

NURSING WITH A DIFFERENCE

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

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

NURSES IN BEREAVEMENT

Compiled by Sonia D Kapoor

A special gathering for bereaved Nurses was arranged in response to a request by the Nurse Administrator at 10.20pm one night to do something to help Nurses overcome their shock and fear when 4 Nurses had lost their husbands in less than 30 days with three in 5 days, in the Northern Railway Central Hospital. The lovely library made an ideal setting with seating capacity of 200 almost full of Nurses.

Kusum Singh used the following guidelines to lead a very sensitive Hindi presentation that clearly spoke to the heart of every Nurse present bringing forth such comments as ‘Saroj must be very near to her Jesus or she could not pray like that’; ‘I have been in this institution for more than 20 years and this is the first time we have had such a meaningful program’. The large number of prayer requests which when put into writing for the Nursing With A Difference Trust members formed a sizable bundle.

The God of suffering and glorious hope was surely in our midst.

Nurses helping Nurses come to grips with the reality of grief was the key to the success of this program.

Kusum and her small team of Nurses from Safderjung; ESI; Sanjay Gandhi Memorial; Sunder Lal Jain Hospitals and RAK College of Nursing; shared with sensitivity and love the following words of encouragement, songs and prayers with Nurses in the Northern Railway Central Hospital.

Then, as we enjoyed the refreshments so thoughtfully provided by the Nurse Administrator; Kusam and the team gave unhurried time to sit, listen and be with Nurses who wished to share their concerns or burdens.

Join with us as we reflect on this experience for the purpose of increasing our wisdom and sensitivity to be better equipped – Nursing helping Nurses in grief and suffering is essential if Nurses are to effectively help patients and their families through the many forms of grief and suffering common to man.

GOD’S CALL AND PROVISION

When God called Nurses into Nursing to meet people in their grief He made sure we had all the necessary resources that would enable us to do this and to do it effectively. Listen to these lovely words:

“Comfort, yes comfort My people, says your God.”

Isaiah 40:1

Each day we are involved with the grief and suffering of patients and their relatives leaving us very often emotionally and physically drained. This constant involvement does not make it any easier when we face similar sorrows in our own lives. ‘O death where is thy sting?’; ‘O grave where is thy victory?’

It is our privilege today to come together, sisters in Nursing and sister in grief. To help each other find fresh strength and encouragement as we share with our sisters in Northern Railway Central Hospital in obedience to God’s command in Isaiah 40:1

Isaiah 40:1

“Comfort, yes comfort My people, says your God.”

ACCESS TO THE THRONE OF GRACE

What better way to comfort each other than by coming in faith to the Throne of Grace where Jesus is waiting to make intercession to God our Heavenly Father for us and where we have direct access to the many blessings of comfort, emotional, mental, physical and spiritual that will enable each one of us to minister to each other with His amazing tenderness, compassion and love.

Prayer is our communion with our Heavenly Father let us come boldly to the Throne of Grace and lift our hearts and minds to Him as Saroj prays knowing that He who created us will hear and answer:

Prayer

- That God will bring His tender comfort into the heart and mind of each Nurse present and very particularly
- That He will grant wisdom and courage to Sr. A., Sr. B, Sr. C. and Sr. D, as they commence rebuilding their personal and family lives without husband and father.
- That as we wait in His presence He will fill us *with His presence, His Holy presence*, that helps us to be still and hear Him speak to our hearts and minds and to our souls and spirits.
- That He will teach us how to comfort, encourage and strengthen each other.
- That He will receive our thanksgiving for the Chief Nursing Officer and the whole Administration of Northern Railway Central Hospital for encouraging Nurses to help each other in such times of distress.
- That He will hear and answer our prayer offered in the name of Jesus Christ because Jesus promised us in John 15:16...that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give.”
- Amen (expresses our corporate assent to the prayer.)

Singing helps us lift our minds and hearts onto a higher plane so that we are better able to tune in and receive God’s message of love for He alone knows the deepest needs of each Nurse present.

Song number 1 is equivalent to “I need thee every hour” (sung softly in Hindi using song books produced by Nurses for Nurses.)

Now let us draw on the peace and comfort that only our Creator the Almighty Sovereign God our heavenly Father can give *as we* read and listen to the words Jesus spoke in Mathew 11:27 when He said

“All things have been delivered to me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son reveals Him”.

This means that ultimately we go back to our Creator for His final judgment on our lives in this world. Each one’s opportunities end with physical death.

But what a privilege we who are left have in and through our final responsibility for our loved one; and that is to commit his soul to God for His righteous mercy.

Therefore it is appropriate today that Saroj makes a very special Prayer on behalf of all Nurses present, committing the soul of each bereaved Nurse’s husband to God for His gracious mercy, remembering that He is a righteous, just and holy God and Jesus said

“If you ask anything in My name I will do it”.

Therefore, with confidence we can ask for this mercy for our loved ones.

In Mathew 11:28-30 We have another loving invitation to our sisters in grief and to each one of us.

“Come to Me,

All you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and lowly
in heart and you **will** find rest for your souls. Mathew 11:28-30

Saroj then prayed that each widow present and every grieving Nurse in Delhi or any part of India and the world would come and receive the rest and peace that Jesus offers.

This important invitation of love and compassion was reinforced as we sung in Hindi an invitation to come to the Lord with all our grief and suffering. He alone can dispel the clouds and replace the blackness of despair with quietness, peace and confidence to face the unknown.

John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world.”

RAK College of Nursing Students, part of the Nursing With A Difference group of ‘Nurses of India’ ‘Singing With A Difference’ sang in English with great sensitivity and feeling:

“Because He lives I can face tomorrow”

“Make Me A Blessing”

How we appreciated their Principal taking the time and effort to bring them in the midst of a busy day, overpowering heat and traffic jams. These final year B.Sc. Nurses were indeed living the words of another song they were learning ‘May we be a shining light to the Nations...a shining light to the peoples of the earth.’

Thanksgiving

In the midst of grief and suffering Saroj reminded us through a simple but beautiful prayer of just how much we can be truly thankful for:

God’s great gift and wonderful provision for us in Christ Jesus and how He has promised to be our ever-present help in trouble, a constant friend and guide along life’s way.

For our privilege to ask for courage and wisdom for each widow and her family with the assurance that He will hear and answer our prayer.

That each Nurse present will become fine instruments of healing in God’s hand in our families and in our institution, and true comforters.

Kusum then introduced us to the Great Commission in Mathew 28:18—20

“Then Jesus came and spoke to them saying, “All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth,” explaining how this is the real basis of our true power to overcome wrong with right, evil with good, grief and suffering with love, in the home and in the hospital.

With this genuine power source we are better able to understand the rest of the Commission

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Here our Nurses role was clarified – It is as we prayerfully minister to the needs of each patient with God’s tenderness, love and compassion, that we are allowing Him to work in and through us and in the lives of each patient/person. We were reminded of how many people go through great suffering and grief in our hospitals, alone, with no one reaching out to them with God’s tenderness, love and compassion.

POWER IN GRIEF TO GO BACK AND GO ON

Obedience and God given power will enable all Nurses to live the last part of the Commission

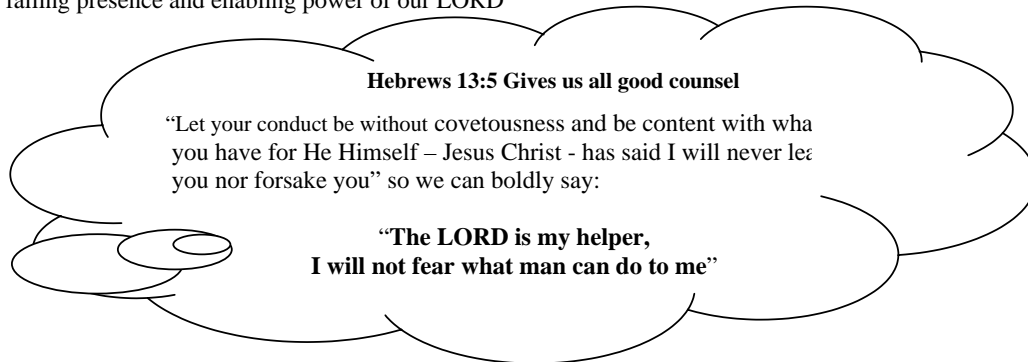
*“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo,
I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen”*

The emphasis had special relevance for our widowed sisters – **“Go”**– back to your family and Nursing – **“How”** ‘under My authority and I AM with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you; and Nurses keep “My commandment” and “Love one another as I have loved you”

Kusum reminded us that Nurses are all teachers and that we can more readily follow Mahatma Gandhi’s advice and make ‘love our motivating force’ when, in sincerity we ask for and let the love of our LORD Jesus Christ constrain us as revealed in 2 Corinthians 5:14

She explained how this has a compounding effect by helping overcome our own grief and suffering even as we lead others by our own caring attitudes and behavior to the source of all comfort and strength in love.

How wonderfully Saroj led us in another prayer of thanksgiving for our bereaved sisters, this time for professional competence, and a proven source of income as well as accommodation and the never-failing presence and enabling power of our LORD



The counsel embodied in this statement caused us to pause and pray

“Teach us how to trust and rest in You in every situation”

Thank you LORD – only you can take away my fear and anxiety.

The Song titled “The Great Physician” sung in Hindi brought another dimension of assurance in the balm that Jesus alone can give in the midst of grief and suffering.

The Great Physician

**The Great Physician now is near
The sympathising Jesus;
He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,
Oh. Hear the voice of Jesus.**

**His name dispels my guilt and fear,
No other name but Jesus;
Oh, how my soul delights to hear,
The precious name of Jesus.**

**Come, Nurses, help me sing His praise,
Oh, praise the name of Jesus!
Come, sisters, all your voices raise,
Oh, bless the name of Jesus.**

Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:16-17

Here Jesus gives us a glimpse into eternity to encourage us as we tread this valley of tears before He leaves with us His final gracious unconditional invitation:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Then I, John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for husband.

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

Then He who sat on the throne said “Behold I make all things new,” and He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful”

And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

He who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things... I am the Bright and Morning Star...

Let him who hears say, “Come!”

And let him who thirsts Come.

And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely”

Kusum used these powerful words of Jesus to end our program on a note of hope and expectation based on a firm foundation that cannot be shaken.

Our final song of hope in Hindi expressed the concept and reality:

‘Since the Lord came into my life, my life has been changed and filled with new meaning and joy’

The Benediction chosen as the final act of blessing is one of the greatest Doxologies in the Bible. It emphasizes the power of Christ to keep those who trust in Him from being overthrown by error.

Doxology of Jude

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Saviour,

Who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty,

Dominion and power,

Both now and forever.

Amen.

Kusam, with her own special graciousness brought the program to a close by following the above blessing with a love token for each of the bereaved Nurses:

NURSING WITH A DIFFERENCE had intended getting red roses to symbolize the redeeming power of the Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin and heals us completely so that we are restored into unbroken communion with God our Heavenly Father; and white lilies to symbolize His purity, love and compassion for each one; with some greenery to symbolized new growth.

However, with no flowers available close to Railway hospital and the impossibility of bringing flowers in a crowded bus in the heat, we decided on small beautifully crafted wooden plaques with an enduring message from the Word of God that each Nurse and her family could read and keep as a constant reminder of God's unfailing promises and love for each one.

Our hope that this day would be the beginning of new and wonderful blessings in each of our lives was to some extent realized as we enjoyed together the tea and refreshments so graciously provided by Mrs. Surinder Kaur Kainth whose sensitivity and compassionate care of her staff has made it possible for us to share together in this wonderful way. God bless you Mrs. Kainth.

At that point so many Nurses interrupted to make specific prayer requests that as the Nurses prayed with each one individually, Kusum asked those waiting to put their requests into writing so that these could be remembered in ongoing prayer by the Nursing With A Difference Trust team.

The RAK College of Nursing students spontaneously sang two more songs as refreshments were served and Nurses wrote their prayer requests.

The large number of written requests spoke volumes of suffering and grief in Nurse's lives.

The pent up stress that Nurses were going through was expressed in many ways.. The unseen balm of the presence of a loving caring Heavenly Father was evident in an atmosphere of mutual understanding where caring and sharing brought comfort, wisdom and strength.

Although the meeting commenced 15 minutes late due to Nurses coming from duty, it was unhurried and concluded as requested at 4.30pm so that off duty Nurses could catch buses and the others return to duty. However, many Nurses stayed on to discuss their burden with the last one leaving after 6pm

What a wonderful privilege to know that God can use each Nurse to make something beautiful in the midst of grief and suffering even as He makes something beautiful out of our own lives in the process.

Something Beautiful

Something Beautiful
Something Good
All my confusion He understood,
All I had to offer Him was,
Brokenness and Strife
But He made something beautiful
Of my life.

If ever there were dreams
That were lofty and noble,
They were dreams from the start,
The hopes for life's best
Were the hopes that I harbored
Deep down in my heart.
But my dreams turned to Ashes.
My castles crumbled.
Oh! my fortunes turned to loss,
That's when I wrapped it all
In the rags of my life
And laid it at the CROSS.

Something Beautiful
Something Good,
All my confusion,
He understood.
Brokenness and Strife,
But He made something

Beautiful of my life.

