

Nursing With A Difference

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

"Let Each Day Be Your Masterpiece". Galatians 6.9

NURSES – POWERFULL OR POWERLESS

PART II

PLEDGES, OATHS AND PROMISES

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Which ever word we use, pledge, oath or promise, the meaning is the same.

We have made a commitment before God and man.

Man has witnessed by his physical presence, or through the physical senses of vision and hearing as the occasion has been broadcast by radio, television, electronic or print media. Those present represent the Government, Nation and the World.

God has been the unseen listener and observer

The memory of those making or witnessing the pledge, oath or promise may be sharp. Making or witnessing the pledge becomes a commitment to accountability that results in everlasting or eternal fruit.

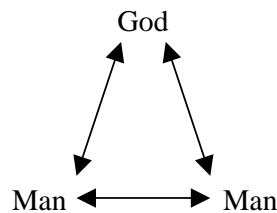
On the other hand the individual, whose memory becomes blurred and even muddied with the deceptive power of rhetoric and false values, will end up with nothing but ashes as the fire of judgment burns up all the dross of lies, insincerity and manmade fear in the final Day of Judgment.

Having given man the priceless gifts of a mind with the power to think and critically analyze, as well as a heart and will to choose and do with divine i.e. Godly wisdom or with conventional or worldly wisdom, God watches to see with what effort and sincerity each Nurse seeks to fulfill his/her pledge.

Furthermore, He has given us the freedom to come to the Throne of Grace for wisdom, insight and understanding and has sent a "Helper" in the form of the Holy Spirit whom we may call upon so that we may fulfill our pledge.

Just as a marriage union, irrespective of religion, caste or creed, is a mystery but a definite reality from the time the marriage vows were made so to is every promise made before a Holy God.

Promises are three-dimensional



They bring privilege and responsibility and have the potential for two different outcomes, one good and one not so good or bad.

Sadly many people do not know that God's promises to us provide all we could ever dream of to fulfill the promises we solemnly make in this world. We are promised:

Access to God	◁	Romans 5:2	Partakers of the Divine Nature	◁	2 Peter 1:4
Christ's intercession		Hebrews 7:25, 26	Reconciliation with God		Roman's 5:10
Eternal Life		John 17:2, 3	Suffering with Christ		Acts 5:41
Growth assured		1 Peter 2:3	Trials will be overcome		1 Peter 1:6-8
Kinship with Christ		Hebrews 2:10-14	Victorious living.		Romans 8:37-39
Name in the Book of Life		Revelation 20:15	Membership in God's Kingdom.		1 Corinthians 6:9-11

**These promises affirm the wonderful unconditional love our Heavenly Father has for each person.
May we not reject such an assurance of security and help from so rich and unfailing a source.**

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLEDGE FOR NURSES

GIVEN The Nursing Profession is comprised of women and men who, most if not all, have taken a Pledge before God and have the freedom to come to the Throne of Grace as well as to receive help from the “helper”, the Holy Spirit -

Then why are Nurses so Powerless?

The process of SENSING identifies the following contributing factors:

1. Over the past three decades Nursing education in India as world wide has become more fine tuned with increasing curricula revision, basic and post-basic B.Sc. Degrees, the freedom to undertake a Master’s degree in most if not every area of Nursing, and increasing numbers of PhD holders giving rise to new theories and philosophy’s in Nursing.
2. State and National Nursing Education and Research Groups have emerged.
3. The Trained Nurses Association of India, through regular publications, gives credence to Pledges and Oaths in Nursing as well as to the ICN Code of Nursing Ethics. All embody ethical concepts applied to Nursing.
4. Status symbols for Nurse Educators have increased in many instances causing an unprecedented schism between Nursing Education and Service.
5. The Nurse’s Pledge has either become a ritual or a non-event for Nurses graduating from student to qualified and Registered Nurse status. One premier Medical, Education and Research Institute CON remembered after the graduation ceremony that they had forgotten the Nurse’s Pledge!
6. Older female/male Nurses, quickly recall the solemn awe inspiring occasion when leaving student days behind took on the mantle (insignia) of a Nurse officially recognized by Government, man and God
7. In 2003 it is during the lamp lighting ceremony at the end of the Introductory Course (traditionally indicating that the student was now committed to become a Nurse) that tutors *lead* the students to *recite* the pledge. More often than not, the tutor actually *recites the pledge for the students*.
8. Because the first year student has neither the professional maturity nor ability to grasp the significance of the Pledge, countless Nurses now have no spontaneous recollection of having made the pledge let alone its personal and professional implications.
9. Every tutor who has recited the Pledge for the student Nurse stands guilty before God by:

Misguiding

The student
and

Misteaching

One of the most
fundamental
truths by
example.

Usurping

The God given right of
every human being-

has denied

The Nurse or Student
Nurse, the dignity of
exercising his/her own
will in a most sacred act.

Denigrating

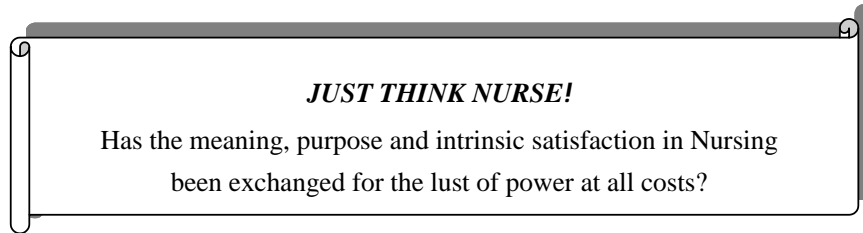
The privilege and responsibility of preparing
Student Nurses to take the Pledge;

By not fulfilling the pledge as a Professional
Nurse Educator; the Tutor has robbed Nurses
in Training of their most effective power
source, God’s power.

All subsequent student years are largely spent
learning ‘*about*’ Nursing while practicing lies,
instead of ‘*learning to be a Nurse*’.

10. The only situation where it *may be permissible* for a Student of Nursing to take the Pledge is in the Military School or College of Nursing. The reason for this is that on Commissioning into Service every Nursing Officer is required to take the Oath of Allegiance to the Nation. However, I believe with a little thought that this could be better managed e.g., at a celebration dinner when Registration has been confirmed prior to and in preparation for the Commissioning
11. It is worth noting that in every Military Nursing Department from the Major General’s Office to Ward Unit Nursing Station, an un-defaced attractive presentation of the Nurse’s Pledge is found in a prominent position, as a constant reminder to every Nursing Officer and student of Nursing.

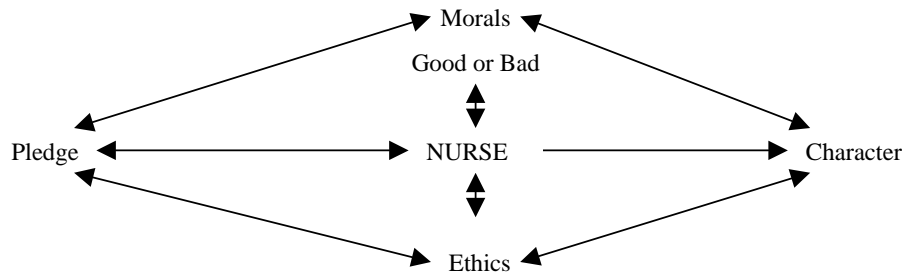
12. The marked contrast between the Military Nurse's active use and Civil (Government and Private) inactive and misuse of the Pledge is reflected in the 'pathetic state of powerlessness' of Nurses in Civil and Private Nursing today.



GOOD PREPARATION LEADS TO FRUITFUL APPLICATION

Why a Pledge in Nursing?

Does the Pledge and character of Nurses really form the basis of the whole Nursing Profession?



The Pledge and Character of each Nurse determines the goodness and strength of moral principles and values within the Nursing Profession at any given time.

Our understanding of the foundation of Pledges and Character can be greatly enhanced as we consider the Pledges given by God for our Purpose in life, for our Security and as a Guarantee of Future Redemption. We do have hope!

Integrity, faith and confidence are therefore central ingredients to both maker and receiver of the promise. Without these the promise becomes an empty shell of hypocrisy. While we can test the validity each other's promises how do we test God's promises?

First we have to search out the promise – what does He mean in John 3:16 “That God so loved the world (every single person) that He gave His only begotten Son that who-so-ever (that includes me) believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”?

The paper on this website titled ‘Prophecies of old relevant to Nurses in 2003’ gives us the facts on which to base our assurance that God’s love is a proven reality which we can either accept or reject. If we reject it His promise in our life cannot be fulfilled.

However, if we accept this promise then we can begin to prove the truth that we will never perish but have eternal life because we go on to find the reality of His promise to give us the Holy Spirit who will teach us all things and bring to our remembrance...’

This next step is proved when we are tested in some of the most trying situations as I indeed have been.

Fear is a natural total body response in danger situations. In one situation I was literally shaking with fear and my mind was sorely confused but I remembered His promise and consciously prayed with my mind and heart ‘Father God tonight I am frightened in fact I am scared stiff but I know that fear does not come from You, and You have promised never to leave me nor to forsake me so I ask You to keep Your strong right hand on this *Scooter Walla* not just to keep me safe but he must have a wife and family somewhere waiting for him.’

A normal 30 minutes journey on a freezing winter's night took from 9.20pm till exactly 12.20am but the most wonderful thing in this experience occurred from the time I expressed my very real fear to God. The quietness and peace that passes all understanding our LORD has promised filled and flooded my being.

FRUITFUL APPLICATION LEADS TO RENEWED AND INCREASING STRENGTH

That night I learned a greater dimension of the truth of God's unfailing love explained in 1 John 4:18

*'There is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.
But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.'*

I had come to the point of recognizing that while God's love for me was unchanging and sure I had still much to learn to fulfill His commandments 'To love the LORD our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love one another as Christ has loved us.'

Promises encourage faith in a person; promises fulfilled strengthen our faith in each other and lead to deeper understanding of God's promises to us, as well as the promises we have made, often without too much thinking, to Him. All this helps us to enter into a personal relationship with our Creator, the Sovereign God who is none the less our heavenly Father and with His Son Jesus Christ our constant companion and ever present help in trouble.

Fresh meaning in the light of our own deeper understanding of ourselves comes to light from the Hymn:-

Standing on the Promises of God

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.
<i>Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.</i> | 2.
<i>Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.</i> |
| 3.
<i>Standing on the promises I now can see,
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.</i> | 4.
<i>Standing on the promises I shall not fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Saviour as my All in all,
Standing on the promises of God.</i> |

- ✓ **"For all the promises of God in Him – the Son of God, Jesus Christ, are YES, and in Him AMEN, to the glory of God through us."** 2 Corinthians 1:20.
- ✓ **Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who has also sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit (security)"** 2 Corinthians 1:22.
- ✓ **"Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. Therefore we are always confident...For we walk by faith..."** 2 Corinthians 5:5
- ✓ **"In whom you also trusted after you heard the Word of Truth, the gospel (good news) of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise."**

AS YOU PAUSE TO RE-READ THE PLEDGE

1. **Consider** the comprehensiveness and depth of meaning embodied in such a few short lines.
2. **Reflect** on your present position as mirrored in the Pledge.
3. **Take a step back and look objectively** at the collective Professional Testimony in Nursing in the area of your service. Does it reflect the intrinsic principles and values of our Pledge?
4. **Re think** your own commitment in light of this revelation.
5. **Pray to be alert** to the unintended consequences of forgetfulness and to the known consequences of willful negligence of personal and professional responsibility.

THE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

*I Solemnly Pledge Myself
Before God And In The Presence Of This Assembly
To Pass My Life In Purity
And To
Practice My Profession Faithfully*

*I Will Abstain From
Whatever Is Deleterious And Mischievous,*

*And Will Not
Take Or Knowingly Administer Any Harmful Drug.*

*I Will Do All In My Power To
Maintain And Elevate The Standard Of My Profession*

*And Will Hold In Confidence
All Personal Matters Committed To My Keeping,*

*And All Family Affairs Coming To My Knowledge In The
Practice Of My Profession.*

*With Loyalty
Will I Endeavor To Aid The Physician In His Work,*

*And Devote Myself
To The Welfare Of Those Committed To My Care.*



**THE NURSE'S PLEDGE
RAK COLLEGE OF NURSING,
NEW DELHI, INDIA**

*I SOLEMNLY pledge myself Before God
And in the presence of this Assembly*

To faithfully Practice my Profession of Nursing.

*I will do all in my power to maintain the highest standards and
practices of my profession.*

*I will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to
my keeping in the practice of my calling.*

*I will loyally assist the physician in his work and will devote myself
to the welfare of my patients, my family and my community.*

*I will endeavor to fulfill my right and privileges as a good
citizen to take my share of responsibility in promoting the health
and welfare of my community.*

*I will constantly endeavor to increase my knowledge and skills
in Nursing and to use them wisely*

*I will zealously seek to nurse those who are ill wherever
they may be and when ever they are in need of care.*

*I will be active in assisting others in safeguarding and
promoting the health and happiness of mankind.*



THE COST OF THE PLEDGE VERSUS NO PLEDGE IN NURSING

AD 1900

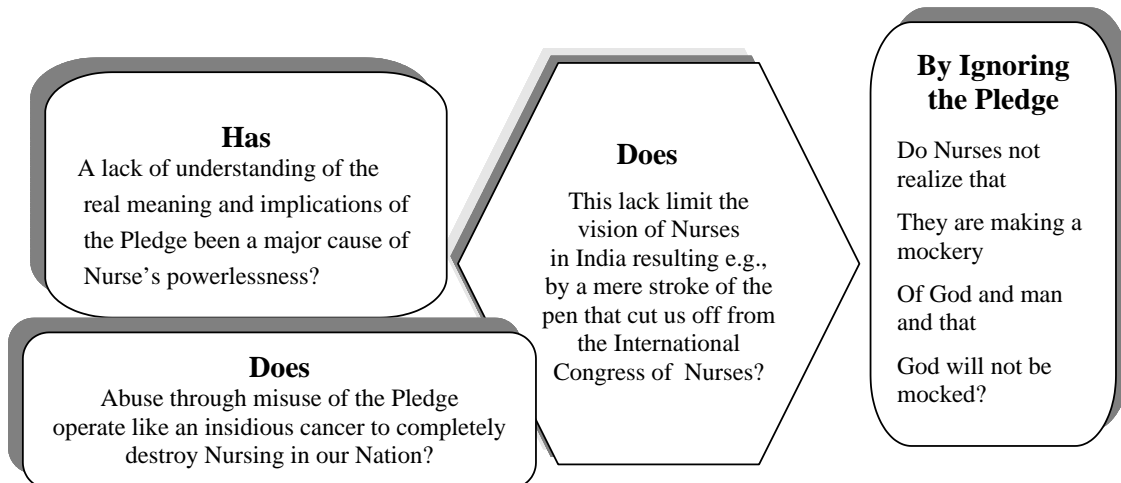
NURSES AROUND THE WORLD

1. Florence Nightingale and many others like her moved the hand of Governments and the Military to bring justice and mercy into the health of the Nations.
2. Nurses without degrees labored long hours, at times all night, to ensure by factual justification that Legislation, deleterious to the health and welfare of Nurses and peoples of the Nation, was not passed by Government
3. The Nurse's and Midwives Act and Regulations in each country stand as evidence to the above.
4. Young women with no School Leaving Certificates were taught and learned to become effective Nurses and Nurse Leaders. Lack of earlier opportunity did not indicate limited mental ability.
5. Degree programs in Nursing around the world were established by Nurses with a General Nursing and Midwifery Qualification. Nurses who had a clear vision of how higher education could bring a much higher standard of Nursing within hospitals and the community without the stress of unrelated learning and practice.
6. Trained Nurse's Associations in every Nation were formed to act as watchdogs over professional issues in the interest of Nurses, Nursing and the health of their Nation by being the voice of Nursing to Government. Later special interest groups were added to enhance specialist skills.
7. These same Nurses recognizing the personal and professional stresses inherent in Nursing, formed local and National Nurse's Christian Fellowships and the Catholic Nurse's Guild where all Nurses are welcome, to address collectively the ethical and other problems confronting Nurses.

Together Nurses sought the wisdom and intervening power of the Almighty Sovereign God, OUR Heavenly Father.
8. All this was done by Nurses heavily committed with professional responsibilities without all the facilities or comparable salaries available today.
9. These Nurses with vision, concern and commitment to the health of the Nations went on to unite and form the International Congress of Nurses and the International Nurse's Christian Fellowship and Catholic Nurse's Guild that continue to make a significant impact in Nursing in the world.

HISTORY proves the vision, courage and fortitude that enabled these women to make an amazing contribution and to leave us an heritage on which to continue the building process.

But what has happened in India and many other countries?

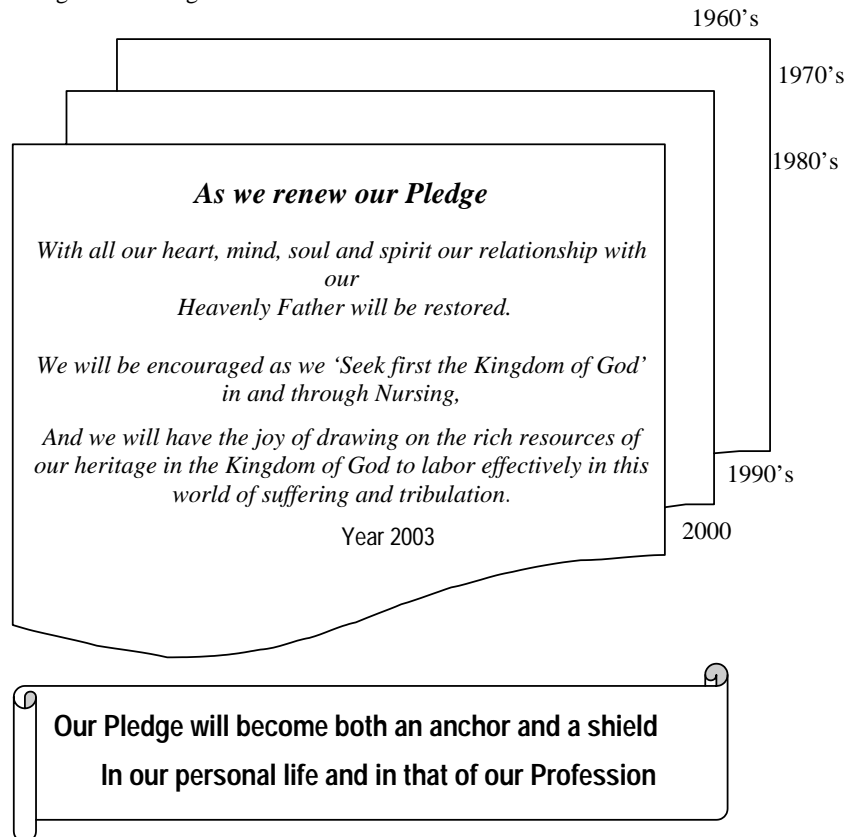


RENEWAL OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR PLEDGE

While some things may be hard to understand which unthinking and therefore unlearned Nurses may twist to their own destruction, let us join with concerned Nurses from every level and position in Nursing to examine substantive facts on the eroding forces that have created the stultifying illusion of helplessness; let us search out, discover, accept and creatively develop the real power available to us to be effective Nurses.

Remember all Nurses who use their initiative to prevent or overcome the weakness and or consequences of a broken Pledge will actively and effectively replace low self-esteem with a new found dignity and worth.

The actual conduct of these Nurses will not only demonstrate their own healthy attitude of mind and heart but will be the much needed spark that gets a fire of quiet confidence, dignity and worth spreading throughout Nursing.



A Pledge is a living reality,

Once made, is indelibly recorded for ever on the unseen sound waves,

Broken or unbroken it stands -

A silent judge to our personal and collective Nursing conscience.