway to the seven sister States of the North East of India, Assam has more than 60 of the nations 4,635 known People Groups.

Languages of the Nation comprise 94 main Indo-Aryan; 23 main Dravidian, 16 main Austo-Asiatic, 80 main Sino-Tibetan languages. Add to this Arabic and other languages from large-scale immigration and infiltration, highlights the major role of language in Assam.

The ubiquitous but very powerful caste system – Forward Castes; Backward Castes; Scheduled castes or Dalits; Tribal casts or Adivasi, as well as those not considered part of the caste system - Syrians , refugees, Iranians and Afghans.

The scene is simultaneously set for:

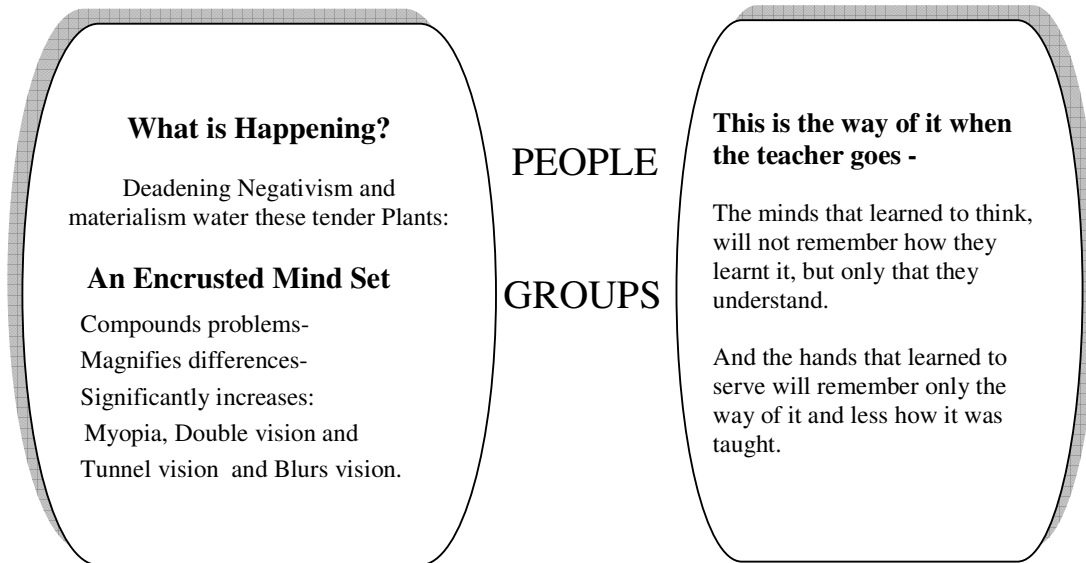
- *Self-protection, racial-religious clustering, misunderstanding, generating fear, distrust and misplaced power; internal/external aggression and conflict so evident in violence.*
- *Forgiveness, reconciliation, personal and people enrichment accompanied by and leading to economically viable State, Regional and National development.*

In which of these two scenarios ought Nursing to be a part?

2. *A Tongue of Confusion!*

A Lost Tongue!

A Tongue of LOVE



Culture and Religion are intricately entwined to the extent that neither is developed for the good of man. The beauty and richness of culture is lost – the strength of true justice and mercy is lost.

History and Literature have been severely attacked by well meaning but misguided individuals and groups.

The beauty of Music and Singing has been significantly exchanged for the pounding emptiness of tuneless noise with drooling repetition of words void of substance.

The rich luster, amazing depth and extensiveness of Creativity that can penetrate and bring joy into every type of work and aspect of life, have been largely exchanged for an all out blitz of 10 second flashes that create an insatiable appetite of more – **of more emptiness!**

Politics, Religion and Culture have almost completely merged to form a syndrome, similar in nature to the fear pain tension syndrome. The three elements in this syndrome are constantly rearing and out of canter, like horses Jumping, prancing and repeatedly reversing on a merry-go-round.

***THE GREAT GOD MAMMON has been given pride of place,
Plus the freedom and the ruthlessness, to extort.***

The overwhelmingly high price to Nursing includes:

- Deceiving and being deceived
- Being constantly 'driven'.
- Subtle but powerful imposition of limitations on Nurses' freedom to think - to think deeply – to think critically – to think creatively.
- Being trapped into, rather than *in control* of situations.

Nursing Challenge!

ARE NURSES, Educators and Administrators, teaching only 'Professional Nursing' based on espoused scientific factors and technology?

Are we continually shooting arrows into the air, aiming at anything or everything?

The arrow falls into the earth – we know not where!

Are we, in the midst of life, in death?

Are we failing to exercise faith and teach God's value of life, as embodied in the religions of the world?

Are we causing ourselves to be trapped in, and enmeshed, in the unenviable situation we find ourselves in?

Have we become prisoners in our own profession?

3. A Little Introspection

Provides a necessary springboard to more effectively assess where we are and where are we going?

- A well qualified Nurse feels compelled to lower her voice when stating that she is a tribal!
- Each reacts to some or other man-made category into which he/she has been slotted by birth.
- Middle class is determined by spending power that brings opportunity, hence the more affluent a nation becomes (e.g., India or New Zealand), the larger the middle class sector. True justice becomes submerged, if not lost, with increasing worldly wisdom.
- The 'Upper Crust' (sounds more refined than pseudo-intelligentsia!) generate charisma. Values are dictated more by hereditary, worldly wisdom and money power than moral rectitude. This combination crumbles easily leaving a mess for others to deal with.
- The Intelligentsia in reality, come from, and belong to every people group. Values come from reasoned thinking, critical analysis, moral rectitude, progressive maturity of input into life, divine wisdom and insight that transcends racial, ethnic, political and religious barriers, through an innate genuineness that commands respect.

Who Chooses

Which people group he or she will be born into?

The strata of society he/she will inherit?

Which Nation he/she will be born into?

The heritage of one or more different nationalities and languages by birth?

Which language will be his/her 'Mother tongue', 'Heart Language' or 'National Language'?

Which culture he/she will be born into?

What colour his/her skin, eyes or hair will be?

His/her ancestral religion or what parents believe?

His/her blood group

His/her DNA type

Man Does Choose

1. To exercise, or not exercise, his/her will power.
2. To confront or retreat from the reality of difficult situations.
3. To maximize his/her opportunities for self-development.
4. To exploit, or not to exploit, other people.
5. To acquiesce and follow, or to stand quietly and confidently for truth, justice and integrity.
6. To have or not have faith in:
 - A Living God, or in any of the millions of gods,
 - One, or all religions,
 - The Creator, or the Created,
 - The Occult or Spiritualism, or any of the many other 'isms' identified in the many philosophies of the world.

4. Nurses and Choices!

Too many well-intended choices have had unintended consequences in Nursing. Wise Nurses will take a fresh approach, on a wider and deeper knowledge base for Choices, Selection and Decision-making.

5. AD 2005 - People Groups Versus Tribes!

Togetherness – unity – trust - all directed towards self-protection, development and control.

- *These are integral to the concept of 'People group' or 'Tribe', no matter what the language.*
- *The family is the reason for and foundation of 'People groups' and 'Tribes' and of Nations.*
- *With the strength of the family being continuously eroded in every society, these terms have become synonymous with, and ultimately lost within, the 'self' of 'my rights'.*
- *Regrettably, this opens a whole new interpretation, based upon the power of debasement, through political and financial consumerism .*
- *The individual Nurse and people group, become enmeshed and finally submerged in multiple, unholy double-binds. "Is this the only way to survive?"*
- *All peoples originate from 'A TRIBE' in other words 'A RACE' inherent in both phrases is consanguinity or in other words the relationship, kindred, blood and parentage.*

Nursing in AD20005

To survive and recover its resilience needs:

- To take a leap forward, as a distinctive profession with the ability and fortitude to transcend the multiple ethno-cultural and religious barriers.
- To redress some of the seriously ill attributes of Health Service delivery
- Requires Nurses with divinely inspired vision, wisdom and tenacity.

Blood

While synonymous with life, blood has traditionally been referred to from an erroneous basis of understanding, that has contributed to ethno-cultural discrimination.

Sayings such as 'Blood is thicker than water' fuels distrust, insecurity giving rise to unfounded fear and racism.

“Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing...has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation...that they should seek the LORD,...though He is not far from each one of us.” Acts 17:23,27

This is proven by the universal freedom and willingness of all peoples to give blood to help anyone anywhere.

6. Rebels without a Cause

- **Being rebels without a worthy cause, creates rebels with a cause.** It suggests man has chosen to be disobedient to God's laws to "be holy" and to "Love one another as He loves us".
- Nursing is faced with rebels within the profession and from without. The culture of corruption is now pandemic, compounding cultural isolation.
- The USA 's latest demand is for 200,000 Doctors and 800,000 Nurses.
- The USA's two key targets for poaching and active recruitment are India and Africa. **Why?**
- USA is not prepared to fund her own costly training programs, and has no concern for the needs of the peoples of India or Africa, let alone the burden they inflict on the Health Services in these and other nations.
- Extortion, benefits a few for a limited time. It leads to unimaginable suffering for millions by actively and ruthlessly destroying essential health services and the economy, of already overburdened nations.
- The UK Nursing Council consistently voices concern for Nurses and Health Services in targeted Nations.
- Nurses in Assam are subjected to extortion. The rebels claim, recognized as valid by Nurses, is their marginalization in receiving health services and discrimination against their 'own' in the services.

We cannot keep our sin hidden.

We cannot cleanse ourselves.

The Law condemns but cannot cleanse or reconcile.

Avenging - Atonement - Reconciliation?

Blood has been an avenger for personal injury since the first murder.

The chief responsibility for avenging shed blood devolved on the victims next of kin.

Atonement = "Making one", a process of bringing those who are estranged into unity.

Reconciliation deals with the problems caused by sin or estrangement of
Man to God, and Man to Man.

Reconciliation brings us into a right relationship with God and Man.

God gave His Son Jesus Christ to avenge all our sin in His precious blood. He has made atonement for us on the Cross - - we can be made clean - we can be reconciled.

What joy! Nurses can become competent purveyors of reconciliation.

7. Means and Ends

With Reconciliation as our goal, the means we employ must be soundly based and well founded.

- It is therefore timely that we seriously reconsider some of these issues during the process of strategy development, to redress some of what Nurses in Assam and so many States and Countries are facing.
- **Reconciliation is coming together in a bond of true communion.** It is our relationship - person with person, (this we know, but too often fail to achieve), and **person with the Person of God**, is essential to learn how to achieve the former. Both are an act of our mind and will. The choice is ours.
- Many Nurses do not realize that God chose us to be a unique masterpiece of His creation. He gave us the freedom to choose and ability to exercise that choice. Our choices need to be powered by His wisdom, and He is waiting to grant us both the wisdom and power as soon as we choose to receive it.

The End for Nurses and Nursing

- **The Revelation is a gracious gift of truths for all peoples.** Given to strengthen and encourage all to overcome with a clear understanding of God's purpose and plan for us.
- The means Nurses choose to reach the end, requires a valid beginning. Let us unite to search out and appropriate that which will enable us to **change direction** or **redirect our efforts**:

The relevance of Genesis, the book of the Generations, to Nurses

- History and all major religions and philosophies give credence to the great and devastating universal "Flood" that wiped out all the peoples of the world who refused to heed the warning and enter the ARK. Only Noah, his wife, three sons and their wives entered. Thus we know that from these eight people, the population of the world has been constituted as we know it today. Our common heritage.
- God gave the Covenant to Noah and all the human race to follow that we might know that His earlier Covenant with Adam remained effective with only one addition, the principle of human government which includes **the responsibility of suppressing the outbreak of sin and violence**:
 1. **The responsibility** to repopulate the earth is reaffirmed.
 2. **The subjection** of the animal kingdom to man is reaffirmed.
 3. **Man is permitted** to eat the flesh of animals but not the blood.
 4. **The sacredness** of human life is established.
 5. **This covenant is confirmed** to Noah, all mankind, and every living creature on the face of the earth.
 6. **The promise** is given never to destroy the earth again by a universal flood. The next time God destroys the earth, the means will be by fire.
 7. **The Rainbow** is a designated testimony of the existence of this covenant. As long as we see the rainbow in the sky, we are assured of God's promise and faithfulness.
- Genesis gives to us the beginnings of almost everything including the universe, life, man, death, marriage, sin, redemption, family, literature, cities, art, language, sacrifice and even Midwives.
- It ratifies three central promises and blessings for protection, freedom, and promotion of welfare.

Selfishness uses any means at any cost, to achieve its ends.

Mahatma Gandhi permitted *only means based on truth and applied with integrity* – he achieved freedom for India and a lesson for the whole world.

Florence Nightingale and her Nurses used *only the means of true justice and mercy every man for his brother*, to achieve standards and international recognition for Nurses and Nursing.

8. Revelation - Key to the process of Reconciliation through Nursing

- Revelation is a book of consummation of the divine program of redemption brought to fruition.
- It is the unveiling or disclosure of the prophecies of God's plan which could not be otherwise known. It is a revelation about Jesus Christ.

“...A strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book...

...No man in heaven or under the earth was able to open the book or look at it... I wept much... one said: Weep not: Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seven seals.”

And they sang a new song, saying “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation... and have made us... and we shall...”

- No one need be excluded. God chose to bring His salvation to all peoples through Jesus Christ who was born as man into a Tribe. Referred to as the “Lion of Judah”. Who is coming again as final Judge of all peoples, including the deceivers - the Devil, False Prophet and Beast. While no secret, this is little understood.
- These facts are freely acknowledged in the world through everyday conversation and the media by references to the “End times”, or the “Great or final judgment”.
- *Only Nurses can address the implications of the above to Nursing and Patient care.*

9. The Value of Life

Nursing, with the world, rests on three things:

1. **The Law**
2. **Divine Service**
3. **Love and Charity.**

- Nurses have a Constitutional responsibility to protect every religious and ethnic minority.
- Nurses need to influence Legislation (Not in an aggressive manner or with a timid wail) with the quiet confidence of well researched and well presented documentation that has been directed, inspired and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15-55-57

Blessings Freely Available for Every Nurse

Karl Barth, in speaking to Prisoners in Life states:

- **In place of sin is forgiveness**
- **In place of fate is mercy**
- **In place of the grave is eternal life**
- **In place of chance is God's will**
- **The Holy Spirit always points to Christ.**

10. Freedom to receive and use gifts and blessings

- Most, if not all, Nurses have no hesitation in acknowledging much of what is gnawing into them in Nursing.
- Most, if not all, Nurses from every Religion, have no difficulty in identifying the emptiness of Religion to help in the practical reality of life.
- Many Nurses are gripped with religious fervor, but no peace. They seek to appease the gods, or hide in a delusion, but the gods are not appeased and the problems are compounded, as in the process, patient care and professional responsibilities are sadly neglected .
- Nurses are burdened (Deep down - deep within) in the knowledge, but where is the wisdom to do?

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that the judgment” Hebrews 9:27

- We see the power of good flowing within and out of every city, state and nation. At the same time we see the unabated flow of selfish indifference that is eating into and destroying others.
- We see the sensitive ‘Flash points’ that have the power of massive destruction. We see the ‘Peace-making processes’ throughout the world failing, or at the best, bringing a measure of fragile peace that splinters and breaks.

The hour is late, we must waste no more time without sharing the resources, that God in His grace and mercy, is waiting to pour into our life. Into the lives of our families and of all patients/clients and our co-workers.

Do we want in our life and in our Profession?...

The **Conciliatory** power of love and peace?

The **Constraining** power of truth justice, mercy and compassion?

The **Correcting** power of the Holy Spirit to guard and keep us from all wrong and evil?

A **Constant** flow of the soul **Cleansing** power of the water of Life?

The **Creative** power of grace and beauty that can transform lives and institutions?

The **Convicting** and **Convincing** power without which there can be no forgiveness or healing?

The **Convicting Constraining** power of faith that overcomes, in the harsh reality of life?

The **Combination** of righteous and holy power that stands with authority on AGAPE love?

True **Communion** with God so that we can bring His love and **Compassion** to patients and peoples?

To be **Chosen** and **Called** to be a **Candle** bringing light and life and hope into the world of suffering?

To exchange **Corruption** for **incorruption**?

To **Come** and be filled with all the treasures of God's goodness?

To be **Counted** among the faithful in the great and final judgment day?

Complete Wholeness?

Nursing With A Difference believes that Nurses genuinely DO want the above.

Therefore we offer our resources and services, as well as a three week live in workshop, for groups of ten Nurse Leaders from Assam.

The expected outcome will be the ongoing developmental process of those areas in Nursing that have been neglected or have become, negating forces.

11. Prem Seva (Love in Service)

The dichotomy between home and hospital, when abstract theories and philosophy are replaced with a more realistic understanding and application of Prem Seva, blessings will begin to flow in Nursing.

This hymn, written by internationally acclaimed, J. Edwin Orr, when he went to New Zealand in 1936, was inspired by a Maori melody 'Now is the Hour' (Haeremai) sung to him by four young Maori girls as he left the shores of New Zealand.

It is the fruit arising from the fusion of good; male and female, highly educated and limited education, black and white, English and Maori races and languages, maturity and immaturity, financially secure and financially insecure.

This bicultural instrument, God has chosen to take and use around the world, to counter the spirit of provocation that spawns the curse of conflict, chaos and confusion. And to replace it with eternal blessings.

Now is the hour for Nurses in Assam to sing

Search Me O God

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Saviour, know my thoughts I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

I praise You, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill Your Word and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify Your name.

Lord, take my life and make it wholly Yours;
Fill my poor heart with Your great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord – in me abide.

O Holy Spirit, revival comes from You;
Send a revival – start the work in me.
Your Word declares You will supply our need;
For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

This song offers a sound basis whereby the previous well earned reputation of Nursing in Assam, that influenced the whole of the Health Services in North East India and gained national and international recognition could, be regained and surpassed.