

Making Opportunity

- ☛ It is relatively easy in life to identify strengths and weakness and make judgments. Judgments that are generally speaking based on the perceived weaknesses. The outcome of activity based on this premise rarely bears good strong lasting fruit, not because the premise was wrong but rather the ensuing means failed to build on and strengthen the strengths.
- ☛ Several Nurses were identified who had the interest, motivation and very definitely the ability to make an invaluable contribution to the practical building process in Nursing.
- ☛ In two Institutions it was possible to have special sessions with these Nurses while on duty, and with two when off duty. Another Nurse came to the Facilitator one evening with her daughter. The simple aid of pen and paper keeps a child absorbed and happy during professional discussion. Brief interaction with the child before and after adds enjoyment to life and reinforces Nursing With A Difference commitment to family so that Nurse's families helping Nurses build a healthy Nation is not mere rhetoric.
- ☛ Each session was directed towards helping these Nurses recognize their own attributes, examine a little more deeply the relevance of available resources to Nursing in each situation, and to think through possible approaches for more structured development within the Institution and later, for Nurses throughout Tripura.
- ☛ Many unwarranted barriers have arisen within Nursing from multiple factors which unconsciously inhibits the freedom that Nurses in positions of responsibility exercise to take themselves to Nurses in remote, hostile areas, with fresh inspiration and encouragement.
- ☛ Add to this the inordinate mountain and ever increasing paper war that Nurses in top administration are forced to contend with, it is no wonder that Nurses in the periphery and especially war torn areas bordering not so friendly break off Nations, are 'left alone to manage the best they can'.
- ☛ Even though Nurses in remote areas may justifiably feel neglected it would be wrong to assume that 'They are deliberately neglected'. Self-and position-preservation are tools Satan uses to produce an unspoken 'fear mentality' that can only be overcome as each Nurse learns to ask the God before whom we took our pledge to help us see ourselves and each other as well as the situation each is in, as HE sees, and to give us the wisdom and courage to let Him work a mighty work through us.

The following quotes have a powerful and relevant message to every Nurse:

"The people were very simple, truthful, and honest until corrupted by the evil influences arising from closer intercourse with the inhabitants of the plains.

Every advantage was taken of their ignorance and credulity, till at length they perceived this themselves and they now no longer hesitate to meet deceit with its own weapon".

W.W.Hunter 1873 writing in the Political Agent,

"These were a great people who in days of old had been feared far and wide.

It was said of them that they had passed from head hunting to the Hallelujah Chorus within the sphere of one generation.

They now had better things with the Gospel (Good News) to offer those they came amongst than fear or damnation".

G.T.Beilby

Radhasoami Temple,

Hundreds of craftsmen have been working daily for more than a century, on the Radhasoami Temple.

A worship centre based on the teaching of founder Saomaji Maharaj 186 Temple construction 1904, and it is still not finished.

Sculptors spend months even years designing and sculpting flowers and leaves out of marble and then cutting jewels to embed in the marble.

The only acceptable standard for the temple's construction is excellence.

This temple will, and ever only can be, a 'place of worship' in this world.

Nurses are Chosen and Called to be 'Living Stones' caring for 'Living Stones'

**Wise men set the Pattern,
Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh as the only acceptable gifts.**

Philippians Chapter 3, Colossians 3:23, and 2 Timothy 2:15

All show how to achieve excellence in Nursing:

**Excellence in choosing the best available materials.
Excellence in using our best available skills.
Excellence in the details of our lives and in professional Nursing.
Careful
Quality tested
Rewarded.**

Through Nursing, God can transform the life of individuals and families, the Health Services and Society to become 'Precious Gem Stones'

1 Peter 2:4-6

Chosen of God and precious
You as living stones
Being built up
By the Chief cornerstone, elect and precious
And who ever believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.

*As each Nurse has the 'Glory of God' shining through her/him,
and lets this shine forth in the midst of suffering in this world,
she/he is building a temple that will endure for all eternity.*

Strong points of Nurses in Tripura

An Historical Signpost

A final choice has to be made - Devastation or hope!

We are how we are today because of the choices that were made and the choices that we make now.

- A strong committed Nursing Superintendent for the State of Tripura
- A Nurse Leader with vision
- Concern and bewilderment by many Nurses at what is not good.
- Desire and initiative to learn, to listen, and to contribute.
- Nurses burdened and professionally and spiritually hungry and unfilled.

Nurses are going on a pilgrimage of suffering
But without a change of heart
Have no reward from God or man
For to practice virtue in Nursing
Requires more than merely moving the feet.

Leadership potential waiting to be developed

“The greatest leaders of history have been the greatest servants of the people who they led.

More than anything else such leaders championed the cause of the people they represented.” Brig. A.M.Khan

Conflict resolution has to start with each Nurse and involve every Nurse.

Science and Academic excellence alone have not achieved true reconciliation in the Health Services or in the State because we too easily slip into old ruts of trusting human resources instead of the Resurrection Power that we all need to:

Lift you from despair
Give you victory over sin
Assure you of God’s forgiveness.
Steady you in the rough times
Help you to enjoy God’s real presence
Cover regrets from your past
Prosper your Personal and Professional input into life.

“For ‘I am with you’, says the Lord, ‘to save you’...But I will correct you in justice.”

Jeremiah 30:11

“A Man’s heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself, It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

Jeremiah 10:23

Recommendations

With the best will in the world recommendations can be like a bag of dry bones, cumbersome, offensive in their stark lifelessness and a burden to an already over-burdened mind in the never ending paper-war.

The following recommendations have been made with the conviction that if implemented, Nurses in Tripura will reap a well earned reward as they significantly strengthen their Nursing Services.

By reinforcing present strengths, and in the process addressing present inadequacies with corporate wisdom in the reality of cultural, caste and religious differences, Nurses in Tripura could find themselves spear heading a revolution in the Health Service.

The first Recommendation I and VIII is both the first and the last.

The first because it requires the Nursing Superintendent for Tripura and the Nurse Advisor to the Government of India to be exercising their collective wisdom to achieve its fulfillment.

The last because the fulfillment of the intervening six recommendations ought to generate Unity of purpose with professional maturity, expressed in quiet, confident, strong support from the Nurses of Tripura, within each Institution, plus the Trained Nurses Association, that will ensure a qualified competent, impartial and just Nursing Voice is heard by both Government and the peoples.

Recommendation I and VIII

That the State Government officially recognize the Nursing Superintendent for her worth both by her justified title of *Deputy Director- Nursing*, and through the process of genuine consultation on all matters involving Nurses or Nursing Services in the hospital and the community, through Nursing Education and Nursing Research, to heed the 'Voice of Nursing'.

Recommendation II

That the Nursing Superintendent Tripura accept this invitation offered by Nursing With A Difference to address together staffing and morale issues in the State.

Recommendation IIb

- a. That the Nursing Superintendent Tripura schedule two consecutive days and arrange for all Nurse Administrators in Nursing Service, Principal Public Health Nurses and leading Nurse Educators in Tripura to meet from 9am to 5.0pm.
- b. Facilities in a quiet venue to include a white board and pens, overhead projector and screen, low cost but tasty nourishing snacks and lunch, and one attendant.

Recommendation III

Nursing With A Difference to provide the resource materials and with the Nurse Administrators to develop a protocol as a basis for examining Nursing Issues and facilitating goal directed interaction, as each Nurse leader presents facts. The initial focus to be on feasible staffing and morale development affecting all Nurses.

Recommendation IV

- a. That the Nursing Superintendent Tripura schedule two subsequent consecutive days for Nurse Administrators in Nursing Service, Education and Public Health from each District to meet with Nursing With A Difference for a similar program.
- b. That Nursing With A Difference with two Nurses appointed by the Nursing Superintendent from the first group to enrich this second program for Nurse leaders with input gleaned from the previously held Lead Group.

Recommendation V

- a. That it be mandatory for all Nurse Administrators to be released from duty to attend this Nursing initiative for the substantial and progressive staffing and morale development in the State.
- b. Travel expenses, accommodation for four nights and food to be provided.

NB It is imperative that Nurses arrive the night before in order that everyone is rested and ready to commence the program proper at 09.00am and that the program concludes with a social function and dinner on the last evening.

Recommendation VI

The Nursing Superintendent, Nurse Administrators in both Service and Education with, if required, the Nursing With A Difference facilitator, to develop a strategy for, and to commence implementation of a feasible three pronged program within three months for:

- a. Graduating Nurses
- b. All Nurses engaged in Nursing Service
- c. Pre-entry Students of Nursing with Tutors.

Recommendation VII

That the aim of each program as realized within each Institution be reviewed monthly by telephone at least once each six months through a rotating one day inter-district interaction. The focus to be through practical interaction with the minimum of paper work.

Recommendation I and VIII

That the State Government officially recognize the Nursing Superintendent for her worth both by her justified title of *Deputy Director- Nursing*, and through the process of genuine consultation on all matters involving Nurses or Nursing Services in the hospital and the community, through Nursing Education and Nursing Research, to heed the 'Voice of Nursing'.

Appendix 3

Dated New Delhi,
The 9th September, 1949.

Mention may be made here that Sardar Ballabhai Patel, the then Minister of Home Affairs, gave the following message on the occasion of the Merger of Twipra on 15th October, 1949 A.D.

"The State of Twipra, with the isolated situation yet occupying a position of strategic importance of the Easter borders of India, has an ancient history and a rich culture. The partition of the country has, however, brought in each train for this small State a host of problems, which, in the present State of its development was impossible for it to solve on its own resources. The State has potentialities and the sources, which it tapped and properly exploited, would be an asset to the country. For all there reason, the Government of India and Her Highness, the Maharani Regent acting on behalf of Minor Ruler, came to the conclusion that in the interest of the welfare of the State and of the country as a whole, it was essential that the Centre should make itself directly responsible for its administration and its well being. I am most grateful to Her Highness for having come to this agreement. Her was not any easy task in the peculiar circumstance in which she found herself. I am sure that providence will reward her for the courage and boldness with which she has taken this decision. To the people of Twipra, I can only say this: though far (and remote) from the capital city of the country, will always claim our attention and we shall do our best to ensure that its link and connection with the main land are strengthened and it comes nearer to us. They will not stand-alone to battle with the manifold problems that confront them. They will have the resources and the assistance of the Centre on which they can count. With their cooperation and help we hope that we shall deal with their problems efficiently and effectively. May God bless our joint effort with success."

(Ref.: Sardar Patel's Correspondence - Vol-8, p-530-531).