

PART 5 Thankfulness stimulates healthy projections

Current Efforts

Work shops and seminars at National and State level constantly seek to address pressing issues which a small percentage of Nurses only are able to avail.

Institutional and District Inservice or Continuing education programs are in the main unavailable, and at times, regrettably when available, are politically and financially constrained.

Example how much longer will we be advocating 'AIDS AWARENESS' and not addressing the real issues with something practical that works to change peoples lives and their perception?

Is there nothing that will 'quicken' the heart of men and women, young and old?

Is there nothing that will encourage or lead to total life transformation, enrichment and fulfillment?

Nurses including some with a Master's degree selected by the State Government to attend a program on the management of AIDS, a common problem of great concern in the North East, triggered concern:

Their response was most enthusiastic, clearly and with marked positive relief at the logic of accepting the inevitable, along with a high level of dependence on physical factor prevention.

Handouts reinforced this extremely partial approach which, with the best will in the world, does nothing to prevent or significantly control the AIDS pandemic. There is no real hope for victims or potential victims of the life destroying process called AIDS. ***Our approach proved otherwise.***

What next?

There is no doubt that Nurses need to work on a positive and meaningful life changing process that will give Nursing new life and fresh impetus.

Because this is both realistic and possible. It is not pie in the sky.

The Spider's web catches insects. Arachnida, the common name of a well-known class of animals, many of them remarkable for spinning webs for taking their prey and forming a convenient habitation.

The Arachnoid resembling a spider's web, **anatomically** applied to the semi-transparent thin membrane which is spread over the brain and pia mater and **botanically** having hair that gives the appearance of being covered with a cobweb.

Fear and Appearance - Beware!

1. Nurses caught in the web of Nursing who do not want to Nurse?
2. Nurse Educators caught in the web of Nursing Education without a heart, mind or spirit for Nursing?
3. Nurses on the treadmill of family and professional responsibilities caught in the whirl of increasingly amoral social mores and expectations that, *even when undefined because 'no one has time'*, insidiously eats into the very being of every Nurse
4. Nurses caught in the web of addiction, be it:
 - 'Pan chewing',
 - 'Financial gain by growing Beetle nut trees, even when not chewing it themselves, thus actively promoting drug dependency to feed their own albeit different addiction',
 - 'Ever increasing paper work that serves only to complicate and obscure the reality of true service in Nursing',
 - 'Devising more ingenious self-protective methods for a fragile sensitive ego.

Thinking in action

Experience or Revelation

With the above mind set and orientation in the inevitably stressful situations, the true voice of Nurses is like leaves blown in the wind, tossed and turned, and battered by the unseen elements.

No matter how beautiful each one, they float or are tossed about in the air until descending to make a carpet or blanket of leaves that superficially covers the winter mud. In time the beauty of each leaf is changed either to mulch or to be covered and obscured.

Thus the leaves themselves cannot protect themselves, nor can they bring forth life. Yet the Almighty Sovereign God who created them to bring joy and beauty into the world, can, out of the mulch of life bring regeneration and lasting beauty, now and for eternity. *His wisdom is available to Nurses.*

Revelation and Diligence

Spider-line is one thread from a Spider's web ingeniously substituted for wires in a micrometer scale.

Spider-webs are specifically used to aid the healing of wounds without the aid of antibiotics.

Such creative ingenuity comes from the Father of all true wisdom. *Nurses need and can have this.*

Revelation and Redirection

God cannot be controlled by our actions.

As a profession Nurses have forgotten and failed to heed God's commission when He created us:

"And God blessed them (us) and said to them (us) be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it...

...and look I have given you..." Genesis 1:28-30

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save;

Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God;

And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear..." Isaiah 59:1-2

Revelation and Reality

The human side of our lives and Nursing are identified in the web of current day circumstances in Nursing.

The reality lies in the *undetected sacredness* of circumstances that will only be revealed as we unitedly "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" in every detail.

The Human side

"...Their web will not become garments,

Nor will they cover themselves with their works,

For their works are works of iniquity;

Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity;

...Whoever takes that way shall not

Current Circumstances

"So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,

Whose confidence is cut off, and whose trust is a spider's web.

He leans on his house, but it does not stand.

He holds it fast but it does not endure

Thinking together crosses barriers

When Nurses unite to trust the God of salvation to reveal the undetected sacredness within every detail of our circumstances then we will begin to rejoice with joy unspeakable as we experience Him working a mighty transforming work in us and through us in every area of the health services, our homes and communities.

God has worked amazing things in and through the life of individual Nurses in each Nation who, with no public acclamation, steadfastly labored to significantly strengthen present day good in Nursing.

How much more would the same God do in and through Nursing when groups of Nurses, Institution-wise, District and State-wise, come together to heed His commandments, to seek clear direction personally and professionally, and to consciously 'Let the mind of Christ dwell in them richly'?

Nursing per se has many well thought out recommendations from much goal directed research by WHO, endless official Commissions and from basic ordinary thinking Nurses as well as those with a Doctorate in Nursing.

However, the current crises clearly indicates that the much sought after change has not been achieved, *because our faith focus is on the God of Religion and not on the Person of God.*

Conclusion or Commencement

Conclusion

Any conclusion that does not result in the 'good wholesome fruit of change', is of necessity 'Shelved', to be effectively hidden away in a mound of paper from the spotlight and camera.

Challenge

Until Nursing, within one State in India:

Is able to demonstrate, what Nurses and Health Officials know ought to be,

BUT have been unable to achieve except on paper and discourse,

NO lasting break through can occur in the current Nursing Education-Service dilemma.

Commencement

The following recommendations are therefore presented to Nurses in the State of Meghalaya that has so very much to offer Nursing throughout India and the world.

Commencement always results from a fresh vision.

Vision yoked with courage, perseverance and fortitude to achieve the humanly impossible.

Irony and Justice

Nurses need to understand that the political powers, both government and non-government, are resistant to the kind of *policy for practice* changes that Nurses need in effecting order to properly minister to all peoples requiring Nursing services.

Changes Nurses could well make to begin to transform the health services starting with staffing.

Neither the *principalities and powers of evil* nor the *political man* want the kind of changes that Nurses could make.

Thinking through resistance

The main reason for this extreme and tenaciously strong resistance is twofold:

- 1 Nurses, when organized and challenging the mismanagement of health services by demonstrating a better and more effective way of meeting real health needs, are perceived as undermining the acceptable, covert and unwritten law of injustice.
- 2 The superiority factor, avariciousness and greed, self-aggrandizement and pseudo intellectualism-cum-compassion elements will all be exposed.

Politically and socially demeaned Nurses are weak. Weak Nurses feed weak Health Services by feeding those ‘in the stronghold’ through their suffering and unmet demands.

Florence Nightingale and *Mary Seacole*, ‘acted’, and in so doing not only challenged, but painfully and effectively moved the British Government and Military in Britain, Scutari and India, as well as influencing Health service administration throughout the world.

Wangari Maathai the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate whose perseverance in environmental work in Kenya initially brought forth wrath and resistance. Wangari states “We understood that its members (the Government) fought us, not because we’d planted trees but because we had organized and challenged the mismanagement of the environment”.

In or Out of Focus

To see and profit by the errors of others as well as by their success, is the responsibility of all Nurses.

We inherit the wisdom of our achievements and of our predecessors as well as the unintended consequences of their and our decisions.

Politics is power	}	Ugly	}	Evidenced	}	BUT
Education is power	}	Corrupt	}	in	}	It
Money is power	}	Greedy	}	Nursing and in	}	Need not
Statis is power	}	Self-interest	}	The Health Services.	}	Be so.

We are like the world of creation, dark and chaotic until the Spirit of God moves and there is light.

Nurses need to see behind and into things with spiritual perception.

The world needs Nurses who see and have the courage to act.

Reconciliation

Is the act of reconciling parties at variance,
 Renewal of friendship after disagreement or enmity,
 The act of harmonizing or
 Making consistent agreement on things seemingly
 opposite or inconsistent.

It is atonement and it is expiation.

*Nurses who experience
 reconciliation through this way
 are well able to be instruments
 of reconciliation in the Health
 Services of the Nations.*