

NURSING WITH A DIFFERENCE

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

“Let Each Day Be Your Masterpiece.” Galatians 6:9

Email: <sdknwad@yahoo.co.uk>

Website: www.nursingwad.org

Telephone 0091-11- 55733623

A TRIBUTE TO NURSES IN SRI LANKA

By Sonia D Kapoor

How best to convey something of the present values in Nursing as well as for Nursing in the future that I experienced during the three full months spent in your lovely Island has been a constant challenge since my return at the end of November 2003.

*“Oh, give thanks to the LORD for His mercy endures
for ever.” Psalm 106:1*

What a privilege I had-

Privilege brings responsibility-

Responsibility that is grounded in integrity-

Responsibility with integrity will lead to significant change-

Change in Nursing is a personal professional growth phenomenon

In which we are all involved

Nurses in Sri Lanka with Nurses worldwide.

Nursing With A Difference Input

1. The free distribution of 1000 sets of Modules that amounted to S.L.Rs.8, 63,543.96 or Rs.8.64 Lakh.
2. Prior to the Modules leaving India and throughout the process of distribution, Trust Members prayed with confidence for God’s wisdom and gracious blessings for each Nurse who would receive the Modules for He alone knows the real need of each Nurse reading and selecting what she/he needs to enhance the quality of Nursing services and education with accompanying personal job satisfaction.
3. When distributing the Modules, the most senior Nurse present in almost every situation, accorded me the freedom to pray for each Nurse, his/her husband and family, and the institution in which they were employed.
4. Thus a prayer of thanksgiving was offered to the Almighty Sovereign God before whom we had taken our pledge, for every Nurse, School, College or Nursing Service Ward/Unit/Library and Institution.
5. The freedom to open the Modules and introduce thousands of Nurses through interactive involvement to the learning/teaching content, was another privilege the fruit of which was real joy in seeing Nurses for whom English is a second language obviously encouraged.
6. Trust Members remain faithful by continuing to pray, individually daily and weekly in small groups for every Nurse in Sri Lanka. Initially our prayers were *prayers of faith* now after my three months of interacting with Nurses of every level our prayers are very specific – *goal directed towards the needs expressed by the Sri Lankan Nurses themselves.*
- 7 *We sowed faithfully with integrity;* the Nurses in Sri Lanka *received willingly.* Faith and works go hand in hand, because we asked God to sanctify our offering to the Nurses in Sri Lanka – We can trust Him who called us into Nursing to “*water the ‘good seed’ that He sanctified for us to sow and to ‘bring forth fruit – good fruit – abundant fruit in and through the life of every Nurse in Sri Lanka.*”

The following account is presented so that individual Nurses in Sri Lanka may have a more comprehensive picture of what they with us were involved in. As you take time to read on please make note and inform us as soon as possible of any queries or contrary opinion as well as suggestions to overcome omissions.

***BLESSINGS and CHALLENGES when SHARING with NURSES in the
HEALTH SERVICES of SRI LANKA***

22 AUGUST to 18 NOVEMBER 2003

Entering The Arena

Concern and desire led to an initial attempt to visit Nurses in Sri Lanka 4 years ago. Clearly it was not the right time.

A Nation of 9 Provinces rich in such natural resources as tea, textiles, gems, diamonds and other precious stones, rubber, coconut both ordinary and King Coconuts, fishing, agriculture, Palm oil, Cinnamon and other spices, good tourist attractions, employment opportunities for overseas skills e.g., an official website states the need for thousands of Nurses with reference to intensive recruiting of large numbers from India.

Concern and desire instead of fading away became a commitment to be realized as part of our accepted responsibility:

**Nurses helping Nurses to be better equipped
Nurses singing with a Difference to inspire, encourage and edify
Nurse's families helping Nurses to build a Healthy Nation.**

Once the decision was made that Nurses in Sri Lanka were our next responsibility, things moved fast and within barely five weeks 1000 sets of Modules had been packed by Trust Members and taken over by the Shipping Company and flight arrangements confirmed. The New Zealand and Sri Lankan High Commissions both contributed significantly with advice, valuable information and good contacts.

Confirmation of the seal of God's approval on our plans and activities came in the *countless unexpected blessings* experienced through the help, far beyond the call of duty, that we received from total strangers. How we thanked God for the wonderful ways in which He drew us together in a bond of friendship be it with Government officials, the Shipping Company, High Commissions and much more.

1st CHALLENGE

**Difficulty in finding the
'Nurse Advisor' for the Nation
Was clearly linked to the status and reputation of Nurses-**

Her designation of Chief Nursing Officer was eventually ascertained.

Having been given names of several Doctors including that of the Director General of Health my determination to meet first the CNO was realized through the WHO Nursing Division providing the contact details of the President of the Trained Nurses Association and immediate past CNO.

This proved providential due to the tenacious political, religious and medical control of Nurses.

BLESSINGS

In retrospect the greatest blessing from this challenge was God's provision for "He who is holy, He who is true is He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": Revelation 3:7

Nurses in Sri Lanka were obviously encouraged and expressed appreciation in a variety of ways for this commonly accepted courtesy from a professional colleague that is not normally accorded them.

Blessings bring Hope in Nursing "That we will all be of one mind, having compassion for one another, we will love as brothers, we will be tenderhearted, and we will be courteous to each other".
1 Peter 3:8

Crocodile Tears & Political Expediency or Genuine Concern?

Doctors met in India and on arrival in Sri Lanka expressed great concern that Nursing in Sri Lanka was at its lowest. I was advised to visit as many areas as possible *albeit with a clear element of doubt that little good could come from my visit*. Limitations of language and of time with no follow up were seen as major barriers.

Miss. Kusum Vithana (President TNA and Rtd. CNO) was not available when I phoned Sri Lanka, but the response by the Nurse answering was warm, welcoming and encouraging. I sent an email not to meet me as I would wait at the airport till morning and come by local bus to avoid burdening busy Nurses at 3.0am.

The email was not received no doubt due to the fact that emails for the Trained Nurses Association came through the Ministry. *A facility that gives selective powerful control to non-Nurses.*

BLESSINGS

A warm welcome initially by those in the Nurses' Quarters – Kusum Vithana, first by phone then in person. At 3pm by the Principal and Tutors who invited me to address over 150 Post Basic Students of Nursing Administration and Education. And all within 12 hours of arriving in Sri Lanka and 5 hours of arriving at the Nurse's Quarters in Hospital Square, Colombo.

Kusum's introduction included reference to my determination to give courtesy and due respect to the Nurse Leaders whose right and privilege it was to introduce me to the DGHS and other officials.

A delicious chocolate cake and tea with the PBSN Principal and Staff was a lovely conclusion to this progressive welcome by members of the Trained Nurses Association, Nursing Service and Nursing Education including a practical presentation - tin of **Snax biscuits** - was an acknowledgement of a more significant bond that quickly grows between professional Nurses. *Language was no barrier.*

Kusum's effort to get me housed with a widowed Nurse who had resigned to manage her estates, was the next providential provision resulting in an invitation to accompany her to Galle next day.

This offer enabled Kusum with her grace and wisdom to introduce me to the CNO and his Senior Nursing Officers of the two large Teaching Hospitals in Galle. The rapidity with which these Nurses all welcomed me and the rapport we experienced within a few short minutes opened vistas that gave me valuable insights into Nursing challenges locally and Nationally. *Language was no barrier.*

To the Doctors who expressed genuine fear that no useful outcome and nothing of lasting good, could come out of my brief interaction with the Nurses of Sri Lanka plus the futility of the exercise when no follow up was possible I say with confidence:

THAT

“He who begins a good work in each of our lives will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...who said ‘the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things’...” Philipians 1:6/John14:26

My job was to be faithful with what had been entrusted to me. The Nurses of Sri Lanka responded wonderfully within the sever constraints imposed upon them.

I am confident that *the desire of the heart* of all the Nurses I met *is good*. God looks into the heart of man and my task and that of the Nursing With A Difference Trust now is to pray that the ‘Helper’ will complete what I was privileged by the grace of God to commence, in a far more wonderful way than any one person could ever hope or expect to do.

True sharing at a deep level, is I believe, a gift from our Creator who draws us together in a bond of understanding. Our responsibility is to use the seeds of such sharing with wisdom and sensitivity to bring forth abundant good fruit.

This I have endeavored to do in the following resume which I trust will encourage Nurses in Sri Lanka and around the world to pray for wisdom in dealing with the many challenges and in strengthening each other to work together with an enduring vision to effect positive changes in the Health Services.

2nd CHALLENGE

Gaining Entrance to the Hospitals to meet Nurses in Sri Lanka

Miss Kusum Vithani was an ideal person to introduce me to the Director of Nursing (Medical Services) Mrs. Dharma De Silver and Director of Nursing (Public Health Services) Mrs. Daya Kumarage, the Director General of Health and all the other officials in the Ministry.

The prompt written request from the DGHS that my proposal be discussed and report submitted was appreciated.

The DDG gave permission for me to conduct programs in the National Hospital only, with a written report to be submitted to him by the CNO prior to my entering other institutions in Colombo.

His comment 'Our Nurses may not like what you have to offer', while heeded, did not constitute a concern or act as a deterrent.

It was however refuted in countless ways during 3 months of daily interaction with Nurses.

The report was never to come!

BLESSINGS

The difficulties encountered in the first two months *helped me identify* some of the overt and covert oppressive tactics used to suppress Nurses and Nursing. *They taxed my creative abilities to help bring an enduring vision into Nursing.*

My faith was stretched as I saw Nurses under the stifling and crippling bondage of fear that spotless uniforms and business could not camouflage. *This increased my understanding and prayers for specifics, so that the intervening power of a Holy God, may free Nurses from internal and external oppression.*

My patience was stretched as the days became weeks until 2 months of delay tactics had passed. *This did not go unnoticed by at least some of our more senior Nursing Colleagues who stated 'we are amazed at your sustained patience' or by references 'to the cost to me' and another walking fast past me in a main corridor muttered 'there are 14 Schools of Nursing get out and work through them'.*

THE TRUMP CARD

Prepared by the Professor of Surgery and played by the Deputy Medical Director of the National Hospital

Proved a blessing in disguise, an instrument that God used to demonstrate His faithfulness to Nurses when we seek His direction. It showed with no uncertainty the supremacy of His power over the power of reprobate man.

BANNED

This Doctor, with significant responsibility for the development of quality Health Services in *The National Hospital*, not only confiscated the Modules that had been gifted and were, therefore, the personal professional property of Nurses, but also ordered me never again to set foot in the institution stating that this would be the end of the DDG for permitting me to enter and much more.

This edict was followed by her trailing me to the Chief Nursing Officer and Ordering her not to talk to me.

When Man allows ‘The Forces of Darkness Control’ His potential for Good is destroyed.

The means used by these Doctors to achieve their destructive to the Health Services projected AIM were unjustified and unconstitutional with the Deputy Director’s threats leaving no room for doubt as to the evil intent against one of their own profession and the Nursing Profession.

Nurse’s Defense

I prayed and encouraged as many others as possible to pray for the DDG his wife and family of whom I know absolutely nothing but whose very lives were endangered by merely doing his duty. God’s means and ends are that we “Execute true justice and mercy everyman to his brother”.

THANKSGIVING
How thankful I was and what a privilege to be able to surrender all to the One and only Righteous Judge who knows and loves each one – Oppressed and Oppressors - Even as He hates all Sin.

Commitment and Aggression or Commitment with Care?

Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine
Mission Statement

“The mission of the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine – Sri Lanka is to formulate policies for improvement of the Health Status of the peoples and to implement them through promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services of high quality using Western and Indigenous systems to achieve sustainable socio-economic development.”

A fine statement reduced to meaningless rhetoric when every effort is made to stymie and prevent implementation by marginalizing and paralyzing Nurses.

WHO GOAL

“The overall goal of WHO in Sri Lanka is to attain the highest level of health through the strengthening of the Health System at

National, Provincial and District Levels

In principle

Equity, Fairness and Responsiveness with emphasis on the poor and marginalized.”

An admirable goal with good principles that cannot be realized until a significant group of marginalized Health Workers – Nurses are actively encouraged to develop and use their potential to significantly help achieve the goal.

With several options open to me I chose to take advantage of my Constitutional right to freedom with the duty of responsible action to the Nation through Nursing without recourse to confrontation or recrimination

With Reconciliation as a key component in the Professional Ministry of Nursing to achieve healing and health we are called to “as far as is in our power live peaceably with all”; “Repay evil with good” and Bless but not curse”.

Earlier, I had been challenged with the words “Go...and what so ever house you enter, first say, Peace be unto this house”. How many wonderful opportunities I had in National Hospital, to say from my heart verbally or silently as I walked and met people in specific areas and for the Institution as a whole “Peace be unto ‘you’”.

Peace Initiatives Advance the Peace Process

With The Sri Lankan Government and peoples endeavoring to make the ‘Peace Process’ a reality after more than 20 years of strife and suffering, it is imperative that Nurses learn how to come freely and without hesitation to the Source of Truth and Peace and to allow the Prince of Peace to pour and keep His Peace filling and flowing out of our lives. Jesus Christ said “Peace I leave with you. My Peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you...” John 14:27 *We either accept or reject this offer.*

A good Goal will only be achieved as we unite to work consistently with good means. Nurses helping Nurses to care means each Nurse having the joy of caring with compassion, competence, confidence, conscience and commitment in and through Nursing Administration and Education that leads to and reflects excellence in clinical practice.

PEACE AND TRUTH.

Peace without truth

Is like a time bomb, ticking away with everyone smiling to hide their nervousness.

Peace arising from Truth

Brings forth the beauty and strength of trust that leads to healing and wholeness.

All the different perspectives bringing color and enrichment into the life of all.

3rd CHALLENGE

Marginalized but not Alone

**The causes of marginalization need to be identified
If one is not to become depressed, deterred or weakened
In one’s quiet confidence and commitment to truth in
Nursing.**

1. ***Fear of Man*** is clearly the most significant force that determines marginalization in Sri Lanka.

The most powerful negative, and destructive to Nursing influence was amazingly, without hesitation and quite spontaneously acknowledged as the Buddhist Monk, usually referred to as ‘The Priest’ who heads the Trade Union and demands the allegiance of Nurses.

The divisive effect in Nursing caused by breakaway unions, including the Tutors and Matron’s Unions all appeared to be significantly influenced by ‘The Priest’.

The wealth that ‘The Priest’ accrues from fleecing Nurses trapped in the snares of the Union, with negligible return on investment and that of doubtful nature, is mind boggling even as it brings shame to Religion.

2. ***The Ministry of Health*** visa a vis the Medical Profession and Machiavellian Politics.

The strong anti Government Lobby within the Medical Profession has successfully marginalized and depersonalized Nurses over many years.

Irrespective of the much publicized rhetoric of Government, this group has the power to decide what and how, if anything should be implemented.

The Nurse’s Act, passed 15 years ago by the Sri Lankan Government and as yet not constituted is cause for concern as it demonstrates the strangling effect of the above facts. Consider the plight of the Sri Lankan Nurses in 2003 in comparison to New Zealand, a similar sized Nation that in 1904 was the first country in the world to pass and implement a Nurse’s Act.

Machiavellian Medical Politics

**It is not in the current power hungry money-spinning interest of the
Medical Profession or the Unions to have a functional Authoritative,
Standard Setting, Checks and Balances Registering Authority by
Nurses for Nurses.**

REALITY

**“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption;
For by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.
2 Peter 2:19.**

3. Tantric – some of the supernatural powers in include

The power to pass through solid objects, the power to penetrate, like water, the solid ground, the power to fly through the air.

Furthermore it is associated with secrecy with, in some instances, every letter of a term being interpreted mystically.

By identifying female Energy with Prajna and Male energy with Upaya, it has transformed the character of the body by making it a perfect tool for sexo-yogic exercise.

*The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired than gold...than much fine gold.”
Psalm 19:9-10*

System Shock Reality and Outcomes

Having been confronted with the reality of the destructive influence of Tantric in Nursing through the Union within my first 24 hours in Colombo and coming from India where Tantric activity is a common influence in Government and Private Hospitals, it was a natural response to pray for God’s mercy and ’intervening power for the whole situation including “The Priest” and the Nurses.

We are commanded to pray for those who are in authority over us as well as for those who despitefully use us for Jesus Christ “came not to condemn but that none should perish and that all should have life and life abundantly”.

Sad but not surprising was the first powerful influence of Tantric experienced by my young host and hostess even as it was directed at destroying my credibility and blocking subsequent hospitality that is usually extended to overseas visitors and certainly to Nurses by Nurses around the world.

Subsequent attacks were aimed at making me dysfunctional. In two instances caring Buddhist Nurses came to my rescue saving me from distress and undue financial loss.

To learn that the double-bind some Nurses are in related not only to charisma, fear and money power but also to the illicit demands arising from the *Prajna* and *Upaya* factors that cause some Nurses to worship “The Priest” as god even as Gnosticism is proclaimed as the heart of Buddhist religious praxis and belief, is a concern that can only be dealt with through prayer and wise counsel.

GIVEN the Medical Profession uses the Union to achieve their own ends to further destroy Nursing competence in a way which is carefully designed and orchestrated to denigrate Nurses and marginalize the common man from receiving what every Nation has responsibility to provide i.e., cost effective care from its citizen’s taxes for which they ought to be accountable.

THEN it was encouraging to find thinking Nurses with a strong sense of professional rectitude in significant positions of responsibility throughout Sri Lanka who spontaneously shared their burden on this prevailing and most distressing situation, expressing in no uncertain terms the compounding effects causing sub-standards of basic and Post Basic Education for Nurses as well as dismally low Standards and Quality of Nursing Services.

Language was no barrier with either female or male Nurses

A FACT

“There is not a heart but has its moments of longing, yearning for something better, nobler, holier than it knows now.” Henry Ward Beecher

THIS FACT

Drew almost every group of Nurses together in song, and united us in prayer with more maturity than when we had solemnly pledged ourselves as Nurses.

Singing With A Difference 🎵 🎶 🎵

🎶 Singing from the heart springs from mutual understanding of what was, what is and what may be. ♿

The seriousness and the joy on the faces of hundreds of Nurses throughout Sri Lanka who joined in e.g., singing “Let There Be Love Shared Among Us” from the Technology Module and “Sowing In The Morning..” from the CPR Module was an unforgettable experience, revealing the deep unfulfilled desire of Nurses for values of love and goodness in Nursing.

Clarification of the Role Purpose and Function of the Marginalized

Nursing With A Difference Trust, aware of the distressing effects of 25 years of communal strife and civil war had prayerfully examined the spontaneous desire to donate 1000 sets of Modules to Sri Lanka in relation to the next commitment of donating to Bihar, Uttaranchal and the North East of India where Nurses in different ways struggle against great odds

Our policy is clear, Nurses helping Nurses, we are neither funded nor do we solicit or borrow funds. Trust Members and our Council of Reference are of one mind that the God before whom we took our pledge will not let our faces be ashamed when we are obedient to His Will in Nursing.

To send and distribute the Modules would take all our personal and Trust funds.

Conclusion

We had no option but to sell in Sri Lanka. Accordingly the shipping documents were prepared and a bank account opened to receive foreign currency.

Having been assured that the only costs in Sri Lanka would be cartage from Customs to Ceylinco House, it was a shock to find Customs demanding almost two Lakh Rupees. Without hesitation or regret, on behalf of the Trust I reversed our decision stating that we would donate the 1000 sets of Modules. Changes in documentation were thus made prior to the cargo landing in Sri Lanka.

My role was to meet with Nurse Leaders and together work out the logistics so that the maximum benefit could come from each Module in as many Institutions as possible.

Then, bearing in mind that English is a second language coupled with all the warnings I had been given of ***‘the inability of Nurses to understand English, and that Nursing was at its lowest’*** - to meet with small groups of Nurses in strategic positions in Nursing Service and Education for interactive introduction to the Modules that would enable them to use each Module as an effective resource for learning and teaching.

BLESSINGS

Come when the means arising from a commitment to execute true justice and mercy for disadvantaged and therefore marginalized Nurses are directed towards achieving Truth in and through Nursing.

Wisdom with Hindsight

By donating the Modules we had inadvertently forestalled any attempt by ‘The Priest’ and the Medical Profession to prevent the Nurses from purchasing the Modules. It later gave me the freedom to say to the Deputy Director of National Hospital who had confiscated a set from a Nurse and banned me and the Modules, that what she was doing was unconstitutional.

Deeply engrained in the freedom to live that is enshrined in the Constitution of both India and Sri Lanka is the freedom to think, freedom to express and the freedom to move. This God given and nationally legalized privilege and responsibility to be used for good, is sadly too often abused by man under the guise of religion and or protective governance.

The Director and staff of Ceylinco House not only worked hard to expedite the delivery of Modules but offered to store them in Nelusha’s Office to give me a much needed temporary base from which to work. Because I could only move a few boxes at a time, multiple special security passes had to be issued. In spite of all the extra work we caused these good folk, and in an amazing gesture of goodwill towards the Nurses of Sri Lanka, staff voluntarily contributed from their personal resources more than half the Custom costs debited against Nursing With A Difference. Add to this refreshments, meals, use of telephone and Internet, plus accommodation from time to time, driver and car on several occasions till finally leaving me at the airport, were immeasurable practical demonstrations of the goodness of each one’s heart. Thank you and God bless you.

Nurse’s Offering

Nursing With A Difference Trust with the Nurses of Sri Lanka can surely unite and thank God for Tania Polonnowita and her team in Ceylinco House and their families, may He bless each one a thousand fold and more NB Prasad’s wee son who arrived in September has an as yet undiagnosed renal system dysfunction – Prasad who worked long hours for Nurses had one request ‘Please pray for me, for my wife and our wee son.’ Let us also pray for wisdom for the right diagnosis and correct treatment.

***Blessings will always be the long term outcome
Of
Challenges that have been prayerfully met.***

No letter no Planning presented a challenge based on the fact that the Union had apparently played a significant role in getting the incumbent Director of Nursing (Medical Services) instated causing her to be caught in a double bind that has seemingly stripped her of confidence in her Constitutional right and in her Government conferred authorization to function independently with wisdom in a collaborative top administrative situation as Nurse Advisor (Medical Services).

The consequences of this weakness cum power play is seen in the unprecedented fear factor that pervades the rest of Nursing resulting in delay tactics and much unproductive busy-ness as the only perceived way out.

Victory over wrong cannot be achieved until the darkness of wrong has been exposed by the light rays of Truth penetrating the entangled facts of life. Effective fervent prayer is each Nurse’s privilege and responsibility to help bring the kind of restraint into Nursing and the Health Services, that can lead to true repentance with acceptance of the need for divine and therefore complete excision of the wrong, accompanied by the deep inner cleansing that must precede restoration of health and wholeness.

Forgiveness and cleansing that leads to faith and commitment to Truth are the most basic and essential components required by man – in this instance Nurses, Doctors, and the Clergy – to live productive of good and meaningful lives in a sin sodden sick world.

***Jesus said “I am the Light of the world. He who follows me shall
not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 9:12***

We do not have to search for this Light; the God before whom we made a solemn pledge provides that light *freely to all who come in faith for it*. This is not the enlightenment that is achieved through good works and realized in Nirvana, it is a free gift from the Creator of Light that penetrates our work and brings meaning and joy into life.

Can and will Nurses

Around the World

Help Nurses in Sri Lanka?

Undoubtedly

When all willing Nurses in every Nation come to the Throne of Grace, to the God before whom we Pledged ourselves to do all in our power to practice our profession faithfully...to abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous...to maintain and elevate the standard of our profession...and devote ourselves to the welfare of those committed to our care”.

When in sincerity and truth we ask for the wisdom to know how and what to repent of individually and as a profession so that our eyes will be opened and God’s wisdom, as opposed to the wisdom of the world prevails. Then each Nurse will become a change agent who influences the issues and situations that currently mitigate against true justice and mercy in the Health Services.

Nurses - the Salt and Light in the Building Process of National Peace

Nurses, by asking God to enable them to live through each day as ‘A Grain of Salt’, ‘A tiny Candle’ and ‘A Mustard Seed’, can trust Him to take us where we stand and use us to make something beautiful out of the ashes of Health Services.

4TH CHALLENGE

The use of time when the few plans made failed to come to fruition or when eke dumb ad hoc opportunities presented.

From a Human Perspective

Much time was wasted.

Many obvious golden opportunities were not offered and therefore lost.

But Time is in our Hands

Consecrated time is effective time

With the dawn of each day I consecrated each minute just as specifically and solemnly as when I had taken our pledge.

The real and lasting work in our lives individually and collectively within each Nation, is the silent but powerful work of the Holy Spirit shaping our attitudes and behaviors and bringing us into maturity of wisdom and understanding to effectively manage each situation.

The words of Hymns often make meaningful prayer:

“Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh; Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear – To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.”

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 45:29, 30

How far I realized these truths is to some extent reflected in what was achieved, more visibly in the last five weeks.